

'Modi changed political culture'

BJP national president J P Nadda on Sunday asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the country's political culture by transforming antiincumbency into pro-incumbency in the electoral landscape. Nadda, addressing a rally here, also pointed to the increasing vote share in favour of the BJP during the past three Lok Sabha elections. "Now, Modi has changed the country's political culture by transforming anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency. Pro-incumbency means that people. -PAGE: 5



Enhanced tariffs on pharma imports in the US can severely impact Indian drug manufacturers as it would lead to higher production costs, making shipments less competitive against products from other cour Smaller drug firms operating on thin margins can face severe pressure potentially forcing consolidation or closure. The automobile sector, on the other hand, is expected to have a very minimal impact owing to the US being a small export market. Terming India as... -PAGE: 8



India won the trophy without losing a match, reflecting their dominance in the tournament which they won back in 2002 and 2013. No other team has won the event thrice.

Well-timed fifties by Daryl Mitchell (63) and Michael Bracewell (53) steered the Kiwis to 251 for seven after Indian the busin spinners led by Kuldeep Yadav Blackcaps

part of their innings.

Indian batters needed to capitalise on that fine effort of the bowlers, and Rohit, who many believe was featuring in his last ODI match for India, led from the front, slipping into his turbocharged version almost imme-

diately The chase of 252 grew tight in the business end while the Blackcaps **Continued on Page 2**

Govt waives handloom workers' loans up to Rs 1L

PNS HYDERABAD

The government issued GO No: 56 waiving loans of handloom workers amounting up to Rs 1 lakh. The government sanctioned Rs 33 crore

for this. Speaking on the occasion, Textile Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the government has taken many policy decisions during the year to put the handloom sector, which was neglected by the BRS government, back on track.

"As soon as our government this, he added. came to power, government departments/institutions/associations issued GO MS No: 1, I&C (TEX) Dept., dated 11.03.2024 to purchase thes from TGSCO

Technology (IIHT) has been established to keep up with technology and to upgrade skills in the handloom sector, he said.

He said that a three-year diploma course (DHTT) will be offered to 60 students every year. The government has established a yarn depot in Vemulawada in Rajanna Sircilla district through GO MS: No: 18, Ind & Com (Tex) Dept., dated 05.10.2024, and a corpus fund of Rs 50 crore has been



Some forces blocking 42% quota for BCs: Revanth

Says BJP leaders fear an increase in guota for BCs will anger Modi Govt to name Asifabad Medical College after Konda Laxman Bapuji

PNS HYDERABAD

BJP leaders fear that any increase in reservations for BCs will trouble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said. "So after the TG Assembly adopta resolution on caste census, the



the opposition has hatched a conspiracy to 'suppress' the rights of weaker sections and 'throttle' their voice.

The CM said that some forces are blocking the government's attempts to provide 42 per cent reservation to BCs initially and called upon BCs to hwart these conspirad The CM was speaking while attending the Akhila Bharatha Padmashali Mahasabha meeting at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds on Sunday as chief guest. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao, CM's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, Mineral Corporation Chairman Eravatri Anil. **Continued on Page 2** Eravatri Anil.

TUNNEL COLLAPSE

Rescue teams find

TBM operator

Gurupreeth

Singh's body

Rescue teams removed soil and

a body was pulled out from the SLBC tunnel located in

Nagarkurnool district on Sunday.

the human remains at D-2 point,

100 meters away from the spot

where the accident took place. The rescue staff removed the soil at that place and pulled out the

The rescue team identified the

dead body as that of Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) operator Gurupreeth Singh. The

search is going on to find out the

remaining seven persons.

Kerala sniffer dogs detected

PNS HYDERABAD

dead body.

Mumbai Indians to face Gujarat Giants

With two games left in the league stage, Mumbai Indians will look to make the most of the opportunity and push for a first-place finish on the WPL points table, starting with the clash against in-form Gujarat Giants here on Monday. UP Warriorz's win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 12 runs knocked the defending champions out from the race to the playoffs on Saturday, confirming the qualification for Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians and Guiarat Giants in the process. But what remains is the final. -SPORTS have been taken to purchase from TGSCO. This will not only provide continuous employment to weavers but will also improve their livelihood and contribute to the development of the handloom industry," he said.

The Konda Laxman Bapuji Indian Institute of Handloom



ing KCR's rule said that upper castes constituted 21 per cent of the population, while the caste census disclosed it was only 15.28 per cent. The CM said

former

BC but had married a Kamma, got

It may be recalled that

a ticket in the women's BC quota.

MLC ticket.

Cong selects Vijayashanthi, Addanki, Naik

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

At last the Congress announced its MLA quota MLC candidates on Sunday. The party's MLC candidates are Vijayashanthi, Addanki Dayakar and Kethavath Shankar Naik. The Congress allotted its fourth ticket to its alliance partner CPI.

AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal said in a press release that Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge has approved the following persons as Congress candidates in the biennial elections to the Legislative Council of Telangana



who would be elected by MLAs. The names are Addanki Dayakar, Kethavath Shankar Naik and /ijavashanthi. We have decided to allot one seat

to the CPI," Venugopal said in the Vijayashanthi, who played an impor-tant role in **Continued on Page 2** press release. Entering the ticket race at the last tant role in

MLA quota BRS boss picks Dasoju Sravan **MLC tickets** PNS HYDERABAD

BRS chief Chandrasekhar Rao announced

minute, cine actorcum-politician and that senior BRS leader Dr Dasoju Sravan Kumar would be the party MP Vijayashanthi succandidate for the MLA quota MLC ceeded in getting the

President KT Rama Rao to supervise the nomination process of Dasoiu Sravan Kumar on Monday. It may be recalled that Dr Dasoju Vijavashanthi, who claims to be a

an ABVP student leader. Later, he joined Chiranjeevi's Prajarajyam. Later, he joined the BRS. Dr Dasoju Sravan joined the Congress as he was not given an Assembly ticket in joined



BRS MLA quota MLC candidate Dasoju Sravan with party Chief KCR

the 2019 elections. He quit the Congress in 2023 and joined the BJP. However, Dr Dasoju Sravan joined Continued on Page 2

FOOD POISONING IN NARAYANA IIT ACADEMY, JUNIOR COLLEGE 200 students fall ill

PNS HYDERABAD

Over 200 students from Narayana IIT Academy, Kuntloor, and Narayana Junior College reportedly fell ill after consuming aloo kurma and chapati for dinner on Saturday night. The students experienced severe vomiting and stomach pain, prompting the college



Rachakonda Police visiting the students who fell sick

management to provide on-site medical treatment on Sunday.

Despite the alarming situation, no official complaints have been lodged by students or parents. "Medical treatment is being provided within the academy itself," said Nagaraju, SHO of Hayathnagar police station. According to sources, both institutions receive food from the same

kitchen, raising concerns about food safety standards. The Rachakonda Police Commissionerate officials visited the campuses on Sunday to assess the students' condition.

In videos circulating online, two affected students shared their ordeal, stating, "We had severe stomach pain after eating aloo curry and chapati. Out of nearly 800 students, around 200 fell sick."

Showdown over Waqf Bill, Trump likely

PNS NEW DELHI

Parliament's Budget session resumes on Monday amid indications of an 'EPIC' showdown between the government and the opposition which is planning to raise issues such as the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls, the fresh bout of violence in Manipur and India's handling of the Trump administration.

The focus of the government will be on getting Parliament nod for the demands for grants, completion of the budgetary process, seeking approval for the Manipur budget and passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill

Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution seeking Parliament approval for the proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur.

Finance Minister Nirmala

Parliament Budget session from today

Sitharaman is also scheduled to table the budget for Manipur on Monday. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13 after the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

The opposition said it is set to corner the government over the issue of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers.

The Trinamool Congress has taken the lead in flagging the issue,



following which the Election Commission declared that it would take corrective measures within the next three months.

The Election Commission had rejected the Trinamool Congress claim that the voter lists were manipulated to allow voters from other states to exercise their franchise in West Bengal.

The poll body also made it clear that while the EPIC numbers of some voters "may be identical", other details such as demographic information, Assembly constituency and polling booth are different.

Trinamool Congress leaders are meeting the Election Commission on Monday and have also rallied other opposition parties, including the Congress, DMK, Shiv Sena-UBT, to raise the issue in both Houses of Parliament during the second part of the Budget session.

GOVT ANNOUNCES RS 25 LAKH COMPENSATION Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the death of

Gurpreet Singh in the SLBC tunnel accident. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced a compensation of Rs

25 lakh to the bereaved family. The body of Gurpreet Singh hailing from Punjab, was recovered on Sunday from the SLBC tunnel. where an accident occurred recently. Gurpreet was working as a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) operator in the SLBC tunnel. He was employed by the American company Robinson.

elections. KCR directed BRS Working

Sravan started his political career as

Vijayashanthi went to New Delhi on March 6 and met AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge regarding this.



hyderabad 02

Monday Mirchi

GV REDDY VS DINESH KUMAR: CMO LINKS AND POWER PLAY

The drama surrounding GV Reddy's resignation from AP FiberNet had more layers than what met the eye. The real conflict? His complaints against MD Dinesh Kumar, an IAS officer who remained untouchable thanks to strong backing from a key officer in the Chief Minister's Office. Despite serious concerns raised by GV Reddy, nobody could lay a finger on Dinesh, as the CMO officer's close ties shielded him. Adding to the intrigue was the involvement of a 6-foottall IAS officer from the CMO, who also lent support to the IAS officer. This standoff reached a boiling point, culminating in GV Reddy's resignation. But the twist came later - after GV Reddy stepped down, Dinesh himself was transferred. Bureaucrats couldn't help but wonder why this wasn't done earlier. Many believe that had the CMO officer's influence not been in play, the situation wouldn't have escalated this far. The larger fallout? The entire episode brought unnecessary controversy, with murmurs in political circles that the way Dinesh handled the situation ended up creating trouble for the ruling TDP party and even the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu .

MINISTER NARAYANA AND IAS OFFICERS AT ODDS, CRDA AND AMARAVATI SLOWED DOWN

Tensions are brewing between Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Narayana and IAS officers, and the impact is showing - CRDA and Amaravati's progress have slowed down. Though the exact reasons remain behind closed doors, insiders say the working relationship between the minister and the bureaucracy is far from smooth. A little bird tells us that the pace of Amaravati's development has noticeably slackened, with key decisions getting delayed. While both sides continue to engage, there seems to be a disconnect in approach, lead-ing to prolonged processes. With the projects now moving slower than expected, Narayana is said to be growing serious about getting things back on track. Whether this means renewed discussions or a push for faster execution remains to be seen. For now, CRDA's plans are moving cautiously, with Amaravati's progress closely watched.

CM REVANTH STUCK IN 'SUB-COLLECTOR **MODE'? BLAME THE CMO**

In Telangana's bureaucratic circles, there's a running joke-Chief Minister Revanth Reddy isn't operating like a CM but more like a sub-collector than a collector. But the finger isn't pointed at him. Instead, all eyes are on the Chief Minister's Office, which seems to have turned his role into a sub collectorlevel job. A little bird tells us that the CM is sharp, quick to grasp issues, and politically savvy. But thanks to a sluggish set of officials

around him, his full potential isn't being utilized. One bureaucrat, with a smirk, remarked, "If things don't change, he might soon be an assistant collector under training." The growing concern is that instead of focusing on major policy decisions, the CM is getting bogged down with administrative and media management. Whether this is intentional or a case of poor management remains to be seen. For now, insiders are waiting to see if he reshuffles his team-or continues to be the highest-ranking sub-collector in the state.

CM REVANTH REDDY'S 'ONE IAS, **ONE IDEA' FLOPS**

Back in July 2024, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy made a grand announcement-One IAS Officer, One Flagship Idea. Every IAS officer was ordered to submit a flagship initiative within two weeks, a move that was supposed to drive innovation in governance. But months later, these ideas have vanished into thin air. When yours truly went ahead asking officials, many just smiled. A little bird tells us that some IAS officers were never even informed about the CM's directive in the first place. Anyways those who give ideas, found those gathering dust at the Chief Minister's Office. The frustration is real, and murmurs in the corridors suggest that the flagship idea plan was never meant to take off in the first place. So, was this just another headline-grabbing gimmick? Or did someone at the top decide these ideas weren't worth pursuing? Either way, officers have moved on, and the so-called flagship ideas remain just that-ideas.

TELANGANA'S VANISHING GLOBES: **ORDERED, BUT NEVER SEEN**

More than a year ago, the Telangana government had a grand idea - every head office should have a globe. Orders were issued, a contractor was assigned, and then... silence. The globes were supposed to arrive, but before they could even grace the offices, they simply disappeared. Now, nobody seems to know where they went. A senior official, half amused and half resigned, quipped, "I can only feel sorry for the contractor." Whether that means the payment got stuck or the globes vanished into an unknown bureaucratic black hole is anyone's guess. Normally, a babu's office is incomplete without a globe perched on a shelf, but in Telangana, even that basic symbol is mysteriously absent. A few officials have noticed the missing globes, but most seem to have forgotten they were even ordered in the first place. So, did someone pocket the globes? Or did they never exist to begin with? Either way, the only thing round in this whole episode is the cycle of government orders disappearing without a trace.

--Yours truly

India clinch ...

Continued from page 1 spinners were operating on a sluggish pitch, but skipper Rohit's ebullient 83-ball 76 had already given them the cushion to overhaul the target in 49 overs. KL Rahul with his 34 not

two balls, an effort to turn Michael Bracewell off his pads saw the master batter getting

Proud of our cricket team : Modi

cheers but his stay lasted just By now, Rohit had decided to knuckle down after racing 49 in the Power Play segment. In the next 16 overs the Mumbai man added only 27

runs more to his score, as he tried to play a rather forgotten role of innings building. His belief in his own defence too seemed to have come back as smothered Santner and

Bracewell quite effectively.

Collectors must speed up execution of Indiramma Housing Scheme: Ponguleti

PNS HYDERABAD

Housing, Revenue, Information and PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has asked Collectors to speed up the Indiramma Housing Scheme launched by the Telangana Government.

He said that beneficiaries should be selected on a war footing transparently without any irregularities and the process of construction of Îndiramma houses should be

speeded up. He suggested that the selection process of beneficiaries should be completed in two to three days.

On Śunday night, the

with Forest Minister Konda Surekha, Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, MPs, legislators and Collectors of the joint Warangal district at his residence.

according to the goals of the government. Collectors should be more active in the Indiramma House Scheme. If Collectors have any doubts about the Indiramma House Scheme they should contact me directly. Collectors should

Minister held a review meeting considering the opinions of

local legislators while selecting beneficiaries. The poor should be given top priority while allotting houses," he said. He said that beneficiaries

should be selected for the completed 2BHK houses. If contractors do not complete incomplete houses, steps should be taken to ensure that the beneficiaries complete them themselves.

He said that keeping in mind the summer, steps should be taken to ensure that there is no shortage of water for irriga-

up land acquisition for the airport, the Outer Ring Road and the Inner Ring Road in Warangal district.

Cong brass selected MLC candidates after considering all aspects: Mahesh

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud congratulated the party's MLC candidates Vijayashanthi, Addanki Dayakar and Shankar Naik for getting party tickets. In a statement, Mahesh said

the Congress leadership selected candidates after considerall aspects. ing 'Congratulations to Congress MLC candidates Shankar Navak, Addanki Dayakar and Vijayashanti," he said.

He said that party workers have given a chance to Shankar Nayak, a member of the ST community, who has been working for the party for the last 30 years.

He said that Addanki Dayakar, who has been active-

MLA quota MLC election likely to be unanimous

PNS HYDERABAD

The MLA quota MLC elec-tions are likely to be held unanimously as the BRS has not fielded a second candidate. The BRS is fielding only one candidate. The Congress is fielding three candidates and its alliance partner CPI is fielding one candidate.

The MLA quota MLC election is being held for five held on March 20.

vacancies. The parties in the fray have announced only five candidates till Sunday night. There is no chance for Independent candidates to file nominations as they need proposers if they want to file papers. So the election is likely to be held unanimously. March 10 is the last date for filing nominations. March 13 is the last date for withdrawal and elections will be

Nellikanti is CPI candidate for MLA quota MLC poll

the Nalgonda district CPI

PNS HYDERABAD

Nellikanti Satyam's name has been confirmed as the CPI candidate for the MLA quota MLC elections. CPI State Secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao announced that the CPI State Executive Committee meeting held at Makhdum Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday took a decision to this effect. Satyam said that he will file his nomination at 10.00 am on Monday. Currently, Satyam is

Secretary and a member of the State Executive Committee. Kunamneni Sambasivarao said that following the principles of friendship, we would like to express our gratitude to the Congress for allocating a seat to the CPI in the ongoing elections to the Legislative

Council under the MLA

quota. We thank AICC

President Mallikarjuna

Kharge, senior leaders Śonia

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi,

Congress State Affairs In-

charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, and the state ministers and Congress leaders who cooperated for giving us a place as per the understanding made during the last Assembly elections. We hope to work with more unity to stop communal forces in the State in the future as well.

CM spoke utter lies at women's meeting, says Harish

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior BRS MLA T. Harish Rao said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy spoke utter lies at the women's public meeting 'Mahila Shakthi' held at the Parade Grounds on Saturday (March 8). Addressing the media at the Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, Harish said the BRS govern-

ment gave Rs 50 for stitching a uniform for school children. The Congress Government is also giving the same Rs 50 but the Chief Minister said that his govern-

ment is giving Rs 75. Moreover, the CM said the BRS government gave only Rs 25 per dress, Harish said. He also said that the CM's statement that interest-free loans amounting to Rs 21,000 crore were given to women's Self-Help Groups is also an utter lie. The police stopped Former Minister T Harish Rao

addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday

ing to the CM's lies, Harish added.

He said that Minister Seethakka had replied to his question in the Assembly that the government is giving an interest-free loan of only Rs 5 lakh. But the CM said the government is giving an interest-free loan of Rs 10 lakh, Harish said.

He said that the CM may file another false case against him for pointing out



Retd IAS BP Acharya, after reading Dil Se interview of Dr Alugu Varshini drew this cartoon as her role

and 2021-23 cycles.

workers. Rs 494.48 crore has

He said the government has

insurance facilities for the

entire duration of the weavers'

ous employment to weavers by

purchasing stocks from hand-

loom cooperative societies and

"We are providing continu-

profession.

Tummala said

been released to TGSCO and

take a final decision only after

The Minister said the goal of the 'Indiramma' Government is to construct and provide 'Indiramma' houses to the poor. "Collectors should work

tion and drinking. Ponguleti ordered to speed

people policies of the BJP and the BRS as the voice of the Congress. He said that Telangana society would be happy with the MLC ticket given to Addanki Dayakar. He said the party decided to

ly working in the Congress

since 2014 and is known as a

Telangana activist, has fought

for public issues every day, lost

for want of a few votes twice,

and fought against the anti-

give a chance to BC women by giving a ticket to Telangana Movement leader Vijavashanti. One seat was allotted to the CPI as the CPI is a member of the Congress alliance, Mahesh added.

He said that Congress and CPI candidates will file their nominations in the Assembly on Monday.

out there was no dramation twist to the tale, leading the side past the finish line after India lost well-settled batters.

Pacer Nathan Smith, who replaced injured Matt Henry in the line-up, felt the heat as the 37-year-old Rohit hammered him for two sixes and as many fours in the beginning of the chase. At the other end Shubman Gill (31), who helped Rohit to raise 105 runs for the opening wicket, was more subdued and the lone spark in his innings was a maximum off spinner Rachin Ravindra.

But a stunning catch by Glenn Phillips off left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner ended his stay, and opened a creek for the Kiwis. Virat Kohli came to the

minister said. middle accompanied by loud

TODAY **AI MANAC**

ALMANAC	•
Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi:	
Ekadashi:	Mar 09 07:45 AM
	to Mar 10 07:44 AM
Dwadashi:	Mar 10 07:45 AM
	to Mar 11 08:14 AM
Nakshatram:	
Pushya:	Mar 09 11:55 PM
	to Mar 11 12:51 AM
Ashlesha:	Mar 11 12:51 AM
	to Mar 12 02:15 AM
Rahukalam:	8:00 AM to 9:29 AM
Yamagandam:	10:57 AM to 12:26 PM
Varjyam:	02:24 PM to 04:05 PM
Gulika:	01:55 PM to 03:24 PM
Amritakalam:	06:12 PM to 07:52 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	12:02 PM to 12:49 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny **Temp:** 33°° Humidity: 40% Sunrise: 6:31 AM Sunset: 6:21 PM

Updated: March 9, 2025 5:00 PM

PNS NEW DELHI

the tournament.

said in a post on X.

ing home the ICC Champions Trophy," Modi

"They've played wonder-

It ended when his charge against Ravindra resulted in a Prime Minister Narendra stumping by Tom Latham. Modi on Sunday hailed the India were 130 runs away from Indian cricket team for wina win at that juncture. India were 122 for three then ning the ICC Champions Trophy and said they have

and needed some consolidaplayed wonderfully through tion, Shreyas Iyer (48) and Axar Patel (29) gave them pre-"An exceptional game and cisely that during a 61 runs an exceptional result! Proud stand for the fourth wicket. of our cricket team for bring-

They carried India closer to the shore but Shreyas, who was dropped on 44 by Kyle Jamieson off Phillips, fell four runs later to Santner and Axar too perished to Bracewell.

fully through the tournament. Congratulations to But those dismissals only created artificial excitement our team for the splendid allaround display," the prime as a focused KL Rahul (34 not out) helmed India's march home.

of Collector, Peddapall

List of ICC tournaments won by India

PNS DUBAI

India defeated New Zealand by four wickets to win the 2025 iteration of the Champions Trophy here on Sunday, adding a seventh ICC trophy to their cabinet while registering their third win in this eight-team event India have been one of the

2021, Champions Trophy twice best teams in world cricket havin 2006 and 2009 and the ing made it to knockout stages consistently, including entering WTC once in the 2021-23 the summit clashes in 2003 cycle, to take their trophy count ODI World Cup, 2017 to 10 in global cricket events.

Govt waives ...

pending payments have been Continued from page 1 made to handloom cooperative The Textile Minister said the societies, SSIs and max organ-Chief Minister had assured isations, he said. that steps will be taken to implement the "Telangana Cheneta Abhayahastham decided to provide an insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh under Scheme.' the Netanna Bima Scheme, remove age limits and provide

The government has decided to implement this scheme during 2024-25 with a fund of Rs 168 crore through GO MS. No: 3, Ind & Com (Tex) Dept., dated 10.01.2025.

Tummala said that Rs 290.09 crore has been released through the Netanna Cheyutha Scheme releasing payments on time," benefitting 36,133 handloom

BRS boss ...

Continued from page 1

the BRS after a few days. The BRS had announced his name for the Governor's Quota MLC seat. However, Governor Dr Tamilisai Sounderajan did not clear the file. Dr Dasoju is now going to enter the Legislative Council with the BRS ticket he got.

Champions Trophy, 2023 ODI The PTI takes a look at the short in the semifinal in crush- history when they pipped arch-World Cup and twice in the finals of the World Test ICC tournaments won by the Indian team in the past: Championship in the 2019-21

1983 ODI World Cup: With India's first-ever triumph in a Overall, Australia are the global cricket event, Kapil Dev's team proved their mettle most successful team across formats having won the ODI against all odds and brought World Cup six times (1987, down the mighty West Indies, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015 and who had won the competition 2023), T20 World Cup once in twice in a row, in a low-scoring summit clash at Lord's.

2002 Champions Trophy (shared with Sri Lanka): Despite having co-hosted the 1996 ODI World Cup, India fell

Some forces ...

Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani and Akhila Bharatha

Padmashali Association leaders

CM said the state government

by Rahul Gandhi to conduct a

caste census and had complet-

ed the enumeration of backward

communities. Some political

leaders said the caste census was

full of errors as they didn't like

community is synonymous with

self-respect and sacrifice. Konda

The CM said the Padmashali

it, he said.

mitment.

also attended the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the

Continued from page 1

ing circumstances and bowed out with the resolve to get better. The team under the captaincy of Sourav Ganguly entered the final unbeaten, but persistent rains in Colombo on September 29 and 30 (reserve day) forced India and the hosts Sri Lanka to share the trophy. 2007 ICC World T20: At a

time when perhaps no cricket board including India took the shortest format seriously, a young squad under a young leader in MS Dhoni created

rivals Pakistan in a tense final to win in the inaugural edition of the competition.

2011 ODI World Cup: The pressure was immense on the Indian team to end a long and elusive wait for the ODI World Cup trophy. Dhoni's team, with Sachin Tendulkar as the cynosure of all eyes, accomplished their mission when they beat Sri Lanka in the final in Mumbai by six wickets to win their second 50-overs World Cup, after a wait of 28 long years

by giving an order for One crore 30 lakh sarees worth Rs 600 person when he passed away and the entire community will not forget this disrespect crore to women's Self-Help towards Konda Laxman Bapuji. Groups The CM said that Tiger A.

"My job is to meet the demands of the community. I Narendra was another great leader from the community who have no other thoughts except fought for Telangana. The to serve the public. I will sup-Congress-led UPA gave a Union Minister post to Narendra. port the community like a family member as you hold me in had fulfilled the promise made However, who ruined Narendra's your heart," the CM said. The CM said the Padmashali political career, he said.

"My government's policy is to community of Telangana is playrender justice to the Padmashali fraternity when opportunities are available. The government convinced the Centre and set up the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology. Recognising Konda Laxman Bapuji's services, the nity, Revanth said. institute was also named after the

Laxman Bapuji sacrificed his great leader. post for the cause of a Telangana The CM said the Asifabad Medical College will be named state. Bapuji made his house the venue for the launch of the second phase of the Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Movement and that is a testament to the community's comresponsibility for completing the official process, the CM said.

He said the BRS government had not honoured such a great

ing a key role in elections in other states as well. The government is ready to provide a Rs 1 crore fund to construct a Markandeya Bhavan in Solapur to uphold the honour of the Padmashali frater-"My government will support the community financially and politically and also provide

them employment. The governafter Konda Laxman Bapuji. ment is ready to take some active decisions to ensure the Nageshwar Rao will take the welfare of the community. I am assuring you on this platform that I will stand by you as a He said the government is supporting handloom weavers our," the CM said.

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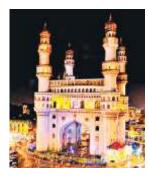
Thalli Telangana, which was later merged with the BRS and was elected as an MP from Medak. However, Vijayashanthi joined Congress after quitting the BRS and later she joined the BJP. Vijayashanthi quit the BJP later and joined the Congress again. Vijayashanthi, who is known to be a firebrand in politics, was silent during the last oneand-a-half years. However, suddenly she came out and successfully tried for an MLA quota MLC ticket.

Addanki Dayakar, who is famous as the Mala Mahanadu leader, contested twice from Thungathurthy but failed to win. In the 2023 elections he abstained from contesting as the party did not give a ticket to him. Now the party has given an MLA quota MLC ticket to Addanki Dayakar in the SC quota.

The Congress gave an MLA quota MLC ticket to Nalgonda DCC President Kethavath Shankar Naik in the ST quota although former MLA Rekha Naik and Bhanoth Vijayabhai tried hard to get the ST quota ticket.

hard to get MLA quota MLC tickets, the party gave them to senior leaders without giving a chance for controversies.

Although the Congress party's young leaders tried



City Pioneer



Annual Dav Celebrations

Krishnaveni Talent School

Venue Ravindra Bharathi March 10, (9 am)

Al Verse

AI Competitions

Venue J B Institute Of Engineering & Technology March 10, (10 am)

International Conference

On Inborn Errors Of Immunity Venue ITC Kohenur March 10, (10 am)

Paradise Haleem Festival

Venue Paradise Hotel Till March 30, (6 pm)

Workshop

On The Integration Of Remote Sensing, GIS, Drones and AI in Agricultural Extension

Venue National Institute of **Agricultural Extension** Management Till March 11, (10 am)

Angadi Craft Bazaar

Molela Pottery

he pioneer National Lok

Adalat resolves 1.83 lakh cases

PNS HYDERABAD

The National Lok Adalat held on March 8 under the directive of the Supreme Court has achieved success in resolving legal disputes of 1,83,182 cases, including 1,78,221 general cases and 4,961 cyber fraud cases. The settlement process commenced on February 27 and concluded on March 8.

The breakdown of the cases settled is that FIR cases compounded were 18,632, disaster management cases: 1,702, epetty cases: 93,201 and Motor Vehicle Act cases: 64,686.

The top five units that recorded the highest number of case disposals were: Hyderabad - 32,740 cases, Cyberabad 22,213, Rachakonda 16,969, Ramagundam - 12,899 and Survapet - 12,037 cases. In addition to legal settle-

ments, the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) achieved a significant mile-stone in cyber fraud recovery.

PNS HYDERABAD

DPH&FW alerts on staying safe from heat-related illnesses

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | MARCH 10, 2025

PNS HYDERABAD

As temperatures rise across Telangana, prolonged exposure to extreme heat can lead to serious health risks, including heat exhaustion and heatstroke. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, has forecast a 2-3°C increase in maximum temperatures over the next three days. In response, the Directorate of Public Health and Family Welfare has issued guidelines to help citizens stay safe and prevent heatrelated illnesses.

In the guidelines, the Directorate of Public Health and Family Welfare said "Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty. Consume Óral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and homemade drinks like lemon water, buttermilk, and fresh fruit juices. Carry a water bottle while travelling.

Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables high in water content, such as watermelon, muskmelon, oranges, grapes, cucumbers and lettuce.

Neural AI for a smarter public



Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting cotton clothes to allow airflow. Protect your head with an umbrella, cap, hat, towel, or traditional headgear when outdoors. Wear footwear to prevent burns from hot surfaces.

Stay indoors as much as possible, especially in well-ventilated and cool areas. Keep windows and

curtains closed during the day to block heat and open them at night for ventilation. Avoid strenuous activities during peak heat hours (12:00 noon - 3:00 pm). Ensure proper ventilation in cooking areas to prevent overheating. What to avoid during a heat-

wave : Avoid direct sun exposure, especially during the afternoon.

Do not engage in intense phys-ical activity in the afternoon. Refrain from walking barefoot on hot surfaces. Avoid cooking during peak heat hours; keep kitchens well-ventilated.

03

Stay away from dehydrating drinks such as alcohol, tea, coffee and sugary sodas. Reduce intake of high-protein, salty, spicy and oily foods, as they can increase body heat.

The symptoms of illness due to heat will be nausea and vomiting. Hot, red, dry skin, Body temperature above 40°C (104°F), Throbbing headache, dizziness, or fainting, muscle weakness or cramps, rapid heartbeat and shallow breathing.

The Telangana government has taken proactive measures to ensure public health safety during the heatwave. Special hospital beds, IV fluids, essential medicines, and ORS sachets have been made available at public health facilities, said Dr B Ravinder Nayak, Director of Public Health and Family Welfare.



Dr P Raghu Ram receiving Guinness World Record from adjudicator Rishi Nath on Sunday

Guinness World Record set for 'Largest Breast Cancer Awareness Lesson

India.

PNS HYDERABAD

Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, Hyderabad-based KÍMS-USHALAK-SHMI Centre for Breast Diseases, and Brahma Kumaris have set a Guinness World Record for conducting the "Largest Breast Cancer Awareness Lesson." The event took place at Brahma Kumaris headquarters in Shantivan, with 5,020 women from India and abroad par-

ticipating. Dr P Raghu Ram, a renowned surgeon and Padma Shri awardee, led the session. He is the Founder of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation Founding and Director of KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases. The lesson raised awareness about breast cancer, the most common cancer

Record Adjudicator Rishi Nath appreciat-ed Dr Raghu Ram's engaging 40-minute presentation. The session was also livestreamed on Brahma Kumaris' YouTube channel, reaching thousands globally. This video is now under review for another Guinness World Record for the most views of a breast cancer awareness lesson in 24 hours. Dr Raghu Ram dedicated the award to his late mother Dr Ushalakshmi, a breast

among women in

Guinness World

cancer survivor. He emphasised the importance of early detection, urging all women over 40 to get annual mammograms. Brahma Kumaris pledged to support this cause, ensuring screening for women at their centres, potentially saving many lives.

administration unveiled Bharath Lighthouse (BLH) hosted the Neural AI Governance Summit 2025 at Trident Hotel on Sunday,

marking International Women's Day. The summit brought together bureaucrats, policymakers, AI experts and entrepreneurs to discuss how Neural AI Governance can improve public administration.

BLH Founder & CEO Mohan Kumar KR and Cofounder Deepthi Ganugapenta led the event, showcasing AI-driven gover-nance solutions designed for secure, efficient and data-dri-

ven decision-making. Neural AI Governance trolled infrastructure to predeveloped by Mohan Kumar vent unauthorised access. BLH also introduced enhances efficiency, security Mo nd transparency laa a Administrative Assistant), an ment operations. With 16+ years of e-gover-AI tool that simplifies tasks for nance experience, he emphabureaucrats. It offers realsised that their AI solutions time access to verified governprovide real-time insights ment data, enabling faster decisions, workflow automawhile ensuring strict data privacy. Unlike open-source tion and better collaboration.

BLH Founder & CEO Mohan Kumar KR and Co-founder Deepthi Ganugapenta along with other members on Sunday models, these solutions oper-The summit highlighted AI's role in secure, efficient ate within government-con-

governance, aligning with India's Vision 2047 for a selfreliant future. atten

Health dept yet to respond to **YRGCARE** on reopening Maitri Clinic

Limited services at Maitri Clinics as they open once in a week

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com HYDĖRABAD

In response to growing concerns from the transgender commu-nity, the Health department has initiated discussions to explore the possibility of reopening Mitr Clinic, India's first transgender-focused healthcare centre in Hyderabad.

after the USAID froze project funding. However a proposal was submitted by YRGCARE describing what is the Mitr Clinic and its model of revenue, awaiting the response from the

nvened

has been tasked with submitting the proposal with a financial model for the clinic, including administrative and human resource budgets.

present at the meeting highlighted that many individuals and organisations are willing to financially support Mitr Clinic. The sources from YRGCARE also confirmed that they had submitted the proposal and simultaneously looking for individuals who can fund for the clinic. "We are positive for reopening the Mitr Clinic but it will not be under the Accelerate project of USAID," said the source. However, there are concerns about the limited func-

transgender individuals come for work and medical needs. Mitr Clinic was open 365 days a year, providing immediate counselling and support. In contrast, Maitri Clinics operate only once a week. Many individuals seeking gender-affirming surgeries require continuous counselling before and after

During a visit to a Maitri Clinic at Malkajgiri Government Hospital, The Pioneer found that the facility provides: Counselling services, Gender-specific healthcare, General health check-ups, Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, information on fundamental rights basic al and labora



The clinic was shut down



Transgender representatives

procedures.

D BRIDG DA

Health department

in Mitr

A first-round discussion was YRGCARE (an NGO involved Health and officials from the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, senior citizens, and transgender persons

Venue

Crafts Council of Telangana (CCT) Spaces March 10 (11 am)

MP Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla, entrepreneur Sandeep Burchandi, social activist Dundra Kumara Swamy, social entrepreneur Malathi Jayavelu and ITI Hyderabad GM Gaurab Dhar.

Department Secretary Christina Z Chongthu. The meeting included transgender individuals who had worked at Mitr Clinic, K Hymavathi (Director, Telangana State AIDS Control Society - TSACS), members of

According to sources speaking to The Pioneer, YRGCARE

Maitri Clinics wl onality of were established by the State health department to provide transgender healthcare. Kranthi, a transgender activist, explained: "In rural districts, healthcare accessibility is different, but Hyderabad is a hub where many

tory services. However, transgender individuals argue that these services are insufficient and that the revival of Mitr Clinic is crucial to addressing their unique healthcare needs.

Apollo hosts ŠTAT-2025 Conference

PNS HYDERABAD

Apollo Hospitals successfully organised the STAT-2025 Conference on Stroke Thrombolysis and Thrombectomy on March 8 and 9.

It brought together renowned international and national medical experts to discuss advancements in acute stroke management, innovative imaging techniques, and cutting-edge thrombectomy procedures.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr Jitender, DGP of Telangana, along with V Tejesvi Rao, CEO, Telangana region, Apollo Hospitals.

Several distinguished medical professionals, including Dr Subba Reddy (Associate DMS, Dr Alok Ranjan (Senior Consultant Neurologist) and D Sudhir Kumar (Senior Consultant

Neurologist) were present. Dr Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Group, said, "Acute stroke remains a major cause of disability and mortality. STAT-2025 serves as a crucial platform for exchanging breakthrough ideas and techniques that can transform stroke management. At Apollo, our commitment extends beyond saving lives - we strive to enhance the quality of life for stroke survivors through cutting-edge treatments and rapid intervention.

PNS HYDERABAD

department.

class education to poor, middle-class and underprivileged Telangana Deputy Chief children. He said, "Students Minister Mallu Bhatti from these schools will grow Vikramarka called the Rs11,600 crore allocation for up to work in leading global 55 Young India Integrated organisations." Residential (YIIR) schools in

Joined by Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy a single day a historic moment for India. Speaking and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka highlightat a media conference on Sunday, he thanked Chief ed that three such schools had been approved earlier, but Minister A Revanth Reddy for issuing orders and allocatnow 55 schools have been sanctioned. These schools ing funds to the education will be built on 20-25 acres each, featuring advanced dig-ital classrooms, sports fields,

Bhatti emphasised that these State-run residential

schools will provide worldhousing for teachers, labs, libraries and mini amphitheatres

> The Deputy CM also assured that these government schools would surpass private institutions in quality and accessibility and noted that the curriculum is designed to help students compete globally.

He credited Rahul Gandhi nd AICC president and Mallikarjun Kharge for sup-porting social change and education for all. Despite financial challenges, the gov-ernment is committed to

using public funds for the welfare of the people. Bhatti Vikramarka

expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for this landmark decision that will transform education in the State.

Members of Parliament Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy and Balaram Navak, along with Khammam Joint District MLAs Matta Ragamai, Koram Kanakaiah, Malothu Ramdas Naik, Payam Venkateshwarlu, Tellem Venkat Rao and Jare

Adinarayana also participated in the media conference.

Medical experts caution to notice pediatric nephrology and urology

Rs11,600 cr allocated to 55 YIIR schools in a single day

PNS HYDERABAD

Parents should immediately seek medical experts' opinion, if symptoms of bedwetting exist even after the age of five. They often do not disclose it due to embarrassment, leading to persistent problems of kidney damage. To address this, KIMS Cuddles has introduced a special Bedwetting Clinic,

operating every Tuesday. Dr Mounika Motamarri, Consultant Pediatric Nephrologist, said a Nephro-Uro Summit 2025 was organised as part of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme. More than 250 pediatric nephrology and urology specialists from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and



KIMS Cuddles launch a special Bedwetting Clinic on Sunday

Karnataka participated. Ignoring such signs can lead to Doctors highlighted that kidney damage. Some chil-dren may also have reddisheven young children can develop kidney stones and parents coloured urine, which requires must take it seriously when specific tests to determine the kids complain of pain or when cause they notice blood in the urine.

tein levels exceed 2 mg per kg of body weight, doctors should closely monitor the condition. Hypertension (high blood pressure) in children can also lead to kidney damage if left untreated.

urinary tracts, which may require surgical intervention for a permanent solution.

bedwetting even beyond the age of five, which was special-ly discussed by experts. Due to social stigma, many do not seek help, and some even face this issue into adulthood. While some turn to Avurvedic or Homeopathic treatments,

Additionally, if a child's proeffective solutions.

Call to redirect State **Iftar funds to TMSC**



PNS HYDERABAD

Dr Lubna Sarwath, social and environmental activist and Hyderabad Congress member has urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to redirect the Rs 70 crore allocated for the State Iftar to the Telangana Minorities Study Circle (TMSC).

Dr Lubna appreciated the Chief Minister for his democratic approach, encouraging public and opposition feedback. She emphasised that education should be a priority, stating that instead of spending Rs 70 crore on State Iftar, the funds should be used for Telangana Minorities Study Circle (S.H.29) - currently allocated only Rs 4 crore. Centre for Education Development of Minorities (S.H.23) - allocated Rs 3 crore and for the Training and Employment for Minorities (S.H.06) - allocated Rs 30 crore.

Dr Lubna stressed that public funds should be invested in education and skill development, benefiting minorities in the long run. She reiterated that she always works in the public interest and remains available to support such initiatives.

Prof. V Balakista Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Council of Higher Education at MNR University on Sunday

Versities asked to focus on futuristic education

PNS HYDERABAD

Futuristic education should be a top priority for all universities to accelerate India's development, and full support will be provided for such initiatives, said Prof. V Balakista Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Council of Higher

Education. Speaking at MNR University after inaugurating its Central Admissions Office near Balanagar Metro Station on Sunday, Prof. Reddy emphasised the need for a long-term vision. He said, "Education must follow a five or ten-year roadmap, integrating an interdisciplinary approach with technological innovation.' Prof. Reddy highlighted that

India's young and dynamic population is an asset in today's world, where knowledge and innovation shape progress. He stressed the importance of adapting to globalization, digitization, and the challenges posed by COVID-19 through technology and innovation.

Quoting futurist Alvin Toffler, he urged universities to align education with future trends. He also launched MNR University's website and brochure during the event.

MNR Educational Trust's Founder MN Raju, expressed pride in the university's growth, recalling its journey from a small school in 1974 to a full-fledged university. Chancellor Řavi Varma reaffirmed their commitment to world-class education with top infrastructure and faculty. Vice-Meanwhile,

Chancellor Prof. Krishna Chalam announced plans to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) across all academic programmes, aligning them with ndustry needs. He noted that the new Central Admissions Office aims to support students and parents with dedicated counsellors, ensuring informed academic choices.

With a focus on technology and interdisciplinary learning, MNR University continues to shape future-ready graduates and contributes to Índia's progress.

Some children have narrow

Many children continue

the Bedwetting Clinic at KIMS Cuddles provides the most

lelangana the pioneer 14 HYDERABAD | MONDAY | MARCH 10, 2025

Turmeric fetches highest price of over Rs 13,000 a quintal

PNS NIZAMABAD

Turmeric has fetched the highest price of Rs 13,311 per quintal in the Nizamabad market, with farmers receiving an average of Rs 11,300 per quintal. So far this season, at least 5,00,985 quintals of turmeric have been brought to market, and farmers are celebrating the favorable Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Notably, 80 per cent of the turmeric produced in the state is sold at this market. This year, the absence of heavy rains has averted issues like rhizome rot disease in the turmeric crops. The gola variety is currently commanding a price of Rs 10,000 per quintal, while the market committee has ensured a minimum price of Rs 10,000 per quintal for finger turmeric and Rs 9,900 per quintal for



urging farmers to reduce the moisture content of the turmeric to 12 per cent, significantly lower than the current moisture content of 15-20 per cent, to achieve better prices. In the 2023-24 season, 7,23,470 quintals of turmeric

the gola variety. The market committee is



Kunju Pandey is convalescing in hospital in Bhadrachalam

Tribal woman injured in **Maoist** landmine blast

PNS BHADRACHALAM

An explosion that occurred



were brought to the market, compared to 7,49,072 quintals market this year, with an addi-

the previous year. This year, however, the quantity of turmeric is expected to surpass last year's total. The estimated yield this year is 30 quintals per acre, up from just 25 quintals last year. Officials predict that at least 1.5 lakh quintals more turmeric will be brought to Last year, turmeric was cul-tivated on 35,000 acres across the state, including 19,000 acres in Nizamabad district. This year, the area under turmeric cultivation has increased to 45,000 acres, with 22,000 acres in Nizamabad

tional 2.25 lakh quintals expected by the end of this month. The officials also esti-

mate 85,000 quintals will arrive in April and another 65,000

quintals in May.

district alone. Muppa Gangareddy, Chairman of the Nizamabad Market Committee, stated that the committee is closely monitoring turmeric trading and has set a cutoff price of Rs 10,000 per quintal.

They are also encouraging online bidding through e-Nam and advising farmers to ensure that their turmeric's moisture content remains at 12% to avoid lower bids from traders.

'Govt will elevate Khammam dist to number one position'

PNS KHAMMAM

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Sunday stated that the Congressled people's government is moving forward with strategic plans for the overall development of the undivided Khammam dis-

trict. Minister Venkat Reddy is the undivided Khammama district in-charge Minister.

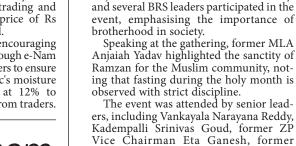
At a meeting held at the Minister's residence complex in Hyderabad under the leadership of Minister Venkat Reddy to discuss the comprehensive development of the Khammam district, he said that the governmet was committed to all-round development of the district.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Nageswara Rao, MPs Renuka Chowdhury, P Balaram Naik, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, and all district MLAs. Later, speaking to the media, Minister Venkat Reddy said the meeting discussed the ways to



also highlighted the importance of addressing issues such as drinking water, irrigation, and power supply, particularly in light of the summer season. He assured the people that the government was committed to the welfare of farmers. In a detailed review lasting approximately three hours, plans were discussed to elevate the undivided

Khammam district to number one in all sectors. He expressed his appreciation for the Telangana government's efforts to provide internationalion to t



members.



PNS KARIMNAGAR

The event, organised under the leadership of District Collector Pamela Sathpathy, with assistance from the district machinery, was a grand spectacle. It was a tradition-al wedding ceremony held at the Kalabharathi Auditorium in Karimnagar. The elders who offici-ated the wedding were District Collector Pamela Sathpathy and Manakondur MLA Kavvampalli Satyanarayana

This wedding had a special significance. The wedding ceremony was held for an orphan girl who had grown up in the Balasadan.

The Women and Child Welfare Department organised the event. On Sunday, the wedding was held

at Kalabharathi Auditorium in Karimnagar under the leadership of District Collector Pamela Sathpathy. The girl, who had lost her parents, was looked after by the officials, who took on the role of her parents, ensuring she lacked for nothing. The Collector, MLA Satyanarayana, and other officials stood as the girl's guardians. It gave a message of assur-ance to orphans, showing them they are not alone.

The girl, Pooja (Monika), was admitted to Karimnagar's Balasadan in 2017 after losing her parents. The authorities took care of her education and well-being there. After completing her intermediate studies, she pursued an MPHW course and was doing an internship when she met Sai Teja, a resident of Manthani in Peddpalli district, and their relationship eventually turned into love. When the girl informed the authorities, they spoke to the young man, and he expressed his intention to marry her. With the approval of the family, the officials arranged the marriage.

The officials themselves became the wedding organizers, taking care of all the arrangements. MLA Kavvampalli Satyanarayana sponsored meals for the guests, demonstrating great hospitality. District Collector Pamela Sathpathy personally blessed the newlyweds, wishing them a long and healthy life and handed over a letter she had written for them.

The wedding was supported by district judge, district machinery, women welfare officials, NGO leaders, and various other departmental officers, who all contributed to making the wedding a grand success. This event set a new precedent in Karimnagar district.

It is an auspicious start for the couple whose wedding has been celebrated with great splendour under the guidance of the district administration.

the poor is the government's pri-mary agenda. He also noted that in the past, Rs 600 crore had been allocated for building three Young India Integrated Schools, and the oursell allocation of Pa and the overall allocation of Rs 11,600 crore for 58 schools is a testament to the importance the people's government places on education. He criticised the previous government's handling of

residential schools, which were run in poultry farms, leading to the humiliation of the poor. However, the current government is constructing schools with international standards.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy reiterated that the government's primary focus is to provide quality education and healthcare to the poor. He highlighted the construction of new hospitals like TIMS around Hyderabad, the new NIMS hospital building, and the super multi-speci ity hospita

Warangal govt super-specialty hospital to be ready soon

PNS WARANGAL

With an aim of providing best possible healthcare to people in north Telangana, a super-specialty hospital has been sanctioned in Warangal. The 24-storey high-rise building which has 16.5 lakh sqft space and 2,000 beds with modern healthcare facilities has been under construction.

The construction work for this multi-speciality hospital has commenced on the premises of the Warangal Central Jail after it was disman-



Multi-specialty hospital under construction in Warangal



For the 24-storey building, the hospital is being set up with facilities to provide outpatient and inpatient services in 35 medical departments across 12 floors, with 2,000 beds, 500 doctors, 1,000 nursing staff, and 1,000 paramedical staff.

It has, however, been found that the pace of construction has now picked up. Currently, the 24-storey building is complete, and work is ongoing for emergency services, oxygen supply, fire safety, central airioning, e and water pipe connections for the 12 floors of beds, special bunkers for radiation therapy in the cancer department, and the construction of operation theaters. It is expected to take another year to complete these works, and only then will the medical services be available.



Municipal Chairman Narender, former

Vice Chairman Nataraj, and several former

councilors, along with prominent BRS leaders and local Muslim community

BRS leaders participate in

Iftar feast in Shadnagar

The Iftar feast, organised at King Palace in

Shadnagar town on the occasion of the holy

month of Ramzan, served as a symbol of

religious harmony and unity. Former MLA

Anjaiah Yadav, MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy,

PNS RANGAREDDY

Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh, has come to light on Sunday. A young woman named Kunj Pandey, who had gone into the forest to collect firewood, accidentally stepped on a landmine planted by Maoists, resulting in severe injuries.

The explosion caused heavy bleeding, and it was reported that she waited for three days seeking help for treatment. Due to the lack of road access, local villagers helped her to be transferred to the Telangana border area. From there, she was taken by ambulance to the Bhadrachalam Area Hospital, where doctors are providing medical care to her.

The police have started combing operations to defuse the landmines, if any.

promised by Rahul Gandhi during the elections. He also congratulated Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for approving Rs 11,000 crore to construct 55 Young India Integrated Schools. He emphasised that the state's financial situation is stabilising. speed up the ongoing developmental works in the district. He Providing quality education to

Warangal. He also mentioned that this year, the TIMS hospitals in Alwal and Sanathnagar would be completed, followed by the Warangal super multi-speciality hospital and the TIMS hospital in LB Nagar next year, which would be made available to the public.

tled.

However, the medical services at the hospital are expected to be available soon.

The construction of the hospital was initiated by the previous BRS government in June 2021 with 24 floors. After the Congress government came

into power, they revised the struction. initial proposals and expand-

Senior officials have already ed the plans, with Revanth's visited the site twice and congovernment taking up the ducted high-level reviews work. The current governthere. The previous government recently conducted an ment had allocated Rs 1,116 inquiry, claiming that the precrores for building construction, services, medical equipvious government had inflated the cost of the hospital conment, and other works for the

Tiger sighting sparks panic among villagers

PNS PEDDAPALLI

A tiger sighting has sparked tiger crossing the main road panic among villagers at near the village. Seeing this, Satish became alarmed and Bittupalli village under the informed the villagers about Manthani mandal in Peddapalli district. the incident. The alert vil-According to the villagers,

lagers immediately informed a farmer, Satish, while riding the Forest Department offi- Chennur forests in the the road from)))((((the the night.

his bike from Manthani cials. towards Bittupalli, noticed a

By night, Forest and Police officials arrived at the scene and found the pugmarks of the tiger. It was confirmed that the

tiger had entered the Manthani forests from the of it, but suddenly it crossed

Mancherial district.

Eklaspur-Mutharam mandal The forest officials also to Bittupalli, which caused identified that the tiger had concern among the villagers. been spotted in the District Forest Officer Mutharam Mandal three Shivavya advised the farmers days ago, based on the tracks. not to go to the fields at night After that, there was no trace and cautioned the villagers not to venture outside during



Forest officials marking the tiger pugmark at Bittupalli village in Peddapalli district on Sunday

SRSP canal turns into death trap

PNS WARANGAL

The SRSP canal has turned into a death trap. Authorities who have been turning a blind eye to the loss of lives, with no safety measures in place, are the cause of these deadly incidents. Four years ago, in a similar accident, three people lost their lives. The SRSP and the Roads and Buildings Department officials have so far not reacted to the incidents. The tragic accident claimed the lives of a man and his two children when the car in which they were travelling plunged into the SRSP canal on Saturday.

The helpless children aged two and five were unaware of what was happening, and sat peacefully on the laps of their parents in the car, unaware of the perilous situation they were in. Their father, after experiencing severe chest pain, crashed the car into the canal. Their mother helplessly watched as her two children were swept away in



A car, which fell into the SRSP canal on Saturday, being pulled out at Theegarajupalli in Warangal district

his wife using a rope, but

Praveen, his son and daugh-

ter drowned in the water.

the canal.

after their car fell into the It may be recalled that SRSP canal. Praveen's family was travelling from Warangal four years ago, a similar incito their native village. At the Thigarajupalli area in Sangem dent happened when a car fell into the canal and three peomandal, the car accidentally fell into the canal, leading to ple died. Yet, the authorities do not seem to have thought the drowning of Praveen, his wife, and his children. of taking steps to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies in future. Villagers managed to rescue

It may be recalled that Somarapu Praveen (30) and his two children drowned Four die in two separate accidents in State

PNS NALGONDA / ADILABAD

Four people died in two separate accidents in the State on Sunday. While two people died near Narkatapally in Nalgonda district, two others lost their lives in an accident in

Adilabad district In In a tragic road accident Sunday morning at AP Lingotam village, near Narkatpally mandal, on National Highway 65, two individuals lost their lives, and three others sustained serious injuries when a car they travelling from Hyderabad to Vijayawada collided with a stationary lorry parked beside the highway. The incident reportedly occurred due to dense fog.

The deceased have been identified as Praveen and Saigoud, both residents of Alwal in Hyderabad.

The injured individuals were rushed to the Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Narkatpally for treatment. Police officials, including Sub-



Inspector Kranti Kumar, arrived at the scene to assess the situation.

Meanwhile in Adilabad district, in an accident on National Highway 44 near, two vehicles collided. In this accident, both drivers lost their lives on the spot. According to the details, a van travelling from Adilabad towards Maharashtra had a tyre burst, which led to the vehicle hitting the divider. As a result, the van's indicator lights stopped working. At the same time, a private bus travelling from Hyderabad to Jabalpur, moving at high speed, collided with the van. In the crash, both the bus driver and the additional driver died. Another 10 passengers were severely injured.

Libraries play vital role in imparting knowledge: MLA **PNS** RANGAREDDY Foundation stone was laid for the construction of a new library at Papireddyguda under Keshampet mandal, marking a

significant step towards promoting knowledge and education in the region. Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar attended the event as the chief guest and personally per-formed the Bhoomi Pooja.

Former ZPTC member Tandra Vishala Sravan Reddy also participated in the program.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Shankar highlighted the vital role of libraries in imparting knowledge. He stated that by setting up a library with a diverse collection of books, students and knowledge seekers would benefit from having all necessary information compiled in one place. He emphasised that libraries serve as a hub for learning and con-tribute significantly to intellec-



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar at the function of laving stone for library at Papireddyguda in Rangareddy district on Sunday

tual development. Former ZPTC Tandra Vishala Sravan Reddy expressed her happiness over the initiation of the library's construction. She noted that the establishment of such facilities would provide access to a variety of books for people of all backgrounds, ultimately increasing literacy and foster-

ing a culture of learning. She further stated that libraries could also inspire illiterate individuals to develop an interest in education.

The event was attended by Congress leaders, activists, and local villagers, who expressed their support for the initiative, recognizing it as a valuable addition to the community.





Nation 05

ACROSS THE STATES



Third accused held in tourist rape, murder case in K'taka

arnataka Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said on Sunday that the third accused in the tourist rape case in Koppal district had Abeen arrested. Two women, including a 27-year-old Israeli tourist, were allegedly gang-raped and assaulted while stargazing near Hampi, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred on March 6. Tangadagi stated that three individuals were involved in the crime. While two were arrested on March 8, the third accused was apprehended on Sunday. "Three people were involved in this horrific crime, which should never have happened. Two were arrested yesterday, and the third was caught today," said Tangadagi, who is also the Koppal district in-charge minister. He added that he has instructed the police to enhance security for tourists to prevent such incidents in the future. According to police, the third accused was arrested in Tamil Nadu, where he had fled after the crime. Earlier, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said, on the night of March 6, two foreign nationals, including an Israeli citizen, along with two others, went out for stargazing on the banks of the Tungabhadra canal.



Rallies in Kolkata seeking justice for RG Kar doctor

wo rallies were held in Kolkata on Sunday, demanding justice for the doctor who was raped and murdered at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The rallies, organised by a section of the civil society to mark seven months of the heinous crime, also condemned the injury suffered by a student on the Jadavpur University campus after being allegedly hit by the vehicle of Education Minister Bratya Basu during a protest on March 1. Both the rallies converged at Rabindra Sadan after starting from Hazra Crossing and Esplanade. The participants in the rallies demanded that all those involved in the rape and murder of the post-graduate trainee doctor be brought to book by the CBI, which is investigating the crime on an order of the Calcutta High Court. Former civic volunteer Sanjay Roy has been sentenced to imprisonment till the end of his natural life by the Sealdah sessions court here after finding him guilty of the gruesome rape and murder of the doctor. The central agency is however, continuing its investigation into the matter. The parents of the victim have claimed that there were others involved in the crime and demanded that all of those who may he directly or indirectly involved be brought to book

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | MARCH 10, 2025

Future of cooperatives bright under Modi's leadership: Shah

Says over 60 initiatives taken by cooperation ministry so far

PNS AHMEDABAD

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the future of cooperatives is bright under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and more than 60 initiatives have been rolled out by his ministry since its formation.

Addressing the 'Swarnim Shatabdi Samapan Mahotsav' (golden centenary closing ceremony) of the Ahmedabad District Cooperative Bank, Shah called ADC a big bank for small people that has worked to bring prosperity in the lives of lakhs of farmers and cattle rearers for generations.

"Since (Modi set up the Cooperation Ministry), it has taken more than 60 initiatives. We have ensured the registration of 2 lakh primary cooperative societies in 5 years, including the service cooperative societies and primary milk producers cooperative societies, which are the foundations of the cooperative movement," Shah said.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav got miffed on Sunday when he was

asked about the possibility of a realignment with Bihar Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar, the JD(U)

president, who snapped alliance

with his party last year to return

to the BJP-led NDA. Yadav, the

former deputy CM, was address-

ing a press conference here after

a 'dharna' organised by the RJD

over alleged "theft and eating up

there was a possibility of his join-

ing hands with his former boss

and the JD(U) chief ahead of

When he was asked whether

of reservations by the NDA".

PNS PATNA

No realignment with Nitish: Tejashwi

The future of cooperatives is bright under PM Modi's leadable medicine shop, and a quota

ership, he said. There should not be a single panchayat in the country without a primary service cooperative society or primary milk-producing society. By introducing many model bylaws into society constitutions,

"Since (Modi set up the **Cooperation Ministry), it** has taken more than 60 initiatives. We have ensured the registration of 2 lakh primary cooperative societies in 5 years, including the service cooperative societies and primary milk producers cooperative societies, which are the foundations of the cooperative movement."

district or state cannot thrive...," he said. Three national cooperative societies, one each for quality seeds, exports and organic farming, have been registered and the mandals (local cooperatives) are now

linked with them, he said. Out of the country's 260 district cooperative banks, ADC Bank is the only one with 100 per cent e-banking facility as per the RBI guidelines, Shah said.

India cannot allow obesity, diabetes to weaken youth: Jitendra

PNS HYDERABAD

At a time when India aspires to be a developed nation by 2047, the country cannot allow the energy of its younger generation to go waste due to dia-betes, obesity and others which are spreading in epidemic proportions, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the annual conference of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group of India (DIPSI) here, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the menace of obesity more than once.

"The relevance of today's subject is that type-2 diabetes mellitus in India is spreading like an epidemic, and so also obesity. So, these all metabolic disorders... every third Indian has a fatty liver," said Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology. Observing that the country

has become the fifth-largest economy in the world and aims to become number one,

box?



Singh said more than 70 per cent of the country's population is below the age of 40.

The architects of India 2047 are the generation which is now growing up to reach the prime of its energy and expertise by that year, he said.

If the energy of youth is allowed to get squandered away because of the metabolic disorders, it would not only be a disservice to a medical cause but also to the service of the nation, said Singh, a medical doctor himself.

"Because, it virtually becomes a national responsibility to preserve their energies, preserve India's huge energy pool for a higher pur-pose," he said.

Brijesh Mishra not to open the

Subramaniam, who has

remained firm in her stance on the issue, said, "The CBI is say-

ing what it has to say. I have to

Rajasthan Police, O P Galhotra,

Former Director General of

say what I have to say."

they have been associated with several new works, he said. Shah said such a cooperative society can also open an afford-

assembly polls, Yadav shot back, "Why would we join hands?

Why are you trying to divert

attention from the issue at

hand?" It was pointed out to him

that in a section of the media,

there have been speculations that

Kumar, who recently turned 74,

was wary that the BJP might

push for a leadership change

after elections and the RJD was

ready to exploit the situation

with an "offer" of realignment.

Yadav replied sternly "there is no

offer from anybody. In my party,

only RJD president Lalu ji and I

are authorised to take any deci-

sion on alliances"

However, the normally affable

has been given to them for petrol pumps and gas distribution services. They also get priority in the distribution of subsidised grains, said the minister. "They can also build

godowns and undertake water supply projects. Until the cooperative society is strong, the (cooperative) bank cannot be strong. And until the bank is strong, the dairy sector of the

Journalist demands discovery from 'box of evidence' be made public defence minister, tell me at the end of 1999 that he was told by

BOFORS CASE

PNS NEW DELHI

Journalist and author Chitra Subramaniam has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to make public its discoveries from the "box of evidence" received from Switzerland on Bofors payoffs which, the former officers said, were used in the probe and submitted before the court as evidence in its charge sheet.

In an exclusive interview with PTI, the author of 'Boforsgate: A Journalist's Pursuit of Truth' said, "We



was in the boxes. She also wondered if the commission in the deal was 18

per cent, as suggested by the evidence Swedish firm Bofors gave to the Indian government. "Secondly, why would George Fernandez, who was then the

who played an important role in the Bofors case during his tenure with the CBI, said the agency filed a charge sheet based on documents received from Switzerland.

PM Modi changed nation's political culture: Nadda

PNS AGARTALA

BJP national president J P Nadda on Sunday asserted that Prime Minister Varendra

sary in the northeastern state during its second term. Noting that the PM has left no stone unturned for the lopment of Tripura Nadda

Alpha Tocol hands over first real fuselage for LAC Mk1A to HAL

PNS BENGALURU

Private firm Alpha Tocol Engineering Services on Sunday handed over the first rear fuselage for Light Combat Aircraft Hindustan to

Changes in GST must be more comprehensive than mere rate reduction: Cong

PNS NEW DELHI With Finance Minister





Two-day women advocates' conference held in Delhi

ore than 1,200 women advocates across the country participated in a two-day event on International Women's Day. The All India Conference of Women Advocates concluded on Sunday. It was organised by the Akhil Bhartiya Adhivakta Parishad, Delhi Prant, in collaboration with the National Commission for Women (NCW). International Women's Day was celebrated on Saturday. "The conference comprised in-depth discussions on historical contributions of women and the need for their empowerment." a statement said. "It was attended by over 1,200 women advocates from across the country. The theme was '75 Years of Indian Constitution - Role of Women Advocates for Resurgent Bharat and both the days were divided into two sessions each," it said The inaugural session of the conference was attended by Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, Delhi High Court judge Swarana Kanta Sharma, and NCW Chairperson Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar. On Saturday, Delhi High Court Judge Mini Pushkarna delivered the keynote speech, the release said.

Normal life affected in Manipur as agitators enforce shutdown

protesters burnt tyres and

blocked roads with boulders,

which the security forces were

seen clearing. However, no fresh

violence has been reported so far. Business establishments

remained closed and few vehicles

were seen plying the roads in

Kuki-dominated areas in the state.

Agitators were seen asking people

to remain indoors. Additional

security forces have been deployed

in Gamghiphai and other parts of the district along the NH-2

(Imphal-Dimapur Road) and

vehicular patrolling was being con-

ducted to ensure law and order, a

district official said.

PNS IMPHAL/CHURACHANDPUR

Normal life was affected in Kukidominated areas of Manipur on Sunday as agitators enforced an indefinite shutdown called by Kuki-Zo groups against a "crackdown by security forces".

The situation in Kangpokpi district, where at least one person was killed and 40 others were injured in clashes between Kuki demonstrators and security forces on the previous day, remained tense but calm on Sunday.

In other Kuki-dominated areas in Churachandpur and Tengnoupal districts as well,

Modi has changed the country's political culture by transforming anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency in the elec-

toral landscape. Nadda, addressing a rally here, also pointed to the increasing vote share in favour of the BJP during the past three Lok Sabha elections.

"Now, Modi has changed the country's political culture by transforming anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency. Proincumbency means that people are happy and want Modi to win again and again," he said. "The BJP polled 17 crore

votes (31.30 per cent) in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, while it shot up to 22 crore votes (36.7 per cent) in the 2019 polls. The figure was around 24 crore votes (37 per cent) in the last Lok Sabha polls (2024). People are blessing Modi ji with more votes every time," Nadda said. The BJP chief was addressing a rally at the Swami Vivekananda Ground here to mark the saffron party-led government's second-year anniver-

said tax devolution increased five-fold during the Modi era compared to the UPA regime. 'Tripura used to get Rs 9,000

crore as share of tax during the UPA regime, which has risen to Rs 46,500 crore. Likewise, the grantin-aid, which was Rs 31,000 crore during the UPA time increased to Rs 54,000 crore," he said.

Nadda also announced the modernisation of four railway stations in Tripura - Agartala, Udaipur, Dharmanagar and Kumarghat - over the next two years. He hailed the BJP-led government for its "big push" in digitisation in the administration.

Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the Defence Ministry said. The rear fuselage was handed over at the HAL's Aircraft Division in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, according to a Defence Ministry statement.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh termed the handing over as a milestone in the historic journey of India's defence manufacturing.

"The ceremony is a testimony to India's progress towards Aatmanirbharta in defence and the Government's commitment towards enhanced public-private partnership," he said.

that the GST rates will come down further, the Congress on Sunday said any changes in the tax must be more comprehensive than a mere rate reduction and stressed the need for a radically simplified and less punitive GST 2.0.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said his party had envisaged a GST 2.0 -- a truly "Good and Simple Tax"-- in its manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, and it remains committed to that vision. "The ball is now in the Union government's courtwill they take this historic opportunity?" Ramesh asked

The finance minister has

declared that GST rates will be

reduced soon. The Indian

National Congress reiterates

that any changes in GST must

be more comprehensive than

a mere rate reduction," he

said.Reducing the tax on caramel popcorn, without fun-

damentally reforming a system

that has three rates of tax for

popcorn, is just window-dress-

ing, the former Union minis-

ter added. The need of the

hour is a radically simplified

in a statement.

The finance minister has declared that GST rates will be reduced soon. The **Indian National Congress** reiterates that any changes in GST must be more comprehensive than a mere rate reduction."

and less punitive GST 2.0, he said. "The first objective of GST 2.0 must be to simplify the tax slabs. The three-slab tax system for popcorn and the differential tax rates for cream buns and regular buns are only the tip of the iceberg," he said.

As the Narendra Modi government's former chief economic advisor, Arvind Subramanian, has acknowledged, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has up to 100 different rates, including cesses, the Congress leader pointed out.

Determined to remove every barrier in progress of youths: CM Yogi

PNS MEERUT

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday asserted that the government is determined to remove every barrier in the progress of youths. Participating in a loan-dis-

tribution programme organised at the Chaudhary Charan Singh University in Meerut, where Rs 48 crore was distributed among 1,070 youths from



Meerut and Saharanpur divisions, Adityanath said there is tremendous enthusiasm among the youths about the

'CM Yuva Udyami Scheme' launched on January 24. He stressed this scheme is an

important step towards making vouths self-reliant and realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Startup India, Standup India'. According to a government statement, more than 2.67 lakh youths applied against the target of 1 lakh applications under the scheme. Out of these, more than 1 lakh applications

were sent to the banks after screening, and 25,000 of those have been approved and loan distribution started

"For youths, a challenge is not a challenge if the government stands by them, they can prevail any challenge. The youths of Uttar Pradedh have worked to take themselves forward," he said, adding a new Uttar Pradesh is becoming the base of a New India.

Hindu temple vandalised in US with anti-India graffiti

PNS NEW YORK/NEW DELHI

A prominent Hindu temple in the United States was defaced with anti-India graffiti by unknown individuals, prompting a strong condemnation from India and a demand for "stringent action" against those involved in the incident.

Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) said that its dent. Shri Swaminaravan Mandir in Chino Hills city of San Bernardino County faced desecration. Chino Hills bor ders Los Angeles County.

"In the face of another Mandir desecration, this time in Chino Hills, CA, the

Hindu community stands steadfast against hate.

Together with the community in Chino Hills and Southern California, we will never let hate take root," the BAPS Public Affairs posted on X.

"Our common humanity and faith will ensure that peace and compassion prevail," it said, without providing details of the inci-

India on Sunday strongly condemned the incident and called for adequate security to the places of worship in view of the incident.

'We have seen reports regarding the vandalism at a



strongest terms," External Affairs Ministry spokesper-son Randhir Jaiswal in New

Delhi while responding to media queries on the incident. "We call upon the local law enforcement authorities to take stringent action against those responsible for these acts, and also ensure adequate security to places of worship," he said. The opposition Congress

party also condemned the incident, saying such acts of hatred and intolerance were utterly unacceptable.

"The Indian National Congress condemns in the strongest possible terms, the vandalism of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Chino Hills, California, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan

Khera said in a post on X. 'Such acts of hatred and

intolerance are utterly unacceptable and have no place in any civilized society," he said and demanded action against the desecrators.

Patanjali Ayurved's cofounder Ramdev condemned vandalism at the temple and said India should take the initiative in finding a way to curb "religious terrorism".

Hindu American Foundation, a non-profit advocacy group in the US, said the vandalism at the largest Hindu temple in California occurred on Saturday and demanded the FBI and its Director Kash Patel to probe the matter.

Hindu temple in Chino Hills, California. We condemn such despicable acts in the





Editor's TAKE

A promise is a promise!

Delhi Government approves ₹2,500 aid for women despite PM Modi's opposition to freebies

elhi Government, powered by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has approved the Mahila Samridhi Yojana, a scheme aimed at providing financial assistance of ₹2,500 per month to women from economically weaker sections. The initiative, a key promise made during the BJP's election campaign in Delhi, is expected to cost the exchequer ₹5,100 crore. The eligibility criteria for the scheme include an annual income cap of Rs 2.5 lakh and an age range of 18 to 60 years. The Delhi Chief Secretary, along with other officials, has finalised these conditions, ensuring that the financial aid reaches the most deserving beneficiaries. However, the announcement understandably will concretise over a period of time as no date for disbursement has been declared yet, despite earlier promises of payments beginning on March 8. Besides, it has also been pointed out that the eligibility criteria were not communicated to voters during the election campaign. In its layout, the Mahila Samridhi Yojana seeks to ward off any criticism of the so-called "freebie culture," which political parties across the spectrum accuse each other of.

Indeed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has often warned of excessive populist schemes could that burden State finances and harm longterm economic stability. He has advocated for welfare measures that promote self-reliance rather than direct cash benefits. It is hoped that the Delhi Government would acknowledge the Prime Minister's warning and ensure that welfare measures are not just a tool to secure electoral victories.

BJP national president JP Nadda himself launched the scheme, congratulating the Chief Minister for allocating the funds for its execution. Ms Rekha Gupta has a tight financial rope to walk on, considering she bemoaned the appalling fact of Delhi's empty coffers when she assumed office. Admittedly. Delhi has already allocated itself subsidies which are worth thousands of crores, a probe into which the Government must initiate post haste. The subsidies given by the Kejriwal Government in the past decade have increased manifold, inquiries into which ought to be the present Government's utmost priority. The highest subsidies have been allocated to the power, water and transport sectors. Delhi's power subsidies rose from ₹292 crore in 2014-15 to a shocking ₹3,600 crore by 2024-25. The free water provided by the Kejriwal Government was another big drain on the exchequer. The past decade has spawned an invincible Water Mafia culture in Kejriwal's erstwhile strongholds which merits an independent action. Water subsidies rose from ₹21 crore in 2014-15 to ₹500 crore projected for 2024-25. Free bus travel for women cost a whopping ₹115 crore in 2019-20. In 2014-15, the total subsidy doled out was ₹1,555 crore. This figure nearly doubled in 2015-16, soaring to ₹3,018 crore. While it remains to be seen how Ms Gupta delivers on her promise to fellow women citizens, what needs to be clearly factored in is the figure of ₹5100 crore and how best to manage the resources for it.

The approval of the Mahila Samridhi Yojana initiative is expected to strengthen the BJP's party's appeal among women voters, a crucial demographic in electoral politics. Therefore, the real success of the scheme will depend on its swift and transparent implementation. With opposition parties already raising concerns over delays and additional conditions. the Delhi Government must ensure that the scheme does not remain a mere electoral promise and delivers tangible benefits to the intended beneficiaries. As the political landscape of Delhi continues to evolve, the implementation of welfare schemes such as this will play a pivotal role in shaping the public's perception of the ruling party. The question remains whether the BJP can balance its ideological opposition to freebies with the electoral necessity of welfare measures. Indeed, the politics is the art of possible.

Judiciary under malicious attack by influential groups

In a democracy, some criticism of the judiciary is inevitable. However, unless there is a measure of restraint, judicial institutions will be damaged and judicial integrity stand debilitated

andit Jawaharlal Nehru once remarked, "Events crowd in upon us in such quick succession that we are apt to miss their true significance? This is particularly true of the unhealthiest drift of recent events in the Supreme Court of India. The customary reverence formerly paid to judges of the Supreme Court is being systematically deflated. Pernicious attacks on the judiciary have become commonplace. Many are made by political parties and politicians. Some politicians who are distinguished members of the Supreme Court Bar, see enormous mileage in pursuing that course. But even beyond politicians, the attacks have been made with impunity by the media, academicians and limbs of the law. The recent spate of malicious attacks on our former most respected Harvard educated Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, particularly after he hung up his gloves on November 10, 2024, has shocked the conscience of all right thinking people who cherish and value democracy, the rule of law and the independence of the Judiciary. All I can say is that that the vicious attack of calumny and vilification set in motion against Chief Justice Chandrachud in the print, visual, broadcast and internet media, and that too without any cogent basis or tangible evidence, by vested political interests and ventilated by unscrupulous lawyer politicians (who ostensibly owe their allegiance to the Supreme Court) is a most ignominious development that deserves to be condemned by one and all in the strongest possible language. It is indeed lamentable that such personal and political attacks, led by politicians, politician lawyers and lawyers, have gone too far, nay crossed the 'Lakshman Rekha'.

They have sometimes been devised to undermine the fundamental independence of judges of the highest judiciary, even to attempt to daunt judges or to sway the outcome of cases and to depreciate their irrepressible impartiality and integrity. The unconquerable power of democracy and the Rule of Law are being sought to be subverted and subjugated in a most sinister and malicious manner.

Behind the façade of the attacks on the judiciary, I see the evil hand of certain political parties (even invisibly supported by foreign forces inimical to India's interests) to dislodge the smooth functioning of the highest court of the land by means foul rather than fair. In a democratic society, some criticism of the judiciary is inevitable. This is especially so at a time when there is a growing understanding of the inescapable choices which are open to judges. Just as decisions of the other branches of the government attract criticism, important and controversial decisions of the courts will inescapably do the same.

Into this ambience has been impregnated the technology of the modern media of communications. Unless there is a measure of restraint, the judicial institutions will be damaged and judicial integrity debilitated. The following features of the recent attacks on the judiciary have been distinctly intemperate. The personal targeting of identified judges. The attempt to intimidate them or to deflect them from fidelity to their oath of office to decide each case strictly on its merits. The unrelenting character and partisan political aspect of the attacks. A censurable feature of the barrage which cannot pass unnoticed is how a woman judge, who was the first lady judge to have been honoured with a well-deserved elevation straight from the Bar to the Bench, was singled out for a studied attack by a senior lady member of the Bar in April, 2018 before her swearing in. In April, 2018, there was also an unholy attempt to impeach another former Chief Justice of India supported by seven disgruntled opposition parties. Targeting judges, identifiable because of their sex, race or other minority considerations, attacking them by over-simplified and inaccurate generalisations, caters to public prejudice.

Such conduct is unworthy of our country that indefatigably claims to uphold fundamental rights and the rule of law. In the face of the onslaught, and under fire, there are a few strategies available to the judiciary. It would be a reprehensible judicial response

to cave in to the pressure and to do exactly what the politicians, editorialists or other powerful interests desire. This would be a complete abdication of the judicial system. It, therefore, rests ANOOP BOSE increasingly on the

organised legal professionals to defend the judiciary, to correct blatant misinformation and to remind politicians, the media and others of the precious heritage of judicial neutrality and independence which we have enjoyed so proudly. In India, independence and conscientiousness are cherished features of the judiciary. Institutional protection for those features must be sustained.

Political attempts to undermine them should be spurned. Leaders of the legal profession, irrespective of their personal political leanings, should speak up where judges are unjustly assailed by politicians and oth-ers for carrying out their independent role. The increasingly adversarial and belligerent nature of our public discourse should not become contagious to the erosion of the balanced relationship of the judiciary with other branches of the government.

Legislators, members of the Executive Government and the judiciary should realise that each branch has its distinct part to play, without which constitutional government would falter and fail. But a genuine desire to protect and preserve the rule of law and the dignity and majesty of the highest court of the world's largest working democracy. In this context, it would not be out of place to mention that our first President Dr Rajendra Prasad, himself an outstanding lawyer, described this "noble edifice" as the 'Temple of Justice' on the occasion of the inauguration of the new Supreme Court building on August 4,1958 in the august presence of Prime Minister Nehru, Vice President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Chief Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das, his son-in-law Asoke Kumar Sen, the Union Law Minister and my senior and guru, Lok Sabha Speaker Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, and Attorney General Motilal Chimanlal Setalvad.

In conclusion, I am highly emboldened to commend to readers the stern message delivered by Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala of the Supreme Court at the Second Justice HR Khanna Memorial Symposium on July 3, 2022, "Personal attack on judges for their judgements lead to a dangerous scenario where the judges have to think about what the media thinks, rather than what the law says.

This puts the rule of law on the burner, social and digital media are primarily resorted to expressing personalised opinions more against the judges, rather than a constructive critical appraisal of their judgments. This is what is harming the judicial institution and lowering its dignity. This is where digital and social media need to be regulated throughout the country to preserve the rule of law under our Constitution in India, which cannot be defined as a completely mature or defined democracy, social media is employed frequently to politicise purely legal and constitutional issues."

(The author is an internationally reputed senior lawyer practising in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts and Tribunals in India. Views expressed are personal)

Whither the wome- of this cou- try?

and reporting, rural regions still struggle with cal), Justice (formal and informal discrimination), and ranking reinforces the urgent need to accelerate action. In response to growing concerns, the Central Government has extended its flagship



I urge the CM of Tamil Nadu to draw inspiration from other states that have taken steps to offer medical and engineering education in their native languages. It is my sincere wish that Tamil Nadu also introduce such courses in Tamil.

AMIT SHAH, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Opinion

SECOND

ccelerate Accelerate action is a call for urgency, inclusion, and transformative Aurgency, inclusion, and transferrence change. It underscores that equality cannot wait and that all sectors of society must work together to hasten progress toward women's rights and empowerment. The responsibility for accelerating this change primarily lies with institutions, particularly the government. Effective policy changes and awareness campaigns that challenge deeply

ingrained societal norms are crucial. While the Government of India has placed women's edu-

cation and empowerment at the forefront of its agendaan effort worthy of commendation — the critical question remains: What about their security? According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 4,32,256 cases of crimes against women were registered across India in 2022-an alarming statistic that translates to nearly 51 FIRs being filed every hour. These cases include rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and dowry-related violence, marking a four per cent increase from the previous year. However, the NCRB also clarified that the rise in registered cases does not necessarily indicate an increase in crime but rather a greater willingness among victims to report incidents.

While urban areas have witnessed increased awareness



ung at of support systems. A report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) revealed that 151 sitting MPs and MLAs have declared cases related to crimes against women in their election affidavits.

West Bengal has the highest number of lawmakers (25) facing such cases, with 16 sitting MPs and MLAs accused of rape. While the BJP leads in such cases, Congress and other parties are not far behind. These numbers are not just

statistics-they represent silent battles fought daily by women at home, on the streets, in workplaces, and even within political corridors.

Protecting the dignity of women is the Government's duty. yet it is deeply ironic that political parties, both at the State and Central levels, sometimes shelter individuals accused of crimes against women for electoral gains. Whether it is Sheikh Shahjahan of TMC or Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of BJP, such instances raise serious concerns about political accountability.

The BJP Government claims significant progress in empowering women, yet the party itself has 134 sitting MPs and MLAs facing charges of crimes against women. Congress follows with 25, with AAP close behind. India ranked 128th out of 177 countries in the 2023 Women, Peace, and Security Index, which assesses women's status based on three dimensions: Inclusion (economic, social, and politi-

women's security scheme until 2025-26 to curb crimes against women. However, ensuring women's safety requires a multi-pronged approach, including stringent laws, robust security measures, swift justice, timely redressal of complaints, and accessible institutional support for victims.

At its core, the persistence of gender-based violence is deeply rooted in India's complex social fabric, where patriarchal norms, economic disparities and cultural traditions intersect to perpetuate inequality. This systemic injustice not only denies women their right to live with freedom and dignity but also hinders societal progress. Meaningful change requires a shift in mindset-starting at home. As the saying goes, "Gender equality begins at home," and by fostering a culture of respect and equality, we can empower the next generation to build a fairer world. According to the World Economic Forum, at the current pace of progress, achieving full gender parity will take until 2158 – approximately five generations from now. The question we must ask ourselves is: Can we afford to wait that long, or will we take action now to accelerate change?

(The writer is a lecturer in Political science, Jawaharlal Nehru College Kuanpal, Cuttack; views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Unique ID for voters

Madam — India's democracy is set to create a new milestone in its journey toward becoming more robust and transparent. Under the initiative of the Election Commission, nearly one billion voters in the country will now be assigned a unique identity, making the electoral process more transparent, secure and error-free. This step will not only simplify voting but also eliminate issues like fraudulent voting and duplicate voter names. In today's digital era, it was essential to make voter identification more effective. By adopting a digital system, the Election Commission is ensuring that duplicate names are removed from voter lists and each voter is assigned a distinct identity, thereby strengthening the democratic framework. This initiative will enhance voter credibility, ensuring fair and impartial elections.

Éliminating the problem of duplicate EPIC numbers will provide every voter with a unique identity, preventing any misuse of voting rights. Moreover, this initiative will pave the way for future advancements such as e-registration and digital voting, making the electoral process more transparent and convenient. This historic step will further deepen public trust in democracy. Now, every citizen will be able to exercise their voting rights without any doubts or obstacles. This initiative will serve as a milestone in steering Indian democracy towards the digital era. RK JAIN | BARWANI

Russian strikes on Ukraine

Madam— US President Donald Trump on Friday, March 7, 2025, threatened serious sanctions against Russia for attacking Ukraine. Russia launched a wave of aerial bombings early Friday, hitting Ukraine with 67 missiles and 194 drones, according to Kyiv. Most of them were intercepted, but some did make it through, hitting gas and power facilities. These threats were the first strong warnings for Russia from Trump, who had, during the election campaign 2024, claimed the war would be over on the day he took office and even before.

He had then, as now, also claimed Russia would have never invaded Ukraine if he was still president. The second claim cannot be tested, but the first, his confidence in finishing the war, is being tested, as the war has been on for two months now after the start of his second term. Trump has managed to strong-arm Ukraine into getting ready for a ceasefire and a final settlement. After a heated exchange with President Volodymyr Zelensky at an Oval Office meeting, he announced a pause in all US aid to Ukraine, stopping even the exchange of intelligence. Mollified by a "regret" letter from Ukraine, Trump has said he is ready to work with Zelenskyy towards peace. Officials of the two sides are to meet next week for talks, including on a US-Ukraine agreement that will grant Washington rights in Ukraine's rich reserves of rare earth minerals

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Unfair criticism of Shami

Madam — The statement from the All India Muslim Jamaat President Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi's criticism against the Indian cricketer Mohammed Shami is quite shocking. The cleric stated that fasting during Ramadan is an obligatory duty in Islam, and anyone who deliberately avoids it is committing a sin. The Indian cricketers have been held in high esteem worldwide not just for their passion towards the game but also for their patriotism towards the nation when it comes to delivering their best on the field. I can bring up the incident of the past when Mohammed Siraj lost his father in November 2020 while he was with the team on his tour of Australia. Though he was given the option of returning home, the pacer chose to stay back with the team for the series.

It was such an emotional moment even for the fans when he shared later that he went to his father's graveyard straight after landing in Hyderabad. The traumatic state was fought out by Siraj then because of his commitment towards national duty. The same is the case here with Mohammed Shami, whose commitment towards the game is well known and who is delivering his might in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy. When the game of cricket unites all religions, it is unfortunate that the cleric, by his remark, has brought out unreasonable division among religions and is unpardonable as per Islam. AP THIRUVADI | CHENNAI

TRUMP IMPOSES RECIPROCAL TARIFF

he United States of America is all set for rolling out the reciprocal taxation policy for the world. And his particular taxing targets are China, Brazil and India, all the major BRICS countries, along with Canada, the EU and Mexico.

Donald Trump claims their tariff rates are unfair for US products. Trump claims that India charges more than 100 per cent tariff rates, whereas South Korea charges four times higher tariffs on the USA. This is a clear indication of the fact that this time Trump 2.0 is actually trying to establish fair trade conditions, at least from the American domestic perspective. His wish to play fair on the tariff ground against those nations that have charged tremendously higher amounts of tariffs on America will become a costly affair for the respective targeted countries. Although Trump achieving this trade fairness is definitely a challenging task. As the nation will feel, it is challenging to adjust themselves to the new reciprocal tariff system.

The opinion of Trump to achieve this trade fairness is welcoming, as every country has the right to bargain, compete and charge

the tariff for protecting their local businesses. But at the same time, the US must not forget that the world is still on the juggernaut of unfair competition, resource and income divide. Still, the developing countries stand nowhere in comparison to the trade figures of the developed nations. In such a trade paradox milieu, the idea of tariff fairness and equity seems a little vague. Trump must pave the way for fair trade opportunities before initiating the idea of tariff fairness and reciprocity.

Trump must understand that no nation can grow unilaterally; we all need each other for our holistic development altogether. Trump must understand that America is a hegemonic state, and it holds its accountability for setting a balanced world order. It just can't do tit for tat with the world, calling it fairness. At the same time. Trump must stop taking help from Elon Musk, a smart capitalist. Since the administration of America is not like the running of a company, where risk-bearing is conditioned for profit only. Sometimes, our loss is the genuine profit of others, and we have to do so to pave the way for an equivalent and just society.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur





ANALYSIS 07

Bangladesh's National Citizen Party: A new dawn or fleeting revolution?

On February 28, 2025, Bangladesh witnessed the birth of the National Citizens Party (NCP), or Jatiya Nagorik Party (NJP) in Bengali. Emerging from the embers of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement (ADSM)—the very force that toppled former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024, the NCP represents both hope and uncertainty

he National Citizens Party (NCP) or Jatiya Nagorik Party (NJP) in Bengali, was born in Bangladesh on February 28, 2025. It is a progeny of the student leaders who spearheaded the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement (ADSM) that ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina from power on August 5, 2024, and the National Citizens Committee (NCP) or the Jatiya Nagorik Committee (JNC), that emerged from the same political cradle on September 8, 2024.

The country was pregnant with it for almost seven months. A report by Reuters, datelined August 16, 2024, and issued under the heading 'Student protesters plan new party to cement their revolution, quoted Mahfuz Alam, who then chaired a committee charged with liaising between the interim government, which had assumed office on August 8, and groups like teachers and activists, that the decision to form such a party would be known in about a month. It further quoted Alam, who had been a key leader of the ADSM and is now an adviser to the interim government, as saying, "People are tired of the two political parties (obviously the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party). They trust in (sic) us.

According to the report, Nahid Islam, another of ADSM's important leaders, who resigned as an adviser on February 25 and is now the convener and leader of the NCP, said that the spirit of the students' movement was to build a new Bangladesh where no fascist or autocrat could return. He had added, 'To achieve that, we need structural reforms, which will undoubtedly require some time." Nahid further stated that the government was not heeding calls by the Awami League and BNP to hold new elections as early as the fall (of 2024). Another Reuters' report by Ruma Paul, Krishn Kaushik, Devjyot Ghoshal and Krishna N Das, carried under the headline "Insight: Bangladesh student protestors eye new party to cement their rev-olution" and datelined August 16, 2024, however, cited Alam as having said on Facebook that his statement to Reuters "had come out wrong" and that "We are not thinking about political organisations right now."

The main focus was to maintain the spirit of the mass uprising and to consolidate the government. Others also expressed the same view.

Statements, denials and volte faces-nothing new in politics-often reflect tensions and conflicts kept under wraps. Was Alam under pressure to retract or deny his statement? One does not know. There, however, have been indications of differences among both leaders-called coordinators-and rank-and-file of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD), the moniker given to

জাতীয় নাগরিক পার্টি National Citizen Party



committee.

Wrangling and power struggles seem pro-grammed into the genes of all political parties. In the case of the NCP, however, factional fissures are accompanied by the presence of incompatible ideologies.

The NJP includes alumni of the Shibir, Jatiotabadi Chhatradal (Bangladesh Nationalist Students Party) affiliated with the BNP, several students' organisations of both leftist and fundamentalist Islamist outfits and those without any political involvement prior to joining the ADSM. They seem to be sticking together because they feel that the future belongs to the new party. What would happen when the latter loses its sheen with time? igns of trouble are already manifest.

Questions have been asked as to how the enormous amounts of funds needed to mobilise for the gargantuan rally that marked the NCP's formation were found. According to a report in The Daily Star datelined March 2, 2025, the Pirojpur district administration had requisit eral privately owned buses to facilitate local students joining the NJP's inaugural rally on February 28. It was a partisan act and a grim pointer of this becoming a regular factor if the NJP comes to power.Besides, the declaration of the party's vision for Bangladesh raises questions. It talks of a "cruel fascist" regime-obviously referring to Sheikh Hasina's-ruling for 15 years, destroying state institutions and democracy, and making all-encompassing corruption and money laundering a part of state culture. A lot of what it says-relief to marginalised and disadvantaged communities, the protection of fundamental rights, preserving ethnic, social, gender, and cultural diversity, and ensuring strong safeguards against poverty, inequality, and abuse of power-is unexceptionable. One, however, wishes that it said more about the 'Second Republic,' which, and the enactment of a new constitution, are the party's overarching goals. Also, one wonders as to how seriously are pronouncements to

be taken, particularly because it says that the party is committed to a culture where justice replaces vengeance. It is liable to make the dead rise up laughing given the interim government's relentless and savage persecution of Awami League leaders and supporters, conducted in blatant disregard of all

juridical fairness. Will the NCP come to power following the next parliamentary elections? It might have enjoyed a sweeping victory if an election had been held immediately after Sheikh Hasina's ouster, when its popularity

HIRANMAY

KARLEKAR

was at its peak. Since then, issues like a steep decline in the law-and-order situation, runaway inflaeconomic instability ha eroding the public's confidence in the interim government. Given the latter's links with the founders of the new party, they too have started attracting a measure of cynicism, which is bound to be transferred to the NCP.

Bangaldesh: A backgrounder

A 17-member interim government, led by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus as its chief advisor, took charge in Bangladesh on August 8, following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. Hasina resigned as prime minister on August 5, following weeks of deadly student-led protests. Her ouster was followed by a chaos in Muslim-majority country of over 170 million people and it reverberated in neighbouring India.

Sheikh Hasina's departure from Dhaka to neighbouring India resulted from months of growing anger in Bangladesh. After the January 2024 general election, perceived as flawed, critics accused Hasina's government of becoming increasingly arrogant and serving its minions.

The turning point came in June 2024, when Bangladesh's High Court re-instated a quota reserving 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans from Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence. vernment jobs in high to elevated graduate unemployment, students protested the quota, which they also viewed as favouring supporters of Hasina's Awami League party.

Breaking Free from Cloth Clutter

n today's fast-paced and consumer-driven society, the accumulation of clothing has become a significant issue, leading to what is commonly referred to as cloth clutter. The ease of online shopping, the rise of fast fashion, and the influence of social media have all contributed to an excessive and often unnecessary collection of garments.

Unlike previous generations who have always valued durability and longevity in clothing, today's generation - the Gen Alpha born between 2010 and 2025, is caught in a cycle of overconsumption, leading to cluttered wardrobes, financial waste and severe environmental consequences.

Cloth clutter or fashion hoarding refers to the excessive accumulation of clothing, often resulting in disorganised spaces filled with unused or rarely worn garments. With trends changing rapidly, many individuals feel pressured to keep up with fashion, leading to impulsive purchases contributing to a growing pile of clothes.

Unlike past generations who owned fewer but high-quality garments, today's generation is surrounded by cheap, trendy options that encourage frequent buying. Moreover, the convenience of online shopping, where clothes are just a click away, has made it even easier to accumulate unnecessary clothing. The result is overcrowded closets, confusion in outfit choices, and a constant feeling of having nothing to wear despite an overflowing wardrobe. There is no denying that the fast fashion industry thrives on quick production cycles, offering new styles almost every week at an affordable price.

This rapid turnover has created a sense of urgency among consumers to buy more before trends change, leading to excessive clothing accumulation. Above all, online shopping platforms such as Amazon, Myntra, Meesho and many more offer constant discounts such as buy-one-get-one deals, and fast delivery, making it incredibly tempting to buy clothes even when they are not needed. Subscription-based shopping models and exclusive online sales have also encouraged unnecessary purchases, filling wardrobes with items that may never be worn.

Today, with the increased stress, boredom or emotions imbibed among many individuals, the concept of mindless shopping is being used, leading to impulsive buying decisions. This has resulted in wardrobes filled with clothes that were purchased out of momentary excitement but have no long-term use.

Various studies and research have shown that a cluttered environment negatively affects mental wellbeing, making it harder to focus and feel at ease. Today, the textile industry is one of the largest contributors to pollution.

Overproduction of clothing has led to increased carbon emissions, water consumption and waste. Many discarded clothes end up in landfills, as most fast fashion items are made from synthetic fabrics that take decades to decompose. Constantly buying new clothes without fully utilising existing ones results in unnecessary expenses.

As a result, many individuals end up spending large amounts on fashion while struggling to save money for essential needs. Adopting a minimalist approach to fashion will encourage owning fewer but high-quality, versatile pieces that can be mixed and matched.



This will not only reduce the clutter but also promote mindful consumption. Choosing sustainable

brands, buying second-hand clothes, and donating unused garments can significantly reduce the impact of fashion waste.

Supporting ethical fashion brands that prioritise durability over trends can help break the cycle of overconsumption. Donating, selling, or repurposing clothes instead of hoarding them can also free up space and prevent unnecessary purchases.

Asking questions like "Do I need this?" or "Will I wear this at least 20 times?" before making a purchase can help in avoiding impulsive buying. Cloth clutter is a growing problem among today's generation, fuelled by fast fashion, digital influence, social media influencers and impulsive shopping habits.

While the allure of trendy and affordable fashion is strong, it comes at a high cost-both personally and environmentally. By embracing mindful consumption, adopting sustainable fashion choices, and prioritising quality over quantity, individuals can break free from the cycle of cloth to a more organised, stress-free, and eco-cons There are various reasons for it. Cloth clutter can arise from various factors, such as: Buying more clothes than needed, holding onto clothes that no longer fit or are out of style and above all reluctance to ward off the old clothes.

unisation emerging out of the even in the heady immediate aftermath of the formation of the interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

Thus, a report in The Daily Star, datelined August 16, 2024, stated that a coordinator and four assistant coordinators of Chittagong University's ADSM had resigned from their posts, alleging that the central coordinators took unilateral decisions and ignored their demands. According to another report in the Daily Star datelined January 3, 2025, eight persons were injured in Khulna town in a clash among ADSM supporters.

There have been several reports of internal conflicts and tensions. According to a report in Prothom Alo English, adherents of the ADSM blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway for an hour on February 24, 2025, demanding the dissolution of the organisation's new district committee announced earlier in the month. Not surprisingly, though a consensus was subsequently achieved, there have been reports of arguments and tensions over the naming of the NCP's office-bearers and members of the central convening

The latter will also meet growing challenges from parties like the BNP, which had their backs to the wall during Sheikh Hasina's second innings as prime minister but are now flexing their political muscles.

Further, the NCP lacks a nationwide, grassroots-level political infrastructure and a leader with charisma and gravitas. Its leaders' demands for not holding parliamentary elections until the reforms are completed and Sheikh Hasina is on the gallows are obviously ploys to gain time to build up its organisation. Time, however, takes its own toll even on the most resplendent of shrines. It cannot be otherwise with the NCP. Its leaders will do well to remember the saying, "Sic transit gloria mundi," which literally translates as "thus passes the glory of the world" but is generally meant to convey that earthly glory is fleeting.

The Supreme Court eventually reduced the quota in late July to 5 per cent. The rever-sal was too little, too late. Violence between the protestors and the police increased, further fuelled by Hasina's refusal to release detained student leaders.

The protesters, viewing Hasina as responsible for the deaths of some 600 people killed in the clashes with the police, began seeking her overthrow.

To control the protests, Hasina announced a curfew, repeatedly shut down internet and jailed over 11,000 protesters. The army eventually withdrew its support after refusing Hasina's order to open fire on civilians to enforce the curfew. On August 5, 2024, with a large number of angry protestors heading to her official residence, Hasina resigned and fled to India.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

It may look innocuous but cluttering can have a negative impact on your well being and mental state. It also has practical issues arising from the problem of plenty.

One can have reduced storage space and difficulty accessing clothing and one can experience the a sense of being overwhelmed and disorganised. It often leads to stress and anxiety which can impact your overall wellbeing.But there is solution to it. To combat cloth clutter, you may start declutter your wardrobe regularly and get rid of the items you no longer wear or need.

Besides, organising your clothing storage, using bins, shelves, and drawers effectively declutters your storage space.

One of the easiest way to declutter is to avoid mindless purchasing and buying only what you need and love. Indeed it is not a big problem or something which cannot be dealt with but it must be acknowledged and taken into stride.

It is a lifestyle problem arising from our inability to be mindful of our actions. And don't forget there are people who need your clothes so why not give it to people who need them and experience the feeling of gratitude

Let your wardrobe smile!

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

A trade deal betwee- I- dia a- d the US remai- s a stro- g possibility

the strategic partnership and geopolitical compulsions of both India and the United States could significantly contribute to clinching a long-awaited trade deal, laying the foundation for future cooperation. While President Donald Trump has positioned himself ideologically closer to Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un-thus isolating European nations-his administration saw the need to counter China's growing influence in the Asia-Pacific, making India a crucial ally.

US Demands and India's Position

US Commerce Secretary, Howard Lutnick has stressed the necessity of India opening its agriculture market, asserting that this sector could not be "off the table" in trade negotiations. He advocates a broad, macro-level trade pact rather than product-specific agreements, arguing that aligning India's tariff policies with the US would be more beneficial for both nations.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal recently concluded productive trade discussions in Washington with US counterparts, including Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Secretary Lutnick. The talks hold significance as both nations move towards negotiating a bilateral trade deal. During Prime Minister Modi's recent US visit, India and America committed to doubling bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, targeting the completion of the first phase of a trade pact by fall 2025.

In 2023, US-India trade in goods and services reached \$190.08 billion, with India enjoying a \$43.65 billion trade surplus. Trump, echoing Lutnick's optimism, emphasised that a trade deal is within reach, underlining its strategic importance.

The Indian Diaspora's Growing Influence

Reports suggest that the Indian diaspora in the US has emerged as a significant economic and political force, subtly shaping US-India trade policies. Indian-Americans, one of the most prosperous and educated ethnic groups in the US, have wielded considerable influence in strengthening bilateral ties. In a shift, a notable portion of the Indian diaspora supported Trump in the November elections, affecting the political calculus. As of 2021, the average household income for Indian-Americans was \$123,700-surpassing all other ethnic groups.

Between 1995 and 2005, they founded more technology and engineering companies than immigrants from the UK, China, Taiwan, and Japan combined, contributing significantly to innovation and job creation.

The Indian-American population has grown from 2.3 million in 2005 to approximately 4.4 million by 2023, making them the second-largest immigrant group in the US. Their increasing economic and political clout has played a pivotal role in strengthening US-India relations, including current on-going

trade deal dialogue.

Trump's Foreign Policy and Its Impact on India Trump's foreign policy has been defined by an "America First" approach, often at the cost of traditional alliances. His controversial actions-isolating European allies, supporting Russia in the UN by refusing to name it as an aggressor, and poten-

tially attempting to pull Russia away from China-signal a major shift in global geopolitics. These moves could have far-reach-

ing consequences, impacting not just Europe and Asia but also India's strategic positioning. If Trump successfully dis-

tances Russia from China, India stands to benefit. Moscow has historically been a key defense and energy partner for New Delhi. Europe's Strategic Shift

under Trump

Trump's presidency has been marked by tensions with European allies over defense spending, trade policies, and multilateral agreements like the Paris Climate Accord. His criticism of NATO and demands for Europe to shoulder more security costs have strained US-Europe ties

Trump's questioning of NATO's Article 5 (the

mutual defense clause) could leave Eastern European ing any reference to Russia's invasion. nations vulnerable. Europe might be forced to increase defense spending and coordination, but a lack of American support would weaken the alliance's deterrence against Moscow.

Indo-Pacific Security Dynamics

In the Indo-Pacific, key US allies like Japan, South Korea, and Australia rely on Washington to counterbalance China. If Trump reduces support for alliances like AUKUS and Quad, these nations may strengthen security ties with India and European powers like France and the UK. Trump's retreat from alliances could create a vacuum that China might exploit. Beijing has been expanding its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), offering economic and military incentives to countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. If US allies feel abandoned, China might step in, further eroding American influence.

Trump's Alignment with Russia

On the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, US support for Moscow at the UN exposed a growing rift with European allies. Washington sided with Russia, North Korea, and Belarus in opposing a Europe-backed resolution condemning Moscow. The motion still passed 93-8, with 73 abstentions, including China. Furthering this shift, the US pushed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the war-conspicuously avoid-

Trump's alignment with Moscow signals a potential unravelling of America's transatlantic security commitments. His pivot to Russia, ostensibly to end the war, side-lines Kyiv and Brussels, making lasting peace unlikely, though pressure tactics may yield results. Meanwhile, China sees a strategic advantage in this shift, hoping to mend its strained ties with Europe and Washington as the global order tilts towards an authoritarian axis.

The Future of India-US Trade Relations

While Trump may attempt to realign US-Russia relations, Russia's deep economic and strategic ties with China make a complete pivot unlikely. However, his policies could still reshape global trade and security dynamics in ways that affect India. A trade deal between India and the US remains a strong possibility, driven by economic and geopolitical imperatives.

The Indian government will need to carefully navigate these complexities to safeguard its trade interests while ensuring strategic autonomy. As the global power balance shifts, India's ability to leverage its relationships with the US, Russia and China will determine its long-term geopolitical and economic standing.

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





Money 08

IN BRIEF



ONGC's OPaL exits from Dahej SEZ

NGC PetroAdditions Ltd, a subsidiary of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has relinquished its 'only-for-export' unit status as it aims to tap into the booming local petrochemical market to drive a turnaround. In a stock exchange filing, ONGC said OPaL has received the final approval for its exit from the Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ). "Accordingly, OPaL shall operate as a Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) unit with effect from March 8, 2025," ONGC said. "Further, this exit from SEZ will improve the competitiveness of OPaL for supplies to be made to the DTA". This essentially means primarily catering to the domestic Indian market instead of focusing on exports, which is the primary purpose of an SEZ unit. It will now not have to pay customs duty on products sold within India, helping improve margins. The move is primarily to gain access to the wider domestic market and potentially benefit from the lower corporate tax regime.



ISMA demands duty protection

The Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has demanded imposition of safeguard duty on import of polysilicon, ingot and wafer to help protect the domestic solar manufacturing industry from dumping and boost local capabilities. Sunlight is converted into electricity through a process called photovoltaics (PV). This involves several key components working together to harness the energy from the sun. At the core are solar cells, which are made from silicon. These are grouped together and mounted on a solar panel or module which captures sunlight and converts it into direct current (DC) electricity. According to ISMA. India is already self-sufficient in module manufacturing, helped by duty protection measures. Also, significant cell capacities are under ramp-up and the country will be self-sufficient by FY27 in cell manufacturing. "Need of the hour is to shift focus towards capital and energy intensive upstream manufacturing which is ent on China with heavy dumnin

hit pharma segment Auto sector likely to face minimal impact

PNS NEW DELHI

Enhanced tariffs on pharma imports in the US can severely impact Indian drug manu-facturers as it would lead to higher production costs, making shipments less competitive against products from other countries.

Smaller drug firms operating on thin margins

can face severe pressure potentially forcing consolidation or closure. The automobile

sector, on the other hand, is expected to have a very minimal impact owing

to the US being a small export market.

Terming India as a very high tariff nation, US President Donald Trump has said that reciprocal tariffs on countries that impose levies on American goods will kick in on April 2.

India currently levies around 10 per cent import duty on American drugs, while the US doesn't charge any import duty on Indian drugs. Shardul

Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner

Arvind Sharma said as of recent history, the US has been a net importer of phar-maceutical products to meet its domestic demand. "In the event the US decides

to impose substantial tariffs on pharmaceutical imports from Îndia, the impact could send noticeable ripples through the



simultaneously disrupt its own domestic consumption," he noted.

Indian pharmaceutical companies supply a substan-tial proportion of drugs to US residents, with four out of ten of all prescriptions filled in the US in 2022 being supplied by Indian companies.

As per industry sources, overall, medicines from Indian companies provided USD 219 billion in savings to the US healthcare system in 2022 and a total of USD 1.3 trillion between 2013 and 2022.

US tariff imposition to hit pharma segment India, EU to hold FTA talks amid Trump tariff threats

PNS NEW DELHI

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | MARCH 10, 2025

India and the 27-nation European Union (EU) bloc will start the tenth round of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement from Monday in Brussels amid Trump tariff threats, according to an official.

The talks are expected to focus on resolving remaining issues so that the agreement can be finalised by the end of this year. During the recent visit of

EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic, the two sides have discussed ways to accelerate efforts towards a balanced and mutually beneficial trade pact.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Geographical Indications (GIs). According to the think Commission President Ursula tank Global Trade Research von der Leyen last month Initiative (GTRI), key sticking agreed to conclude the ambipoints include agricultural tious India-EU free trade deal by this year amid fears of the wine import duties, automobile tariffs, and regulatory barriers affecting labour-Trump administration's threat of higher tariffs. intensive goods.

"The two sides are sched-uled to hold the tenth round of negotiations for the FTA from March 10-14 in Brussels," the official said.

In June 2022, India and the 27-nation EU bloc resumed the negotiations after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in remains another contested area, with India seeking easi-



er mobility for professionals and data security recognition under the EU's GDPR framemarkets. The two sides are work (European Union's ment protection agreement General Data Protection Regulation). and an agreement on

Government procurement, investment protection, and environmental regulations like the Carbon Border Adjust ment Mechanism (CBÁM) further complicate talks. Despite these challenges, a successful agreement could significantly enhance bilateral trade, which exceeded USD 190 billion in FY 2024," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said. India exported USD 76 billion in goods and USD 30 billion in services to the EU. while the EU exported USD 61.5 billion in goods and USD 23 billion in services to India.

Ambassador to India Antonio

Bartoli spoke about the vibrant

trade of black pepper and wine

between the Roman empire

and India along the Golden

steady growth in the market. I

think it is on average 6 per cent

every year since 2017, we

"So, we are not reinventing

he European Union's (EU) aggressive environmental regulations, particularly the carbon tax, deforestation rules, and supply chain due diligence laws are one of the biggest hurdles in the negotiations for a proposed trade pact with India, economic think tank GTRI said on Sunday. It said that these regulations could impose additional costs on Indian exports. Under the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Indian exports of steel, aluminum, and cement to the EU could face tariffs

'Regulations

biggest hurdles'

of 20-35 per cent, even if an FTA is signed, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said in its report. This raises concerns that while EU goods would enter India duty-free, Indian exports would still face these indirect barriers in Europe, it added. India and the 27-nation European Union (EU) bloc will start the tenth round of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement from Monday in Brussels.

FPIs pull out Rs 24,753 cr from equities

PNS NEW DELHI

Foreign investors continue to pull back money from the Îndian equity market, withdrawing Rs 24,753 crore (about USD 2.8 billion) in the first week of March amid escalating global trade tensions and lacklustre corporate earnings.

This came following an outflow of Rs 34,574 crore from equities in February and Rs 78,027 crore in January.

The total outflow by FPIs timent. Imposition of higher tariffs by the US on countries has reached Rs 1.37 lakh crore in 2025 so far, data with the depositories showed. China, along with reciprocal

According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)



to be the escalation in global rupee, which has also dimintrade tensions, which signifiished the appeal of Indian cantly weigh on investor senassets.

Vaibhav Porwal, co-founder of Dezerv, pointed out that the like Mexico, Canada and depreciation of the rupee has eroded returns for FPIs, while tariffs on several countries, India's tax structure, with 12.5 per cent tay on long ital gains and 20 per cent on short-term gains, contrasts with alternative markets offering lower or zero tax environments. Moreover, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, highlighted the growing interest in Chinese stocks, driven by attractive valuations and the Chinese government's recent positive initiatives for large

Want to consolidate trade ties with India: Italy

Road.

PNS NEW DELHI

Italian Agriculture Minister Francesco Lollobrigida has called for the consolidation of reciprocal trade relations with India, highlighting the very strong relationship between something ... We are trying to revamp this. This link, there is the two governments.

the level of opening up of the

also negotiating an invest-

tariffs, especially on dairy and

India is reluctant to lower

auto import duties and is cau-

tious about committing to EU demands on sustainabili-

ty and labour standards, it

said, adding that services trade

His remarks came against the backdrop of the two-day 'Vinitaly' trade promotion fair India Roadshow that began on Saturday.

Talking about 'Vinitaly', the Italian Agriculture Minister said it is a platform where "the best Italian wine companies and others represent themselves, meet, discuss" and it allows "deepening of the topics related to the development of this industry from point of view". In a video message, the Italian Minister of Agriculture pointed out the "very strong relationship between the two governments" and said, "It must be consolidated through mutual export"

Haier to invest Rs 1,000 cr in manufacturing

PNS GREATER NOIDA (UP)

Haier Appliances India looks to become a USD 2 billion sales company in the next 3-4 years on the back of a high double-digit growth powered by expansion in product category and channels, according to a top official.

The home appliances maker has earmarked an investment of over Rs 1,000 crore between 2024-2028 to set up new AC Production and Injection Molding Units. It has already ploughed in Rs 2,400 crore in its plants at Pune and Greater Noida so far.

With this new plant, Haier India's capacity would increase to 4 mill on unit

manipulation," ISMA said in a presentation to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



PepsiCo to double India revenue in 5 yrs

epsiCo aims to double its revenue in India over the next five Dyears, viewing the country as a 'key anchor market' where it is making "aggressive" investments to expand its capacity, its India & South Asia CEO Jagrut Kotecha said. India will be the "engine of growth for PepsiCo" in driving its global revenue, as it ranks among the top three markets for the food, snack. and beverage multinational, where the company is experiencing double-digit growth, Kotecha said. PepsiCo has invested in greenfield plants in Uttar Pradesh and Assam, focusing on staving ahead of the demand curve, Kotecha said, adding the company will not be "investment shy" in India and plans to open two more facilities, including one in the southern region. "We believe India will be the engine of growth for PepsiCo to drive the top line. Yes, it's not as big as North America because it is a lot more evolved category. Our per capita consumption in India is still very low, not only for us on beverage and food, but we would expect one of PepsiCo's fastest growing economies to do that," Kotecha said.

offloaded shares worth Rs 24,753 crore from Indian equi-

ties this month (till March 7) This also marks the 13th consecutive week of net outflows. Since December 13, 2024, FPIs have offloaded equity shares to the tune of USD 17.1 billion.

The sustained selling by overseas investors is chiefly due to a combination of global and domestic factors.

A major catalyst continues

including India has dented market sentiments, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director Manager Research,

Morningstar Investment, said. On the domestic front, lacklustre corporate earnings added to the negative sentiment as it failed to meet investor expectations, thereby reinforcing FPIs to exercise caution toward Indian equities,

he added. This uncertainty has been

compounded by a weaker

businesses

He further said, "We want to renew not only the friendship but also consolidation of reciprocal trade relations".

In his address at the gala dinner ahead of 'Vinitaly', Italian



already account for 17 per of

the market, as in many other

sectors. We have to do better.

situation", he said creating a

culture of wine means that you

also favour the growth of a sec-

tor that now is punching below

Describing it as "a win-win

We can do better".

its weight.

per annum from the present 1.5 million units, besides increasing domestic value addition.

"Currently we have a capacity of 1.5 million. However, the way the AC market is growing here, by 2027 we will have a shortage in capacity. ... The new plant will be 2.5 million units," Haier Appliances India President NS Satish told PTI

on Sunday.

Prominent Italian winemakers are participating in the

Global trends, macro data to drive stock markets

PNS MUMBAI

Global trends, macroeconomic announcements and US tariff developments are expected to drive stock markets in a holiday-shortened week, analysts said.

Market participants will also closely track foreign investor activity, geopolitical tensions, and their impact on the US dollar and crude oil prices, they added.

'The upcoming trading week will be a holiday-shortened one, with market participants closely monitoring global developments in the absence of major domestic

events. Key factors to watch include fresh updates on tariff negotiations, geopolitical tensions, and their impact on the movement of the US dollar and crude oil prices. "Foreign Institutional

Investors (FIIs) have slowed their selling in cash markets, but any shift in their stance will remain a crucial indicator for market direction," Ajit Mishra, SVP of Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said.

On the macroeconomic front, the release of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation data will be closely monitored, Mishra said.



Equity markets will remain closed on Friday for Holi.

This week, the CPI data Last week, the BSE Sensex

Nifty rose 427.8 points or 1.93 per cent.

The global sentiment improved following reports of a delay in U.S. tariffs and the possibility of further negotiations, which helped stabilise financial markets. Additionally, a weaker dollar and a decline in crude oil prices further boosted investor

confidence, he added. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said, the domestic market finally closed in the green after weeks of relentless selling, primarily due to a rebound in Q3FY25 GDP and a recovery in consumption.

IPO activity slows down, no main-bourse listings in last 3 weeks

PNS NEW DELHI

After heightened activity in 2024, there has been a slowdown in new listings, with no main-bourse IPOs hitting the market in the past three weeks due to a correction in the secondary market.

This slowdown in IPO activity is reflected in the numbers, as only five companies went public in January and four in February, compared to 16 listings in December 2024.

Quality Power Electrical Equipment Ltd was the recent IPO which opened for threeday bidding on February 14. However, the trend of slower activity is evident as at least three companies - Advanced Sys-tek, SFC Environmental Technologies, and Viney Corporation - withdrew IPÓ plans by pulling their draft papers in January and February. This shift follows a remark-

able 2024 in which 91 maiden public issues collectively raised Rs 1.6 lakh crore, driven by robust retail participation, a resilient economy, and booming private capital expenditure.

Bhavesh Shah, Managing Director and Head of

LONDON'S NEW 'GROWTH PLAN' India pegged as No 1 source market

PNS LONDON

The UK's capital city has unveiled an ambitious new 'Growth Plan' to provide an estimated 27 billion pounds extra tax revenue to fund vital public services in London and across the country, with India pegged as its number one source market in terms of foreign direct investment.

The plan, unveiled recently by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan along with growth agency London & Partners, aims to restore productivity growth to an average of 2 per cent

a year in the next decade, which is hoped would make London's economy 107 billion pounds larger by 2035. India has been on a growth curve for the last three years, overtaking the US as London's single-largest FDI source market in 2022-23 and continuing through 2023-24.

"Foreign direct investment from India has been the fastest growing and has been our number one market for the last two years," said Laura Citron, CEO of London & Partners.

"So, it's Indian tech companies setting up operations in London.



Equally, if we look at it as a student market, post-Brexit, India has really rapidly grown as a student market. It's now the number two source market

growing tourism market for London; India is just a really critical, top market for London," she said.

According to official data for 2023-24, London played host to 38,625 Indian students, reflecting a steep growth curve over the past 10 years with the country's share of all international students in London increasing from under 5 per cent to over 20

per cent. "It is positive that London's quantity of Indian students has increased in the past decade, with Indian stu-

for London after China. It's also a fast- dents now accounting for over 20 per cent of international students enrolled at a London university," said Mark Hertlien, Head of Global Engagement at City St George's University and Chair of the International Network at London Higher, the city's advocate for higher education.

"At City St George's the number of Indian students joining us has doubled over recent years... They become lifelong ambassadors of our capital city and create lasting and powerful bridges between our nations," he said.

Investment Banking at Equirus, told PTI that the slowdown is

largely a result of the secondary

market correction, especially in

January and February, which

negatively impacted the share

prices of several listed compa-

nies. As a result, investors have

shifted focus to their existing

portfolios rather than exploring new listings.

Shah emphasized that the diminished investor attention on new IPOs has contributed to the slowdown in market activ-

Despite this caution, V. Prashant Rao, Director and Head of ECM Investment Banking at Anand Rathi Advisors, pointed out that the longer-term outlook remains positive, with a strong IPO pipeline.

from the US and India are scheduled to be released on March 12. climbed 1,134.48 points or 1.55 per cent, and the NSE

Hyderabad

Generation Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Monday March 10, 2025

'If a script doesn't let me sleep at night, that's when I say yes to it'

Vardhan Puri, grandson of the **legendary Amrish** Puri, is carving his own path in **Bollywood with a** passion that runs deep in his veins. Despite being born into a family of celebrated artists. he is determined to create a legacy of his own, guided by the invaluable lessons his grandfather instilled in him. In a heartfelt conversation with The Pioneer. Vardhan reflects on his journey so far, from his intense debut in *Yeh Saali Aashiqui* to embracing the charm of romantic comedies with **Bobby Aur Rishi Ki** Love Story **TEJAL SINHA** tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

> arrying the weight of a cinematic legacy can be daunting, but for Vardhan Puri, grandson of the leg-

endary Amrish Puri, it is a source of immense pride rather than pressure. With a deep-rooted passion for storytelling and a relentless drive to carve his own niche, Vardhan is steadily building a filmography that reflects both his versatility and commitment to his craft.

In an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer, he delves into his journey, the experience of working on *Bobby Aur Rishi Ki Love Story* and his aspirations for the future.

For him, acting is not just a profession—it is a calling, a way of life. Reflecting on his early years in the industry, he credits Yeh Saali Aashiqui as his first love, a film that pushed him to explore complex characters and prepared him for the challenges ahead.

"That film keeps giving and giving," he says with a smile. "It was my first love, my first child and a movie I'm extremely proud of. Playing two distinct characters in my debut was challenging but also immensely rewarding. It was a great warm-up into what my career would lead to. Doing something so difficult early on served as a preparatory platform for me as an the Puri name. Yet, rather than actor." With an inclination toward dramatic and intense roles, he found himself craving a shift in tone. He wanted to explore something lighter, something that would challenge him

in an entirely different way. "Comedy is the most difficult genre to attempt," he states. "As a theatre actor, I was always known for my drama and comedy. So when Kunal Kohli offered me Bobby Aur Rishi Ki Love Story, I said yes in a split second. It was such a simple decision. And honestly, doing this film has changed my life." *Bobby Aur Rishi Ki* Love Story is a romantic drama that blends nostalgia with modern emotions, a signature of Kunal Kohli's storytelling. He describes it as a film with the same soul as *Hum Tum*, one that is lighthearted, musically rich, and emotionally grounded.

"It stands out because of its strong emotional core. Kunal sir has such a deep understanding of romance and rom-coms and that translates beautifully on screen. The film isn't just about romance—it's also extremely funny. That itude. "My grandfather, Amrish Puri, is my god. balance is what makes it special?

A crucial aspect of any romantic film is the chemistry between its leads and Vardhan found an incredible co-star in Kaveri Kapur. Their bond evolved naturally, strengthening over time and translating seamlessly onto the screen. "Kaveri and I became inseparable on set. Initially, we were just getting to know each other, but as we started readings—even on Zoom calls-our chemistry kept growing. Kunal sir could see the progression, and once he said, 'Yes, the chemistry is perfect,' we flew to London for the shoot."

Off-camera, the duo shared countless laughs, keeping the mood light and fun, a reflection of the film's genre. "If you caught us between takes, you'd see

us laughing our lungs out. We just had so much fun, and that energy translated into our performances. We weren't trying to fit into a mold-we wanted our characters to feel real, to feel believable. And I think that approach really worked." Born into a

family of celebrated actors, Vardhan is keenly aware of the expectations that come with

I pray to him. But I don't feel any pressure-I only feel a sense of responsibility. Every artist is unique, and I believe in creating my own path rather than emulating someone else's journey. My grandfather's career was different, my journey is different, and I just want to make him proud in my own way." His grandfather's advice still rings in his ears-discipline, punctuality, and persistence make an actor. "He always told me, 'Cinema cannot be a

part of your life-it has to become your entire life.' He warned me against distractions, against losing focus, and reminded me that my purpose is to entertain and bring happiness to people. That lesson has stayed with me."

The Puri family's contribution to cinema extends far beyond Amrish Puri. Vardhan is deeply aware of the lineage he comes from, tracing back to the legendary K.L. Saigal, his granduncles Chaman Puri and Madan Puri and Om Puri, whom he considers family. "We are a family of entertainers. And that's a privilege, not a pressure. I wake up every day with stars in my eyes, thinking about what story I can tell next, what character I can bring to

> life? Having played intense, dramatic roles, Vardhan is eager to explore more lighthearted characters in the

future. "I love doing dramatic roles, but this romcom was such a breath of fresh air. Now. I really want to do an out-andout comedy. Filmmakers, please offer me comedies!" he laughs. "I'm already reading some scripts, and hopefully, I'll lock in some-thing soon." Vardhan's aspirations go far beyond just playing specific roles. His vision is to be a storyteller who leaves an impact on audiences, shaping narratives that resonate deeply.

'I want to tell stories that have social relevance without being preachy. I want to play characters that are both challenging and relatable. I want to be the hero, the villain-anything and everythingbecause we only have one life. I'm hungry to explore unique stories, and I believe the world is my oyster. I'm just raring to go."



Check-in and doze off!

the world's second most sleepdeprived nation after Japan, the demand for sleep-focused vacations is growing. According to Skyscanner's Travel Trends 2024 Report, an impressive 85% of Indian travellers are now more mindful of their sleep, with 20% even considering sleep as one of the main activities for their next holiday. The global market for sleep tourism was estimated at \$74.54 billion

in 2024. Once regarded as merely incidental to travel, sleep is now becoming the main event. Sleep tourism—a concept gaining global popularity—has begun to find its footing in India, as travelers increasingly prioritize rest and relaxation over the hustle of conventional sightsee-

ing and packed itineraries. From tranquil Himalayan retreats to luxurious urban sanctuaries, India is redefining relaxation with its sleep-focused travel. These sleep vacations are not just about catching up on rest—they're a way to discon-nect from the chaos of modern life and indulge in the art of slumber. Customised programs, including aromatherapy, yoga nidra sessions and sleepenhancing cuisine, ensure that guests leave not only well-rested but also rejuvenated, ready to take on the world.

This World Sleep Day, on March 14th, let's make India rethink its travel plans.

The Westin Resort & Spa, Himalayas

Since opening in early 2023, it has est

N ith stress and sleep deprivation on the rise and India being ture comforts such as the Heavenly Bed, ensuring a deeply restorative stay. For added indulgence, the Royal Garden Villa and Garden Suites with Plunge Pools create serene havens for relaxation. At the heart of its wellness offerings, the Heavenly Spa provides expertly curated treatments, combining global wellness practices with Ayurvedic traditions to enhance relaxation. It redefines sleep tourism as a holistic and rejuvenating retreat.

Courtyard by Marriott, Ahmedabad

Nestled in India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, it offers an immersive sleep tourism experience where luxury meets mindfulness. The thoughtfully designed rooms, inspired by Ahmedabad's her-itage, provide a serene haven for restful slumber, blending midcentury sophistication with local artistry. Elevating the sleep experience, Explore Spa's signature rituals-First Taste + First Touch and Last Touch + Last Taste—prepare the mind and body for deep relaxation, leaving guests rejuvenated. Complemented by a Wellness Epicurean Menu, the spa ensures holistic well-being, making it a perfect destination for those seeking restful escapes and a journey into sleep tourism

The Westin Goa

Set amidst the vibrant charm of North Goa, it offers an inviting escape where rest and rejuvenation take centre stage



My grandfather, Amrish Puri, is my god. I pray to him. But I don't feel any pressure-I only feel a sense of responsibility. Every artist is unique, and I believe in creating my own path rather than emulating someone else's journey. My grandfather's career was different, my journey is different, and I just want to make him proud in my own way.

'SONGS LIKE UDAA UDAA UDAA BRING LIFE TO A FILM'

PNS| EXCLUSIVE

enowned playback singer Shaan, often called the 'Golden Voice of India', has mesmerized audiences for decades with his soulful renditions. Known for his romantic melodies of the 2000s, Shaan has won multiple Filmfare and IIFA Awards and remains one of India's most beloved voices. Shaan, the celebrated Golden Voice of India, brings his powerful presence to Kuch Sapney Apne, lending his soulful voice to the uplifting anthem Udaa Udaa Udaa. With decades of musical mastery, Shaan connects deeply with the film's themes of love, trust and inclusivity. As a champion of social change, he reflects on how music transcends boundaries, fostering acceptance and challenging societal norms. Through his heartfelt rendition, Shaan reminds us

The Pioneer had an opportunity to quickly chat with the renowned singer Shaan, for his latest song Udaa Udaa from Kuch Sapney Apne as he delves into being part of it.

He believes the film addresses a

subject that, while widely dis-

track that complements the film's

narrative beautifully. Reflecting on

his experience recording the song,

that music is not just a melody, but a force capable of transforming minds and shaping a more inclusive world.

cussed, still carries deep societal challenges. "Social rejection is something we may learn to navi-gate, but when it comes from our Now, he lends his voice to Udaa Udaa Udaa, a vibrant and uplifting track from Kuch Sapney own family—especially our par-ents—it can make life extremely Apne—a film that delves deep into love, trust and acceptance, not difficult," he says. "Kuch Sapney *Apne* sensitively explores this issue and I'm truly grateful to be a part of a film that carries such a strong just in queer relationships but in all human connections. In an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer, Shaan shares his thoughts and necessary message." Shaan's contribution to the film on the film's message, the power of music in shaping mindsets, and why he believes inclusivity is more comes in the form of Udaa Udaa Udaa, an energetic and uplifting

important than ever. For Shaan, the emotional core of *Kuch Sapney Apne* struck a chord. he says, "It was an absolute joy to sing! The song is packed with pos-itivity and high energy, so it felt like a breeze. Songs like these bring so much life to a film." Music has long been a force for change, and Shaan firmly believes in its ability to shift mindsets, especially on social issues such as LGBTQ+ rights. "Music speaks louder than

words," he says with conviction. "It has the power to communicate a message without sounding preachy or overbearing. A song can make you feel, reflect, and embrace perspectives that words alone might not." With Kuch Sapney Apne, Shaan is proud to be associated with a project that champions

inclusivity. He strongly believes that 2025 and beyond should be about moving forward with sensitivity and acceptance.

"I have always stood for equal representation and inclusivity," he states. "It's heartening to see more films addressing these important themes. We need to create art that reflects and respects everyone's experiences. I'm honored to contribute to a film that takes a stand for LGBTQ+ rights and social progress." With Udaa Udaa Udaa,

Shaan once again proves that music can be a beacon of hope, iov and change. As Kuch Sapney Apne makes its way to audiences, his voice will carry not just melody. but a powerful message of love and acceptance.

ing destination for sleep tourism, surrounded by the and the lively beaches of tranquil beauty of Uttarakhand's lush foothills. The resort's 141 thoughtfully designed guestrooms, featuring



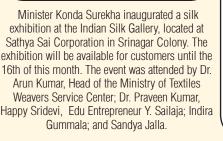
and the lively beaches of Anjuna, the hotel balances Goa's energy with a serene retreat inspired by the philos-ophy of susegad. The thoughtfully designed spaces, rooted in biophilic principles, create a soothing environment that fos-ters deep relaxation. At the Heavenly Spa, therapies like the Abhyanga and Sports Massage ease tension and prepare the body for restorative sleep. Together, the tranquil setting and wellness-focused amenities make it is an ideal destination for sleep tourism.



what's brewing?









The Mahila Dakshata Samithi Educational Institutions in Gangaram, Chandanagar, Hyderabad, celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm. The event brought together a distinguished gathering of leaders, philanthropists, and educators to honor the invaluable contributions of women. Sudha Dev ji Varma, the First Lady of Telangana, was warmly received by Dr. Saroj Bajaj, President of the institution. The event was also attended by Usha Gopalratnam, a successful business consultant and philanthropist and Lalitha Kanodia, a well-known philanthropist.

Sphoorthy Engineering College hosted the Creative Carnival Talent Hunt, organized by Clicktalks in association with TASK. The event provided a platform for students to showcase their talents in singing, dancing, photography, and short film making, focusing on social themes like women's safety, addiction, global warming, and drug abuse.



Indira Gumma



The Women's Leadership Awards was held at the HICC Novotel in Hyderabad by Hybiz.Tv. Telangana State Women's Commission Chairperson Nerella Sharada and TGOILFED Managing Director Shaik Yasmeen Basha, along with Dr. Preethi Adusumilli, Founder of Sisiro International Aesthetic Academy and Mrs. India Crown Winner and Sunita G. Kumar, Chairperson of Maa Research Foundation, attended the event.





On the occasion of International Women's Day, Poultry India/IPEMA organized a special event to celebrate and recognize the significant contributions of women in the poultry sector. The program brought together IPEMA members and women entrepreneurs from across the industry to honor their achievements and discuss ways to foster greater female participation in poultry. Speakers during the event highlighted the challenges women face in the sector, praising their resilience, courage, and determination in overcoming obstacles.

Chary

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Photos

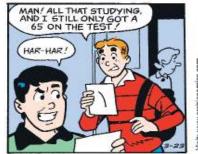
The event also marked the unveiling

of the Celebrity Secrets Beauty

Magazine, adding an extra layer of

excitement to the occasion.

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES

REALITY CHECK







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GINGER MEGGS







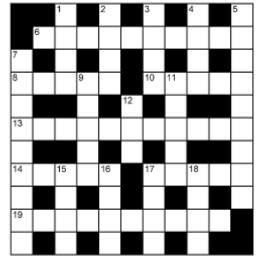
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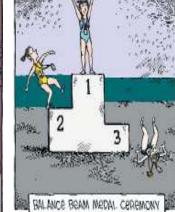
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- 13 Refusing to obey orders
- 14 To cook vegetables or meat in an oven using fat
- 17 Listen to music and news

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tollywood

Inspired by Chiranjeevi, director Viswa Karun gears up for *Dilruba*

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Director Viswa Karun is all set to make his directorial debut with *Dilruba*, starring Kiran Abbavaram and Rukshar Dhillon. The film is slated for release on March 14. In a candid conversation, Karun shared insights into his filmmaking journey, how he got his break and what inspired him to enter the world of cinema.

Karun's love for cinema began early. Coming from a family of educators, he grew up surrounded by literature. "Both my grandfathers were teachers and our house was filled with literary books. I developed a habit of reading from a young age," he shared.

Born and raised in Tadepalligudem and Bhimavaram, Karun pursued a degree in B. Pharmacy before deciding to chase his filmmaking dreams. "I always knew I wanted to be a director," he said. His defining moment came when he watched *Mugguru Monagallu*, a film in which Chiranjeevi played triple roles. "As a child, I thought there were three real Chiranjeevis! My grandfather explained that it was just the magic of cinema. That's when I decided—I want to be a filmmaker," he recalled. Karun had no indus-

try connections when he set out to become a filmmaker. "I roamed around production offices, trying to find opportunities," he admitted. His first break came when his friend Vicky asked him to write scenes for Naladamayanthi. "I wrote 22 scenes and received Rs 2,500 as my first paycheck. Unfortunately, the film never saw the light of day," he said. Determined to succeed, Karun ake arhar rch he tter ing urers Director Viswa Karun, who is making his debut with *Dilruba*, speaks about his journey, inspiration behind this film and more

took on various writing and advertising gigs. His persistence paid off when *Ranga Ranga Vaibhavanga* director Gireeshaya introduced him to veteran writer Vijayendra Prasad,

the mastermind behind Baahubali and RRR. Karun worked on the script for Jaguar, starring Nikhil Kumaraswamy (grandson of former Prime Minister Deve Gowda), under the mentorship of director Mahadev Swamy. "I spent one and a

A spent one and a half years working on Jaguar. After that, I felt ready to chart my own path," he said. He then contributed to *Chalo* (starring Naga Shaurya and Rashmika Mandanna) and even worked briefly with Ram Gopal Varma and Dil Raju's production house before landing a stint with producer DVV Danayya. It was during this time that *Dilruba* arted taking share

started taking shape. Karun's collaboration with Kiran Abbavaram happened by chance. "I met Kiran a few years ago and narrated a story to him. He liked my storytelling style but wasn't con-

vinced by the story itself. He told me to come back with a stronger script," he recalled. Determined, Karun worked on a new concept and reapproached Kiran. "When I narrated *Dilruba*, he loved it. He listened for just 40 minutes before giving his approval," Karun shared.

Despite Kiran's growing success, especially after *Ka*, the actor gave Karun complete creative freedom. "Before shooting began, we discussed everything in detail. Kiran never interfered—he just told me, 'Take your time, but make a great film," Karun said.

Discussing the film's theme, Karun explained that *Dilruba* explores emotions rarely addressed in mainstream Indian cinema. "Words like 'sorry' and 'thank you' are common in Western culture, but here, apologizing is often difficult. In *Dilruba*, the protagonist struggles with apologising for something that isn't his fault, which creates tension in his relationships," he revealed.

Another key element of the story is how the protagonist views his exgirlfriend. "Many people treat their exes as enemies, but before love, there was friendship. Even after a breakup, that friendship can still exist. Checking in on an ex shouldn't be taboo—that's something we explore in *Dilruba*," Karun said.

He also addressed comparisons to recent films with similar themes, like *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam* and *Return of the Dragon.* "Though the core idea might seem familiar, the way we present it on screen is completely fresh. *Dilruba* offers a unique per-

spective on love and relationships," he assured. With *Dilruba* set to release on March 14, Karun is ready to introduce his vision to the world. From childhood inspiration to working with industry veterans, his journey reflects passion, perseverance and an unwavering love for storvtelling.



Superstar Mahesh Babu has established himself as the undisputed leader in Tollywood's re-release trend. It all started with *Pokiri*, which became a massive success upon its re-release, inspiring other stars to follow suit.

Following Pokiri, Mahesh Babu's Okkadu, Businessman and Murari also had successful re-releases, with Murari performing like a fresh theatrical release. The trend continues with Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu, his blockbuster multi-starrer with Venkatesh, which rereleased on March 7 and has been drawing strong box-office numbers. Despite many other star re-releases, Mahesh Babu remains the most successful in this space. While Pawan Kalyan's Gabbar Singh managed decent collections, other stars like Ram Charan, Jr. NTR and Allu Arjun haven't seen the same level of impact. With Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu still performing well, Mahesh Babu solidifies his position as the reigning superstar of re-releases in Tollywood.

Despite busy schedule, Nagarjuna remains *Bigg Boss* host

There have been speculations that Nagarjuna might step down as the host of *Bigg Boss Telugu* due to his busy acting schedule. The veteran actor is currently working on multiple projects, including *Kuberaa*, which stars Dhanush and *Coolie*, where Rajinikanth plays the lead. Both films are being

◄ here have been speculations that Nagarjuna might step down as the he will continue as the host.

> "We have not approached anyone else to host the show, as Nagarjuna has already agreed to return," said the source. Nagarjuna has been the face of *Bigg Boss Telugu* since its third season and has successfully hosted five seasons so far. The



GV Prakash's debut as producer ends in disaster

G V Prakash Kumar, a well-known music composer with over 100 films to his credit, recently made his debut as a producer with *Kingston*, which was released on March 7. The film also marked his 25th appearance as

made as multilingual releases in Telugu and Tamil.

Given his packed schedule, rumors suggested that Nagarjuna might not return for the reality show. However, a source close

first season was hosted by Jr. NTR, followed by Nani in the second season. The upcoming ninth season is expected to begin in September 2025, with Nagarjuna once again taking the reins.



Sreeleela surprises Chiranjeevi on Vishwambhara sets

egastar Chiranjeevi is currently filming *Vishwambhara* at Annapurna Studios and on Saturday, he received an unexpected but pleasant surprise from actress Sreeleela.

Sreeleela, who was also shooting at the same studios for her upcoming project, learned that Chiranjeevi was on set and decid-

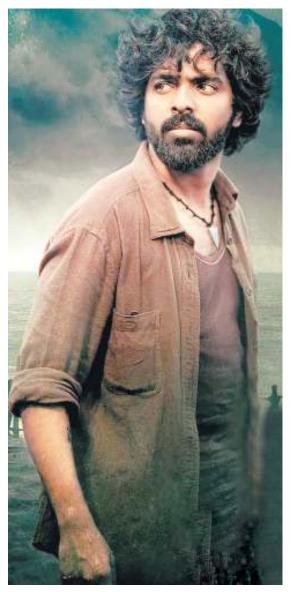
egastar Chiranjeevi is currently filming International Women's Day, *Vishwambhara* at Chiranjeevi made sure she didn't purna Studios and on leave empty-handed. ie with the megastar to commemorate the occasion. Sreeleela is set to make her Tamil and Hindi film debuts this year. She is starring in

leave empty-handed. Despite not expecting her visit, Chiranjeevi quickly arranged for a thoughtful gift. He presented Sreeleela with a goddess idol, making the moment even more special. The actress was thrilled by the gesture and later took a self-

re with the megastar to commentorate the occasion. Sreeleela is set to make her Tamil and Hindi film debuts this year. She is starring in Parasakthi, directed by Sudha Kongara, in Tamil and will be seen opposite Kartik Aaryan in a Hindi film directed by Anurag Basu. Meanwhile, Chiranjeevi is wrapping up *Vishwambhara*, which is nearing completion. an actor. Prakash had high hopes for this project, calling it one of his most ambitious films.

Kingston is a fantasy thriller with a horror backdrop, featuring extensive graphics and a significantly higher budget compared to his previous films. Marketed as a sea-adventure thriller, the makers claimed it was a concept never explored before in Indian cinema.

However, despite the hype, *Kingston* failed to make an impact from day one. The film opened to disastrous box office numbers in both Telugu and Tamil markets. Audiences outright rejected it, and even the weekend collections showed no improvement. Critics also gave the film poor reviews, citing a confusing narrative structure with excessive flashback sequences. With such a weak performance, the film is now poised to incur significant losses for its makers.



Kalyan Ram's next titled *Arjun S/o Vyjayanthi*

fter a year without releases, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram is back with an exciting new project. While he made a mark as a producer with *Devara: Part One*, starring his brother Jr. NTR, he is now returning as the lead in *Arjun S/o Vyjayanthi*.

The film, directed by Pradeep Chilukuri, will see legendary actress Vijayashanthi in a pivotal role. The makers recently unveiled the title and first-look poster, confirming that Kalyan Ram plays Vijayashanthi's son in the film.

Á major highlight is Vijayashanthi's return as a cop, reprising her iconic character name, Vyjayanthi, from *Kartavyam*—a film that released



nearly 35 years ago. Known for her powerful police roles, she will once again don the uniform, adding nostalgia and intensity to the film.

Arjun S/o Vyjayanthi is an action-packed thriller produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu, with Saiee Manjrekar as the female lead. Bollywood actor Sohail Khan has been cast as the antagonist.

The poster captures the high-octane energy of the film, depicting Kalyan Ram and Vijayashanthi walking amidst fire and metal chains in a factory-like setting. The film is currently in production, and the makers are expected to announce the release date soon.

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SPORTS 12

WPL: Mumbai Indians to face Gujarat Giants



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai

ith two games left in the league stage, Mumbai Indians will look to make the **V V** most of the opportunity and push for a first-place finish on the WPL points table, starting with the clash against in-form Gujarat Giants here on Monday.

UP Warriorz's win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 12 runs knocked the defending champions out from the race entry into the final and MI, who play backto the playoffs on Saturday, confirming the to-back matches on Monday and Tuesday,

qualification for Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Giants in the process.

But what remains is the final classification of the points table. Harmanpreet Kaur's MI, who return to the Brabourne Stadium here for the final leg of the third WPL - their home ground where they had won the inaugural edition in 2023 will look for a top-place finish.

The team that tops the points table at the end of the league round will get a direct

unsuccessful attempts, had a very rough

day when things just did not go her way.

She shot 78 and with cards of 67-76-73-

78, she finished at 10-over and in 48th

Meanwhile, Jeneath Wong, who moved

to Australia when she was ten years old and

9-over to finish 47th.

windy conditions.

will aim to go past DC who are currently at the first spot with 10 points and a Net Run Rate of 0.396.

For MI, topping the table will also help them avoid a possible fourth game in a span of six days — the Eliminator — which could test the squad to the hilt in hot and humid conditions here.

MI are currently third with 8 points and NRR of 0.267 and if they win both these matches - against GG and RCB - they can finish at the top with a maximum of 12 points.

The Giants, currently placed second 8 points and NRR of 0.334, can finish at best with 10 points provided they beat Mumbai Indians, which would place them at even keel with DC. In such a scenario, the NRR will determine how teams are placed on the points table.

The teams that finish second and third will meet in the Eliminator on Thursday, with the summit clash slated to be played on Saturday.

But it won't be an easy task to begin with for MI as the Giants have been on a roll recording three heavy wins on the trot to make it to the final three.

Not only have the Giants' batters been firing in unison, their bowlers have also found their rhythm which makes them a team to beat in this knockouts round.

A maiden appearance in the WPL playoffs would certainly inspire the Giants, who turned things around after a dismal start that had them losing three of their first four matches.

On the other hand, MI have four wins and two defeats in six outings so far which has helped them to make their third WPL playoffs. Once again, overseas stars Nat Sciver-Brunt (309 runs and 8 wickets, Hayley Matthews (181 runs and 9 wickets) and Amelia Kerr (10 wickets) have been at the forefront of their charge with skipper Harmanpreet (126 runs) in tow

For the Giants, the troika of skipper Ashleigh Gardner (235 runs, 7 wickets), Beth Mooney (224 runs) and Harleen Deol (200 runs) in the batting line-up have found strong backing from their bowlers.

West Indies' all-rounder Deandra Dottin (132 runs, 9 wickets) has not really put a foot wrong but the revelation has been India's uncapped Kashvee Gautam (9 wickets) this season. Tanuja Kanwer (7 wickets) is not too far behind.

Jeneath Wong becomes first Malaysian to win WAAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Da Nang

Caanvi Somu was the best Indian S golfer at tied 38th while compatriots Guntas Kaur Sandhu and Mannat Brar finished way behind at the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) Championship here on Sunday.

Somu, who made the cut for the second year running, shot her second straight 1-under par 70. With rounds of 72-74-70-70, she totalled 2-over for the week.

The 14-year-old debutant Sandhu, who impressed by becoming the youngest Indian to make the cut at WAAP, had a

place.

tough final round with a 7-over 78 and was now plays at Pepperdine University in college golf in the United States, became the Her aggression and some good putting

first Malaysian to win the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship. helped her pick up 14 birdies, the most She turned in a superb finish which among the Indians, but she was held back by lack of experience of playing in strong included a clutch par putt on the 16th, a perfect tee shot to within six inches on the Brar, who made the cut after three 17th and a great pitch for a 8-foot birdie

on the 18th for a round of 68. Wong, who now gets to play three Women's Majors and a host of other iconic events, totalled 18-under, and won by one shot over Korea's Soomin Oh (66), who made a great charge with a bogey-free 66, but fell short in the face of a nerveless fin-

ish from Wong. Wong finished 18th in her only previous experience in 2022, when she also had a hole in one on the second day. In the final round here in Vietnam, she almost had another one on the Par-3 17th, when her tee shot came inside six inches.

Sumin Hong (68) was sole third while another Korean Yunseo Yang (66) and Australian Jazy Roberts (66) were tied fourth.

Wellington, New Zealand.

Three Koreans finished in top-four as

The 2026 Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship will be held in



Paris Saint-Germain wins 4-1 at Rennes in Ligue 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Paris

usmane Dembélé came off the bench to score twice and help a shaky Paris Saint-Germain win 4-1 at Rennes to stay unbeaten in Ligue 1. Bradley Barcola got one goal and set up another as PSG moved 16 points

ahead of second-placed Marseille, which conceded a stoppage-time goal in a 1-0 home defeat to Lens in the late game on Saturday.

Third-placed Nice can move level on points with Marseille if it beats Lyon at home on Sunday.

PSG coach Luis Enrique rested captain Marquinhos ahead of the return leg at Liverpool in the last 16 of the Champions League next Tuesday. PSG lost the first leg 1-0 despite dominating.

Dembélé was joined on the bench by right back Achraf Hakimi, winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

PSG controlled the first half but made many mistakes after the break as Rennes attacked strongly, before Dembélé wrapped up the win late on.

Barcola put PSG ahead in the 28th minute when he placed the ball through goalkeeper Brice Samba's legs. Ludovic Blas almost equalised moments later and 17-year-old striker Mohamed Meïté headed against the crossbar.

Barcola broke down the left again and picked out striker Gonçalo Ramos in the 50th for 2-0. Three minutes later, sloppy defending allowed defender Lilian Brassier to pull one back and it galvanized Rennes, which came close to equalising several times. An awful mistake from PSG defender Lucas Beraldo saw him

pass to Meïté, giving him an easy chance from six meters. But the young striker hesitated to shoot with his weaker left foot and his tame shot with his right was blocked

Dembélé's stoppage-time brace took him this season to 20 league goals for the first time.

Canada striker Jonathan David moved onto 14 league goals — third in the Ligue 1 scoring charts — after scoring in Lille's hard-fought 1-0 win against rock-bottom Montpellier.

The win moved fifth-placed Lille level on 44 points with Monaco, which is ahead on goal difference, in the race for one of the four Champions League spots.

Marseille loses to Lens

Marseille's Mason Greenwood - second in the scoring charts with 15 goals - was named as a substitute along with Brazilian winger Luis Henrique. Both players came on at the start of the second half at Stade Velodrome.

Luis Henrique's close-range volley was expertly stopped by Lens goalkeeper Mathew Ryan in the 83rd. Moments later, he made a superb one-handed save low to his right to deny forward Neal Maupay. Marseille paid the price when Lens launched a counterattack in the fourth minute of stoppage time and Colombia defender Deiver Machado teed up Neil El Aynaoui for a fine finish as Lens moved up to eighth.

All the players in Saturday's games had "WO=MAN" written on the back of their jerseys instead of their names as part of the French league's initiative centered around International Women's Day.

Leverkusen loses to Werder Bremen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Berlin

undesliga leader Bayern Munich B squandered a two-goal lead and lost at home to struggling Bochum 3-2, but Bayer Leverkusen was unable to

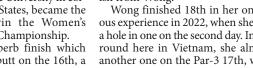
Champions League qualification. Both first defeat at home this season. needed a win to keep pace with Mainz, which won Friday to boost its qualification prospects. Wirtz injured

Leverbusen's loss - its second blow this

Raphaël Guerreiro got Bayern off to a flying start in the 14th minute, but Serge Gnabry missed a penalty shortly afterward when his effort crashed off the left post.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Srinagar ane who'd been rested arrv k

Real Kashmir FC beats Aizawl FC 2-1 in I-League





Morikawa birdies fi- al hole for a 1-shot lead at Bay Hill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Orlando

ollin Morikawa made a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole on a baked out Bay Hill course for a 5under 67, giving him a one-shot lead in the Arnold Palmer Invitational and a chance to win for the first time in 17 months.

Russell Henley on Saturday holed a long bunker shot for birdie on the opening hole. ran off four in a row to start the back nine and had a 67 to finish one shot behind. Corey Conners of Canada missed the 18th fairway, chipped out and made bogey for a 69 and was two back.

Even without much wind and occasional cloud cover, the heat and three days of sun brought a yellow shine to fairways and greens. Birdie putts from a reasonable range rolled out past the hole sometimes 8 feet or more away.

Shane Lowry, the 36-hole leader, got a taste of that at end. His tee shot on the 18th ran so far that only the collar of the rough kept it from rolling out into the water. He had a birdie chance just inside 25 feet and watched that roll 7 feet by the hole.

He managed to hole that for a 76, leaving him six shots behind. Rory McIlroy made bogey on three of his last four holes for a 73 to fall seven shots behind.

Scottie Scheffler tried to stay in range, except that birdies were hard to come by. He came up short on the 13th — a front pin and a crispy green — and went into the rocks. He managed to salvage bogey from that but he could only manage a 71 to fall eight shots back.

Collin Morikawa was at **10-under 206**

"You have to hit good shots out there," he said. "It can get you from any direction."

The final hour had Morikawa, Henley and Conners trading spots or sharing time utes," he said.

at the top. Morikawa was the only one to avoid a bogey over the final four-hole stretch. He laid up on the par-5 16th and hit lob wedge and let a 6-foot birdie trickle and swirl into the cup.

He barely touched his 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole. Every shot - trying to keep it in the fairway, on the green and putting - required respect. "Some of these pin locations, I feel I'm having to putt very defensively," Henley said.

Jason Day, who opened with a 76, put himself back in the mix with a tournament-low 64 on Friday and a wild round of 69 on Saturday. He was briefly tied for the lead until closing out the front nine with three straight bogeys. He was losing ground until making three straight birdies at the end, including a 20-footer on the 17th.

His measure of how firm it was from waiting his turn to putt. "Any time you put your putter down and you start sliding on your putter, that's when you know the greens are getting pretty slick," Day said. 'They're changing colour and you can

kind of start to see the change in color."

Michael Kim had two eagles on the back nine for a 67, joining Tony Finau (68) at 5-under 205. Kim is the only player among the top five going into the final round who is not already exempt for the Masters, and a win would take care of that.

Morikawa is a two-time major champion whose last victory was in October 2023 at the Zozo Championship in Japan. He got back with longtime coach Rick Sessinghaus, and that buttery fade that gives him such great control has been giving him more chances.

Golf Channel reminded him it had been 502 days

"Thank you for putting that in exact days. I hope you have it in hours and min-

Leverkusen on Saturday lost 2-0 at home to Werder Bremen, a team that lost its previous five games across all competitions.

The Champions League weighed heavily across the league on a day of upsets.

Borussia Dortmund lost at home to Augsburg 1-0, leading to a chorus of whistles from home fans before the "Black and Yellows" go to Lille for the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie on Wednesday. The teams drew the first leg 1-1 last Tuesday.

Also, Stuttgart was held to 2-2 by Holstein Kiel, and Wolfsburg drew with St Pauli 1-1.

Freiburg drew with Leipzig 0-0 in the late game, denting their hopes of

week after Wednesday's 3-0 defeat to Bayern in Munich in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie - was compounded by an injury to star player Florian Wirtz early in the second half. Wirtz, who had only gone on after the break as a substitute, was unable to continue after a foul from Bremen's Mitchell

Weiser in the 52nd minute. Weiser, who was booked, connected with Wirtz's right foot. Both Leverkusen and Bayern had rested players before they meet again for the second leg of their Champions League in Leverkusen on Tuesday.

Bochum wins in Munich

Bochum is celebrating its first win in Munich since 1991. It was also Bayern's ally takes Bayern's penalties. Kane hasn't missed any of his last 30.

Guerreiro made the most of his rare start with his second goal in the 28th, only for Jakov Medic to pull one back three minutes later.

The game tipped in Bochum's favor when Palhinha was sent off in the 43rd for a studs-up challenge on Georgios Masouras' ankle.

Ibrahima Sissoko equalized in the 51st and Matus Bero put the visitors in front in the 71st. It proved to be the winner, but Bochum needed goalkeeper Timo Horn at his best to grab its first away win of the season.

Leverkusen's loss means Bayern still leads by eight points with nine rounds remaining.

Barcelona's Spanish league game postponed after death of team doctor



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Barcelona

Bosasuna in the Spanish league was postponed after the death of firstteam doctor Carles Miñarro Garcia.

Fans were informed of the decision around 15 minutes before the game was scheduled to kick off at 9 pm local time (2000 GMT) in Barcelona at Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium

on Saturday. Barcelona said in a statement that it was "deeply saddened to announce the passing of first-team doctor Carles Miñarro Garcia this evening" and

extended its "heartfelt condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time." Barcelona did not immediately provide any details on the cause of death, which local media reports said was due to medical reasons.

"I can't believe it," Barcelona defender Ronald Araújo wrote on X. "Rest in peace, Doc."

The 50-year-old Miñarro Garcia joined the medical staff of Barcelona's first team last season after having pre-

viously worked with its futsal team. Osasuna said it agreed to the request by Barcelona to postpone the match. The Spanish soccer federation confirmed that

the decision was official.

Barcelona club president Joan Laporta said that Miñarro Garcia had died "suddenly" as the team gathered hours before the game. Unconfirmed local media reports said the death occurred at a team hotel.

"The players, staff and coach were all incredibly sad because he was a man loved by everyone," Laporta said.

'We thought it was best to ask for the game to be postponed." Laporta thanked Osasuna and La Liga for their understanding. Barcelona leads the league by one point over Atletico Madrid. The Osasuna game will be rescheduled.

Winning with nine

Alaves held on to upset fifth-placed Villarreal 1-0 despite having two players sent off and an injury scare to goalkeeper Antonio Sivera.

Sivera was one of the Alaves players sent off — in the 58th minute — when he fouled Ayoze Pérez during a one-onone situation that ended in a frightening collision. Sivera seemed to lose consciousness momentarily when his body went limp on the turf before he recovered and was able to walk off the field. Alaves also lost Antonio Blanco with a second yellow card during 15 minutes of second-half injury time.

Manu Sánchez scored the game's only goal in the 11th minute for Alaves' first home win since November 1.

eal Kashmir FC moved to third spot in the I-League standings with a Kin the 1-League standards battling Aizawl FC at the TRC Turf Ground here on Sunday.

Real Kashmir's fifth straight home win, and fourth in the last five overall, took their tally to 32 points in 18 matches, two behind both Churchill Brothers and Inter Kashi.

With just four matches to go, the title race is set to go down to the wire. On the other hand, Aizawl missed the chance to climb out of the relegation zone. The Reds remained in 11th place with 16 points, one behind SC Bengaluru.

Senegalese Karim Samb (31st minute) put the Snow Leopards ahead before Lalrinzuala (58th) equalised for Aizawl with his ninth goal of the season. Brazilian Paulo Cézar (77th), who came on as a substitute, scored the winning goal for the hosts, who also saved a penalty late on to grab all three points.

It was an end-to-end start with both goalkeepers making some routine saves in the early minutes.

Gradually, Real Kashmir began to boss possession and took the game to the visitors. In the 21st minute, Aizawl almost scored an own goal as Samuel Lalmuanpuia, intending to clear an Ocran Idan corner, flicked a header that went just wide of the far post.

The breakthrough for the hosts arrived through a defensive mix-up from Aizawl in the 31st minute. Karim Samb capitalised on it, burst into the box and slotted it past Md Rafique Ali Sardar to score his fifth goal of the season.

Aizawl began the second half better and found the equaliser in the 58th minute despite it coming due to a goalkeeping error. Laltlanzova cut inside from the left but shot directly at Mohd Arbaz. What should've been a routine save was spilled by the Real Kashmir custodian and Lalrinzuala, the top Indian scorer of the I-League, was on hand to tap it in from two yards out and restore parity.

The contest became more equal after that and both teams came close to scoring again but were let down by poor finishing.

For Real Kashmir, Mohammad Inam crossed for substitute Paulo Cézar, who headed it agonisingly wide from six yards. At the other end, Lalrinzuala cut it back for an unmarked Lalbiakdia inside the box, but he skied his first-time shot.

Eventually, Paulo Cezar did find the net in the 77th minute and it proved to be the match winner.