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Mahayuti will retain power with thumping majority: **Shinde** 5

RIGHT TIME
TO JOIN INDIA'S GROWTH STORY, MODI TELLS GERMAN BIZ FORUM 8



Pottel: Idea has potential, but its implementation **FALLS SHORT** P11



QUOTE OF THE DAY
the pioneer

Will this political bomb expose how many bundles of cash or stacks of currency were uncovered during the ED raids at Ponguleti's house? Will Ponguleti's 'bomb' disclose details of his alleged connections with the BJP, including attempts to escape cases or the reported Adani links? Is it a Lakshmi bomb, a sutli bomb, or a dud? Everything will come out soon. If you want to file a case against me, go ahead. Do whatever you want. We have seen many such 'beggars' before

- K T Rama Rao, BRS MLA



DON'T MISS...

Cong govt will back real ...

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to supporting Hyderabad's real estate and construction sector, aiming to transform the city into a globally competitive destination. Speaking at the 14th edition of the Property Show at Hitex Exhibition Centre on Friday, Uttam Kumar Reddy assured real estate developers ...

-PAGE: 3

Heartbreaking rescue of ...

In a heart-wrenching incident, an 11-year-old girl was discovered trembling in fear at her school in Choutuppal on Friday. Her terrified demeanor puzzled both teachers and classmates until after much encouragement, she revealed the shocking truth: her father had been starving and abusing her for days. For many children, fathers are seen as heroes, but this young girl's experience was a stark contrast. The mere ...

-PAGE: 4

India's DPI figures in global ...

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is now part of global conversations around inclusive and scalable infrastructure, and its blueprint can offer others an opportunity to harness technology for improving the lives of citizens, according to experts. Primus Partners, in association with iSPIRT, organised a DPI roundtable that saw key stakeholders such as senior bureaucrats, diplomats, policymakers, industry leaders ...

-PAGE: 8

After pace, India fail spin test...

India's inadequacies against quality spin bowling stood thoroughly exposed, leaving the side staring at its first ever home Test series loss to New Zealand after the visitors claimed a formidable 301-run lead on day two of the second Test here on Friday. Tom Latham (86) led New Zealand's charge with the bat after Mitchell Santner's brilliant 7/53 destroyed India. His knock consolidated a handy 103-run first-innings lead that the Kiwis had grabbed before reaching ...

-SPORTS

Bumpy roads push over 30 MLAs to send SOS to Seethakka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bad road conditions have resurfaced across Telangana, forcing many MLAs to approach the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister for urgent road repairs.

Sources indicate that around 30 MLAs have requested Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka for swift action, especially after last month's heavy rainfall worsened the condition of roads in many districts.

Sources said that many roads in villages were not repaired for years and the situation has worsened. MLAs are seeking immediate attention to it as it directly impacts their visits to constituencies.

"In villages, people don't hesitate like in urban areas and bad roads have become a problem for the public," sources said.

Sources said that many roads in villages were not repaired for years and the situation has worsened. MLAs are seeking immediate attention to it as it directly impacts their visits to constituencies



Reports reveal that many requests for road repairs came from six key districts heavily impacted by rains. These districts witnessed severe wear and tear, with existing roads deteriorating rapidly, making them nearly unusable. "These roads were laid years ago and are now in such disrepair that they're hardly motorable," sources said.

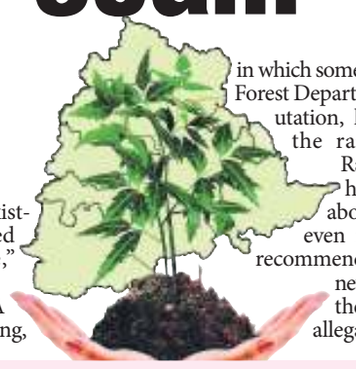
The Roads and Buildings (R&B) department has also been approached with road repair requests indicating the scale of the issue, with some roads now appearing beyond patchwork and needs complete relaying.

The demand highlights the lack of consistent infrastructure maintenance in these regions raising concerns about public safety and accessibility.

BOMB-1

Govt smelling 'plant purchase scam' in HMDA

- Urban Forestry wing under lens
- Value of shady transactions estimated between Rs 800 cr and 1200 cr



NAVEENA GHANATE
naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is reportedly probing the alleged irregularities in the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority's (HMDA) Urban Forestry Wing, focusing on the purchase of plants.

Sources indicate that the inquiry stems from the reports of substantial spending on plantation drives running into thousands of crores, with minimal accountability on the upkeep of the saplings.

"Although lakhs of plants were purchased only a few trees were found to have survived and remained to account for, making officials wonder whether the saplings actually existed or had perished without a trace," sources said.

The HMDA Urban Forestry Wing, in which some officers from the Forest Department are on deputation, has come under the radar. A Deputy Range Officer who held posts for about five years and even managed to get recommendations from the new government for the probe is facing allegations.

The HMDA has jurisdiction over a vast area including Hyderabad city. The modus operandi is reportedly to purchase plants. The maintenance team comes after a month or so and by then the plants may be reported as dead. It is a cycle that happens every kilometre phase-wise.

In recent years, the HMDA, having the flexibility to procure plants, had opted for large-scale purchases. By contrast, the Forest Department, which lacks similar procurement freedom, had some of its officers deputed to HMDA, where they oversaw these acquisitions.

"Early estimates peg the value of these transactions at between Rs 800 crore to Rs 1,200 crore, raising concerns over the potential misuse of public funds," sources indicated.

The sources alleged that from the top to the bottom everyone seems to be involved. "We need to probe in detail to get an estimate of how much this scam amounts to. Some of these were seen as Haritha Haram plants too," sources said.

Haritha Haram under scrutiny

"Sources close to the government recall that until 2018, Haritha Haram was effective in achieving its objectives. However, the sources said a shift in focus away from ecological balance and a lack of diversity in plant selection ruined the initiative

The BRS admin's flagship afforestation programme, Haritha Haram, which aimed to increase the green cover, has also come under scrutiny. Sources said that many nurseries under the scheme were handed over to BRS leaders.

Sources said that the funds allotted for plant procurement and nursery maintenance were reportedly mismanaged. Continued on Page 5

Revanth Reddy accuses NDA govt of discrimination against southern states

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday accused the BJP-led NDA government of discrimination against the southern states in the allotment of funds and developmental projects.

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he asked what has the Centre done for the country and also alleged that the BJP raises emotional issues to win elections and tries to split other parties.

Taking a jibe, he said the NDA government's contribution was that it brought the three black farm laws, since repealed, and caused unemployment in the country.

"You are trying to bring a south-north division in the country. Whenever Congress was in power, whenever Congress leaders were prime ministers, there was a practice to give the President post to south India when a leader from the north is the prime minister," he said at an event organised by a media organisation.

From Neelam Sanjiva Reddy to APJ Abdul Kalam, several leaders from the south became Presidents as per a "gentleman's agreement between north and south," he claimed.



Continued on Page 5

Do whatever you want on 'political bomb'

PNS ■ SIRCILLA

Responding to Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's statement that a "bomb" would go off before Diwali, KT Rama Rao (KTR) asked whether this "bomb" had anything to do with the recent Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids on the Minister.

Speaking to the media in Sircilla, KTR made several pointed remarks, suggesting that Ponguleti might reveal more about the outcomes of the raids and the findings. He said "Do whatever you want, we are not afraid."

KTR humorously said, "Will this bomb expose how many bundles of cash or snake-like stacks of currency were uncovered in the ED raids?"

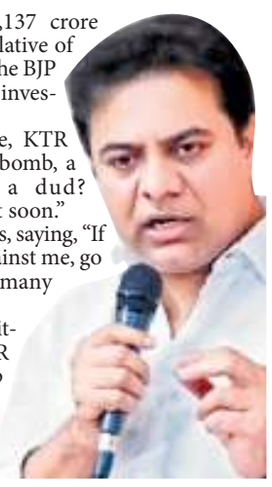
He then asked whether Ponguleti's "bomb" might disclose details of his alleged connections with the BJP, including attempts to avoid cases or the reported Adani links.

KTR also levelled allegations regarding Ponguleti's alleged misuse of funds under the Amrit scheme, where a contract worth Rs 1,137 crore reportedly benefited a relative of the Chief Minister. "Will the BJP react to this or call for an investigation?" he asked.

Taking a satirical tone, KTR added, "Is it a Lakshmi bomb, a sutli bomb, or just a dud? Everything will come out soon."

He dismissed the threats, saying, "If you want to file a case against me, go ahead. We have seen many such 'beggars' before."

Recalling the tough political battles he's faced, KTR said, "We have stood up against leaders like Rajasekhar Reddy and Chandrababu. 5



CM wants Sports Policy draft by Nov-end

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered officials to prepare the final draft of the Telangana Sports Policy by November-end.

The Chief Minister asked officials to conduct a detailed study and to seek the advice of sports experts and prominent sports persons to bring out the best sports policy in the country.

The CM reviewed the proposed Telangana sports policy at his residence on Friday. He asked officials to use all Continued on Page 5

Sanjay: Project for benfiting Sonia, Vadra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Without naming former AICC President Sonia Gandhi and her son-in-law Robert Vadra, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said the Congress government has taken up the Musi Project only for the sake of the Congress's top leader (Sonia Gandhi) her son-in-law Robert Vadra.

Sanjay said that Robert Vadra had come to Hyderabad recently saying that he wanted to visit temples.

"Doesn't he (Robert Vadra) have temples near his residence to have darshan? Why does he want to visit only Telangana temples? Her (Sonia Gandhi) son-in-law (Robert Vadra) came to Hyderabad only to talk about Musi contracts. 5

Musings on Musi



Kishan: Ready to stay in catchment area

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that he is accepting the challenge of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, who is also the Telangana BJP President, said that he will stay in the houses of the poor in the Musi catchment area.

Kishan challenged the Chief Minister to tour the Musi catchment area if he was sincere.

Addressing the BJP's Maha Dharna at the Dharna Chowk in Indira Park on Friday, Kishan said the BJP is not against the Musi Project but is against the demolition of the houses of the poor. He asked the Chief Minister to stop the shocking idea of demolishing 5

Hyderabad has one lakh unsold homes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's residential market has hit a notable threshold, with unsold houses now exceeding one lakh units, marking a significant build-up in inventory amid a general sales slowdown.

The latest quarterly report of Anarock says that as of Q3 2024, Hyderabad has around 1.01 lakh unsold units, a 13% increase from the previous year and a 1% rise from the last quarter.

"The available inventory in Hyderabad crossed the 1-lakh mark for the first time," says Anarock.

This marks Hyderabad as the second-largest market with unsold homes among major Indian cities, raising concerns about market balance and potential oversupply.

The unsold inventory surge comes against a backdrop of slower sales, which dipped 16% compared to the previous quarter, reaching approximately 12,700 units. This drop reflects a cautious buyer sentiment, particularly in the high-end and luxury segments, where most of the unsold units are priced between Rs 80 lakh and Rs 1.5 crore, constituting over half of the city's inventory.



Market experts say that this oversupply in high-value properties may force developers to rethink their strategy and opt for houses with affordable prices to attract buyers.

West Hyderabad, long favoured for its proximity to IT hubs and infrastructure, continues to dominate the market, accounting for 54% of the city's total housing sales and 79% of new launches this quarter.

However, the increased number of high-end unsold units reflects a possible mismatch in the West's high-value offerings and the more varied demands of the market. Despite this, demand in this zone remains robust, Continued on Page 5

GOVT'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY FAST APPROCHING...

Why no Cabinet expansion yet?

CM Revanth Reddy's multiple Delhi visits sterile?

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU
venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Just 43 days are left for the Revanth Reddy government to complete a year in office. However, the Congress could not fill six empty cabinet berths although many hopefuls are waiting for a chance.

The party has been postponing cabinet expansion since the day Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and 11 Ministers took oath on December 7, 2023.

After that, the party has been stating frequently that the cabinet would be expanded soon. Meanwhile, the government's first birthday is nearing.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has visited Delhi over 20 times after taking over. He is understood to have discussed cabinet expansion during some of his meetings with Congress brass.

Minister hopefuls like Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, Balu Naik, K. Prem Sagar Rao, Vivek Venkata Swamy, Vakiti Srihari, P. Sudharshan Reddy, Malreddy Ranga Reddy, T. Rammohan Reddy, Madhan Mohan Rao, Amer Ali Khan and Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah are eagerly awaiting cabinet expansion as they expect a berth in the Revanth cabinet.

Gandhi Bhavan sources said the AICC has been postponing the exercise giving reasons like the elections in Haryana and J&K all these days. Now the Congress high command is saying that the cabinet would be expanded after the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections.

Besides these elections, the Congress is also involved with the election of AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi who is contesting from the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency. The high command has been citing these reasons for postponing Continued on Page 5

Numbers don't lie: Congress' betrayal exposed

The gladiatorial fights launched by the Congress might divert people's attention from their deception and incompetence for some time. If the Congress persists in its ways, the betrayed voters of Telangana will eventually hold the party accountable and finish it off politically as surely as the betrayed Maximus ended the life of Commodus



KISHORE POREDDY

The storyline of the 2000 movie *Gladiator* is familiar to most Telugu movie fans. Marcus Aurelius, the ageing Roman Emperor, chooses his powerful General, Maximus Decimus Meridius, as his successor to the throne over his son, Commodus. Commodus murders his father and seizes the throne. But, as his father had predicted, Commodus falls short as the Emperor. Commodus, though inept at ruling, is a wicked genius. He offers destruction - gladiatorial fights - as a diversion from his deceit and ineptitude. Maximus, betrayed by Commodus, becomes a gladiator and uses the blood sport to avenge the deaths of his wife, son and emperor by killing Commodus in a fight.

One may ask, what does the story of the *Gladiator* movie have to do with politics in Telangana? Like Commodus, the Congress came to power in Telangana by deceiving the voters with its six guarantees and 400 other promises - which it knew it would not be able to deliver. Even after coming to power, the Congress government continued its deception by introducing an inflated budget eerily similar to that of the earlier BRS government. When Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Finance Minister, introduced this year's budget, I pointed out that Bhatti's budget, just like Harish Rao's budgets in the previous years, knowingly inflated revenues and central grants to create the illusion that it has enough funds to deliver on its promises.

In my article titled for this column 'Bhatti's braggadocio budget borrows BRS playbook', I pointed out that just like in the previous years, the "real" expenditure this year too will fall short by more than 20% of the projections. According to the report submitted by the state government to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the Telangana government received Rs.75,454 crore revenue in the first six months of this financial year (April to September), a mere 34% of the Rs.2,21,242 crore annual revenues projected in the budget. If the same revenue trends extend to the second half, the state revenues will fall short by a massive 32%, or Rs.70,797 crore, from the budget projections. The report also mentions that the state's expenditure on salaries, pensions, and interest payments has increased substantially. Given these facts, it is clear that the Congress's earlier claims of increasing revenues through heightened development and better financial management with the advice of Harvard-educated senior Congress leaders like Chidambaram were just hot air.

The Congress government in the state, aware of its own deception and inefficiency, like Commodus in the *Gladiator* movie, launched a series of destructive, gladiatorial spectacles to divert the attention of the state's voters. HYDRAA, the Musi beautification project, and the outrageous, crude, salacious accusations on the movie star Nagarjuna's family are just a few examples of these gladiatorial bouts. While the HYDRAA ops and Musi beautification project made a spectacle of destroying homes and properties of citizens who had all requisite permissions from the Telangana government, the salacious verbal attack on the private lives of a movie star's family was equally destructive to their reputations.

Each bout of blood sport ignited by Congress leaders successfully hijacked the public discourse for a while but caused immense and long-lasting collateral damage to the state and its people. For example, the uncertainty and angst generated by HYDRAA ops and the Musi beautification project brought the state's real estate and construction businesses, significant contributors to the state's GDP and revenues, to their knees. The drastic fall in new property registrations reflects this immense damage.

The Congress leadership seems to think it can continuously hoodwink the citizens and keep the opposition busy with its games. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy's recent comments from South Korea that "a political bomb will go off this Diwali in Telangana", alluding to the arrests of senior BRS leaders for their crimes and corruption while in power appear to be part of a similar strategy. If Congress had been honest, it would have permitted and requested the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate massive allegations of corruption by the earlier BRS government, as it demanded while in Opposition. Instead, the Congress government turned those allegations into media spectacles while taking no action. To date, it hasn't filed a single case against any senior BRS politician for their alleged crimes and corruption in the Kaleswaram project or phone tapping scam, to name a couple.

Abraham Lincoln said, "You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Similarly, the gladiatorial fights launched by Congress might divert all of Telangana's attention from their deception and incompetence for some time. If the Congress persists in its ways, the betrayed voters of Telangana will eventually hold the party accountable and finish it off politically as surely as the betrayed Maximus ended the life of Commodus.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

KTR accuses CM of tapping phones of oppn leaders, Ministers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) has accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of tapping the phones of opposition leaders and his own Ministers.

In an open challenge to Revanth Reddy, KTR dared him to take a lie-detector test before cameras to prove that he was not engaging in phone tapping.

He asserted that the Revanth Reddy government is tapping not only the phones of ministers but even leaders of his own party.

"If Revanth has the guts, let him join me for a public lie-detector test and declare openly that he is not involved in tapping the phones of ministers and opposition leaders," KTR added.

KTR also pointed out the incident in which Revanth Reddy was caught with a bag containing Rs 50 lakh in a vote-for-note case where he tried to purchase a legislator. "How can someone with such a record of unethical actions speak against us," KTR stated.

He continued by expressing disappointment in the failure of the Revanth government to fulfil key promises and guarantees in the first 100 days in office.

KTR also addressed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's inconsistency and asked why Rahul, who speaks of justice and equality and the constitution in New Delhi, remains silent about the Congress-led government's actions against marginalized communities in Telangana.

KTR urged Rahul Gandhi to focus on safeguarding Telangana's communities from the Congress-led bulldozer raj which threatens poor communities.

Reflecting on BRS's achievements over the last 10 years, KTR cited the success of development programmes, from the IT sector to agriculture, noting that the BRS government had significantly improved Telangana's urban and rural sectors.

He emphasized the importance of BRS's schemes like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bheema for farmers, and the Aasara pensions which were increased from Rs 200 to Rs 2,000.

KTR said the people of Hyderabad have overwhelmingly supported the state's progress and extended his heartfelt thanks for their trust.

'Move KRMB headquarters to Vijayawada'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Saagu Neeti Viniyogadarula Sanghala Samakhya, a welfare association for water users and ayacutdars in Andhra Pradesh, has urged the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to release Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal water to Zone III starting November 15 and to shift its headquarters to Vijayawada. The association's leaders submitted a memorandum to KRMB Chairman Atul Jain in Hyderabad on Friday.

AV Gopala Krishna Rao, President of the association, stated that the total registered ayacut under the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal in Andhra Pradesh is 3.67 lakh acres, with 1.56 lakh acres in Zone II and 2.11 lakh acres in Zone III. He noted that Andhra Pradesh is allocated 32.25 TMC of water from the 132 TMC under the left canal. The major crops in these regions include mango, tobacco, jowar, cotton, chillies, black gram, and green gram. He emphasized that these crops require continuous water supply from November 15 for a month to ensure a good yield, but unfortunately, the ayacut in these areas is not receiving adequate water according to their demands and schedules.

Revanth is synonymous with lies, says Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is synonymous with lies.

He said the Chief Minister is threatening the people of the Musi Riverbed area saying that the government will not give them double-bedroom houses if they do not give up their present houses.

Addressing the BJP's Maha Dharna at the Dharna Chowk in Indira Park on Friday, he said that cleaning the Musi is a must for Nalgonda's development. But it is not right on the part of the government to vacate the people living near the Musi forcibly to other areas, he said.

Eatala warned that the BJP would not remain silent if the government demolishes even a single house in the Musi Riverbed area.

BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy demanded that the Chief Minister should come along with him for a tour of the Musi area. He said the BJP would extend support to the admin if anyone accepts the Musi Project.

He warned that the BJP will not allow the Congress government to throw the people on the road so that some politicians can pocket kickbacks.

BRS seeks probe against Jagityal MLA Sanjay Kumar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Strongly criticising Congress leaders BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy specifically targeted Jagityal MLA Sanjay Kumar and questioned the political violence surrounding him.

Kaushik was addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan on Friday.

The MLA pointed out MLC Jeevan Reddy's claims that Sanjay Kumar was involved in the murder of Maru Gangareddy so that he could bag a Market Committee Chairman post.

Kaushik expressed disappointment over the Jagityal SP's lack of action and asked why no murder case was filed against Sanjay Kumar.

He said the Congress is promoting a culture of political violence in Telangana. "Is there any law and order left in the state," Kaushik asked.

The BRS MLA's critique wasn't limited to Sanjay Kumar. He accused Congress MLAs who had defected from the BRS of compromising their integrity and failing to resign.

"These MLAs have degraded their standing by refusing to face by-elections," he asserted.

Kaushik suggested that Congress leaders like Jeevan Reddy, who has long served under the Congress banner in Karimnagar, have now received "rewards" for their actions.

Touching upon the broader state leadership, Kaushik criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to control crime. "Under Home Minister Revanth murders are occurring across the state. If we come to power, we will expose everything," he said.

He also highlighted Congress leaders' frequent international tours, accusing them of being out of touch with people's struggles. "While Revanth is busy with tours in New Delhi and Kerala, other ministers are jetting to South Korea and Malaysia," he said.

Court orders removal of defamatory content about KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Civil Court has issued interim orders directing prominent media outlets, social media platforms and TV news channels to remove all defamatory content maligning the reputation of BRS leader Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR).

The court's directives were issued in response to six interlocutory applications filed by KTR in his ongoing defamation suit against Konda Surekha and other parties.

One order mandates that Konda Surekha and her representatives should refrain from creating or sharing any defamatory content targeting KTR.

This injunction aims to halt the spread of allegedly libellous articles, videos and discussions, particularly on digital platforms.

In a separate order, the court directed media houses to remove existing content deemed defamatory towards KTR.

The directive applies to regional news channels too and compels them to remove defamatory videos or articles from their websites and social media channels.

The court also addressed major digital platforms and asked YouTube, Google LLC, and Meta Platforms Inc. (Facebook) to eliminate defamatory content about KTR.

This sweeping order underscores the judiciary's stance on online defamation and reinforces the responsibility of social media giants to curb defamatory content.

These interim orders reflect an emerging judicial focus on protecting reputations in the digital era, especially as defamatory content can proliferate quickly across online platforms. This action by KTR follows a string of similar defamation cases where political figures have sought legal intervention to manage reputational damage.

The court has scheduled further hearings to examine the case in detail, with KTR's legal team arguing that unchecked defamatory content risks damaging his standing and credibility among the public.

These orders mark a pivotal moment in the ongoing defamation case, setting a precedent for handling digital content and reputation management in legal disputes.

Petition filed against HYDRAA Ordinance in TG HC

Notice issued to Chief Secretary

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Telangana High Court, challenging the legality of the HYDRAA Ordinance. Ex-corporator Manchireddy Prashanth Reddy lodged the petition, claiming that granting extensive powers to HYDRAA through this ordinance is unlawful.

In response, an interim order was sought, calling for the suspension of the ordinance. The Telangana High Court has taken up the matter, issuing notices to the defendants, including the Chief Secretary (CS), to submit counter-affidavits within three weeks. The hearing has been adjourned until then.

The ordinance, recently approved by State Governor Jishnudev Verma, grants wide-ranging powers to HYDRAA, legitimising its upcoming activities. The government aims to protect public properties and manage natural calamities through HYDRAA's actions. According to the PIL, Prashanth Reddy's objection focuses on how these broad powers might overstep legal boundaries, especially concerning public oversight.

The HYDRAA Ordinance, has drawn attention for including various government assets such as ponds, canals, parks and playgrounds within its purview. It also allows coordination with traffic police during heavy rains, regularisation of fire department services, and the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

The districts of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri up to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) fall under HYDRAA's jurisdiction. With its focus on public assets protection and disaster management, the ordinance expands the reach of HYDRAA's powers, sparking legal and political debates.

Political leaders call for steps to prevent terror attacks in Kashmir

PNS ■ JAMMU

Several political leaders on Thursday condemned the terror attacks in the Kashmir valley since the formation of the new government and urged it to take decisive steps to prevent such incidents and ensure the security of migrant workers.

Terrorists shot at and injured a labourer from Uttar Pradesh, Shubam Kumar, in the Tral area of Pulwama district on Thursday morning, officials said.



This is the third attack on non-local labourers in Kashmir in the past week. Six non-local labourers and a local doctor were killed in a terror attack on a construction site in Ganderbal district on Sunday, while a labourer from Bihar was shot dead by terrorists in Shopian district on October 18.

Former deputy chief minister and senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta stressed the importance of safeguarding migrant labourers in the Kashmir valley.

He called on the central and Union territory administrations to work diligently to prevent any further deterioration of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Since the formation of the new government, there has been an attempt to disrupt the peace, and those responsible are trying to send a message. In this context, there have been two incidents, and today, another attack took place where a 19-year-old was targeted. This is clearly a planned attack, and even the terrorists involved were seen on CCTV footage," Gupta told reporters.

He expressed full confidence in the security forces and the police, saying: "I believe that we will apprehend those responsible soon. These two or three consecutive incidents are concerning."

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Dashami:	Oct 26 03:23 AM to Oct 27 05:24 AM
Ekadashi:	Oct 27 05:24 AM to Oct 28 07:51 AM
Nakshatram:	
Ashlesha:	Oct 25 07:40 AM to Oct 26 09:45 AM
Magha:	Oct 26 09:45 AM to Oct 27 12:24 PM
Rahukalam:	9:08 AM to 10:34 AM
Yamagandam:	1:25 PM to 2:51 PM
Varjyam:	11:05 PM to 12:51 AM
Gulika:	6:16 AM to 7:42 AM
Amritakalam:	08:01 AM to 09:45 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:37 AM to 12:22 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy
Temp: 31°c
Humidity: 57%
Sunrise: 6:12 AM
Sunset: 5:47 PM

Updated: October 25, 2024 5:00 PM

No woman lawyer made AG, SG in last 75 years; gender bias continues: Ex-SC judge Hima Kohli

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Gender discrimination and bias have subsided on the surface but continue to operate surreptitiously and women lawyers often face stereotypes questioning their authority, former Supreme Court judge Justice Hima Kohli said on Friday.

She underlined in the last 75 years, no woman lawyer had been appointed as the attorney general (AG), or held the post of the solicitor general (SG), indicating the challenges women legal practitioners face.

Justice Kohli was delivering a keynote address at an event to commemorate "100 years of women in law in the country". The landmark Legal Practitioners (Women) Act allowing women the right to practice law in India was notified in 1923. "Gender discrimination, gender bias, which was rampant from early days, has overtly subsided but continues to persist in surreptitious force. Women lawyers have often encountered stereotypes that question their competence and their authority, the perception that women are less aggressive or authoritative compared to their male counterparts," Justice Kohli said.

Poor sleep linked to accelerated brain ageing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The participants' sleep habits were categorised as such -- short sleep duration, bad sleep quality, difficulty falling asleep, difficulty staying asleep, early morning awakening and daytime sleepiness. They were thus divided into three groups according to low, middle and high levels of poor sleep habits



Brain scans have revealed higher levels of shrinkage -- a sign of brain ageing -- among people having poor sleep quality in early middle age, according to a study.

A group of 589 people aged 40 years on average responded to sleep questionnaires both at the beginning of the study and again five years later. The participants had their brains scanned 15 years after the study began.

"Our study, which used brain scans to determine participants' brain age, suggests that poor sleep is linked to nearly three years of additional brain ageing as early as middle age," Clémence Cavaillès, from the University of California San Francisco and corresponding author of the study published in the journal Neurology, said.

Poor sleep habits have been linked to poor thinking and memory in later life, putting people at higher risk for dementia, Cavaillès said.

The participants' sleep habits were categorised as such -- short sleep duration, bad sleep quality, difficulty falling asleep, difficulty staying asleep, early morning awakening and daytime sleepiness. They were thus divided into three groups according to low, middle and high levels of poor sleep habits.

Brain shrinkage revealed in the brain scans were used for gauging brain age, with higher levels indicating a greater age, the researchers said. The team found that people having middle levels of poor sleep habits had a brain age that was on average 1.6 years older than that of the people having low levels of poor sleep.

Those having high levels of poor sleep were found to have an average brain age of 2.6 years older than those having low levels of poor sleep habits.

"Our findings highlight the importance of addressing sleep problems earlier in life to preserve brain health, including maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, exercising, avoiding caffeine and alcohol before going to bed and using relaxation techniques," author Kristine Yaffe, from the University of California San Francisco, said.

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City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD SATURDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2024

03

CITY EVENTS

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, President, ICMAI; CMA Dr. K. Ch. A. V. S. Murthy, Central Council Member, ICMAI; and CMA Dr Lavanya Kanduri, Chairperson, ICMAI - Hyderabad Chapter; To speak on the transformative initiatives of ICMAI and the role of CMAs in aligning with India's rapidly advancing economy.

Venue

CMA Bhavan, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad
October 26. 2.30 pm

LIMELIGHT LAB-GROWN CVD DIAMOND STORE

Limelight is India's largest sustainable jewellery brand offering lab-grown CVD diamond-studded jewellery. Actress Lakshmi Manchu to inaugurate.

Venue

Plot 18 & 19, Telecom Nagar, Gachibowli Main Road, Hyd
October 26, 3pm

Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika
November 2

Prateek Kuhad

SIhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre
November 8

Standup Comedy

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

Venue

Multiple venues. till
November 24

Arijit Singh Live in concert

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

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.



Auto driver inspires with messages of values

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An auto driver with limited means is making a big difference by spreading messages of values and cultural integrity in Hyderabad.

Dade Srinivas adorned with signs bearing messages like 'Maarali Sanmargam Vaipu' (Turn to the right path), 'Chedipothunna Pillalaku Samskaram Nerpandi' (Teach values to spoiled children) and 'Viluvalatho Jeevinchandi Mariyu Mana Desha Viluvalanu Rakshinchandi' (Live with values and protect the values of our country), has become a talking point for locals.

"I do this with my small earnings as an auto driver," he says. Despite financial constraints and occasional objections, he continues undeterred.

"People sometimes oppose it and I have even faced threats. But when they see the positive impact of these messages, they are often encouraged."

MINISTER INAUGURATES NAREDCO'S PROPERTY SHOW

Cong govt will back real estate sector, says Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to supporting Hyderabad's real estate and construction sector, aiming to transform the city into a globally competitive destination.

Speaking at the 14th edition of the Property Show at Hitex Exhibition Centre on Friday, Uttam Kumar Reddy assured real estate developers that the government regarded them as 'partners in progress' and was dedicated to working alongside them to drive Hyderabad's growth.

"Our government is standing with you," said Uttam Kumar Reddy, pledging active collaboration to realise a shared vision for Hyderabad. "To achieve our goal of making Hyderabad a truly global destination, we must work together completely. You are essential partners in driving Hyderabad's progress," he added.



Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy participates in NAREDCO property show in Hyderabad on Friday

Acknowledging Hyderabad's increasing economic significance within Telangana, Uttam Kumar Reddy assured that the government would take all necessary measures to stimulate real estate and construction activity, a vital engine for economic growth.

Addressing concerns raised by the realty sector, Uttam Kumar Reddy directly tackled fears about previous approvals, permissions, and No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

"Let me be clear - any builders holding prior approvals and permissions can rest assured these will be respected.

The government will ensure past approvals are honoured, with no disruptions to your projects," he said. He acknowledged that industry members might feel uncertain due to social media reports or isolated incidents but assured that the administration remained committed to regulatory stability. "No one should worry about interruptions or unexpected issues - this is our assurance," he emphasised.

To further improve communication and address industry needs, Uttam Kumar Reddy proposed establishing a steering committee with members from prominent real estate associations like CREDAI and TREDA.

This committee, comprising around ten members, would meet with him at least once or twice a month to discuss and resolve emerging issues.

Uttam Kumar Reddy reassured the industry that the present government was committed to creating a collaborative, business-friendly environment.

Uttam Kumar Reddy ended his speech with a call to action, "Let's take Hyderabad to the next level, together."

Govt urged not to shatter business sentiment

Urging the government not to shatter business sentiment, G Hari Babu, president of the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), emphasised that real estate developers work within a glass box built through hard work. He stated that their industry drives ease of business, revenue for the government, and numerous CSR activities. Babu highlighted that builders now contribute 7% of the GDP and aim to reach 15% by 2047, projecting industry growth to $8 trillion. He warned that if this growth is hindered, it would affect employment for lakhs and result in other major losses. When asked, Pragati Green Heights salesperson Hashmi said that Pragati Green Meadows and Resorts Limited offers eco-friendly gardens, including a 700-acre hub with a natural lake, landscaped areas, 80% greenery, and sustainable housing. She noted that, although the project has attracted significant buyer interest in recent years, people are now hesitant to choose it due to the large green spaces and natural lakes. Hashmi added that, compared to previous years, many project homes remain vacant. She also said that buyers who were once interested in green, gated communities to escape pollution and city stress are now reconsidering options more strongly. Meanwhile, U.S.-based real estate MNC Pacifica Companies, which has no lake-view projects, continues to prosper. Salesperson Avinash shared that phase 1 of 650 apartments across 22 floors has sold out, and they are now selling phase 2 on 6.3 acres, with plans for phase 3 underway. He mentioned that buyers are choosing from a mix of 2, 3, and 4 BHK units.

LAND TRANSFER CASE

IAS Officer Amoy Kumar questioned for third day by ED

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has continued its investigation of senior IAS officer Amoy Kumar for a third day, focusing on alleged irregularities in the transfer of Nagaram Bhudan lands in Ranga Reddy district's Maheshwaram mandal. Amoy Kumar arrived at the ED office on Friday morning at 6 am and was interrogated for over nine hours, concluding around 5:30 pm. The investigation revolves around the transfer of 42 acres of land, with the ED seeking clarity on the process and individuals involved.

As part of the inquiry, Amoy Kumar was taken to the Ranga Reddy Collectorate for further questioning before being returned to the ED office.

The investigation has intensified following allegations that surfaced regarding the manipulation of land records under the Dharani portal during Kumar's tenure as district collector.

The Maduranagar Colony Welfare Association has lodged a formal complaint against Amoy Kumar, accusing him of altering records of 104 acres of land in Maduranagar.

According to the association, plots they had purchased were later shown as loans given to others through the Dharani system, leading to their demands for justice. The complainants assert that they had raised these concerns in the past but were not given proper redressal, prompting them to take the matter to the ED.

Lands transferred during Kumar's tenure are under scrutiny, and the ED is probing all aspects related to the alleged manipulations.

Students explore options at France's education fair

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Many engineering and management students from across the city explored higher education options at France's official 'Choose France Tour 2024' education fair, held at the HICC Novotel on Friday.

The education fair was organized by the French Embassy in India and Campus France, which brought together over 50 prestigious French universities and higher educational institutions.

Many students along with their parents attended to connect directly with academic representatives, discover diverse study programmes, and receive personalised guidance on scholarships, visas and student life in France.

The event featured a wide range of academic paths through stalls, including specialised programmes in engineering, management, hospitality, arts, architecture and more. Hyderabadi high school graduates and other prospective students gave positive feedback about the free counselling sessions with Campus France advisors, which helped them explore various career opportunities.



Students explore the stalls of 'Choose France Tour 2024' education fair

Meanwhile, some students showed interest in the Ferrandi campus in Paris, which offers courses in culinary arts and hospitality management.

Many others explored the Paris School of Business for bachelor's degrees and MBA programmes. Engineering students were also drawn to the French engineering school ESTP for a master's in Sustainable Civil Construction, as well as Centrale Nantes for its wide range of MSc courses, including Control and Robotics.

French Ambassador to India Dr Thierry Mathou emphasised that the Choose France Tour opens doors to Indian students by offering top-quality education and strong career prospects at world-class universities, which include 76 Nobel laureates and rank third globally.

Man gets 20 years' jail for false promises

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

XIII Additional District Judge, M Vani at LB Nagar, Ranga Reddy district, has convicted Jinikunta Kasi Vishwanath (37) of Nagireddyguda village, Moinabad mandal to 20 years imprisonment.

He was arrested under Sections 376 and 417 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court has sentenced the accused to 20 years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000. Additionally, a victim compensation of Rs3,00,000 has been ordered.

The case was registered following a complaint on February 18, 2016, wherein a 32-year-old woman alleged that she was in a relationship with the accused for five years. During this period, the accused made multiple promises of marriage.

The accused visited her residence and sexually assaulted her. When the victim requested the accused to fulfill his promises, he refused, leading to the filing of a case at Moinabad police station.

HUGE CROWDS FOR 2BHK HOUSING AT PRAJAVANI

Gurukula teacher candidates demand filling up backlog

SAMUEL JOSHUA
samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Prajavani saw huge crowds of women for 2BHK housing, with nearly 500 applications received for double-bedroom homes alone. Meanwhile, Gurukula teacher candidates protested inside and outside Praja Bhavan, demanding that backlog positions be given to deserving candidates who qualified in the exams. A total of 1,010 grievance applications were submitted at Prajavani on Friday at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan.



The number of people attending the Prajavani programme has significantly increased, especially for 2BHK applications on Friday. Deputy Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission, G Chinna Reddy, carefully read each application and forwarded them to the relevant authorities. Where necessary, officials from the respective departments were called to address the applicants' issues.

Prajavani State Nodal Officer Divya Devarajan also listened to the concerns of the petitioners.

According to officials, in addition to the 500 applications for 2BHK houses, they received 78 applications from the Revenue department, 57 from the Energy department, 35 from the Panchayati Raj Rural Development department, 6 from the Pravasi Prajavani programme and 136 related to other departments.

Minister asks private hospitals to serve underprivileged

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, the Minister of State for Medical, Health, and Family Welfare, released a poster at his camp office in Hyderabad marking Medistar Hospital's 3rd anniversary. The poster outlines a new initiative allowing white ration cardholders to access OPD services at Medistar Hospital for a nominal fee of Rs 10. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha emphasised the government's commitment to providing quality healthcare free of charge at public hospitals. He encouraged private and charity hospitals to step forward to offer affordable healthcare to the underprivileged, lessening the burden of medical expenses on families. He commended Medistar Hospital's management for charging only Rs 10 for OPD services for white ration cardholders, recognizing this as a positive step towards service-minded healthcare.

BluJ Aero air-worthiness demonstrated at Adibhatla

DEEPIKA PASHAM
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's startup BluJ Aero flew from the days of learning, pitching at T-Hub, to its first H2eVTOL prototype public demonstration at Adibatla on Friday.

The aircraft features include heavy payloads with high uptime and zero emission. Payload capacity is 100 kg, range is 300 km and flight mode is fully autonomous with real-time monitoring and control. It is powered by BluJ Aero's proprietary Hydrogen fuel cell system.

Co-founders Utham Kumar and Maruthi Amardeep explained that they are from the background of aerospace engineering and in a mission to build solutions for passengers of air cargo and make it transport faster than ? rd of the time it takes today.

They demonstrated the prototype first H2eVTOL on Friday which is completely Hyderabad based in design, technology. Its design of it has also been submitted for patent. The product will be commercially out by the year 2026.



Co-Founders Utham Kumar and Maruthi Amardeep

The journey of the startup BlueJ Aero has begun from T-Hub of Hyderabad and they have also gained their initial seed funding from the T-Hub. Today it is attracting global leaders for funding within Series A. The product is also being found in countries such as Africa, Australia, Canada, Norway as the startup can source Hydrogen fuel from giants of these countries.

As defence sector involves transport of products in various situations and it is being risky, the startup is in talks with the defence sector to make use of their air cargo for faster transportation.

On the employability to local grounds the co-founders said, "We hire a lot of interns from colleges with backgrounds in engineering and train them in advanced technologies making them more employable."

In future aspects the BluJ Aero is actively developing a defence variant of the aircraft for high-altitude, multi-utility use cases, including relief and supply missions in remote and challenging environments.

Stress on sterilisation to prevent dog menace

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC Commissioner Ilambarti has directed authorities to conduct largescale sterilisations to control the dog population in the city. On Friday morning, the Commissioner inspected the LB Nagar zone's Fathullaguda Animal Sanctuary, dog catching vehicle, dog operation theatre, pet crematorium and the construction and demolition (C&D) processing plant.

The Commissioner enquired with Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Abdul Vakil about the number of dogs caught daily by handlers and the number of sterilisations performed each day. Dr Vakil provided a detailed report on the sterilised dogs and the circle-wise data on dogs caught in the zone.

During the inspection, the Commissioner emphasised the need for circle-wise coordination and the availability of additional vehicles for dog-catching operations. He noted that the campaign's success depends on timely surgical treatments to curb the risk of dog bites. He urged field officials to issue regular orders, monitor progress daily, and capture a large number of dogs. Kits were recommended for dog catchers to assist in these operations.



At the pet crematorium, the Commissioner asked about the monthly number of cremations and the administrators informed him that approximately 30 to 35 cremations are conducted each month. Following this, the Commissioner inspected the construction waste processing plant units. Solid Waste Management Engineer Srinivas Reddy explained to the Commissioner that four processing units, each with a 500-tonne capacity, have been established.

DRIVING INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY

IEEE Industry Conclave concludes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Driving innovation in technology, the IEEE Industry Conclave on Translational Research to Entrepreneurial Ventures concluded at the Hotel Tourism Plaza on Friday, organised by the Industry Relations Committee of IEEE under the leadership of Dr VSK Murthy Balijepalli. Supported by the IEEE Hyderabad section, IEEE R10 ACEI, and IEEE WIE AG, the event brought together leaders from academia, industry and government to transform academic research into impactful industry applications.

As the chief guest, J Sravan Kumar, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, inaugurated the event and emphasised the government's commitment to enhancing industry-academia collaboration through initiatives like Start-up India and the National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI), which aim to bridge gaps and create practical research.

Meanwhile, Y Vijayalatha, Chair of IEEE Hyderabad section, delivered a special address, highlighting the importance of these collaborations in driving innovation.

Panel discussions also covered technology transfer, entrepreneurial challenges and strategies to support collaborations, equipping participants with actionable insights to drive innovation in energy, healthcare and technology.

Telangana

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2024

04

MP calls for large turnout at Musi walk

PNS ■ NALGONDA

MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy has called for a large turnout of farmers and community members for the Musi Restoration Awareness Walk scheduled for Saturday at 10 am. The walk will begin at Pillayipalli Chowrasta and will proceed on foot towards the Musi Bridge, connecting Pillayipalli and Makta Anantharam villages. Local MLA K Anil Kumar Reddy will join the farmers and community members in this awareness initiative.

Additionally on Sunday at 11 am, a constituency-level meeting for Musi farmers will be held in the village of Manayakunta, under the Thungathurthi constituency of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

The Congress party is organising the walk to create awareness among people on Musi river rejuvenation. Ministers and MLAs will attend the event.

The Congress party is making all efforts to mobilise a large number of people for walk.

Illegal transport of cattle rampant in Adilabad district

PNS ■ ADILABAD



Huddled cows being transported to Hyderabad in a lorry

Animals do no harm, but some traders indulge in illicit animal trafficking for their blood and meat, and thus making large profits. Everyone knows about this business, yet no one stops it. Animals are being transported in violation of regulations.

Without any humanity, even dogs are being transported in inhuman conditions. In the Adilabad district, this illegal trade in animals is rampant.

From the Maharashtra border villages, animals are being transported to Hyderabad through the Bhoraj check-post day and night.

The illegal transport of animals from Maharashtra through the border areas of Adilabad and Asifabad to Hyderabad is continuing unabated.

Traders are sneaking animals into Telangana from across the district borders and transporting them to Hyderabad for slaughterhouses. Some businessmen are making millions of rupees through this trade. Despite strict regulations against the transport of cattle, the business continues unabated.

Whenever caught, authorities merely file small cases and wash their hands of the matter.

The traders are using new methods to smuggle animals over long distances. They are transporting them in large containers to evade police and the officials of the Transport Department. Many animals are being transported hundreds of kilometres beyond legal limits, resulting in some dying from asphyxiation along the way.

In the Maharashtra border areas, some brokers buy animals at lower prices and store them in small vehicles at various locations along the border. They load them into containers without any break during the night and transport them to slaughter centres in Hyderabad. They pay up to Rs 100,000 in rent for vehicles used for transporting animals.

Despite the ongoing clandestine transport of animals via containers and other specialised vehicles, the officials are accused of turning a blind eye to it.

Every vehicle coming from the neighbouring state is supposed to be checked at the Wankidi interstate check-post before entering the State. Still, this illegal transport of animals continues.

Even though police catch animal transport vehicles somewhere every day, they take no stringent action against the offenders. Residents are urging district police officials to take action and stop the illegal transport of cattle, demanding strict measures against the perpetrators.

Bronze medallist felicitated

PNS ■ KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

Aalam Sailaja, Asifabad Tribal Sports School ninth class student, won bronze medal in the javelin throw event for under 14-years category at the South Zone National level Athletics Competitions held at Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur.

Sailaja and her coach Vidyasagar were felicitated.



Heartbreaking rescue of 11-yr-old girl from father's abuse

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANGIRI

In a heart-wrenching incident, an 11-year-old girl was discovered trembling in fear at her school in Choutuppal on Friday. Her terrified demeanor puzzled both teachers and classmates until after much encouragement, she revealed the shocking truth: her father had been starving and abusing her for days.

For many children, fathers are seen as heroes, but this young girl's experience was a stark contrast. The mere mention of her father sent her into hiding, especially when he arrived at the school allegedly intoxicated, searching for her. In a panic, she took refuge in a classroom as he confronted teachers, who ultimately managed to escort him off the premises.

When coaxed by her teachers, the girl recounted the daily torment she endured since her mother had left the family a few days ago. She shared that she had not eaten anything since the previous day, bursting into tears as she spoke.

Her father, identified as Akbar, had been living in Choutuppal with his wife and two children. After a family dispute, Akbar's wife took their three-year-old son and left, leaving him to direct his anger at their daughter. Just days prior, he had beaten her severely, which led to her not attending school.

Upon learning of the situation, the police acted swiftly. Following the Mandal Education Officer's instructions, the girl was placed in the care of Bal Sadan for her safety and well-being.

Value-based journalism is beneficial to society: MP

PNS ■ MEDAK



Medak Lok Sabha member M Raghunandan Rao speaking at a workshop for journalists in Medak on Friday

Journalists should focus on pressing problems and help solve them, said Medak Lok Sabha member M Raghunandan Rao.

On Friday, a workshop titled 'Vartalap" was held for journalists at the Collectorate. It was organised by the Press Information Bureau. The programme was inaugurated by Raghunandan Rao, along with District Collector Rahul Raj and Deputy Director M Krishna Kant, after lighting a lamp. In the "Vartalap" programme, senior journalists Sudhakar Reddy and Krishna Kant explained various aspects through a PowerPoint presentation. MP Raghunandan Rao and District Collector Rahul Raj were the chief guests at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghunandan Rao emphasised that journalists should pay attention to public issues. He remarked that value-based journalism would benefit society. He highlighted the crucial role of journalists in conveying the welfare schemes of both the Central and State governments to the public. Every piece of news written by journalists should aid the development of marginalised communities. He pointed to the necessity of constructing toilets in rural areas and mentioned the hardships faced by female students visiting mandal centres due to the lack of sanitation facilities, urging journalists to report on such issues for the betterment of society.

District Collector Rahul Raj noted that journalism is a sacred profession, and stressed the need to report truth that raises awareness among people regarding social discrimination, superstitions, and the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Atrocities Act, thus awakening the public.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director M Krishna Kant, Shiva Charan Reddy, Sudhakar Reddy, DPRO Ramachandra Raju, Baburao, and other staff members.

KTR slams proposal for hike in power tariff

PNS ■ SIRCILLA



At a press meet in Sircilla alongside the party leaders, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) voiced strong opposition to the proposed increase in power tariff by Telangana's distribution companies (DISCOMs), urging the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) to reject the proposal.

Representing BRS, KTR joined Madhusudhanachari in Hyderabad, Prashanth Reddy in Nizamabad, and former minister G Jagadish Reddy in a recent hearing to defend the party's stance against these charges.

Highlighting concerns over the burden the proposed hike would impose on the public, KTR criticised Congress for trying to undermine free electricity by imposing an additional Rs 18,000 crore on residents under the pretense of offering free power. "These arbitrary and unscientific proposals target the middle class, causing unnecessary financial strain," he asserted. He further emphasised the drastic increase in fixed charges, where rates are proposed to jump from Rs 10 to Rs 50 per month for households using more than 300 units, which could dramatically raise summer electricity bills.

KTR warned that equating tariff rates for heavy industries and small, medium, and cottage industries under the same category would devastate the latter, risking thousands of jobs. "How can micro-industries be expected to pay the same rates as large corporations like Adani's? It's an impractical and damaging move," he said, questioning why Telangana should adopt policies used in Gujarat without considering the local context.

Drawing a comparison, KTR highlighted that during BRS's ten-year governance, Telangana's government provided free water, uninterrupted 24-hour electricity to farmers, and managed Mission Bhagiratha without placing a financial burden on the public. "KCR's leadership ensured farmers received electricity without additional costs, with the government covering Rs. 1,000 crore monthly," KTR pointed out.

He criticised the current administration's moves, stating, "In just ten months, we're seeing power cuts and tariff hikes – ideas that are fundamentally against public interest."

Further, KTR noted the social impact of the recent governance shift, mentioning that over the last decade, there were no suicides among Sircilla's weavers. "Now, under this government's ten-month rule, Sircilla alone has seen 10 weaver suicides, and Telangana has witnessed eight more. We presented this list to the Chief Minister," he disclosed, urging the government to take immediate action to prevent further tragedies.

KTR demanded an increase in the current 10 HP subsidy for weavers in Sircilla to 30 HP, stressing that BRS's approach was to manage resources without placing additional burdens on the public. Reaffirming his commitment, he added, "We, as the primary opposition, will continue to fight on behalf of the people, ensuring no unjust increase in power tariffs."

CM for faster regional development: Sridhar Babu

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY



Minister for Information Technology D Sridhar Babu being greeted by Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar in Shadnagar on Friday

Information Technology and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu praised Shadnagar MLA and Chairman of State Public Sector Organisations Veerlapalli Shankar for his commitment and persistence in driving development and welfare initiatives.

During a visit to Shadnagar on Friday, Minister Sridhar Babu met with MLA Veerlapalli Shankar along the national highway bypass in the Rangareddy district.

Shankar extended a warm welcome to Minister Sridhar Babu and honored him with a traditional shawl. The Minister commended Shankar for his active role in public welfare, describing him as a dedicated activist and a respected leader who consistently engages with the community.

Highlighting Shankar's recent appointment by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as Chairman of State Public Sector Organizations, Sridhar Babu remarked on the significance of having local legislators like Shankar at the forefront of state development.

Addressing the media, Sridhar Babu said that the Chief Minister's efforts to support regional development, noting the recent foundation-laying ceremony for the Integrated Young India Residential School in Shadnagar, an ambitious project with a budget of 150 crores. This project, he stated, symbolises the government's commitment to advancing educational infrastructure in the region. Shankar emphasised that initiatives related to industries and public sector development will also be prioritized under his leadership.

Present at the gathering were several dignitaries, including Town President K. Chennaiah, former Municipal Chairman Vishwam, Councilor Sarwar Pasha, Mandal Party President Krishna Reddy, and other prominent leaders such as Dangu Srinivas Yadav and others.

Komatireddy calls on ailing ex-sarpanch

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Friday visited former Sarpanch Rajireddy of Mamidala village, who is currently undergoing treatment for health issues. The visit took place at the residence of Rajireddy's relatives in LB Nagar, Hyderabad.

During the visit, the Minister inquired about Rajireddy's health condition and the treatment he is receiving by contacting the doctor. He reassured Rajireddy not to lose hope.

In addition, Minister Venkat Reddy, who had previously contributed Rs 2.5 lakh for the construction of a Shiva temple in Mamidala, presented an additional Rs 1 lakh to Rajireddy during this visit.

The Minister remarked that Rajireddy was an honest leader and whished him a speedy recovery.

He also declared his readiness to make any sacrifices for the welfare of Congress party workers, stating that they are the soldiers of the party and assured them that he would ensure their well-being.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT

FORM-VI

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

(Under Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Central Act 30(2013) and sub-rule (1))

Collector's Office File No.G3\4210/2023 Date: 23-10-2024
RDO, Husnabad, File No. D/1241/2020 Date: 17-10-2024
Gazette No. 134/2024 Date: 23-10-2024

As per the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet directions an extent of **Ac 20.11 Gts** situated in Potharam village of Husnabad mandal is required for public purpose i.e. for formation of minors and sub-minors of D4 on Gouravelly Right Side Main Canal of Gouravelly reservoir and hence the notification has been issued under the Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013.

As per 10-A of the GO Ms No.41 (LA, R&R/A2) dated 22-07-2017 of the Irrigation and Command Area Development department, social impact assessment and food security have been exempted while acquiring the land.

Therefore, a preliminary notification has been issued to acquire **Ac.20.11 Gts** in Potaram village of Husnabad mandal of Siddipet district as mentioned in the following schedule.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No	Sy. No.	Nature of the land.	Extent of land acquisition	Name of the Pattadar & Enjoyer	Details of Structures, trees
1	2	3	4	5	6
Village: Potharam Mandal: Husnabad District: Siddipet for formation of Minor 7L of D4 on Gouravelly Right Side Main Canal from KM 0.000 to KM 3.600					
1	200	Dry/ Patta	0.19	Bhukya Bilya S/o Hanmanthu Ballu Veeranarayana S/o Badraiah Gugulothu Hanmanthu S/o Golya Bhukya Rajitha W/o Sankar Ravudya Jaganamma W/o Dewsing Bhukya Sampath S/o Lingya Aleti Laxmi W/o Nayayana Reddy Baini Ganga Swamy S/o Pedda Pochaiah Jilla Ravinder S/o Pedda Veerasham Sunkari Prema Latha W/o Mallesh Malothu Latha W/o Malothu Sairam Lavudya Shekar W/o Bheema Irrigation Projects	
2	201	Dry/ Patta	0.14	Lavudya Roop Sing S/o Venkati Lavudya Pool Sing S/o Venkati	
3	202	Dry/ Patta	0.03	Baini Ganga Swamy S/o Pochaiah Baini Srinivas S/o Pochaiah	
4	204	Dry/ Patta	0.37	Nangunuri Venkatarajam S/o Ilaiah Venga Bhaskar Reddy S/o Gopal Reddy Janga Mallareddy S/o Veeraiah Venga Mallareddy S/o Lachireddy Baini Ganga Swamy S/o Pochaiah Baini Srinivas S/o Pochaiah Nangunuri Bikshapati S/o Venkataiah	
5	259	Dry/ Patta	0.31	Venga Bhaskar Reddy S/o Gopal Reddy Guntuka Rajesh S/o Mallaiah	
6	258	Dry/ Patta	0.01	Gaddam Venkata Rajaiah S/o Mankaiah Venga Srilatha Reddy @ Shobharani D/o Bhaskar Reddy Gaddam Rajanna W/o Ilaiah Gaddam Venkamma W/o Komuraiah Kallem Sampath S/o Komuraiah Gaddam Laxminarayana S/o Ramchandraiah Kallem Tirumala W/o Sampath	
7	201	Dry/ Patta	1.19	Gaddam Venkata Rajaiah S/o Mankaiah Barvath Sankar S/o Man Singh Vemuganti Vijay S/o Agaiah Vemuganti Rajaiah S/o Ilaiah Vemuganti Hanmanthu S/o Ilaiah Vemuganti Ram S/o Ilaiah Vemuganti Babu S/o Venkataiah Kandagatala Mallesham S/o Veeramallaiah Kalesi Vijay S/o Rajaiah Kalesi Shivakumar S/o Rajaiah Kalesi Shankar S/o Rajaiah	
8	252	Dry/ Patta	0.17	Kansani Mallareddy S/o Ramreddy Gaddam Rajanna W/o Ilaiah Gaddam Venkamma W/o Komuraiah Kallem Sampath S/o Komuraiah	
9	249	Dry/ Patta	0.38	Jannaveni Rajaiah S/o Komuraiah Banothu Laxman S/o Panthu Medaveni Lingaiah S/o Ramaiah Madaboina Sridhar S/o Ramaiah Paidipala Ramesh S/o Pochaiah Gaddam Rajanna S/o Ilaiah Venkatesh Babu Vemuganti S/o Babu Vemuganti Alleti Sandeep S/o Kondal Reddy	
10	268	Dry/ Patta	2.00	Aleti Ramanareddy S/o Tirupati Reddy Jannaveni Rajaiah S/o Komuraiah Aleti Aravind S/o Kondal Reddy Lavudya Rajender Nayak S/o Nimma Naik Banothu Lalitha W/o Banothu Motiram Bhukya Tirupati S/o Balu Alleti Sandeep S/o Kondal Reddy	
11	269	Dry/ Patta	0.10	Aleti Jaggareddy S/o Janardhan Reddy Aleti Sanjeeva Reddy S/o Janardhan Reddy Boda Sakru S/o Yeriya Boda Srinivas S/o Raju Boda Ramesh S/o Raju Boda Sunitha W/o Ramesh	
12	266	Dry/ Patta	0.19	Aleti Sammi Reddy S/o Venkat Reddy Boda Sakru S/o Yeriya Lavudya Beema S/o Veeranna Boda Mehender S/o Raju Boda Srinivas S/o Raju Boda Ramesh S/o Raju Badugu Srilatha S/o Raju Boda Sunitha S/o Ramesh Boda Tirupati S/o Boda Sakru Bhukya Tirupati S/o Balu	
13	299	Dry/ Patta	0.25	Yedaboina Manaswini Reddy D/o Srinivas Reddy	
14	298	Dry/ Patta	0.21	Aleti Sridhar Reddy W/o Ramachandra Reddy Islavath Bheema S/o Gopal Islavath Mohan S/o Bheema Islavath Divan S/o Bheema Aleti Dawender Reddy S/o Mallareddy Polu Ilaiah S/o Pedda Maisaiah Boda Mahender S/o Raju Boda Vijaya W/o Raju Narra Vijaya Laxmi W/o Mallaiah Sunkari Rajaiah S/o Komuraiah Boda Meena W/o Mahender Boda Sunitha W/o Ramesh	
15	297	Dry/ Patta	0.32	Boda Vijaya W/o Raju Sunnam Joyshna W/o Kumar	
16	303	Dry/ Patta	0.39	Mamidi Chinna Rajaiah S/o Mallaiah Girimalla Ramesh S/o Veeraiah Sunnam Joyshna W/o Kumar Kayitha Swapna W/o Venkata Kishtareddy	
17	305	Dry/ Patta	0.32	Vanga Lachavva W/o Madhava Reddy Vanga Tirupati Reddy S/o Chellareddy Vanga Veerava W/o Rajireddy Sri Rajarajeswara Educational Society Goliena Sudharshana W/o Sammaiah	
18	307	Dry/ Patta	0.32	Kayitha Ramreddy S/o Yellareddy Vanga Laxmareddy S/o Mallareddy Vanga Lachavva W/o Madhavareddy Goliena Mahesh S/o Balaiah Goliena Sudharshan W/o Sammaiah	
19	308	Dry/ Patta	1.05	Golie Chandraiah W/o Mahankali Goliena Chinna Veeraiah S/o Ilaiah Goliena Raju S/o Pedda Mankali Unknown Vanga Ramyasri W/o Srinivas Reddy	
20	311	Dry/ Patta	0.33	Vanga Yellareddy S/o Venkata Reddy Vanga Dewender Reddy S/o Mallareddy Vanga Srinivas Reddy W/o Sudhakar Reddy Yennam Sandeep S/o Mallesham Gajula Raju S/o Ramchandra Shivarathri Jampaiah S/o Komuraiah Yennam Amulya W/o Sandeep	
21	312	Dry/ Patta	0.36	Vanga Srikanth Reddy S/o Yellareddy Unknown	
22	313	Dry/ Patta	0.21	Vanga Janardhan Reddy S/o Challa Reddy Vanga Yellareddy S/o Venkata Reddy Yelakanti Laxmareddy S/o Mahender Reddy	
23	315	Dry/ Patta	0.14	Vanga Mahender Reddy S/o Chellareddy Goliena Balraju S/o Veeramallu Kayitha Shruthi D/o Bhaskar Reddy	
24	317	Dry/ Patta	0.19	Goliena Meenaiah S/o Lingaiah Goliena Sammaiah S/o Meenaiah	
25	316	Dry/ Patta	0.07	Goliena Meenaiah S/o Lingaiah Kayitha Shruthi D/o Bhaskar Reddy	
26	323	Dry/ Patta	1.21	Aleti Madhava reddy S/o Rajireddy Kayitha Bhaskar Reddy S/o Mallareddy Aleti Samatha W/o Srinivas Reddy Aleti Srinivas Reddy S/o Madhava Reddy Goliena Swaroopa W/o Tirupati Goliena Balraju S/o Veeramallu Kayitha Shruthi D/o Bhaskar Reddy	
27	324	Dry/ Patta	1.10	Beljanki Ankoos S/o Venkaiah Aleti Venkatram Reddy S/o Janardhan Reddy Beljanki Rajaiah S/o Venkaiah Golie Komuraiah W/o Veeraiah Aleti Samatha W/o Srinivas Reddy Aleti Srinivas Reddy S/o Madhava Reddy Kandukuri Kavita W/o Saraiah Shivarathri Rajamma W/o Veeraiah Goliena Yallavva W/o Raju	
	Extent		**19.35**		
Village: Potharam Mandal: Husnabad District: Siddipet for formation of Sub Minor 5L on Minor 7L of D4 on Gouravelly Right Side Main Canal from KM 0.000 to KM 0.143					
1	311	Dry/ Patta	0.16	Vanga Yellareddy S/o Venakareddy Vanga Dewender Reddy S/o Mallareddy Vanga Srinivas Reddy S/o Sudhakar Reddy Yennam Sandeep S/o Mallesham Gajula Raju S/o Ramachadram Shivarathri Jampaiah S/o Komuraiah Yennam Amulya W/o Sandeep	
	Extent		**0.16**		
Total Extent			**20.11**		

The notification is made under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 for payment of the rational compensation to the land owners as per the law.

The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the offices of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad by concerned personnel during working hours on any working day.

The Government of Telangana is pleased to authorise District Collector, Siddipet and Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad and their personnel to enter and survey land, to excavate land, to dig bore wells and do all acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet.

Following the issue of the notification, objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the concerned persons within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 (1) of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer Husnabad **Sd/- Additional Collector, Siddipet** **Sd/- Dist. Collector Siddipet**

DIPR No.324/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

the pioneer

Nation 05

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2024

ACROSS THE STATES



Explosives seized from Naxalite hideout in Gondia

The police have recovered gelatin sticks, detonators and Naxalite literature were recovered from a hideout in a forest in Maharashtra's Gondia district, an official said on Friday. In light of the upcoming state assembly elections, the police's C-60 team, bomb detection and dog squads have increased patrolling along the state's border with Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the official said. Based on a tip-off, a team of security personnel recovered explosives and Naxalite literature from a hideout in the hills of Takezari under the jurisdiction of Salekasa police station on Thursday, he said. The official said the team found bundles of wire, batteries, an aluminium cooker, gelatin sticks, an electronic detonator, iron nails, iron pieces and other materials. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita and the Unlawful Activity Prevention Act (UAPA), and a probe is underway, he said.



EC pact on tie-up with Uzbeki poll body

The Election Commission on Friday signed an 'electoral cooperation' agreement with Uzbekistan's central poll body during a visit of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar to Tashkent as international observer for the upcoming elections there. Polls in Uzbekistan are being held on October 27. The EC said the MoU will further strengthen and deepen interaction between the two Election Management Bodies (EMBs) for mutual benefit of democracies. Both the bodies have a history of mutual cooperation with officials participating as observers in each other's elections. During the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year, a four-member delegation led by Khusanova Mukhtabar, member of CEC-Uzbekistan, also came here as part of international election visitors' programme. "ECI and CEC Uzbekistan also are actively interacting through global forums like Association of World Election Bodies and Association of Asian Election Authorities," the EC posted on X.



JMM-led coalition to retain power in Jharkhand: Lalu

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad on Friday claimed that the JMM-led coalition would retain power in Jharkhand as it was "set to win" the assembly elections with a "comfortable margin". The veteran politician, who is in his seventies, said he would campaign for INDIA bloc and RJD candidates in Jharkhand. Talking to reporters here Prasad said, "The RJD will win all seats where the party is contesting in Jharkhand. We (JMM-led coalition) will once again form the government there as our alliance will win elections with a comfortable margin." When asked by journalists whether he would campaign for INDIA bloc candidates in Jharkhand or not, Prasad said, "Yes...I will soon go to Jharkhand for campaign. Tejashwi (Yadav) is already campaigning there." Elections to the 81-member Jharkhand assembly will take place in two phases on November 13 and 20. Counting is scheduled for November 23. The RJD supremo slammed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for allegedly maintaining silence over the controversial statement by BJP's Araria MP Pradeep Kumar Singh.

FRICTION POINTS

India, China begin troop disengagement: Sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



India and China have begun troop disengagement at the two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and this process is likely to get completed by October 28-29, Army sources said on Friday.

The process follows an agreement firmed up between the two countries on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, a major breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff.

Sources said that patrolling will begin at the two friction points once the disengagement is done and both sides will move their respective troops and dismantle temporary structures.

Eventually, they added, the patrolling status is expected to move back to pre-April 2020 level.

The agreement framework was first agreed upon at the diplomatic level and then military-level talks took place, the army sources said, adding the nitty-gritty of agreement was worked in Corps Commander-level talks.

Adhering to agreements between the two sides, Indian troops have begun to pull back equipment to rear locations in these areas.

The ties between the two Asian giants had nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on October 21 said in Delhi that the agreement was finalised following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020.

Mahayuti will retain power with thumping majority: Shinde

PNS ■ THANE



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday expressed confidence that the Mahayuti alliance will retain power in the state with a thumping majority on the basis of the development works carried out by his government.

Talking to reporters here, Shinde said his party - Shiv Sena - will soon release the second list of candidates.

Earlier this week, the party released the first list of 45 candidates for the November 20 assembly polls, nominating the CM from Kopri-Panchpakhadi constituency in Thane city and more than half a dozen cabinet members from their respective seats.

"We will return to power with a thumping majority on the basis of our development work and welfare initiatives," he said.

"There are no differences among the Mahayuti allies over seat-sharing and all discussions are taking place through consensus," he said.

Besides Shiv Sena, the Mahauyuti comprises Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar.

Replying to questions over whether his party or the rival Shiv Sena (UBT) would perform better in the polls, he said, "The bow and arrow (his party's symbol) and flaming torch (Sena-UBT symbol) contest has been settled in the Lok Sabha elections as the strike rate of bow and arrow was 47 per cent as against the 40 per cent of flaming torch symbol."

"Their poor performance was despite them contesting more seats and spreading fake narrative," he said.

Shinde said his government will win on the merit of its performance.

"Our dear sisters will support us -- their brothers, and not allow the opposition, which wants to scrap the Ladki Bahin scheme to form a government," he said.

"Uddhav Thackeray said the MVA will scrap the scheme and other initiatives of the Mahayuti, but people will not give them a chance," he said.

Amarinder slams CM, AAP over 'tardy' paddy procurement



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

BJP leader Amarinder Singh on Friday lashed out at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over the "tardy" paddy procurement in the state, alleging the latter "turned his back on the farmers" facing hardships in the mandis.

Visiting the grain market in Khanna where farmers are complaining of slow paddy purchase, the former Punjab chief minister hit out at the Mann-led AAP government, saying the grain markets are bursting at the seams as paddy has not been lifted from the mandis.

Claiming that the farmers never faced any problem in crop procurement when he was the chief minister, Singh, who was accompanied by BJP leader Fateh Jung Bajwa, said, "We always lifted paddy and wheat and never faced any problem. So why are they (AAP government) facing problems? I was a Congress chief minister when BJP was in power at the Centre."

Replying to a query on lesser yield of the PR-126 variant sown in Punjab, Singh asked who told the farmers to sow this particular variety.

"It was the chief minister. But where is he now? He should have come here. When farmers are facing problems, he has turned his back on them," Singh said.

MUDA CASE

Lokayukta police quiz CM's wife

PNS ■ MYSURU

The Lokayukta police on Friday questioned Chief Miife Parvathi B M in the MUDA site allotment case, Lokayukta sources said.

"Parvathi was summoned today and the questioning went on for more than two hours," a Lokayukta official said. Lokayukta police on September 27 registered an FIR against Siddaramaiah, his wife, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, Devaraju -- from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to her -- and others, following a Special Court order on September 25. The order of the Special Court came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah. The ED has also registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), equivalent to an FIR by police, against the Chief Minister over the alleged irregularities in allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the MUDA (Mysuru Urban Development Authority).



Fadnavis files papers in Nagpur SW seat

Banks on 'Ladki Bahin' to blank out Oppn in polls

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the ruling Mahayuti will retain power in the assembly polls given its governance record and welfare measures as he filed his nomination from the Nagpur South-West constituency.

Addressing a rally before filing the papers as the BJP candidate, he said the Mahayuti government's work speaks for itself, and hit out at opposition parties, saying the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme, targeted at poor women, and its beneficiaries were enough to defeat them in the November 20 elections.

Fadnavis, who was the chief minister from 2014 to 2019 and for a short tenure in November 2019, has successfully contested the assembly polls for five times from the city -- two times from Nagpur West constituency and three times from Nagpur South-West.

The BJP leader (54) is seeking re-election from Nagpur South-West in what is his sixth electoral contest from his hometown in the state's Vidarbha region. He has been an MLA for the past 25 years starting 1999.

Before filing his nomination form, Fadnavis visited Union minister and former BJP chief Nitin Gadkari's residence here. Both BJP leaders then paid floral tributes to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's statue at the Sanvidhan Square, followed by a roadshow from there till Akashvani Square.



Court grants bail to Sanjay

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A sessions court here on Friday granted bail to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut as he challenged his conviction in a defamation case filed by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife Medha Somaiya.

Raut has filed a revision application in the sessions court against his conviction and the 15-day jail sentence awarded by a magistrate's court.

The Rajya Sabha member appeared before the court on Friday and sought bail. The court granted him bail in the sum of Rs 50,000.

Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Aarti Kulkarni on September 26 held Raut guilty of defamation under Indian Penal Code section 500. Besides sentencing him to 15 days in jail, the court also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on him. The court, however, suspended the sentence for 30 days to enable him file an appeal.

Raut, in his revision application before the sessions court, said the magistrate's order was "bad in law and improper on facts".

Sanjay: Project for benfiting..

Continued from page 1

The houses of the poor are not important for the Revanth admin but what is important is giving contracts to the main leader's (Sonia Gandhi) son-in-law," Sanjay said.

Addressing the BJP's Maha Dharna at the Dharna Chowk in Indira Park on Friday, he made fun of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's London tour and his Ministers' Seoul tour saying that the tours were a mere drama. Sanjay said that the BJP's fight will not stop here and that it will fight across Telangana. He said that protests, cases and lathicharges are not new for BJP activists. He said that the BJP would fight till the end to settle matters regarding the Musi Project. It is only Maha Dharna and in the coming days, the BJP will not allow Congress Ministers, MLAs and other leaders in the gullies, Sanjay added. He warned that the BJP will show what the BJP's mass movements can do to the Congress government.

Declaring that Ministers were mere dummies in the BRS government, Sanjay said that the current Ministers in Telangana think that they are all Chief Ministers. Pointing out that Prime Minister Modi spent only Rs 7,000 crore for the Sabarmati Project and Rs 40,000 crore for the Namami Gange Project, Sanjay asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to explain why he needed Rs 1.5 lakh crore to execute the Musi Project. The Chief Minister should also reveal from where he will get the Rs 1.5 lakh crore, Sanjay said, and asked the Chief Minister whether he had the guts to send his Ministers to the Musi catchment area instead of sending them to London and Seoul. Sanjay said that the BRS and the Congress should take responsibility for the present condition of the Musi.

The BRS took loans amounting to billions in the name of the Kaleshwaram and other projects, he said and added that the BRS burdened the state with a debt of Rs 1.70 lakh crore.

Who will pay the Rs 1.5 lakh crore loan taken in the name of the Musi Project from the World Bank? Will Revanth Reddy or his Ministers repay that, he asked.

Sanjay said that the Telangana Congress is sending the state's money to fund the Congress election campaign in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

CM wants Sports Policy..

Continued from page 1

available sports resources efficiently and to upgrade existing stadiums and sports complexes to meet future requirements.The Chief Minister asked officials to draft the Bill for the Young India Sports University fast. Officials briefed the CM about the Young India Physical Education and Sports University (YIPESU), the Young India Sports Academy (YISA) and the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) which are part of the new Telangana Sports Policy.

The Chief Minister suggested some changes and hoped that the Telangana Sports Policy would be the best in the country. The CM described his experience and the sports issues identified during his visit to the National Sports University of South Korea recently.

The officials were told to consider the sports subjects discussed with Korean University representatives by Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar and the CM's Advisor, Vem Narender Reddy during their recent visit to South Korea. The authorities were also advised to study the sport policy adopted by Australia's University of Queensland which has been recognized as the best institution in the field of sports in the world along with the South Korean Sports University.

Why no Cabinet..

Continued from page 1

the expansion of the Telangana Cabinet. However, one of the hopefuls told 'The Pioneer,' "We too got elected as they got elected. We are not asking for anybody's seat. We are asking for a slot in the vacant six posts. A valuable year is going to end soon. We are in limbo thinking when the cabinet will be expanded and when we will be able to serve the people like the other ministers." Rumours spread in Congress circles that Cabinet expansion may take place only in December as the results of the Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections and by-polls will come on November 23.

Revanth Reddy accuses..

Continued from page 1

"But, you have refused to give anything to the south. You want our votes, our money. But, you are trying to give hatred in return," he said.

The previous UPA regime under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh took revolutionary decisions, including right to education act, right to information act, and food security act, he said.

He said the BJP and Modi are only focused on winning elections. The chief minister alleged that Telangana and other southern states are not getting their due share proportionate to their contribution to the Central exchequer. Referring to the delimitation of constituencies, he claimed that the southern states have implemented the policy of family planning but the Centre is not ready to appreciate the south.

He alleged that the GIFT City and bullet train were given to Gujarat which happened to be the native state of PM Modi. He wondered whether Modi's goal of making India a five trillion dollar economy would be accomplished by developing Gujarat alone. Modi has developed the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad, but BJP in Telangana is opposing Musi riverfront development in Hyderabad as the southern state would compete with Gujarat, he claimed.

Do whatever..

Continued from page 1

This "Chitti Naidu' doesn't worry us." He added that Telangana's fight involved real risks, unlike the "empty threats" some were making now.

KTR then cautioned about people reportedly using their posts for real estate settlements and extorting RR tax from builders. "If anyone thinks they can get away with it, they're mistaken. Our government will return, and I'll personally handle those matters," he said.

Haritha Haram under..

Continued from page 1

Without disclosing the extent of the scam, sources said, "Say if a plant costs Rs 100, the cost is hiked. If the nursery had to have some 1,000 plants, even if it is less than that, it is billed for 1,000. This has raised questions about the transparency of the programme and the overall effectiveness of the Haritha Haram's operational framework."

Sources close to the government recall that until 2018, Haritha Haram was effective in achieving its objectives. However, the sources said a shift in focus away from ecological balance and a lack of diversity in plant selection ruined the initiative.

For example, instead of incorporating flowering and fruit-bearing trees that could sustain local wildlife like monkeys and deer, the plantation drive prioritized quantity over quality. Large-scale planting was undertaken along roads like the Nalgonda–Vijayawada Highway although these trees are likely to be uprooted in future for widening the road.

Hyderabad has one lakh..

Continued from page 1

underscoring its appeal among IT professionals and other affluent buyers.

Comparatively, the report notes that North Hyderabad also captured a substantial 28% of the market share in sales, while South and East Hyderabad lagged behind, with 13% and 4% of sales, respectively. Central Hyderabad, with fewer new launches, recorded the smallest share in overall sales.

Meanwhile, developers launched approximately 13,900 units in Q3, showing a modest 1% increase over the previous quarter. Still, this volume reflects a cautious stance, as launch activity dropped 44% year-over-year.

Observing the unsold stock, developers have begun shifting their focus towards green building practices and smart home features to appeal to environmentally conscious buyers. This trend aligns with the market's anticipated stability as Hyderabad continues to attract skilled professionals through its IT sector.

Hyderabad saw the third highest share of new launches across the top seven cities with 13,900 units, but overall the launch volume declined by 44% over Q3 2023. The city saw a modest 1% q-o-q increase in new launches but saw a significant y-o-y drop.

Kishan: Ready to..

Continued from page 1

the houses of the poor. Kishen asked the Chief Minister to reveal whether providing minimum needs to the people or beautifying the Musi at a cost of Rs 1.5 lakh crore is important.

He suggested that the government should construct a wall on both sides of the Musi and stop sewage and other waste from the thousands of industrial units in that area from contaminating the river.

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2024

the pioneer

Opinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Resilient India

As the threat of climate change grows, the nation's strategies offer a roadmap for dealing with natural calamities more effectively

Cyclone 'Dana' recently made landfall on the eastern coast of India, bringing with it heavy rains, strong winds and high tidal waves. While the cyclone's impact caused damage to infrastructure and disruptions to daily life, the nation's response showcased advancements in disaster preparedness and resilience. The Government's coordinated efforts, improved early warning systems, and proactive measures helped mitigate the cyclone's impact, preventing large-scale casualties and ensuring a quicker recovery. This development marks another step forward in India's ongoing efforts to handle natural calamities more effectively. Cyclone 'Dana' formed over the Bay of Bengal, following a trajectory that saw it intensifying into a severe cyclonic storm as it approached the coast. The eastern states of Odisha and West Bengal, already familiar with the threat of cyclones, were put on high alert. Cyclones are not new to India; in fact, the country has been battling such natural disasters for centuries. However, a significant shift has been seen in recent years with India's proactive approach to cyclone management.



India's approach to disaster management has evolved over the years. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has made significant strides in forecasting the path and intensity of cyclones. With the use of advanced satellite technology, Doppler radar systems, and numerical weather prediction models, the IMD now provides early warnings with much greater accuracy. In the case of Cyclone Dana, the IMD issued timely alerts well in advance, allowing state governments to initiate precautionary measures. Over the past decade, India has vastly improved its capacity to evacuate people from high-risk zones to safety. For Cyclone Dana, over 300,000 residents from coastal districts were moved to cyclone shelters, which had been strengthened as part of disaster preparedness programmes. Another critical component of India's improved disaster response is the emphasis on community awareness and participation. The improvements in India's cyclone preparedness did not happen overnight. The devastating impact of past cyclones, such as Cyclone Phailin (2013), Cyclone Fani (2019), and Cyclone Amphan (2020), served as a wake-up call for policymakers. For instance, Cyclone Phailin, which struck Odisha in 2013, caused widespread damage despite timely evacuations. The experience underscored the need for more resilient infrastructure and better early warning systems. Cyclone Fani in 2019 showed progress in the country's disaster response, as timely evacuations of over a million people saved countless lives. With Cyclone Amphan in 2020, the Government further fine-tuned its strategies, deploying more resources to affected areas and utilising technology for real-time monitoring. These efforts demonstrated that lessons from past cyclones were being effectively incorporated into future preparedness plans.

PICTALK



Farmers harvest paddy as clouds cover the skyline ahead of the landfall of Cyclone 'Dana', in Nadia PTI

UN's relevance at stake as Israel defies it



ARCHANA **DATTA**

Israel's continuous assault on Gaza and blatant violations of international law are threatening the very foundation of the UN's credibility and existence



Israel has been following a concerted policy to destroy Gaza's healthcare system, particularly those devoted to paediatric and neonatal, sexual and reproductive health services, and thus, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity', a UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said in a new report, which is being presented to the UN General Assembly very soon. Israel has slammed it as 'outrageous', accusing the investigators of bias. Israel has been on a spree of retaliatory attacks on Gaza for the last year, after Hamas, stormed into its territory, killing and kidnapping several Israeli citizens. So far, Israeli retaliatory strikes, reportedly, had killed more than 42,000 civilians in Gaza and displaced almost its entire population.

Ground reports indicate that Israel has adopted a calculated strategy of meting out 'punishment' to people, by systematically targeting Gaza's health infrastructure. Hospitals are now on the brink of collapse due to a shortage of electricity, medicine, equipment and specialised personnel (WHO). The year-long continuous bombardment had not spared operating rooms, medical equipment, health workers or ambulances with the Red Cross or Red Crescent emblem. At least 165 doctors, 260 nurses, 184 health associates, 76 pharmacists 300 management and support staff, and around 85 civil service defence workers lost their lives, and hundreds of bodies have been recovered from several mass graves around hospital grounds. Thousands of wounded people are suffering from life-changing injuries, and their lives are at risk for want of specialised care (WHO).

Israel's denial of medical supplies has endangered also the lives of at least 350,000 chronically ill patients. Patients in hospitals and people in relief centres are also showing signs of diseases associated with overcrowding such as stomach complaints, lung infections and rashes. The incessant bombing has contaminated Gaza's air with asbestos dust, raising the threat of cancer shortly. Even those handful of partially functioning health institutions in Gaza are receiving repeated evacuation orders. WHO described such orders as 'death sentences for the sick and injured'. UNICEF has declared Gaza as the 'most dangerous place to be a child'. Children have become a majority of the patients in hospitals for blunt, penetrating trauma, and direct gunshot wounds, and lack of basic medical facilities has made treatment of such children difficult.

Every day almost 10 children are losing one or both legs, and operations and amputations are conducted with little or no anaesthesia. The absence of a power supply has also enhanced the 'death toll of newborns as incubators stop functioning'. The children staying a long time in hospitals without adequate nutrition are developing nutritional deficiencies which would result in long-term health consequences. Hospitals have turned into 'graveyards for thousands of children'.

The threats to children go beyond 'bombs and mortars', as over 645,000 school children in the Gaza Strip, have lost a full academic year, and more than 800,000 children, three-quarters of Gaza's entire child population, urgently need mental health and psychosocial support.

> GROUND REPORTS INDICATE THAT ISRAEL HAS ADOPTED A CALCULATED STRATEGY OF METING OUT 'PUNISHMENT' TO PEOPLE, BY SYSTEMATICALLY TARGETING GAZA'S HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

The UN Commission's report described the wide-scale disruptions in sexual and reproductive health care services, as 'reproductive violence, and infringement of women and girls' reproductive rights and rights to life, health, human dignity and non-discrimination'. It has had irreversible long-term effects on the mental health and fertility prospects of about 540,000 women and girls of reproductive age.

Women are giving birth in hospitals when hospitals are drastically short of epidurals, anaesthesia and antibiotics. Many have been forced to give birth in unsafe conditions at home or in relief camps, with little or no medical support, risking the danger of life-long injuries and even death. As women's access to food is severely restricted, pregnant and lactating women are at higher health and malnutrition risks (WHO).

The entry of food and water have been blocked to the besieged territory for months together. More than seven hundred water wells have been destroyed, and half of Gaza's cropland (67.6 per cent), over 71 per cent of orchards and other trees, 67 per cent of field crops, and 58.5 per cent of vegetables have been damaged (FAO). Israel has justified its attacks on major medical facilities under the plea that over 85 per cent of them were used by Hamas for terror operations. But, so far, it has not provided evidence to substantiate the claim, the Commission's report mentioned.

Meanwhile, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, ordering Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian territory within one year. Earlier, the ICJ also ruled that Israel's continued occupation was 'unlawful' and ordered to end it 'as rapidly as possible'. Israel, in defiance, intensified onslaughts on the civilian population in Gaza and its natural resources, and declared the UN chief as a persona non grata, barring his entry to Israel.

Israel's actions blatantly breach the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, by intentionally starving a population, and continuing armed assaults on health apparatus and personnel. As the UN celebrates the adoption of its Charter on October 24, which is binding on the UN Member States, and, categorically, prohibits the use of force in international relations. After eight decades of its adoption, Israel's flagrant violation of its principles has threatened the very existence of the UN.

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan & All India Radio; views are personal)

Overcoming investment biases: The real key to portfolio success

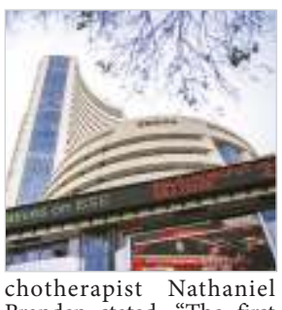


NILESH **NAYAK**

While market conditions and external events do play a role, the primary driver of investment success is often the investor's own behaviour

The saying "You are not a failure until you start blaming others for your mistakes" by renowned basketball coach John Wooden holds significant truth, especially when evaluating the performance of our personal investment portfolios. It's a common tendency among investors to attribute poor results to external factors such as the choice of stocks or funds, the portfolio managers, market conditions, or other events beyond their control. Although these elements can influence investment outcomes, the primary factor affecting portfolio performance often lies in the investor's own behaviour. As investment expert Benjamin Graham famously noted, "The investor's chief problem, and even his worst enemy, is likely to be himself."

Recent investment trends, including significant inflows into thematic, sectoral, or small-cap funds, suggest that certain behavioural biases may already be influencing investor decision-making. Recognising these biases is crucial for investors to overcome them and make better investment choices. As psychotherapist Nathaniel Branden stated, "The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance." While various investor biases can lead to suboptimal decisions and unsatisfactory outcomes, some are particularly prevalent during a bull market like the one we are currently experiencing. Here are a few common behavioral biases:



Overconfidence Bias: This bias leads investors to believe they possess more knowledge about the financial markets or specific investments than they actually do, causing them to disregard expert advice or factual data. The impressive returns on equity investments in recent years have left many investors overly confident in their decision-making skills, often without acknowledging that much of this success is due to the general bull market. Such overconfidence can be dangerous when the markets reverse course, as it may prompt investors to over-allocate to stocks or sectors they think will continue to perform well.

Anchoring Bias: Many newer investors, especially those who entered the market post-COVID-19, have come to expect unusually high returns from equities, based on the exceptional gains seen in recent years. This anchoring can lead them to expect annual returns of 20 per cent or more, assuming such performance is typical. Setting expectations at these levels is risky because it may influence financial plans that later prove unrealistic when market conditions change.

Herding Bias: Also known as the bandwagon effect, herding bias is common during bull markets, where many investors follow the crowd. The prevailing optimism in a bull market creates an illusion that stock prices will only keep rising, leading to irrational decision-making. This mentality can inflate asset prices and eventually result in significant losses when the market corrects itself.

Recency Bias: This bias causes investors to place too much emphasis on recent events while ignoring long-term historical data. For those who began investing after the COVID-19 pandemic, the past few years have shown consistent market growth, leading to the false impression that downturns are rare or manageable. To navigate these biases, investors should strive to make informed and rational decisions, especially during periods of strong market growth. A long-term investment strategy can help counteract the temptations posed by behavioral biases. Regularly investing through systematic investment plans (SIPs), maintaining a disciplined asset allocation and setting realistic expectations are practical approaches to reducing the impact of biases on one's portfolio. Ultimately, the key to successful investing lies in acknowledging that our behaviours and mindsets significantly influence outcomes.

(The writer is head of Investment Products, Share Market; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIPLOMACY AMIDST TENSION

Madam — Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the BRICS summit has been hailed as historic, particularly for India. The summit, dubbed the "Kazan Diplomacy," made significant strides in easing tensions between India and China, marking a critical ice-breaker since the 2020 Ladakh border dispute. This easing of Sino-Indian tensions has renewed hopes of restoring trade relations. For the first time, BRICS was presented as a non-western grouping, syncing India's tone of dehyphenation between Russia and the West. On the economic front, discussions centred around strengthening the New Development Bank, moving towards alternatives to the SWIFT system, and promoting de-dollarisation.

Additionally, the Nijjar issue, raised by the Five Eyes Alliance, saw India respond with a strong message of international solidarity, affirming that India is not alone. However, while these outcomes appear positive, they may not fully serve India's strategic interests. BRICS, often alliterated as 'non-western', is actually the brainchild of American giant Goldman Sachs. Practically, reviving Indo-China talks is not a landmark achievement but a necessity for BRICS to avoid the fate of SAARC. Plus, China's investments in India have been associated with intellectual property violations, data theft, and interference in domestic politics. The push for de-dollarisation could further tilt the balance towards 'Yuan', exacerbating India's trade deficit with China. In this scenario, India must focus on "strategic self-interest." As External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar notes in The India Way, India's foreign policy must be driven by realpolitik, especially in the context of BRICS, where China's dominance is unmistakable.

Abhisek Pani | *Bhubaneswar*

OVERWORK JEOPARDISES LIFE

Madam — A four-year-old child and her father died after being run over by a taxi with an allegedly dozing driver when they were walking to board a bus for school in Kolkata on Tuesday morning. Amid the persistent demand for a 70-hour work culture by Infosys co-founder, N R Narayana Murthy, and other corporate entrepreneurs, overwork makes drowsy drivers meet fateful accidents on highways.

According to a study, almost a third of app-based cab drivers work for 14 hours a day, while more than 83 per cent work over 10 hours and 60 per cent work over 12 hours. This kind of overwork is a slow way to slaughter people. Long work hours made drivers physically exhausted. Plus, the 10-minute delivery at the doorstep policy of certain e-commerce platforms are two of the reasons behind many road traffic accidents in our country. On the other hand, Indian Railways have been playing with our lives by not filling up vacant posts and by forcing their personnel, even loco pilots, to overwork. An RTI reply says that of 1,27,644 sanctioned posts of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots, 18,766-nearly 15 per cent were vacant as of March 1 this year. How can a loco pilot remain alert if he has to do extra shifts?

Sujit De | *Kolkata*

FOCUS ON REAL ISSUES

Madam — The Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has promised to name all the districts in Assam with the names of Ram and Krishna. While this may be in consonance with his religious sentiments, how is it going to help the people of the state? Name changing is getting to be the main thrust of the politics of the BJP. Infiltration is a serious problem in Assam, but the numbers dished out seem to be arbitrary with no real data to back it up.

There are much more serious problems Assam is facing than the need for name changing. It would be better for the people and the nation if CM's dealt with issues that matter and not silly games!

Anthony Henriques | *Mumbai*

Priyanka's political debut



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is all set for her political debut from the seat of Wayanad, the peculiar constituency from the heartland of southern India. The Congress is all set to make Wayanad an important position to fortify the states of the south, particularly after facing a win-win situation in the recent elections, where the INDIA Alliance lost Haryana but managed to settle well in J and K. So far, Priyanka Vadra wishes to enter into full-fledged politics since really long, but never ever fills her the nomination to officially join her political family into reality.

But now that she has finalised her commitment and filled out her nomination on October 23. This will help Congress to gain a personal touch with the people of South India, as after Rahul Gandhi chooses to keep Rae Bareilly, there creates a vaccum of political connection in targeting the southern states specifically. Now it is up to the people of south heartland states, that how the people will response and support her in her political decision. Whether her debut turns smooth or not, is something only time can tell.

Kirti Wadhawan | *Kanpur*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRST COLUMN

DO YOU HAVE A GALLOPING MIND

Through meditation and practices like pranayama, one can anchor the wandering mind

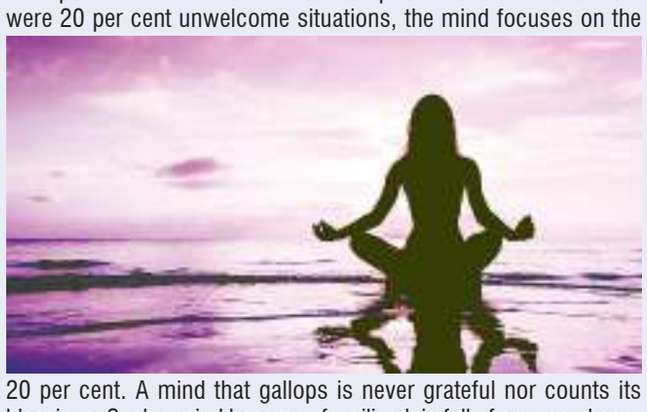


RAVI **VALLURI**

Long ago, there lived an old farmer who was barely productive. Day after day, he would sit on the porch and gaze at the farmland as his son toiled hard and cultivated the land. Seeing his father unemployed frustrated the son. Finally, he gave in to the obnoxious thoughts in his mind and decided to nail his father in a coffin and throw him off a cliff. As he was about to do so, he heard a knock from inside the coffin. The startled son opened the coffin and saw his father sleeping peacefully in it, and remarked, "Throw me if you want, but save the wood of the coffin for your dire times." The old man was mindful and aware. The ungrateful son had a galloping mind. 'Vitrushnasya vashikara sajana vairagyam' is an aphorism in Sanskrit that implies that a mind that gallops is an obstruction in itself.

We hear from fellow meditators that they experienced bliss, or saw a shimmering light, and felt that they could observe some celestial beings holding and touching them during the process of meditation. And then the mind starts wandering and galloping. Meditation happens very naturally, like a person brushing his teeth or undertaking his daily chores. The human mind, which is free from feverish desires, cravings, illusions and dreams attains poise. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, "You cannot get into yoga (union with self) unless you drop the hankering for desires in you."

A former colleague who retired recently mentioned during our morning walks that he was unable to sleep or rest peacefully as his mind was cannonaded with innumerable thoughts, worries and anxieties. If 80 per cent efficacious events transpired in our lives and there were 20 per cent unwelcome situations, the mind focuses on the



20 per cent. A mind that gallops is never grateful nor counts its blessings. Such a mind becomes fossilised, is full of anger and continues living in the events of the past. It suffers from attitudinal problems and great lack. A person with such tendencies should realise and pause to think that everything in life is transitory and ephemeral. The hope of spring is replaced by the simmering heat of the summer, followed by welcome rains in the monsoons, which the dry lands ache for. Autumn provides us with opportunities and then winter makes out a balance sheet of the assets and liabilities of work done and those not undertaken. A wandering mind is akin to a pendulum, swinging between daydreaming and wishful thinking, consequently landing in mediocrity and unproductive activity.

The retired colleague probed further as to whether meditation or reading would assist the mind in composing itself for a good night's rest or sleep. It is indeed a paradoxical situation. The mind needs to be occupied and yet be free from cravings so that it does not gallop or wander. This trait or quality can be cultivated only through the practice of vairagya or dispassion. The 'I' factor in the mind lives in the past or future. Instead of being a repetitive parrot, it needs to reinvent and reengineer its configuration and layout. Freshness ignites a spark for providing a new trajectory or direction in life. Politeness makes the mind humble and is propelled out of its closet to learn and it becomes contemporary to acquire skills hitherto not tried. When challenged, the mind slowly but surely stops galloping and regains composure. By practising pranayama, breathing techniques, yoga and pursuing knowledge over a period, the mind stops galloping, regains its alacrity and glides into a space of dispassionate meditation and joyous living.

(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)

BRICS Summit: A defining moment for the Global South



NILANTHA **ILANGAMUWA**

With calls for economic stability, environmental action and cultural unity, the Kazan Declaration emerges as a manifesto for South-South collaboration



A few days after India's External Affairs Minister's historic visit to Islamabad for the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, the most significant annual event of the Global South unfolded in Kazan, Russia: the BRICS summit. Kazan, conquered by Ivan the Terrible in 1552, marks the end of the Kazan Khanate and the beginning of Russian expansion eastward.

As the local Tatar proverb warns, "If the heavens give, they also take away," it serves as a sobering reminder of the precarious balance between fortune and misfortune, urging humility and preparedness for inevitable change. This week's summit signifies a pivotal moment for the Global South, challenging Western dominance while exposing its mockery of international humanitarian laws and the chaos it fuels in West Asia, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon, threatening to plunge the entire world into unprecedented conflict and despair.

As leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and their new members, along with other observers, convene, this summit transcends a mere gathering of nations and boldly asserts the aspirations and capabilities of the Global South. While Brazil's President Lula da Silva could not attend due to health issues, the voices of his counterparts resonated powerfully, highlighting a profound commitment to cooperation, peace and mutual respect—values starkly contrasting the narrative perpetuated by the West.

At this critical juncture, it is essential to clarify that BRICS, a coalition dedicated to tackling the pressing issues of our time—from economic instability to environmental crises—is not merely a reaction to Western hegemony but a proactive strategy aimed at reshaping the global order based on equity and collaboration.

As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated during his address, "In a world facing unprecedented challenges, our cooperation must be grounded in mutual respect and common interests. The world looks to us for leadership that transcends borders and fosters peace." Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping insisted, "As we navigate the complexities of a multipolar world, our shared responsibility is to promote peace, stability and development. BRICS must stand as a pillar of support for developing nations, ensuring their voices are heard on the global stage." This alliance signals a fundamental shift in how nations engage with one another, moving away from zero-sum games toward a collaborative approach that recognises the interconnectedness of global challenges.

> AS LEADERS FROM BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND NEW MEMBERS, ALONG WITH OTHER OBSERVERS, CONVENE, THIS SUMMIT TRANSCENDS A MERE GATHERING OF NATIONS AND BOLDLY ASSERTS THE ASPIRATIONS AND CAPABILITIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

As Kishore Mahbubani recently pointed out in an interview with this writer, we are all in the same boat; if the boat is sinking, there's little value in arguing about who has the bigger cabin. The West, by contrast, continues to entrench itself in a militaristic and hostile narrative, frequently resorting to propaganda that demonises nations like China and Russia. Their actions manifest deadly conflicts that leave the rest of the world in turmoil, profiting from the misfortunes of others.

This perverse approach often disregards the cultural and historical contexts of the Global South, presuming to lecture them on how to behave. The West has abandoned its wisdom; as Henry Kissinger once reflected, "The ability to think and act rationally in the face of adversity is the hallmark of a great power." The BRICS nations exemplify this capacity, constructively detailed in the Kazan Declaration, prioritising collaboration over confrontation. As President Vladimir Putin asserted during the summit, "Our collective strength lies not in military might but in our ability to forge alliances based on shared interests and mutual respect. It is time for us to reject the outdated paradigms that have long governed international relations."

The declaration issued at the summit serves as a powerful manifesto for South-South cooperation, highlighting that the true strength of nations lies in their ability to unite for mutual benefit, rather than succumbing to the divisive tactics historically employed by imperial powers. As leaders from BRICS nations deliberate on economic collaboration, environmental sustainability, and cultural exchange, they reaffirm their commitment to creating a world where cooperation supersedes historical grievances and petty political squabbles.

This is not a manifestation of warmongering; rather, it represents countries historically struggling to achieve mutual respect and dignity for all citizens. This commitment starkly contrasts the Western obsession with maintaining hegemony through military interventions and economic coercion—shamelessly punishing small nations like Cuba with sanctions while turning a blind eye to the massacre of unarmed civilians in Palestine and Lebanon. Yet, they continue to preach about how to protect democracy and universal human rights. In this precarious period where the West often exploits humanitarian crises as a pretext for military interventions, BRICS champions a principled approach that prioritises dialogue and partnership.

The commitment to peace-building reflects a deep understanding that true security cannot be achieved through military might but through fostering genuine relationships grounded in respect and equality. This summit represents a pivotal call to action, where BRICS nations acknowledge that their strength lies in recognising shared destinies rather than past grievances. Historical lessons caution against allowing mistrust to dictate international relations, as genuine peace stems from understanding and collaboration.

The BRICS summit challenges the prevailing narrative of fear and division. It highlights the urgent need to tackle global challenges like climate change and economic instability, showcasing the Global South's proactive stance in crafting a future rooted in cooperation and collective growth. Let us hope for a better world, where these Asian giants, India and China, will come together to heal historic scars of mistrust, opening more gates for Indo-Pakistani peace, ensuring no room for proxies to manipulate these countries into becoming pawns of the West. Have we been used and manipulated, bullied enough? Is this the final moment for us to unite for greater emancipation?

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

Has celebrity endorsement eclipsed the art of advertising

While famous faces lend instant appeal, the question arises: Have we lost the human touch that made ads meaningful



CHAITANYA K **PRASAD**

In the early days of advertising, brands leaned heavily on compelling stories and memorable taglines to forge deep emotional connections with consumers. Think of the Hutch ad with the loyal dog faithfully following a boy, Cadbury Dairy Milk's joyous dancer celebrating in a stadium, or Surf Excel's "Daag Ache Hain" campaign.

These weren't just commercials; they became cultural touchstones that left lasting impressions on how we remember those brands. Brands like Hutch and Airtel built their reputations on narrative-driven ads without relying on celebrities, focusing on themes like reliability, friendship and joy. The success of these campaigns lay in making the story the hero and seamlessly integrating the product into narratives that resonated deeply with audiences. However, there's been a noticeable shift toward extensive celebrity endorsements, with famous faces promoting everything from luxury cars to everyday appliances. This raises the question: Has the art of storytelling been overshadowed by the allure of celebrity charisma? Yet, some celebrity-driven ads have managed to maintain that emotional connection through powerful narratives. Amitabh Bachchan's association with "Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)" is a prime example.

The show's branding isn't just about a game show; it's about dreams, aspirations, and life-changing moments for ordinary people. Similarly, Shah Rukh Khan's long-standing partnership with Hyundai has produced ads that go beyond showcasing cars. The recent Hyundai Samarth initiative highlights inclusivity and empowerment for people with disabilities. In these ads, Shah Rukh Khan doesn't just endorse a product; he becomes part of a narrative that promotes positive social values, resonating deeply with audiences.

These campaigns succeeded not merely because they featured a celebrity but because they tapped into universal emotions and values that consumers could relate to. The story remained the hero, and the celebrity enhanced the narrative without overshadowing it. It was advertising at its purest-focused on connection and meaning.

From Bollywood actors endorsing financial products like mutual funds to cricketers promoting real estate or soft drinks, celebrity endorsements have become penetrative. MS Dhoni's involvement in mutual fund advertisements is a prime example of this. His trustworthiness, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, has made financial products seem more approachable and credible to audiences that might otherwise be skeptical. Similarly, big-name stars in paan masala ads, while controversial, have undeniably increased the visibility and sales of these products.



But why has there been such a shift toward celebrity-centric advertising? Several factors contribute to this trend. In an age of fragmented attention spans, grabbing consumer attention has become more challenging, and celebrities provide an instant hook.

Their recognisable faces and star power can make a product stand out in a crowded media space. Celebrities also embody trust and credibility; consumers often associate a celebrity's success with the quality of the product they endorse, especially where trust in unfamiliar brands may be lacking. The rise of social media has transformed celebrities into influencers with massive followings, and brands tap into these personal connections to reach audiences. As brands expand globally, they use celebrities with international appeal to reach wider, more diverse markets.

While celebrities can help create buzz, technology-particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI)-also plays a significant role in shaping modern advertising strategies. AI algorithms analyse consumer behaviour, preferences, and trends, helping brands create highly personalised and targeted campaigns. However, this data-driven approach can sometimes lead to formulaic ads that prioritise metrics over creativity, risking the loss of the human touch that makes storytelling so powerful.

The rise of social media influencers has introduced a new dynamic to endorsements. Unlike traditional celebrities, influencers often have niche audiences and engage with them on a more personal level. Their brand value lies in relatability and authenticity, which can feel more genuine compared to the polished image of mainstream celebrities. Brands now balance using high-profile celebrities for mass appeal with influencers for targeted, authentic engagement, understanding that while star power is influential, content and genuine connections with consumers still matter deeply.

(The writer is former additional DG, DFF and festival director, IFFI. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan; Views are personal)

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IN BRIEF



RBI revokes authorisation certificate of UAE Exchange

The Reserve Bank has revoked the certificate of authorisation of UAE Exchange Centre LLC for non-compliance with regulatory requirements and now it cannot transact the business of cross border in-bound money transfer. UAE Exchange Centre LLC (UAEEC), with registered office in Dubai, was issued Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) for cross border in-bound money transfer operator (customer-to-customer) as 'Overseas Principal'. In a statement, the RBI said the CoA of the payment system operator has been revoked for non-compliance with regulatory requirements. Following the revocation of CoA, UAEEC cannot transact the business of cross border in-bound money transfer as 'Overseas Principal', it added.



Gold drops to Rs 80,050; silver declines Rs 2,000

Gold price dropped Rs 1,150 to Rs 80,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday on slackened demand from jewellers and retailers, according to All India Sarafa Association. Silver also remained under selling pressure and slipped below the Rs 1 lakh mark by declining Rs 2,000 to Rs 99,000 per kg. The metal had closed at Rs 1.01 lakh per kg in the previous close on Thursday. Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity fell Rs 350 to Rs 80,450 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 80,800, while the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity declined Rs 1,150 to Rs 80,050 per 10 grams against Rs 81,200 on Thursday. Traders said tepid demand from jewellers and retailers in the local markets and a weak trend in the overseas markets weighed on gold prices.
In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery declined Rs 406 or 0.52 per cent to trade at Rs 77,921 per 10 grams.
Silver contracts for December delivery plummeted Rs 1,134 or 1.17 per cent to Rs 95,898 per kg on the bourse.

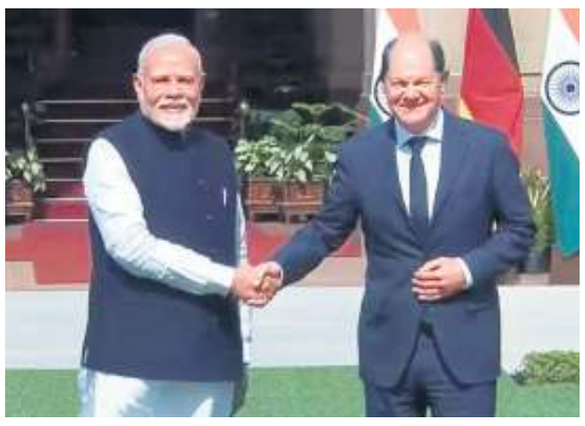


Thermax to acquire Buildtech Products India

Thermax on Friday said it has inked a pact to acquire critical construction chemicals maker Buildtech Products India for about Rs 72 crore. This partnership solidifies Thermax's presence in the construction chemicals sector, the energy and environment solutions firm said in a statement. According to the statement, the company has signed an agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Buildtech Products India Pvt Ltd for approximately Rs 72 crore, subject to various transaction adjustments. Established in 1995, Buildtech Products India manufactures admixtures, accelerators and capsules used in tunnels, infrastructure and railway projects. The Indian construction chemicals market is worth USD 3.76 billion and is expected to reach USD 5.17 billion by 2030 with a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 5.64 per cent, it stated.

Right time to join India's growth story, Modi tells German biz forum

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Modi said the confidence that Germany has expressed in India's skilled manpower is amazing as the European nation has decided to increase visas for the skilled Indian workforce from 20,000 to 90,000 per year and this will give a further push to the economic growth of Germany

Inviting German businesses to invest in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said there is no better place for investment than India and this is the right time to join the country's growth story.

Addressing the 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business 2024 here, the prime minister emphasised that the time was 'right' for foreign investors to participate in India's growth story, join 'make in India' initiative and 'make for the world'.

He also said the confidence that Germany has expressed in India's skilled manpower is amazing as the European nation has decided to increase visas for the skilled Indian workforce from 20,000 to 90,000 per year and this will give a further push to the economic growth of Germany.

"This is the right time to join India's growth story... India becoming a global trade and manufacturing hub," Modi said, adding, today India stands on strong pillars of democracy, demography, demand and data.

He further said that India is doing record investments in roads, railways, airports and ports and the Indo-Pacific region is very important for the future of the world.

The conference was held on Friday after a gap of 12 years.

Modi said that the government has prepared a roadmap for making India a developed nation by 2047 and in this important time, the German cabinet has released a "Focus on India" document to further strengthen ties between the two countries.

He added that India is becoming a major hub for diversification, de-risking, trade and manufacturing, and it provides huge business opportunities for German firms.

For investors and businesses, he said, "what could be a better place than India?"

He added that the four key pillars of India's growth are talent, technology, innovation, and infrastructure, and to drive all this, "we have the power of aspirational India (AI).

India is focussing on skills and democratisation of technology and its important missions related to sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductor, green hydrogen, and space technology too provide opportunities for investments and collaborations, the prime minister said.

He added that the visiting delegation should enjoy India's culture, cuisines and shopping also.

Credit growth for banks to moderate to 12 pc in FY25: Icra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ratings agency Icra anticipates a steady slowdown in credit growth for banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) on account of regulatory measures and tighter funding conditions in the domestic markets.

The agency estimates the incremental bank credit growth to slow down to Rs 19-20.5 lakh crore in 2024-25, around 12 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY) growth, compared to Rs 22.3 lakh crore, or 16.3 per cent rise, in the previous fiscal.

For the NBFCs, Icra said the growth in assets under management (AUMs) is expected to slow down sharply to 16-18 per cent in the current financial year from 25 per cent in 2023-24.

The recent regulatory actions on certain entities are expected to push others to adjust their business practices and models, which shall also have a bearing on near-term growth, it said.

Once the rate cut cycle starts, "the regulatory measures to slow down bank credit growth will be crucial for banks to cut their deposit rates...This will especially be important for maintaining the margins, as the cut in policy rates expected in H1 CY2025 will exert downward pressure on lending rates," Anil Gupta, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head - Financial Sector Ratings at Icra, said.

However, the proposed changes in guidelines for liquidity coverage ratio could mean the immediate cut in deposit rates, resulting in delayed transmission of rate cuts, Gupta added.

During the last two years, the high credit growth in the retail segment has potentially resulted in overleveraging and slower credit growth, impairing the refinancing ability of some of these borrowers.

Govt's role to enable conditions to boost exports: WB industry secy

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The West Bengal government on Friday said its export and logistics policies will strengthen the state's export sector, which currently generates approximately USD 11.7 billion in merchandise exports.

At the launch of the Kolkata chapter of the National Centre for Export Promotion (NCEP), Bengal Industry and Commerce Secretary Vandana Yadav highlighted that engineering goods exports alone account for nearly USD 3.5 billion.



Addressing industry representatives at the Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF), Yadav emphasised that the policies are designed to create favourable conditions for the private sector, which drives 100 per cent of the state's exports. "The government's role is to enable conditions whereby you can export more," Yadav said, noting that the focus is on sustaining traditional sectors like the foundry industry while integrating modern, knowledge-based methods.

She described the establishment of the NCEP as a timely initiative to enhance traditional skills and provide essential support in areas such as training and presentation.

The new centre, IIF's fourth Centre of Excellence, joins the National Centre for Skill Development (NCSD) in Chennai, the National Centre for Technical Services (NCTS) in Pune, and the Foundry Informatics Centre (FIC) in New Delhi, reinforcing IIF's commitment to advancing the sector.

With the mission to elevate the Indian foundry industry's global presence, NCEP will focus on enhancing competitiveness through strategic support in capacity building, export procedures, and sustainable growth.

PMP adds step-down subsidiary in Dubai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power Mech Projects (PMP) on Friday announced incorporating a step-down subsidiary company in Dubai.

P M T S Technology L.L.C was incorporated on October 24 with 100 per cent holding by its wholly-owned subsidiary PMTS private Limited, Power Mech Projects said in an exchange filing. With the new entity, the company aims to deliver innovative and efficient solutions to its clients, enabling them to enhance their operations, productivity, and competitiveness.

The services will encompass a wide range of activities, such as custom software development, web and mobile app development, database management, IT consulting, and support, it said.

NLC India Q2 profit drops 9.5 pc to Rs 982 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned NLC India Ltd on Friday reported a 9.5 per cent decline in consolidated profit at Rs 982.41 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2024 on the back of higher expenses.

NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) had posted a consolidated profit of Rs 1,085.93 crore in the year-ago period, NLC India Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

However, the revenue from operations in the July-September quarter increased to Rs 3,657.27 crore, over Rs 2,977.53 crore in the year-ago period.

The total expenses of the company in the second quarter rose to Rs 3,173.39 crore, over Rs 2,811.88 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The mining segment of NLC India includes both lignite and coal mining and power segment includes both thermal and renewables.

NLC India is a Navratna company under the Ministry of Coal. Its core business is mining and power generation.

NLCIL operates three opencast lignite mines of total installed capacity 28 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) at Neyveli, one opencast lignite mine at Barsingsar in Rajasthan with an installed capacity of 2.10 MTPA and an open cast coal mine at Talabira in Odisha with an installed capacity of 20 MTPA.

The company also operates four lignite based pit-head thermal power stations with an aggregate capacity of 3,390 mw at Neyveli and one 250 mw lignite-based thermal power station at Barsingsar, Rajasthan.

A 1,000 mw coal-based thermal power station is also in operation at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu through its subsidiary company, NLC Tamilnadu Power Ltd (NTPL), a joint venture between NLCIL and TANGEDCO (Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd).

NLCIL has also forayed into renewable energy sector. Presently, the company is operating 1380 mw of solar power plants in various districts of Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar islands and 51 MW wind power plant in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

AI will open up opportunities for youth in various sectors: Prez

PNS ■ RAIPUR

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a priority area for the entire world and asserted the emerging technology will open up vast opportunities for youths in various sectors.

She said interdisciplinary approach will encourage innovation in the engineering sector.

Speaking at the 14th convocation of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur, Murmu highlighted how AI, a transformative tool that enable computers to perform a variety of advanced functions, will open up opportunities for youths in various sectors.

"Development of technology depends on science. It will be helpful for all of you to have information about ultra-modern technology to make outstanding contributions in the field of engineering," she told students at the convocation.



In 2024, two physics and four chemistry scientists, who were linked with Artificial Intelligence, received the Nobel prize, the President pointed out.

"An interdisciplinary approach will encourage innovation in engineering. The way industrial revolution provided machine assistance and expansion of human labour, in the same way AI revolution will bring major transformation. AI has become a priority in the entire world," she said.

President Murmu emphasised AI is going to have a profound impact in various spheres of life and added the central government is promoting the cutting-edge technology to foster innovation.

"India is a founding member of Global Partnership and Artificial Intelligence. AI will have a deep impact on social, political, economic, strategic and other sectors. Under IndiaAI mission, start-ups are being promoted in the country. Young engineers will have ample opportunities in the AI sector," she said.

The President said use of technology in the healthcare sector has been constantly rising and stressed that students from both fields (engineering and health) should actively work on interdisciplinary cooperation.

Eris Lifesciences Q2 net profit declines 20 pc to Rs 97 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eris Lifesciences on Friday said its consolidated profit after tax declined 20 per cent year-on-year to Rs 97 crore in the September quarter.

The drug firm had reported a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs 122 crore in the July-September period of last fiscal.

Revenue increased to Rs 741 crore in the second quarter compared to Rs 505 crore in the year-ago period, the company said in a statement.

"The acquired businesses of Biocon and Swiss Parenterals have been integrated and are scaling up in line with our expectations," Eris Lifesciences Chairman and Managing Director Amit Bakshi said.

Sebi comes out with periodic reporting format for RAs, PAs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday came out with a standardised format for periodic reporting for research analysts (RAs) and proxy advisers (PAs).

The regulator has recognised the Research Analyst Administration and Supervisory Body (RAASB) for the administration and supervision of RAs under the RA Regulations. As the Proxy Advisers (PAs) are registered under the RA norms, they will also come under the purview of RAASB. In its circular, Sebi said that RAs will submit their periodic report to RAASB, and PAs will submit their periodic reports to Sebi.

The periodic reports will be submitted by RAs/PAs within 30 days from the last date of the reporting period. Further, RAs/PAs are required to submit periodic reports for half-yearly periods ending on September 30 and March 31 of every financial year. The first reporting period will be a half-yearly period ending on March 31, 2025, and reports thereof will be required to be submitted by April 30, 2025.

Hence, a time of around six months has been provided to RAs and PAs for submission of their first periodic report to give them sufficient time to make necessary arrangements for providing the required data.

DLF Q2 profit jumps over 2-fold to Rs 1,381.08 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realty major DLF on Friday reported a more than two-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,381.08 crore for the quarter ended September 2024. Its net profit stood at Rs 622.78 crore in the year-ago period. The total income rose to Rs 2,180.83 crore during the April-September period of the 2024-25 fiscal from Rs 1,476.42 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing.

India's DPI figures in global conversations: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is now part of global conversations around inclusive and scalable infrastructure, and its blueprint can offer others an opportunity to harness technology for improving the lives of citizens, according to experts.

Primus Partners, in association with iSPIRT, organised a DPI roundtable that saw key stakeholders such as senior bureaucrats, diplomats, policymakers, industry leaders and thought leaders discussing India's leadership in advancing DPI and its crucial role in driving socio-economic transformation.



Delivering keynote address, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant noted India's remarkable leap in becoming the voice of the Global South in DPI, and in achieving in 9 years what would have taken 50 years, otherwise.

"This sentiment was echoed during India's G20 Presidency, where countries reached a common consensus that DPIs are essential for equitable development and to improve the lives of citizens, especially in the global south," he said.

The first session at the roundtable on 'Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through DPI' drew attention to the vast potential of DPI in accelerating sustainable development across the Global South.

Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India, discussed India's seminal role in using DPI to drive progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and added that India must take the lead in the global DPI progress.

In another session, panellists shared insights on how India Stack has revolutionised businesses by promoting financial inclusion and enhancing operational efficiencies and by leveraging Aadhaar-enabled services to facilitate easier access to credit for small businesses.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 23/GHMC/KPC-24/2024-25 Dated: 25.10.2024
Name of Work: Developmental Works, Estimate Amount / ECV: Rs. 104.50 Lakhs, Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 26.10.2024 @ 11.30 A.M / 02.11.2024 @ 11.30 A.M. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri. D. Govardhan Goud, Executive Engineer, GHMC, Kukatpally Circle - 24, Cell 9154299633. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in/
Sd/- Executive Engineer
R.O.No: 5880-PP/CL/ADVT/12024-25, Dt. 25-10-2024 Kukatpally Circle - 24, GHMC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT
O/o The SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, IRRIGATION CIRCLE, MEDAK
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited for the following work in Medak District.
e-procurement Notice No. 17/SE/IC/MDK/2024-25, Dated: 21.10.2024
FDR - Restoration of MI Sources - Restoration of Nayakuni Cheruvu Bund & Surplus course near Medak (T&D) for 1(one) work with ECV: Rs.31.92 lakhs from 28.10.2024 to 05.11.2024. For Details visit e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in from 28.10.2024.
Sd/-Superintending Engineer,
R.O.No: 5846-PP/CL/ADVT/12024-25, Date: 25-10-2024 Irrigation Circle, Medak.

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Saturday
October 26, 2024



The Legend of Hanuman Season 5

Beyond mythology; visual spectacle like no other!

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

DIRECTED BY : Jeevan J. Kang and Navin John

PRODUCED BY : Sharad Devarajan, Jeevan J. Kang and Charuvi Agrawal

CAST : Daman Baggan, Sharad Kelkar, Sanket Mhatre, Shakti Singh, Pushkar Vijay, Amit Deondi, Krishna Kumar, Rohan Verma, Richard Joel, Vikrant Chaturvedi, Maaz Ali, Gireesh Sahdev, Surbhi Pandey

STREAMING ON : Disney + Hotstar

RATING : 4.3/5

The Legend of Hanuman Season 5 is the latest instalment in the critically acclaimed animated series, which has captivated audiences worldwide with its mesmerising blend of mythology, action and drama. This season promises to be the most epic yet, with Lord Hanuman's transformation into a god and his battles against evil forces reaching new heights.

PLOT

Season 5 picks up where its predecessor left off, with Hanuman's journey taking a dramatic turn. Season 5 delves deeper into Hanuman's transformation from a mighty warrior to a god, serving Lord Rama. The narrative expertly weaves together mythology, action, and drama, keeping viewers engaged. The pacing is well balanced, with intense battle sequences and emotional moments that tug at the heartstrings.

Review

HIGHLIGHTS

This season delves into the concept of self-discovery and purpose, with Hanuman's journey serving as a metaphor for finding one's true calling. Then comes loyalty and devotion, as the series highlights the importance of unwavering commitment.

The narrative expertly weaves together mythology, action and drama, keeping viewers engaged. The pacing is well balanced, with intense battle sequences and emotional moments that tug at the heartstrings.

DRAWBACKS

The nonlinear storytelling in the show can sometimes be confusing and occasional lip-sync issues may be the only drawbacks. However, that can still be excused.

PERFORMANCES

The Legend of Hanuman is always amazed by its nearly flawless choice of voice actors. Daman Baggan is like a modern-day version of Hanuman.

Once again, Sharad Kelkar shines as the voice of Ravana. His deep voice dominates every moment, overshadowing all other characters.

Such a skilled performer! Meanwhile, Sanket Mhatre as Ram, Richard Joel as Lakshman, Pushkar Vijay as Angad, Vikrant Chaturvedi as Sugreev and Gireesh Sahdev as Vibheeshan, among the other supporting cast, can just not be ignored, with their astonishing skills as their respective characters.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Whether it is Lanka, the forest, or Pataal Lok, every part of the series appears to be impeccably designed. The colour scheme is attractive and bright. The animation quality has improved significantly since the previous seasons. Vibrant colours, intricate details, and fluid motion make the visuals stunning. The 'Paanchmukhi' avatar of Hanuman is breathtakingly rendered, showcasing the animators' skill. The voice cast delivers impressive performances, bringing the characters to life. The background score complements the on-screen action, elevating the emotional impact.

VERDICT

The Legend of Hanuman Season 5 is a testament to the power of storytelling, blending action, drama, and mythology into an unforgettable experience. If you're looking for an engaging and emotionally resonant series, look no further. It is an outstanding conclusion to the series. With its captivating storyline, stunning animation, and profound themes, it's a must-watch for fans of mythology, animation and epic adventures.

RECOMMENDATION:

If you're new to the series, start from Season 1 to fully appreciate the narrative. For returning viewers, Season 5 is a satisfying continuation of Hanuman's legendary journey. Will I watch it again? Absolutely! *The Legend of Hanuman Season 5* is a masterpiece that deserves multiple viewings.

UP born, Telugu at heart

AARTI SREENATH
aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

Janaki Ram Sharma's life is a fascinating tale of two cities: Varanasi, his birthplace and Hyderabad, his karma bhoomi. This finance expert's remarkable journey exemplifies the city's welcoming nature, cultural richness, and spiritual depth

HYDERABOND

Janaki Ram Sharma's life has been one of transformation, not just geographically but spiritually. Born in the vibrant city of Varanasi, his journey brought him to Hyderabad, a place he now lovingly calls his 'Karma Bhoomi'. "Varanasi is my birthplace, which I love dearly and Hyderabad is my 'Karma Bhoomi! Both mean everything to me," he says, reflecting on the two cities that have shaped him into the person he is today. Although his roots are in Uttar Pradesh, he doesn't see himself bound by the identity of a UPite. "I'm a Telugu fellow. You can call me an Indian, but I'm also very much a Telugu man at heart," he explains with pride, embodying a true pan-Indian spirit that has come to define his life in Hyderabad.

A finance professional with over 40 years of experience, his expertise has shaped businesses and lives across sectors. "I've been in the field of finance for over 40 years now," he says with modesty. Although his background includes being a Chartered Accountant, he prefers the simpler title of financial consultant. For him, it's not about epithets or titles—just the work and service that define his life.

His life, however, isn't solely about numbers and balance sheets. His devotion to spirituality has taken him on a unique path, including years spent at the Puttaparthi ashram of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. "I lived in Puttaparthi for a few years because Swami had called me there. I'm devoted to him a lot. But then he asked me to return to the outside world and continue my work," he recounts. This spiritual side of his life has become an intrinsic part of his being.

When talking about Hyderabad, his affection for the city is palpable. Having travelled to various cities and even abroad, he says there is something unique about Hyderabad that makes everyone feel at home. "This city is special because anyone can gel with each other here—happily and comfortably. It doesn't matter if someone comes from Kashmir, Assam, or even Kanyakumari; they'll find their people here. It's the spirit of brotherhood that sets Hyderabad apart."

In his eyes, language is merely a tool for communication and in Hyderabad, that communication flows easily. "If you can understand the language, you can connect with people. That's what Hyderabad offers—a human connection beyond caste, creed, or religion. It's about being human to human."

One of the things he appreciates most about Hyderabad is its balanced climate. "The weather here is excellent—no extremes," he says. However, he's quick to point out that traffic has become a significant challenge. "It used to take me 15 minutes to reach Begumpet; now it takes 50. We're wasting fuel, time and energy because of the inefficiencies in managing the city's growth."

Despite the modern inconveniences, his love for the city is unwavering. "Hyderabad means everything to me. You can find everything here—whether it's material things like malls and cinema theatres or spiritual places like the Ramakrishna Math or Shringeri Peetham."

However, he wishes the city could do more to preserve and promote its rich history. "The zoo, the Golconda Fort—they could've been developed and marketed better. There's so much culture here that isn't being highlighted the way it should be."

As a financial consultant, he sees both potential and challenges in Hyderabad's professional landscape. While he appreciates the city, he admits that it doesn't offer the same opportunities as Mumbai. "In Bombay, there are far more opportunities. Here, it's hard work, but there's also a problem with people not paying for services," he says candidly. Still, Hyderabad is home and he has no regrets.

When asked about his most cherished memory, he immediately recalls his first meeting with Sathya Sai Baba at the tender age of 14. "That first meeting with him—just four minutes—gave me goosebumps. It's a memory I will take with me even into my next life," he shares, his voice tinged with emotion.

For him, his life in Hyderabad isn't just about work or even personal satisfaction. He's driven by a higher purpose, one of service and giving back. "I love doing Shuddha (pure) service. It's my passion," he explains. In his eyes, living a life of service is the ultimate expression of his spiritual beliefs, a way to blend his karmic duties with his love for humanity.

Future-proofing for consumer business investors

The Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) environment is a relentless race against change, driven by technological advancements and a surge of agile competitors eager to disrupt the status quo. Economic volatility, shifting consumer preferences and the formidable bargaining power of retail customers are reshaping the business landscape. Globally, advanced economies are predicted to slow down significantly, with growth dropping from 2.7% in 2022 to 1.3% in 2023. These forces compel FMCG players to not just adapt but also innovate to create and sustain long-term shareholder value.

While factors such as growth, margin and cash flow impact long-term shareholder value, growth has a disproportionate influence on it. Achieving growth, however, is becoming increasingly challenging for consumer companies as the number of untapped markets and unserved consumer segments dwindle. Today, growth requires direct competition for new consumers and the promotion of premium products to encourage existing consumers to trade up. To thrive, companies must identify their strengths and differentiation to create



compelling value propositions. For example, Hindustan Unilever's strong equity across product segments and focus on sustainability and innovation set it apart. With consumers now more informed and empowered by digital platforms, companies must strategically pivot, innovate, and navigate complexity to succeed.

Historically, economies of scale provided significant advantages in the FMCG sector, enabling companies to achieve cost efficiencies, extensive distribution networks and robust recognition. Yet, new technologies, social media and e-commerce have democratised these benefits, enabling agile competitors to challenge established giants with disruption. Large consumer businesses must enhance consumer segmentation with advanced analytics and machine learning to understand better and respond to changing preferences in this evolving landscape.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES FOR TOP COMPANIES

To navigate this demanding environment and build long-term shareholder value, top FMCG companies must adopt a multifaceted strategy. The two strategic pillars —refining consumer segmentation and building sustainable competitive differentiation — will enable companies to identify the optimal intersection of where to play and how to win. By focusing their efforts on the most promising market opportunities and tailoring their offerings to meet the specific demands of their target segments, companies can drive sustainable growth and build enduring shareholder value.

- **Innovation and agility**: Companies should invest in R&D to develop new products suited to evolving consumer tastes. Agility in product development and go-to-market strategies can provide a competitive edge.
- **Digital transformation**: From optimising supply chains with AI and machine learning to enhancing customer engagement through personalised marketing, harnessing the power of digital transformation can drive efficiency and growth. E-commerce offers significant opportunities by developing a strong online presence and direct-to-consumer channels, reducing reliance on traditional retail partners.
- **Sustainability & social responsibility:** Consumers are increasingly valuing sustainability and ethics. Companies that focus on Environmental, Sustainability, and Governance (ESG) practices can enhance brand loyalty and attract mindful consumers, using sustainable sourcing and supply chains as strategic advantages. In India, 42% of CEOs expect substantial returns on ESG investments within three to five years.
- **Cost and value optimisation**: While innovation and digital transformation are crucial, cost efficiency is essential for long-term value creation. Optimising the value chain through automation, strategic sourcing and lean manufacturing can boost margins.
- **Talent and culture:** Fostering innovation and agility hinges on attracting and retaining top talent through robust employee development, promoting continuous improvement and fostering cross-functional collaboration.

VIRTUES OF BEING VIGILANT

After building a strong strategic foundation, it is crucial to remain vigilant to avoid pitfalls that threaten long-term growth. Simultaneously, investing in robust competitive intelligence systems is essential to anticipate competitors, maintain a competitive edge, and uncover avenues for growth while safeguarding against market share erosion.

- **Chasing short-lived, high-decibel trends:** The allure of trendy, high-profile innovations can distract companies from their core growth strategies. While experimentation and innovation are vital, it's crucial to differentiate between fads and sustainable trends.
- **Neglecting data-driven agility:** Relying solely on intuition or outdated methods is inadequate today. Companies must use advanced analytics and real-time data for informed, agile decision-making, enabling swift adaptation to market changes, operational optimisation and enhanced consumer responsiveness.
- **Transitioning from blue-ocean to red-ocean skills**: As markets become more saturated, companies must shift from blue-ocean strategies, which focus on untapped markets, to red-ocean strategies, involving competing in existing markets.

(The author, Prasun Kumar, is the head of strategy and program delivery, at Philip Morris International Inc (PMI)'s India affiliate, IPM India Wholesale Trading Pvt Ltd.)

the pioneer
Hyderabad | Saturday October 26, 2024

DIWALI DELIGHTS

This Diwali, elevate your festive gifting with the exclusive Tyohaar by Novotel hampers from Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre & HICC. Available at Le Café until Diwali, these curated hampers are filled with gourmet treats and festive delights, designed to make your celebrations unforgettable.

The collection reflects the spirit of the festival of lights, offering a thoughtful blend of tradition and luxury. Each hamper is meticulously crafted with premium items, making them perfect for sharing with family, friends, or colleagues. Whether for personal or corporate gifting, these hampers add a touch of elegance to any Diwali celebration.





In the newest part of the city of Hyderabad--a cafe for coffee and good food is a must. Which is how Aurum24 Cafe was conceptualised. The idea of the cafe began with a conversation between friends AK Solanki, Jyotsna Sri, Venkatesh and Padmaja. The idea was to bring all these thoughts and experiences under one roof to create a cafe that sets a gold standard in the quality of ingredients in their dishes to the warmth of the atmosphere in Tellapur.

Nature, nurture and narrative

The Landour Writer's Retreat, held in the serene and literary-rich hills of Landour, successfully concluded its sold-out retreat of passionate writers from across India. The retreat was a unique blend of creativity, nature and personal growth, took place in the home-town of author Ruskin Bond, drawing inspiration from the literary legacy of the region.



Participants of the retreat enjoyed the sessions which were a mix of topics on enhancing writing-craft, editing, publishing strategies for authors all while being immersed in the tranquility of Landour, a cantonment area just five kilometers higher than the Queen of hills. The retreat offered not just writing expertise but also rejuvenating experiences like forest bathing and a guided hike amidst the lush surroundings of Jaberkhet Nature Reserve, allowing participants to connect deeply with the landscape.

Other retreat inclusions of the retreat were the 'words around bonfire', a book discussion, an acoustic performance and unique wellness experiences woven into the schedule, including flute yoga in addition to yoga and a sound healing session, with the aim of fostering a greater sense of calm, focus and creativity for participants.

Adding to the magic of the retreat was a heartwarming message from Ruskin Bond himself, who, though unable to attend in person, shared his personal note with the writers. As a neighbour to the retreat and an emblematic figure of the literary world, Bond encouraged the attendees to embrace solitude, explore their creativity and draw inspiration from the rich natural beauty.

"The retreat was more than a writing workshop; it was a profound journey for every individual who attended," said Deeba Salim Irfan, the founder and curator of the retreat and the founder of TheWriteScene, the portal for emerging writers. "Ruskin Bond's message was the perfect culmination of what we wanted this retreat to embody — a space for reflection, creativity and connection with nature." Premanka Goswami, Associate Publisher of Penguin Random House, who was a guest-host said, "The retreat, which featured personalised feedback sessions, it was not just an opportunity for writers to hone their craft but also offered a rare chance to submit works for Leaves from Landour, an upcoming anthology of short stories and poems set in this historic hill station. The anthology is still open for submissions, especially from writers in the hills or writers who have stories about the hills." Interest for the next retreat has already been echoed by participants of this retreat. "I had a beautiful time, even better than the last time. I will return for the next!" said Bijitri Roy, a former corporate lawyer turned author who had returned to the retreat for the second consecutive time. "Warm comfort is the only thing that comes to my mind," said Sonia Chauhan, a corporate lawyer and an author besides a podcast host of "Writing with a knife" and being a managing member of Literati.

PARTY

CARE Hospitals has launched a cutting-edge multi-specialty clinic in Tolichowki, Hyderabad, designed exclusively to serve the healthcare needs of international patients. The facility was inaugurated by Jasdeep Singh, Group CEO of CARE Hospitals, alongside Shalabh Dang, Chief Marketing Officer, Deepak Khanna, CFO, Sunith Agarwal, Chief Operating Officer CARE Hospitals Hitech City, Tapan Kumar Dash, HOD of Pediatric CTVS Surgeon, Dr Laxmi Nath, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Dr. Kailesh Mirchi, Consultant Neouro Phsycian, Dr.Sharath Babu, Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr.Sudha Sinha, HOD Oncology and Other Doctors and other guests.







Sadhana Infinity International School celebrated its sports day, "UMANG", promoting physical and mental well-being. The event was attended by Chairman Sunand Surapaneni and Sadhana Devi Surapaneni; Managing Director, among the other dignitaries.



The students of Podar International School Hayathnagar couldn't have asked for more as it played host to Jamie Knight, ranked among the world's top 10 football freestylers and multiple Guinness World Record Holder, on his first visit. In his fourth visit to India as part of Podar Education Network's initiative to heavily focus on sports and enable their students to get the best workshops and training sessions from internationally acclaimed players and coaches.



Kia celebrated the official launch of its latest flagship vehicle, the Carnival Limousine, at its showroom in Jubilee Hills showroom. The event was attended by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Neelam Ramana Reddy from Star Hospital.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

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1					4	2		
8		6		1	5			
7	9				6			4
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6			8				7	2
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Yesterday's solution

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

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

1 Mend
3 Very thin metal sheet used in the kitchen
7 The line where material is joined
8 Murdered
10 Tales
13 The later part of the day
16 Wanting food
17 Money someone has to pay as a punishment
18 A fruit from a palm tree
19 A light wind

DOWN

1 Have a lie down
2 Braided lengths of hair
4 These birds hunt at night
5 A climbing aid with rungs
6 Birds that fly back home
9 Courage
11 Showed
12 Ask to come
14 A tangle in your hair
15 At this place

SOLUTION

	L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G
		C	U		O		I		
G	O	I	N	G		R	I	G	H	T
R		N		S		W		H		U
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E				F		Y				S
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F		A		R		S		I		A
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Pottel: Idea has potential, but its implementation falls short

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com



REVIEW

Pottel is one of the small films hitting screens and the promotional videos have piqued interest, with people like Sandeep Reddy Vanga speaking highly of it. Though the cast lacks big names, the film's promotions have attracted a sizable audience. Yuva Chandra and Ananya Nagalla play the lead roles, while Ajay takes on a significant part. Sahit Mothkhuri, who previously directed Savari, helms this film.

STORY

The story is set in the rural village of Gurram Gattu in Telangana. The villagers believe in their local goddess Balamma, and every 12 years, a Jathara is held in her honour, where a pottel (goat) is sacrificed. A village family, tasked with caring for the pottel through generations, has now passed this responsibility to Gangadhari (Yuva Chandra). A local landlord, Patel (Ajay), dominates the village and discourages lower-caste villagers from pursuing education. He wields the villagers' faith in the goddess to intimidate them, keeping them from defying him. Gangadhari, who is married to Bujjamma (Ananya Nagalla), has a young daughter named Saraswathi (Thanasvi). Haunted by the belief that his own lack of education led to his brother's tragic accident, Gangadhari is determined to educate his six-year-old daughter. Patel, however, stands firmly against it. The film follows Gangadhari's struggles to get his daughter educated and his battle against Patel's oppression.

ANALYSIS

Director Sahit Mothkhuri draws on a setting reminiscent of rural Telangana in the 1980s, depicting landlords or "Patels" who once controlled entire villages. The premise of a villager's fight to educate his daughter against the backdrop of superstition and social inequality is compelling. However, while the film's subject matter is promising, the director struggles to deliver it effectively onscreen. Certain scenes drag, and the central issue is not conveyed with the necessary impact.

Superstition, an integral part of the era, is woven into the story, adding some engaging moments. However, the film's overall execution lacks a gripping narrative. The first half-hour introduces the village, the landlord, the goddess Balamma, and the *Pottel*, though the love story between Gangadhari and Bujjamma is hastily developed, with only a few scenes and songs dedicated to it. The main storyline picks up with Gangadhari's attempts to enroll his daughter in school, which Patel opposes. In the second half, certain violent scenes feel unnecessary. While some sequences are effective, others appear dragged and illogical. For instance, in one scene, Gangadhari is caught attempting to steal a Ganesh idol from Patel's house but is inexplicably let go unharmed, despite Patel's otherwise hostile intentions. While the climax is executed well, some character depth is lacking, particularly in the Sigam festival scenes, which fail to captivate. In one instance, when Patel (Ajay) kicks Bujjamma (Ananya Nagalla), the scene fails to evoke a strong reaction from the audience. On a positive note, the background music complements the rustic tone of the film, and the cinematography stands out with striking visuals. The songs, especially the one in the climax, are well-done.

PERFORMANCES

Yuva Chandra, as the protagonist, gives a sincere performance and fits the role well. Ananya Nagalla also performs capably as Bujjamma, though her role is largely confined to the second half. Her character could have been more fully developed, but she shines in her limited scenes. Thanasvi, playing the child, delivers a commendable performance. Ajay has a significant presence throughout the film, though his character lacks depth. Srikanth Aiyengar as the teacher, Noel as Seenu, and Priyanka Sharma as Ajay's wife all play their parts well.

VERDICT

Ultimately, *Pottel* tackles a thought-provoking topic but fails to fully realise it on screen. With more attention to certain elements, especially in the second half, it could have been a stronger film. The music, cinematography, and songs are well-crafted, with solid production values.





Content-based film *Jathara* on Nov 8

A new breed of filmmakers is trying out new narratives and presenting them in a creative way. Most likely, these captivating stories are causing a sensation in theaters. A thrilling new team is responsible for the film *Jathara,* bringing together multi-talented individuals with diverse viewpoints.

The producers are Radhakrishna Reddy and Shivashankar Reddy, with Sathish Babu Ratakonda as the director. Satish Babu is also starring in the main role in the film. The setting of the story is in Chittoor district, *Jathara* guarantees a gripping drama with a fresh premise that stands out from the rest. The producers are scheduling the movie to come out on November 8.

Deeya Raj plays the main female role, while RK Naidu, Gopal Reddy, Mahaboob Basha, and Sai Vikranth play supporting characters. The composition of music is done by Sreejith Edavana.



Kiran Abbavaram's pulse-pounding action ride with *KA*

The trailer for the highly anticipated period thriller *KA*, starring the talented Kiran Abbavaram, has been unveiled. This impressive trailer features unique elements typical of an action thriller. Nayan Sarika and Tanvi Ram star alongside Abbavaram as the leading ladies. Presented by Chinta Varalakshmi, the film is produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy under the banner of Srichakraas Entertainments, showcasing high production values. Directors Sujeeth and Sandeep bring to life a gripping story set against a village backdrop. *KA* is set for a grand theatrical release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada on Diwali.

In the trailer for *KA*, we see Abhinaya Vasudev, a postman in the picturesque village of Krishnagiri, which is uniquely surrounded by hills. The village experiences darkness only in the afternoon, adding to its geographical intrigue. Vasudev falls in love with a beautiful girl named Satyabhama, but his life takes a dramatic turn when he receives a letter addressed to Abhishek, dated April 22, 1979. A masked man threatens Vasudev, demanding to know the contents of this letter. The tension builds as viewers are left wondering about the letter's significance and why Vasudev is being pursued by the masked man and his gang. The trailer concludes with a surprise twist as Vasudev appears as a masked figure, declaring, *Jaathara Modalupedadama*.



Nagarjuna's invitation to Chiru

The 100th birth anniversary of legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao was celebrated on September 20. At that time, ANR's son and actor Nagarjuna announced that this year's prestigious ANR would be conferred to Megastar Chiranjeevi in recognition of his contribution to Indian cinema. The award ceremony will be held on October 28 and the family wanted to make it a memorable event, to be attended by a host of celebrities from the film industry.

At the same time, Nagarjuna said that legendary Indian actor Amitabh Bachchan has accepted to attend this event as the chief guest, giving away the ANR award to Chiranjeevi.

On this occasion, actor Nagarjuna met Chiranjeevi and formally invited him for the ANR Award ceremony. While Akkineni Nageswara Rao was the first Telugu star to receive Padma Vibhushan, Chiranjeevi was recently honoured with Padma Vibhushan. "This year is extra special as we celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of my father, ANR garu! Honoured to invite Amitabh Bachchan ji and Megastar Chiranjeevi garu to the ANR Awards 2024 to mark this milestone! Let's make this award function unforgettable!" said Nagarjuna on his social media. The ANR award has previously been bestowed upon iconic personalities such as Devanand, Shabana Azmi, Vyjayantimala Bali, Anjali Devi, Lata Mangeshkar, K. Balachander, Hema Malini, Shyam Benegal and Amitabh Bachchan.

Kanguva will bring you a never-seen-before experience: Suriya

Tamil actor Suriya has been a popular actor among the Telugu audiences, making his film get released in Telugu. Now, the actor is currently promoting his upcoming film *Kanguva* vigorously, which is set to be released on November 14. The actor was in Mumbai the other day and is now back in the city. The actor feels that *Kanguva* is a very prestigious project for him. Directed by Siva, this film is a significant period action drama featuring Disha Patani and Bobby Deol in pivotal roles. KE Gnanavel Raja, Vamsi and Pramod are the producers.

Director Siva first entered the film industry with a Telugu movie called *Souryam* in 2008 before moving on to direct more Telugu films. Following that, he transitioned to working in Tamil films and made several before being given the chance to direct the high-budget film *Kanguva* with Suriya. He mentioned that being in Hyderabad after a long time always brings him a good feeling.

"I made *Kanguva* with immense passion alongside an extraordinary actor like Suriya. We started the script with the concept of creating a period film based on the conflicts among five tribes from less than a thousand years ago. This story has been shot on a grand scale with high production values," said Siva. He added that top director SS Rajamouli is a big inspiration to him because he has shown to elevate South Indian cinema. "I remade Rajamouli's *Vikramarkudu* in Tamil as 'Siruthai' and that film holds a special place for me," said Siva.

Actor Suriya thanked his fans and also appreciated all the partners involved in releasing *Kanguva*. "It's been two years since my last theatrical release, but I was incredibly touched by the response to the re-release of 'Surya Son of Krishnan.' I created *Kanguva* to provide you with a remarkable cinematic experience as a token of gratitude for your support. It took us two and a half years to craft a unique film unlike anything you've seen before, made possible by director Siva's passion," said Suriya about the film.

The actor said director Rajamouli is a big inspiration for him making films like *Kanguva*. "*Kanguva* is a straight Telugu movie rooted in Indian cinema. This is not just a film about a warrior; it's about a warrior who fights for his people and the dharma he believes in," said Suriya. The actor is also appearing on Balakrishna's talk show *Unstoppable*. "Participating in *Unstoppable* show was an unforgettable experience. Witnessing Balakrishna's punctuality, hard work, and passion made me realise why he has reached such great heights," said Suriya about Balakrishna.

The actor said that great movies can bring significant change to society. "For instance, someone became an IPS officer after watching *Kaakha Kaakha* and following the release of *Jai Bhim*, 300,000 people in Tamil Nadu received house, ration cards and all the necessary facilities," said Suriya. He added that for this *Kanguva*, 3,000 people worked every day, and it is through everyone's hard work that this remarkable film has come to fruition.



Team *Kannappa* visits Jyotirlingas and seeks blessings

Actor Mohan Babu, his son Vishnu Manchu, filmmaker Mukesh Kumar and actor Arpit Ranka went on a religious journey to the sacred temples of Kedarnath, Badrinath and Rishikesh. The team embarked on this sacred pilgrimage to seek divine blessings from these historic locations for their upcoming movie *Kannappa*. The group began their journey at Kedarnath, one of the twelve jyotirlingas devoted to Lord Shiva, and ended with a trip to Rishikesh.

"Our trip to Kedarnath, Badrinath and Rishikesh was a deeply personal and humbling experience. My aim is to visit all 12 Jyotirlingas before the release of our film *Kannappa* which is based on the biggest devotee of Lord Shiva," said Vishnu Manchu on his visit.



the pioneer
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2024

AFTER PACE, INDIA FAIL SPIN TEST

NEW ZEALAND LEAD SOARS TO 301 RUNS IN PUNE



PTI ■ PUNE

India's inadequacies against quality spin bowling stood thoroughly exposed, leaving the side staring at its first ever home Test series loss to New Zealand after the visitors claimed a formidable 301-run lead on day two of the second Test here on Friday.

Tom Latham (86) led New Zealand's charge with the bat after Mitchell Santner's brilliant 7/53 destroyed India. His knock consolidated a handy 103-run first-innings lead that the Kiwis had grabbed before reaching 198/5 at stumps.

Tom Blundell (30 not out) had Glenn Phillips (7 not out) for company when stumps were drawn. The only silver lining for India was Washington Sundar's continuing good show. He completed 11 wickets in the match, adding four more to his career-best first-innings haul of seven.

New Zealand are looking at a historic maiden Test series win in India, having first come here in 1955-56.

None of the New Zealand batters faced any apparent trouble batting on the pitch shortly after the star-studded Indian line-up cut a sorry figure for the second time in this series, making elementary mistakes.

In the last Test in Bengaluru, their all-time lowest score at home of 46 all-out caused India's first loss to New Zealand in 36 years in their own backyard.

India haven't lost a Test series at home since their defeat to England in the 2012-13 season and their unbeaten record in 18 series since then is under serious threat now.

India's highest successful chase in Tests at home was 387 against England at Chennai in December 2008.

On Friday afternoon, India folded at a mere 156 in 45.3 overs as spunky New Zealand continued to perform way better than the hosts.

As India endured yet another 'one bad session of play', six wickets fell in the morning for a mere 91 runs which made the pitch look unfavourable for batting when it was not the case.

Skipper Latham led from the front as he blunted the Indian spinners with ease but New Zealand batters deserved full credit for executing their plans.

The Kiwis' batters were formidable in defence while they rotated the strike deftly to keep pressure on the Indians.

Latham did well to raise hopes for a first century since December 2022 but Washington Sundar ended his progress at 86 off 133 balls with 10 fours.

Every added run tightened the screws further on India whose spinners appeared to have been out-bowled by their Kiwi counterparts.

While Sundar completed his maiden 10-for in Tests with 4/56 after his 7/59 in the first innings, R Ashwin took 1/64. Ravindra Jadeja (11-1-50-0) continued to be wicket-less in the game wherein spinners have ruled the roost.

While Santner's orthodox spin tested the Indians' defence and resolve, India's failure to rotate strike added to their woes.

The biggest shock for India in the day arrived in the 24th over when their batting superstar Virat Kohli missed a juicy full toss from Santner to be cleaned up for a nine-ball one.

The sight of Kohli missing an innocuous full toss angling into his wickets, going past his awkwardly swinging bat to crash into the middle and leg stumps and leaving the batter stare at the ground beneath him in utter despair, was something that will linger for some time to come.

Yashasvi Jaiswal had done fairly well to reach 30 with four boundaries but going with hard hands to defend a delivery outside off, spinning away from his bat to take an edge to the first slip, gave Glenn Phillips his first wicket.

If that wasn't enough, Rishabh Pant's (18) failure to read the lack of bounce while going for a mighty heave across the line against the part-time spin of Phillips, resulted in the ball crashing into his off-stump, leaving India in a desperate situation at 83 for five.

Sarfaraz Khan (11), whose recent outings include 222 not out in Irani Cup and 150 in the last innings at Bengaluru, only had himself to blame after recklessly hitting one straight to mid-off for William O'Rourke to grab an easy catch, off Santner.



David Warner's leadership ban has been lifted by Cricket Australia

AP ■ SYDNEY

David Warner's lifetime captaincy and leadership ban has been lifted by Cricket Australia, a move which could see the retired test player captain the Sydney Thunder in the Twenty20 Big Bash league this season.

Warner received the penalty for his role in the 2018 sandpaper scandal in South Africa, on top of a one-year ban from cricket, which was also imposed on Steve Smith with a lesser playing suspension given to Cameron Bancroft, who was caught on film rubbing and scuffing the ball with yellow sandpaper at a test match in Cape Town.

But the leadership sanction was lifted Friday by an independent three-member review panel who deemed the opener had met the necessary criteria. Warner appeared before the independent panel content earlier this month. It ruled that he met the criteria to be considered for future leadership roles.

"The respectful and contrite tone of his (Warner's) responses, as well as the content impressed the Review Panel and led it to the unanimous view that he was sincere and genuine in acknowledging responsibility for the conduct and in his statement that he had extreme remorse for his conduct," the panel said in a statement Friday.

"Mr. Warner's conduct and behavior since the imposition of the sanction has been excellent and he appears to have made a substantial change, one example of which is that he no longer sledges or tries to provoke the opposing team."

Warner played his final test match in January against Pakistan, an Australian win. He has also said he will no longer play one-day internationals, only the T20 format of the game.

The move could also be considered an early birthday present from Cricket Australia - Warner turns 38 on Sunday.



Loss in 2018-19 series more hurtful than 2020-21 defeat to India: Cummins

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia skipper Pat Cummins believes that the 2018-19 Test series loss to India was more hurtful than the 2020-21 debacle under his captaincy as the home team was simply outplayed in that engagement.

India, under Virat Kohli, defeated Australia 2-1 in the 2018-19 rubber with the skipper and Cheteshwar Pujara playing a pivotal role in the historic triumph against the Tim Paine-led side.

During the 2020-2021 series, a hugely-depleted Indian side again bagged the series 2-1, defeating the hosts at their stronghold Gabba for the first time in a Test match in 32 years.

"I actually thought the series before (2018-19) was worse because we got completely beaten whereas that series (in 2020-21) was quite (keenly) fought. I thought they (India) played like fantastically well to win at the Gabba," Cummis told The Grade Cricketer podcast.

"That (defeat) was annoying but I felt like the series before, where we were like completely outplayed, that would hurt more for me," he said.

WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME INDIA WITH GREEN-TOPS: The pace bowling stalwart, who will again be leading in a five-match Test series against India starting November 22 in Perth, said that if he had his way, he would welcome India with green tops to make life difficult for the visitors.

"I wish if I had it my way I would be looking like those bushes behind you. Unfortunately, I don't have any sway (on the preparation of wickets), so we'll wait and see," said Cummins in response to the host's question on the amount of grass he would like to see on the pitches for the crucial series.

David Warner has offered to come out of retirement to help the side if need be but Cummins indicated that the team has moved on.

"Dave we are very interested, we're taking it very seriously and we'll be in touch, mate just watch that phone," said Cummins in jest before adding, "Uh, we love Davey (Warner) but he's retired, sorry."

Giving up on Test dream would be doing injustice to my younger self: Glenn Maxwell

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Australia's white-ball star Glenn Maxwell may not have donned the Baggy Green for seven years, but the 36-year-old believes he would be doing "injustice" to his younger self by giving up his Test cricket dream, which still burns brightly within him.

From overcoming a broken leg to scoring Australia's fastest double century with his 201 in the lead-up to their 2023 World Cup triumph, Maxwell has enjoyed remarkable highs in his career.

However, his Test appearances remain limited to just seven matches, with his last outing during Australia's 2017 tour of Bangladesh.

"I think if I gave up on that Test dream now, I don't think I'd be doing justice to that younger Glenn Maxwell who was dying to put on the baggy green when he was a kid," he tells ESPNcricinfo. "And I think while there's still a glimmer of hope, I'll keep going for it."

Though his selection for the upcoming India series is unlikely, Maxwell remains committed to chasing a Test spot on the Sri Lanka tour in January after narrowly missing out in 2022.

"I think the hard thing with Test cricket is, when I grew up, that's all I wanted to do," Maxwell says. "I definitely got my chance at Test level a bit prematurely. It all happened really fast when I got my chance to debut. It was just a whirlwind. I had no idea what I was doing. I probably hadn't had the experience at first-class level that I would have liked.



"And then when I came back in 2017, I felt like I was a ready-made first-class cricketer and was really at peace with my game and where I was at. A lot of these things in Test cricket are timing. Adam Voges is probably the perfect example. He came in and he averaged 60-odd (61.87) in his Test career. He got his opportunity when he was at the top of this game." "I suppose the thing I'm proud about in my Test career — I was able to sort of fight back at different times, get back in squads and be really resilient that way."

Maxwell's lack of first-class centuries — only seven in 69 matches, including a lone Test ton in Ranchi — has been a hurdle for Test selection, Maxwell writes in his soon-to-be-released autobiography.

He recalls a frustrating exchange with selector Trevor Hohns during the 2017-18 season, after notching scores of 60, 64, 45 not out, 278, and 96 in consecutive games.

When Maxwell questioned his exclusion from the Ashes squad, "'The answer was blunt: 'Not enough tons.'" "It's the only time I've come close to losing it in a situation like that," Maxwell writes in The Showman.

Australia's selectors have eased requirements for Shield cricket in preparing for Sri Lankan Tests, encouraging Maxwell's quiet red-ball return with Victoria's second XI.

Managing a leg injury, Maxwell feels ready to adapt quickly to red-ball batting if picked for the Sri Lanka tour.

"The interesting thing about last week, even just playing the second XI game, was having a few technical changes and working through them, having a few different sets of eyes looking at your batting, and just trying to work your way through that has been really enjoyable," he says.

India hold NZ to a thrilling 3-3 draw at Sultan of Johor Cup

PTI ■ JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA)



India colts displayed remarkable composure to finish their round-robin stage with a thrilling 3-3 draw against New Zealand at the Sultan of Johor Cup here on Friday.

Gurjot Singh (6'), Rohit (17') and Talem Priyobarta (60') put their names on the scoresheet, while drag-flicker Jonty Elmes (17', 32', 45') scored a hat-trick of goals for New Zealand.

While India continue to lead the points table with 10 points, their fate to make the final will be determined by Great Britain and Australia's matches against Japan and Malaysia respectively later in the day.

India got off to a strong start with a fine goal from Gurjot in the 6th minute.

Gurjot's first shot on goal, assisted by Sukhvinder, bounced straight back after the goalkeeper made the save.

In his second attempt, he skillfully lofted the ball to the roof of the net to earn India an important 1-0 lead.

India had a chance to extend their lead in the 8th minute after earning two back-to-back PCs but the New Zealand custodian produced outstanding saves.

In the following minutes, New Zealand created an attacking formation that helped them make a successful foray into the striking circle, but Rosan Kujur was sharp in his defence to keep them from scoring.

New Zealand eventually worked their way through Indian defence in the 17th minute when Elmes scored a fine field goal to equalise. But India was quick to respond, with Rohit striking from the PC to regain the momentum and also lead 2-1.

Both teams played with frantic speed and though India created a flurry of PCs towards the end of the second quarter, they could not find success.

To their dismay, New Zealand began the third quarter with a fine PC conversion by Elmes, who had struck for the second time.

Elmes' fierce power in his drag-flick was a pain-point for Indian defence, as he completed a hat-trick of goals in the 45th minute to take New Zealand 3-2 ahead.

India's woes with penalty corner conversion continued in the fourth quarter as they missed a chance in the 46th minute.

New Zealand, on the other hand, came up with brilliant counter attacks in the following minutes but Indian defence held sway.

With 90 seconds left on the clock, India found a golden opportunity to equalise when they earned a PC.

This time, they found success with a splendid variation which was executed to perfection by Priyobarta, ending the thrilling encounter with a 3-3 draw.

NorthEast United FC hope to halt Jamshedpur FC's winning streak

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Jamshedpur FC will look to continue their winning streak when they face a doughty NorthEast United FC in an away Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Saturday.

The Jamshedpur side is placed second on the table, having accumulated 12 points from five games, and the hosts have managed only five points from as many contests and are positioned 10th.

But beyond those contrasting numbers, the Highlanders have remained unbeaten in their previous two fixtures against the Red Miners.

Meanwhile, scoring a goal in this match will mark NEUFC's joint-longest goal-scoring streak against JFC, having done so earlier between January 2021 and February 2022.

But JFC have also been taking risks up front, as indicated by their passing accuracy of 57.1% in the opposition's half this season.

The number also proves that they have been creating chances in the final third, allowing them to score 10 goals until now.

Their possession rate of 36.2% is the lowest in this ISL, but it allows them to play fearless football by letting the opposition dominate with the ball before launching their counter-attack.

NorthEast head coach Juan Pedro Benali played down the talk that his team is under pressure after managing just one win in their last five games.

However, he stressed on the need to improve their defence.

"There is no pressure on us. But, we are hungry. I don't look at points, but I look at the goals scored against us. Two goals against us per game is too much," Benali said on the eve of the clash.

"We need to decrease that and if we do so, then we will automatically do well as we are one of the teams to have scored the most goals this season."

Messi and Inter Miami will take on Atlanta United in MLS Cup playoff opener

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (USA)

Inter Miami's Lionel Messi played in only one Major League Soccer loss in 2024. It was in May, at home, against Atlanta United.

Messi makes his MLS playoff debut Friday night - at home, against Atlanta United.

Inter Miami, which set the MLS records for most points and best winning percentage in the regular season, gets a big challenge right out of the gate in the playoffs by facing an Atlanta team in a best-of-three Eastern Conference first-round series. Messi is coming off a hat trick in the regular-season finale, a 6-2 romp past New England.

And even though he missed nearly half the MLS season because of injury and commitments to Argentina's national team, Messi is still a serious contender for league MVP after 20 goals and 16 assists in 19 appearances.

"If I could vote for him, I would have voted for him," Inter Miami defender Julian Gressel said. "Yes, because for me, the MVP stands for the best player in the league. And Leo, is that, by far. You know, there's other people out there that have the definition of an MVP that maybe makes the team better or that a team can't live without. In a sense, to me, Leo is that, too."

MVP or not, Messi is obviously the key to Inter Miami's MLS Cup hopes.

Friday night will be the first home playoff match in club history. If Inter Miami wins this series, it would stay home for the rest of the season - with home-field edge for the single-game conference semifinals, conference final and MLS Cup, provided it keeps winning.

"This was always about creating history for Miami," said soccer icon David Beckham, part of Inter Miami's ownership group - and the person who originally announced plans to bring an MLS team back to Miami more than a decade ago. "This was always about our family, La Familia, the people in this stadium, the people in this city."

Messi's arrival midway through 2023 was the big step toward Inter Miami getting to the global stage. The team won the Leagues Cup last year shortly after Messi arrived, won the Supporters Shield this year as the best MLS regular-season team and now goes after the MLS playoff title.

