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Rajnath Singh to pay tribute at national memorial on Police Commemoration Day



New Delhi, Oct., 19: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will pay homage to the martyrs on Police Commemoration Day at the National Police Memorial on October 21, according to an official statement. On October 21, 1959, ten valiant policemen laid down their lives in an ambush laid by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh. Since then, it has been observed as Police Commemoration Day every year. "In recognition of the sacrifices made by police personnel and their paramount role in preserving national security and integrity, the Prime Minister dedicated National Police Memorial (NPM), Chanakyapuri, New Delhi to the nation on Police Commemoration Day-2018," according to the statement from the Ministry of Defence. The Memorial consists of three main components: a Central Sculpture, the 'Wall of Valour', and a Museum.

Amid RSS March Row, BJP Vs Congress On Siddaramaiah's 'Sanatani' Warning

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has sparked controversy with his comments on "Sanatani" that incorporated a warning -- stay away from the right wing and remain cautious about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or RSS, the BJP's ideological mentor, and the organisations under it. His comments come amid a row over a planned march by the RSS for which the government had not given permission. The High Court, though, allowed it, but on a different date. "Keep your company right. Associate with those who stand for society, not with those who oppose social change or with 'sanatanis'," Siddaramaiah had said after inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of Mysore University and dedicating the new Jnana Darshana building. In this context, he cited the incident in which a shoe was hurled at the Chief Justice of India. "The fact that a 'sanatani' threw a shoe at the Chief Justice of India shows 'sanatanis' and orthodox elements still exist in society. This act should be condemned not just by Dalits but by everyone," he said. The RSS, he added, had historically opposed B R Ambedkar and the Constitution he framed.



Unity Run on Oct 31 to wrap up Police Commemoration Day events

Vijayawada: The Police Commemoration Day will be observed on October 21 at the Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP) 6th Battalion in Mangalagiri, located in the Guntur district. This event will honour the police martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapati Anitha, and several senior officials are expected to attend the solemn ceremony. As part of the official tribute, the Chief Minister and the Home Minister will receive the Guard of Honour from various police contingents. On this occasion, police officials will read out the roll of honour, comprising the names of police personnel who lost their lives during the past year while performing duties across different states and in central paramilitary forces. The sacrifices and services rendered by the martyrs will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude. In connection with the commemoration, on Saturday, Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta announced a series of programmes to be held across the State from October 22 to 30, aimed at promoting awareness about the duties and sacrifices of the police force. A Unity Run will be conducted on October 31 to mark the conclusion of the observance. The DGP stated that the Police Department has sanctioned Rs 10 crore towards the construction of 'Vihar', a welfare complex for police personnel, and 'Vihari', an exclusive facility for women staff, in addition to a modern mess building for subordinate officers.

CM reviews on upcoming investment summit in Visakhapatnam



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 19 : In a bid to boost investments in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu convened a video conference meeting here on Sunday at the AP Secretariat to discuss the upcoming CII Investment Summit in Amaravati-Visakhapatnam. The meeting was attended by Industries Minister TG Bharat, senior officials from the Industries Department, the

Economic Development Board, and CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee, along with CII representatives and officials from various departments. Scheduled for November 14 and 15 in Visakhapatnam, the investment summit aims to attract industrialists and promote the state's investment potential. The coalition government has previously conducted roadshows in cities both across India and

internationally to garner interest in the summit. During the meeting, Chief Minister Naidu urged that the event be organised in a manner akin to the renowned Davos summit. He emphasised the importance of inviting Chief Ministers and policymakers from other states to participate, allowing for discussions not only on investment opportunities but also on knowledge sharing, logistics, technology, and various other sectors.

NTR District Collector Urges Vigilance Amid Rains

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Oct., 19 : NTR District Collector Lakshmi has urged field officials to remain vigilant in response to the recent rains. Following a review meeting on Sunday, she announced the establishment of a helpline number, 91549 70454, at the Collectorate. Collector Lakshmi instructed that control rooms be activated at the division level and emphasised the importance of monitoring the water levels of the Krishna, Budameru, and Munneru rivers. Residents in river basin areas and low-lying regions were advised to stay alert. To ensure public safety, special teams comprising officials from various departments have been formed. Residents are strongly advised against crossing rivers and streams or engaging in swimming activities during this time.

Oilseed initiative brings new opportunities for SC farmers in Kurnool



From Our Staff Reporter Kurnool, Oct., 19 : A special initiative to boost the income of Scheduled Caste farmers through oilseed cultivation was launched at ICAR-Krishna Vigyan Kendra, Banavasi. The programme, titled "Empowerment of Scheduled Caste Farmers through Oilseed Production, Value Addition & Inputs Distribution," was jointly organized by ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR), Hyderabad, and ICAR-KVK, Banavasi (ANGRAU) under the SCSIP initiative of ICAR-IIOR. As part of the programme, safflower seeds and tarpaulins were distrib-

uted to selected SC/ST farmers to promote sustainable oilseed production. Experts including Dr. R. D. Prasad and Dr. M. Suresh from ICAR-IIOR highlighted the adaptability of safflower to dryland conditions and its profitability for small and marginal farmers. They urged farmers to adopt scientific cultivation techniques for better yields and income. Addressing the participants, Mohammad Khadri, ADA, Yemmiganur, spoke on the benefits of crop diversification through oilseeds, which enhance soil fertility and secure farm incomes. Dr. K. Raghavendra Chowdary,

Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Banavasi, detailed the potential of the improved safflower variety ISF-764, known for its early maturity and high oil content, making it ideal for dryland regions. The event saw enthusiastic participation from farmers across nearby villages. Scientists and officials from ICAR-IIOR and ICAR-KVK coordinated the programme, reaffirming their commitment to farmer empowerment and agricultural diversification. Farmers expressed appreciation for the support extended through the SCSIP initiative, calling it a timely boost to their farming prospects.

Ayodhya Sets Record By Lighting Up 26 Lakh Diyas Ahead Of Diwali

Ayodhya: Diwali saw a record-shattering spectacle once again during Deepotsav festivities on the banks of the Saryu River in Ayodhya. 26.17 lakh diyas were lit at the same place while 2,128 people performed 'aarti' together, setting two new world records. Representatives from the Guinness Book of World Records verified the count of the diyas using drones and made the announcement, the Uttar Pradesh government said. The festivities began at 5 pm and continued until 8 pm. This year's celebrations included a grand 'aarti' ceremony, featuring the record 2,128 performers, a light and

sound show, and a fireworks display. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath greeted saints and mahants in Ayodhya ahead of the celebrations. Yogi Adityanath performed the 'aarti' of artists dressed as Lord Ram, Mata Sita, and Lakshman, and pulled the symbolic chariot, or 'Pushpak Vimaan,' carrying the artists. Divisional Commissioner of Ayodhya, Rajesh Kumar told, "Our preparations are complete. The entire rehearsal for the procession took place yesterday evening. 33,000 volunteers are engaged in lighting diyas during the festival of lights. They are all present here, preparing



the lamps in the small sectors they have been assigned. Police forces and magistrates are already deployed." "Artists from five countries have come to perform RamLila, which will continue at night," said Kumar. Volunteers from several colleges and universities attempted to break the previ-

ous year's record by lighting over 26 lakh diyas. A total of 26,17,215 diyas illuminated Ram Ki Paidi and 56 ghats. The UP Department of Tourism, the Ayodhya administration, and the Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University jointly received the Guinness award for the largest display of oil lamps.

Akhilesh Yadav Asks "Why Spend On Lamps" During Diwali, BJP Responds

Patna: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday questioned the government's spending on Diwali celebrations and drew parallels with Christmas celebrations across the world, sparking a political row. He also suggested India should "learn" from how cities celebrate Christmas. "I

will give one suggestion in the name of Lord Ram. Across the world, all cities get illuminated during Christmas, and that goes on for months. We should learn from them. Why do we have to spend money on lamps and candles and put so much thought into it?" Yadav said while addressing a gathering.



CM's key order to Home Minister on Lakshmi Naidu murder case

From Our Staff Reporter Nellore / Amaravati, Oct., 19 : It is known that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is serious about the murder case of Tirumala Shetty Lakshmi Naidu of Darakanipadu. Chandrababu has asked Home Minister Anita to submit a report on the murder case of Tirumala Shetty Lakshmi Naidu. The CM has ordered the ministers to go to Darakanipadu with the alliance leaders and review

the incident. On Chandrababu's orders, Ministers P. Narayana and Vangalapati Anita went to Darakanipadu here on Sunday. On October 2, on the occasion of Dussehra, a person named Harishchandra Prasad hit Tirumala Shetty Lakshmi Naidu (Lakshmi Naidu Case) with a car and killed her. The police, who have already arrested the accused in this murder case, have sent them to remand. The government (CM Chandrababu Naidu) has decided to

conduct a comprehensive investigation after the political turmoil over the incident. CM Chandrababu has instructed the leaders of the three parties of the alliance to visit the victim's family. Ministers Narayana and Anitha are visiting Nellore on his orders. Ministers and leaders will submit a comprehensive report to CM Chandrababu (Chandrababu orders) on the reasons for the murder, police investigation, steps taken, and assistance to the victim's family.

Request to CM to give pension to senior (veteran) journalists



Vijayawada, Oct., 19 : AP veteran journalists union leaders Kakarla Venkataratnam, M.V. Rama Rao, Shiradasu Nagarjuna, G. Chandrasekhar, G. Rama Rao met Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the TDP national office NTR Bhavan in Mangalagiri (Near Vijayawada) on Saturday and asked him to introduce a pension scheme for retired journalists. A memorandum has been submitted to him. They said that there are not more than

500 people in the state who have 20 years of experience as a journalist and have completed 58 years. The government will not have a big financial burden due to this scheme. And also said that this scheme is being implemented in 19 states of the country. A memorandum containing the condition of the retired journalists, the details given in other states and their Sr.journalists union list was handed over to the CM. Chief Minister Chandrababu responded positively.

EDITORIAL

Constitutional increase
in reservations

The BC reservation issue in Telangana has become the focus of political and legal debates. Before the 2023 assembly elections, the Congress party had promised 42% reservation for BCs in local elections through the 'Kamareddy BC Declaration'. After coming to power, the bill was passed in the assembly and sent to the governor, which then went to the president. Months passed, but it did not get approved, and the High Court ordered local elections to be held by September 30. In this context, the Congress government issued GO No. 9. It intended to implement 42% reservation in village and ward level elections. The story came to the fore again when some approached the High Court claiming that this was brought unconstitutional. The Telangana High Court, after hearing the arguments on behalf of the government and the petitioner, granted an interim stay on this GO. With this, the election notification was broken. This verdict left the Congress government in a bind.

This stay has been a topic of discussion in political and legal circles. Many had anticipated this stay in advance. Some leaders have warned local candidates not to spend money before the elections. This issue is not limited to the stay alone. It is linked to India's reservation policy, constitutional challenges and political changes. In particular, the Supreme Court in the 1992 Indra Sawhney case decided that the 'triple test' for reservation - social and educational backwardness, lack of proper representation, and reservations being subject to fifty percent, etc. The 2024 Telangana Caste Census survey data is being criticized for highlighting the empirical flaws required for this test. According to the 2011 Census, the population of Telangana is 3.50 crore. According to the 2014 Comprehensive Family Survey conducted by the previous government after the formation of Telangana state, it is 3.63 crore. But the total population in the 2024 Caste Census was recorded as 3.70 crore. The population increased by 1.3 million (an average of 4.33 million per year) in the three years between 2011 and 2014.

There are allegations from the BC community that while there are about 120 castes in BC, only four or five castes are benefiting from reservation. The slogan of "We are all we have" is right. But, there are more than a hundred castes in the state that do not even constitute one percent of all the communities. And the question arises as to how they will be allocated reservation. There are many instances where attempts have been made to increase reservation across the country that have been subject to judicial review in the courts. This is where the question arises as to how 69% reservation was possible in Tamil Nadu. In 1993, the Jayalalithaa government brought the Tamil Nadu BC, SC, ST (Reservation of Seats) Bill-1993 and pressured the Centre to include it in the 9th Schedule. Following the victory of the Congress-AIADMK alliance in the 1991 Lok Sabha elections and the need for AIADMK support for the PV Narasimha Rao government's majority, this subject was included in the 9th Schedule in 1994 through the 76th Constitutional Amendment.

This schedule, which was introduced for land reforms, provides protection from judicial review. In the 2007 IR Coelho case, the Supreme Court ruled that even the laws included in the 9th schedule are not beyond judicial review if they are not in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Constitution. The BJP is in power at the Centre and the Congress party in the state. The BJP openly says that it is against religious reservation and will support the bill if Muslims are included in BC. It is regrettable that political parties are seen promoting that if the reservation is increased, it is because of us, but they are not aware of the need to provide BC reservations in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Constitution. No one has the right not to go to court. If reservations are implemented in accordance with the Constitution, then the courts will also stand on the side of justice no matter how many people go to court.

The Tamil Nadu model may not be possible in Telangana. Will the ruling Congress party go ahead with the old GOs and re-notification? Or will it fight in the Supreme Court or will it go to the people and say that they have tried their best and allocate 42% seats to BCs as a party? It remains to be seen. The Centre will start caste census along with population census in 2026. It remains to be seen how much impact its data will have on reservations. Telangana caste census survey errors, inclusion of Muslims and minorities in BCs, lack of BC sub-categorization, etc. are challenges to the triple test. If the local elections that crores of voters are waiting for are delayed, rural development and central grants will also be affected. If BCs do not have balanced representation, social inequalities will increase. Political parties should choose constitutional and legal means with strong empirical data and sub-categorization rather than claiming that they are the ones who will benefit the poor and weaker sections.

India, Taliban And Pakistan
: An Uneasy Geostrategic Dance

The four-day visit of Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to New Delhi widely represents the highest-level engagement between the Taliban and India since the group took over Kabul in August 2021. For New Delhi, the gradual building of ties with the Taliban has been essentially driven by pragmatic diplomacy, but, more significantly, by a calculated effort to reclaim strategic space in Afghanistan. Since the Cold War, Afghanistan served as a critical third space for the India-Pakistan rivalry, with both countries vying for strategic depth in the region. In that context, New Delhi extended support to Western-backed governments in Kabul, while Islamabad cultivated the Taliban insurgency.

India's engagements with the Taliban could be viewed through a lens of deliberately calibrated stages. In 2022, New Delhi deployed a "technical team" to Kabul after closing down its diplomatic missions after a year of closing down its embassies and consulates. This limited presence was tasked with overseeing humanitarian aid projects. By late 2023, India took a formal step by permitting the Taliban to appoint an official envoy, and subsequently opened diplomatic consulates in Mumbai and Hyderabad. Over the years, Indian officials also increased direct interactions with the Taliban in third locations. Earlier in January, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai. Now, with Muttaqi's visit, India announced its decision to upgrade its technical mission in Kabul to a full-fledged embassy, thus informing New Delhi's shift from cautious backchannel talks to a more structured bilateral relationship. On October 10, India-Taliban issued a joint statement gesturing a shift from value-based, pro-republic position to an interest-based engagement, in comparison to

previously issued statements under Western-backed governments. Firstly, by engaging directly with the Taliban's interim foreign minister, New Delhi can be seen conferring a substantial degree of de-facto recognition to the current regime. At its core, the agreement remains consistently focused on humanitarian guarantees, economic engagements, and security assurance that Afghan soil will not be used for anti-India activities by terror groups. It further reaffirms India's commitment to development aid and indicates new economic investments, particularly in Afghanistan's mining sector. The statement essentially illustrates India's prioritisation of economic investments and national security over ideological protestation to the Taliban's form of governance.

A stable and friendly Afghanistan for India is crucial for its "Connect Central Asia" policy, aimed at accessing the energy-rich Central Asian states. The development of the Chabahar Port in Iran, a project heavily invested by India, remains a key component of this strategy, which provides a transit route to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan. In that light, the recent India-Taliban engagement carries a message that New Delhi is back in the Afghan game, and the rules are not written by Pakistan. However, in contrast to the previous agreements between India and the former Afghan Republic were framed within the language of a "Strategic Partnership", centered on shared democratic values, and support for pluralistic society. The absence of reference to women's rights, the protection of minority communities, and inclusive governance in the latest joint statement - issues that were central to India's previous positions - informs how geopolitical pragmatism has outweighed value-based diplomacy in the new phase of India-Afghanistan bilateral rela-



tionship.

The Pakistan Angle

The bilateral meeting sends a message to Pakistan from both sides. It demonstrates the Taliban's effort to diversify foreign policy and reduce historic dependence on Pakistan. Meanwhile, India sees this as an opening to build trust with the Taliban, a group whose hardline factions have previously been accused of targeting Indian nationals and assets in Afghanistan. More specifically, anti-India attacks in Afghanistan have often been attributed to the Haqqani Network, a faction closely aligned with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). In that light, India's engagement with Muttaqi, a figure from the Taliban's Doha political office, likely facilitated the establishment of diplomatic channels, with the faction being perceived as relatively moderate. The most crucial element of the joint statement referring to the Taliban's "strong condemnation" of the attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in April reaffirms the group's endorsement of India's territorial integrity while directly challenging Islamabad's Kashmir narrative. Geographically and strategically, amicable ties between Afghanistan and India have long been a source of

unease for Pakistan. Islamabad's support for the Taliban was meant to ensure a friendly regime in Afghanistan that would prevent strategic encirclement. An India-friendly Taliban is therefore expected to return these anxieties. More significantly, these developments coincide with consistent hostility in Taliban-Pakistan ties in recent years, evidenced by the military clashes that erupted across the disputed Durand Line on October 11, resulting in casualties on both sides. These tensions stem from the Taliban's reluctance to curtail the activities of its ideological ally, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a group responsible for near-daily terror attacks in Pakistan's tribal belt. While these border clashes coincide with the Taliban's India visit, we must refrain from reading much into it considering that the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has previously conducted aerial strikes against alleged TTP bases in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime. Pakistan's apprehensions are also tied to the sensitive Pashtun belt, as close ties between Taliban and India could strengthen the Pashtun nationalism and dilute Pakistan's narrative of solidarity with Afghanistan. That said, both Afghanistan and Pakistan

will want to prevent a military escalation, particularly considering the Taliban's limited conventional military capacity and resources. However, Pakistan's internal security challenges are expected to persist in the foreseeable future, driven by the continued activities of Islamist groups and Baloch outfits in the peripheral provinces.

Regional Implications

The timing of the visit coincides with tectonic movements across the region. Pakistan's ties have improved with Bangladesh under the interim chief Muhammad Yunus' leadership following the ouster of India-friendly Sheikh Hasina. At present, Islamabad's standing in the global community got a fresh momentum with its defense agreement with longstanding partner Saudi Arabia, and closeness to the Donald Trump-led US administration. Meanwhile, India now views Afghanistan as a vector for connectivity and opening trade routes into Central Asia, as a counterbalance to Beijing-funded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) routes. Engagements like these remain a part of the slow normalisation process, however, recognition of the Taliban administration by New Delhi in the formal sense remains far off.

Google's AI Hub: Visakhapatnam's
Jackpot, South India's Heartburn

When Google announced that Visakhapatnam would be home to its \$15 billion project to build the company's first artificial intelligence hub in India, the news landed like a thunderclap across the southern states. For Andhra Pradesh, it was nothing short of a jackpot — a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rewrite the state's economic and technological future. But elsewhere, the announcement was received with clenched teeth and forced smiles. The jubilation in Visakhapatnam was matched by muted agony in Chennai, Bengaluru, and Thiruvananthapuram — each of which had been quietly confident that they, not a coastal city known more for its beaches than its bandwidth, would be Google's chosen one.

The symbolism of the selection has not been lost on anyone. Visakhapatnam, or Vizag as it is fondly called, is now set to become India's newest tech lodestar, a place that will host one of the world's most ambitious AI research and development centres. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has wasted no time calling it a "vote of confidence" in the state's digital readiness, even describing it as the 'New India's Silicon Shore'. His government, which has long been seeking to diversify Andhra's industrial portfolio beyond agriculture and port-based industries, suddenly has a global

validation it could not have bought with any amount of lobbying.

But success stories have their shadow sides, and in this case, the shadows fall heavily on Google's neighbouring states. For Karnataka, which has long prided itself as the undisputed technology capital of India, the loss was unexpected and painful. Bengaluru has been the natural home of all things digital for decades. It has hosted the crème de la crème of global IT giants, from Microsoft and Amazon to Meta and IBM. Yet, this time, the seemingly obvious choice lost out. The murmurs in the city's business circles suggest that congestion, rising costs, and infrastructural fatigue may have tilted the balance against Bengaluru. Google, known for its penchant for planned expansion and work-life balance, might have preferred Vizag's relative quiet and expansive geography over Bengaluru's chaos.

Tamil Nadu, however, has taken the blow more personally. The irony is difficult to miss: Sundar Pichai, the man at the helm of Google, is a Tamil by birth, and yet his company chose to set up its most high-profile Indian investment in Andhra Pradesh, bypassing his home state. Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu have weaponised this irony with glee. They accuse Chief Minister M. K. Stalin of failing to

make Tamil Nadu competitive enough to attract marquee investments, even from a son of the soil. In political rallies and social media exchanges, the refrain has been relentless: "Even Pichai ditched his own land." The narrative has touched a raw nerve in a state that prides itself on its legacy of education, science, and entrepreneurship.

Stalin has tried to soften the blow by citing the ongoing expansion of Foxconn's manufacturing operations in Tamil Nadu as evidence that the state remains a major investment magnet. He reminded critics that the Taiwanese giant's investment of Rs 15,000 crore in Tamil Nadu is no small feat. But Foxconn's own clarification that the investment is not new — only an extension of earlier commitments — has punctured the argument. The perception, as always in politics, has mattered more than the fact. Tamil Nadu finds itself caught between pride and envy: proud that one of its sons heads Google, envious that his biggest Indian investment has landed just across the border.

Kerala's reaction has been subtler but no less telling. The state government, which rarely misses a chance to highlight its achievements as an emerging knowledge economy, finds itself nursing a quiet disappointment. The irony here is sharper still: Thomas Kurian, the CEO overseeing the Google AI hub

project, is a Malayali. For years, Kerala has positioned itself as the thinking state — literate, skilled, globally connected. The government's digital evangelism, its startup missions, and its rhetoric of 'brain over brawn' had created a belief that it was only a matter of time before the big tech boys came calling. But when they finally did, they went to a different door. Vizag's triumph is, by extension, Thiruvananthapuram's embarrassment.

The choice of Visakhapatnam thus tells a bigger story about India's tech geography being redrawn. For too long, India's digital power map has been dominated by a few southern cities — Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and to some extent Pune. Google's decision signals a possible decentralisation of that concentration. It suggests that global investors may now be looking beyond traditional clusters, seeking new frontiers where infrastructure can be built afresh rather than wrestled out of crowded megacities. For Andhra Pradesh, it is a validation of the government's patient efforts to rebuild its post-bifurcation identity around technology and sustainability. The creation of a tech corridor anchored in Vizag may well become a model for second-tier cities aspiring to leapfrog into

global relevance.

Industry watchers note that the choice of Vizag aligns with Google's new-age expansion philosophy — one that prioritises environmental sustainability, digital inclusiveness, and social infrastructure over mere brand geography. The company reportedly found in Vizag a rare mix of coastal connectivity, renewable energy availability, and untapped urban potential. It is also said that the state government offered an unusually attractive policy package, including long-term land leases, tax incentives, and custom-built digital infrastructure support. In contrast, older metros like Bengaluru and Chennai, already burdened by overpopulation and policy fatigue, might not have matched that enthusiasm.

There is also a subtle political subtext. The Modi government at the Centre has been pushing aggressively for development beyond traditional metros as part of its "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision. The selection of Vizag fits neatly into that narrative — a story of tier-two India rising to global prominence. Though Google insists its decision was purely based on merit and logistical factors, political optics are rarely irrelevant in such mega investments. Andhra's ability to align its pitch with the national narrative of regional empowerment may have helped it clinch the deal.

An Extramarital Affair, Pregnancy, Then Double Murder In Delhi

New Delhi: A dispute over an extramarital affair has left two people dead in central Delhi. In the horrifying incident, a pregnant woman was stabbed to death by her lover in public view in the Ram Nagar area, while her husband managed to kill him. Shalini, a 22-year-old homemaker, was a mother to two daughters. Her husband, Akash, 23, an e-rickshaw driver, is now battling for life in the hospital. Aashu alias Shailendra, 34, was a local criminal who had an affair with Shalini. Aashu claimed that Shalini was pregnant with his child and was angry with her decision to live with her husband, police said. The attack occurred late last night when Akash and Shalini had gone to meet the latter's mother at Qutub Road. Aashu appeared out of the blue and attacked Akash with a knife, but he dodged the blow. He then noticed Shalini in an e-rickshaw and stabbed her



multiple times, police said. When Akash tried to save his wife, he was stabbed too, but he managed to overpower Aashu. He snatched his knife and stabbed him to death. Shalini's brother, Rohit, immediately took her and her husband to the hospital while the police took Aashu to the same facility. At the hospital, Shalini and Ashu were declared dead. Akash suffered multiple stab injuries while saving his wife, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan said in a statement. The incident has triggered panic in the area. The police have registered a murder and attempted murder case based on a statement by Shalini's mother, Sheila. The bodies have been sent for postmortem. Sheila said Shalini and Akash's relationship had strained a few years ago, and that's when she had an affair with Aashu. They even lived together for some time. Shalini and Akash reconciled later and started living together with their two children. This left Aashu enraged. He claimed to be the father of Shalini's unborn child, police said. Sources suggest Shalini insisted that Akash was the father, and that led Aashu to plan the attack on her and her husband.

"Break Daughter's Legs If She Visits Non-Hindus": Pragya Thakur's Shocker

Patna: A controversy has erupted over former Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur's remarks that parents should refrain their daughters from visiting the houses of "non-Hindus" and "break their legs" if they disobey, with the Congress accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of spreading "hatred". Speaking at a religious event in Bhopal earlier this month, Thakur called on parents to physically punish their daughters if they acted against their (parents') wishes. "Strengthen your mind, and make it so strong that if our daughter does not obey us, if she goes to a non-Hindu's house, leave no stone unturned in considering

breaking her legs. Those who do not obey the values and do not listen to their parents must be punished. If you have to beat your children for their well-being, do not step back. When parents carry out such acts, it is for the good future of their children; they do not let them die by being cut into pieces," she said in a video uploaded on Facebook that has since gone viral. "Such girls who do not follow values, do not listen to parents, do not respect elders, and are ready to run away from home... be more vigilant towards them. Don't let them leave your homes, stop them either by beat-



ing, explaining to them, calming them down, loving or scolding them," she added. Thakur was speaking at a religious ceremony when she made the remarks. Hitting out at Thakur, Congress spokesperson Bhupendra Gupta said: "Why is there so much noise and hatred being spread when only seven cases (of alleged religious conversions) in Madhya Pradesh have resulted in convictions?"

No Commercial Activities In Playgrounds Of Schools, Colleges: UP Court

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has held that immovable properties belonging to educational institutions in Uttar Pradesh including playgrounds cannot be allowed to be used for any commercial activities like exhibitions or other kind of fairs or as places for selling goods. A bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Bhansali and Justice Kshitij Shailendra directed the state government to issue an apparent circular to this effect directing the district administra-

tions, police administrations and educational institutions at all levels in consonance with the directions of the court within a period of one month. The judgement was passed during hearing of a PIL filed by a person named Girja Shankar seeking court direction to the state authorities to stop commercial mela being organised within the premises of the government-aided Brahmanand Degree College at Rath in Hamirpur district. The petition said that in the college affiliated

to Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, a commercial mela is being organised since last year in the entire open ground at the instance of the principal of the institution. After going through the arguments and material on record the court observed, "Educational institutions are meant for imparting education only and the land and building belonging to such institutions which include their playgrounds also cannot be permitted to be used for holding any commercial activity

under any name, like exhibitions, trade fairs or other kinds of fairs, or sale of one or the other articles and goods etc." "Infrastructure of educational institutions is meant to be utilised strictly for the purposes of educational activities and those associated and linked thereto like holding of sports events, cultural, inter-schools competitions and such other identical curricular activities organised by the institution itself and for no other purpose," the court added.

"FORGOTTEN THEIR ROOTS" - DK Shivakumar On Kiran Majumdar-Shaw's Criticisms

Bengaluru: There seems to be no end in sight to the online standoff between Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw over the crumbling infrastructure in Bengaluru, as the Congress leader on Sunday took a swipe at the Biocon chief for "forgetting" her "root". Shivakumar said he is open to criticism but some "people are doing it too much", and he will remain unfazed by such things. His remarks came a day after he asked Shaw to develop roads if she wanted to. The developments came at a time when the state government has come under criticism over the "poor state of roads and traffic issues in the city", with industry veterans like former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai and Shaw repeatedly openly asking for intervention. "Those who have started businesses here, have grown. After growing big, they have forgotten from what stage they have grown into what stage now. If you forget the root, you will not get the fruit. Some have forgotten and are criticising by tweeting," he told a gathering in the state capital. "I welcome all the criticism, no problem. Criticism increases the value of democracy. But some are doing it too much and these things won't bother me. People have given us an opportunity and we want to serve them," he added. Home Minister G Parameshwara also raised concerns over the impact of public statements on the city's infrastructure. "We are not saying don't criticise, because they (industry leaders) have a role in alerting us. But they



have to think about what will be its impact. What message will Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's statement send in business and industry circles, that's our concern," he said, adding that the government is working on fixing the issues. Earlier this week, Shaw reignited the debate over Bengaluru's infrastructure by sharing a visiting overseas executive's critical comments on the city's roads and garbage. Her remarks prompted Shivakumar, who is also the minister in charge of Bengaluru development, to say the city deserves collective effort, not constant criticism. On Saturday, Shivakumar said Shaw can build roads if she wishes to. "If she wants to develop them, let her do it. If she comes and asks, we will give her the roads," he said. He also alleged a "personal agenda" and said such criticisms by prominent figures such as Shaw were not raised during the previous Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government. "They have this personal agenda... I wanted to ask them openly that at the time of the BJP agenda, why did they not open

their mouth? It is their personal agenda... we will tackle all this," he told. Shaw refuted the allegations on Sunday. In a post on X, she said: "Not true. Both Mohandas Pai and I have criticised deteriorating infrastructure in our city to previous BJP and JDS Governments. Our agenda is clear - clean up and restore roads." Hours later, Shaw lauded Shivakumar over the state government's efforts to construct a flyover to ease traffic along the Koramangala-Ejipura stretch. "Visited the construction site of the Ejipura Flyover and I am happy to see that full-scale work has commenced. This elevated corridor is designed to ease traffic congestion along the Koramangala-Ejipura stretch. We are committed to completing the project by June 2026 and ensuring this vital link serves our residents without further delay," the Deputy Chief Minister posted on X. Shaw called it a "positive development". "This is a positive development which will greatly relieve traffic congestion and has been 10 years in the making which previ-

ous BJP n JDS governments did not prioritise. Putting this on a priority track is a good move," she said, tagging Shivakumar. The tussle between the two sides broke out when Shaw on October 13 raised concerns over "poor roads" and the amount of garbage in Bengaluru. In a post on X, Shaw wrote: "I had an overseas business visitor to Biocon Park who said, 'Why are the roads so bad and why is there so much garbage around? Doesn't the Govt want to support investment? I have just come from China and can't understand why India can't get its act together especially when the winds are favourable?'" In response to the criticism, Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge told that the visitor may not have seen the complete picture, adding that infrastructure work in the city is progressing rapidly. "I am not sure which part of Bengaluru they have seen. As I have said, the work is in progress. We are growing at a rapid pace, and whatever is necessary for the infrastructure improvement, we are doing it," Kharge said.

A Owaisi's AIMIM Releases List Of 25 Candidates For Bihar Assembly Polls

Patna: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) released its list of 25 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. The polling for the 243-seat Assembly is scheduled to be held on November 6 and November 11, with counting set for November 14. In a post on X, AIMIM wrote, "The names of AIMIM candidates for the Bihar Assembly elections are something like this. Inshallah, we hope to become the voice of the most oppressed people in Bihar. This list has been prepared by the AIMIM Bihar unit, and in this regard, consultation has also been done with the party's national leadership." The AIMIM Bihar unit approved 25 candidates, including Mohammed Kaif for Siwan, Anas Salam for Gopalganj AC, Advocate Shams Aagaz for Kishanganj, Rashid Khalil Ansari for

Madhubani, Mohammad Manzoor Alam for Araria, among others, for the Bihar Assembly elections. Meanwhile, on Saturday, the Congress released its second list for the Bihar assembly elections, announcing candidates for Narkatiaganj, Kishanganj, Kasba, Purnia and Gaya Town assembly seats. The party has fielded Shaswat Kedar Pandey from Narkatiaganj and Qamrul Hoda from Kishanganj. Irfan Alam, Jitender Yadav and Mohan Shrivastava will contest elections from Kasba, Purnia and Gaya Town constituencies, respectively. Earlier, on October 17, the Congress party released its first list of 48 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Legislative Assembly elections. Out of the total 48 candidates, 24 will be contested in the first phase of elections and 24 in the second phase. The party said that



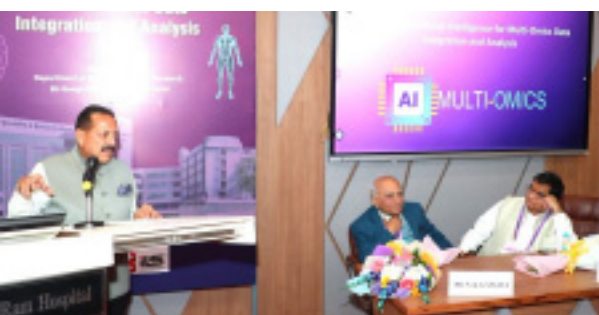
the remaining names will be announced in due course. The Mahagathbandhan, comprising the RJD and Congress, was unable to finalise a seat-sharing pact for the first phase of the Bihar polls, as the nomination process concluded on Friday. The constituents of Mahagathbandhan are engaged in a "friendly fight" on some seats. In these elec-

tions, the NDA will be up against the INDIA bloc, led by Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD, the Congress, the CPI (ML) led by Deepankar Bhattacharya, the CPI, the CPM, and Mukesh Sahani's Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP). This time, Bihar will also see the entry of a new player in the form of Prashant Kishor and his party Jan Suraaaj.

India's 1st Indigenous Antibiotic Is Effective Against Respiratory Infections: Minister

New Delhi: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Saturday said India has developed its first indigenously discovered antibiotic 'Nafithromycin', which is effective against resistant respiratory infections, particularly useful for cancer patients and poorly controlled diabetics. According to the minister, the antibiotic is the first molecule entirely conceptualised, developed and clinically validated in India, representing a significant leap toward self-reliance in the pharmaceutical sector. Dr Singh also men-

tioned that India has already sequenced over 10,000 human genomes and aims to scale this up to one million. The gene therapy trial, he added, recorded a 60-70 per cent correction rate with zero bleeding episodes, representing a milestone in India's medical research landscape. The findings have been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, underscoring India's growing leadership in advanced biomedical innovation. Dr Singh said the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) is a major step in this direction, with a total outlay of Rs 50,000 crore



over five years, of which Rs 36,000 crore will come from non-government sources. Inaugurating the three-day Medical Workshop on "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Multi-Omics Data Integration and Analysis", Dr. Singh said that India must develop a

self-sustainable ecosystem to drive its scientific and research growth. He stated that most nations that have achieved global recognition in science and innovation have done so through self-sustaining, innovation-driven models with extensive engagement of the private sector.

Tamil Actor Opens Up About 119 Stitches from Real Stunts

Actor Vishal prefers doing stunts in films on his own rather than relying on stunt doubles. Speaking in a recent podcast, he revealed that he has a total of 119 stitches all over his body for not using body doubles in his films.

Vishal recently revealed his new podcast, titled “Yours Frankly Vishal”. In the promo of this podcast, he spoke about a lot of things about his career and personal life. One of them was about his rule of not using any body doubles in his films. Vishal says that he hasn’t used a body double in his career so far, and as a result, there are one hundred and nineteen stitches all over his body. This revelation has shocked many, and netizens are lauding Vishal for his commitment and dedication towards films. Vishal recently completed 21 years of his film career, and on the special occasion, he penned a note thanking his fans and followers for all the support. On the



personal front, the actor was recently engaged to actress Sai Dhansika, and they are expected to tie the knot soon. On the film front, Vishal was last

seen in Madha Gadha Raja. He will be next seen in Magudham, which is slated for release in 2026. He is also directing this project.

Kantara Collections: Rishab Shetty Wins Big at Home

Rishab Shetty’s Kantara: Chapter 1, which stormed past the 700 Crores mark worldwide, has created history at the Kannada box office by becoming the first film to breach into the coveted 200 Crore club in Karnataka. The film has already become the highest grossing film in the state by surpassing the lifetime collections of its predecessor Kantara which grossed Rs.183 Crores.

On its 18th day, the folklore drama achieved another big milestone with its total collections touching the unprecedented 200 Crores mark. Kantara:Chapter 1 released amid huge expectations on October 2nd. Due to glowing word of mouth and positive reviews, the prequel saw impressive footfalls in the opening weekend and continued its strong run on weekdays as well.

The film registered solid occupancies in Hindi circuits and South India in the first two weeks. While the global success has reaffirmed the hype surrounding the Kantara franchise, the box office achievement in Karnataka will be termed as huge success for Rishab Shetty at



home. While previous pan-India hits like KGF 2 and Kantara failed to set up the 200 Crore club back home, the prequel has finally ended the long wait for the Kannada trade circles. Rishab Shetty has once again proved his mettle as a director and an

actor with this attempt.

His mind-blowing performance in different avatars and stunning narration made the film a blockbuster. Kantara Chapter 1 also became the second Kannada film after KGF 2 to collect more than 100 Crores in overseas.

Aaryan trailer: A cat-and-mouse thriller

Aaryan, starring Tamil actor Vishnu Vishal and directed by Praveen K, has unveiled its trailer. Produced by Vishnu Vishal Studio in collaboration with Shubhra and Aryan Ramesh, the film follows an investigative officer who previously solved the infamous Kodaikanal serial killings. He is now up against a far more dangerous adversary: a psychopathic killer who toys with the police by publicly announcing his next victim exactly one hour before the murder. What unfolds is a frantic race against time as fear engulfs the city.

Shraddha Srinath and Maanasa Choudhary play key roles. Ghibran’s pulsating background score amplifies the intensity. “Aaryan” hits theatres on October 31. Sudhakar Reddy of Sreshth Movies will release the film in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



2024 & 25 Diwali: Dubbed Films Dominating Tollywood Films

This Diwali, four films clashed at the box office, including three straight Telugu flicks (Mithra Mandali, Telusu Kada, K-Ramp) and one dubbed movie (Dude). Going by the early collections, it appears that Dude is set to become a winner among all releases. The same was the case last year as well, where Amaran dominated the box office, beating the likes of Lucky Baskhar and Ka.

According to the trade reports, Dude collected a total of Rs.1.8 crore on Saturday in Nizam, whereas Telusu Kada collected Rs. 1 crore. K-Ramp earned Rs. 90 lakhs. K-Ramp’s collections jumped since last night, and it is expected to earn on par with Dude.

K-Ramp is targeted at the mass B and C centres audiences, while Dude is attracting more Gen-Z youngsters and families as well. Meanwhile, Telusu Kada and Mithra Mandali show no



growth in collections and may end up as disappointments at the box office. K-Ramp, which was released yesterday, is giving tough competition to Dude in some areas. So, as of now, the com-



petition remains between these two films.

Last year, Ka and Lucky Baskhar gained positive word of mouth, but it was Amaran which came out of the syllabus and dominated

the box office in the long run. Now, Dude is repeating a similar feat by dominating three straight films. Anyway, we get a clear picture of the winner of this clash once the festive season ends.

Agent Ching Ad Trailer Out : Was It Really Made on Rs.150 Crore?

The Indian entertainment space witnessed a lot of ad commercials made on different budgets. Some were made on micro budgets, while some were made on massive budgets. Now, a new ad campaign for the brand, Ching’s Secret, is launched, with Ranveer Singh headlining the campaign. Atlee Kumar is the director, and the most shocking news is that the ad was made on a budget of 150 Cr rupees. The video is out on YouTube, but it is unclear if 150 Cr rupees were really spent on the campaign.

The netizens are gossiping if it is a publicity stunt or the ad campaign is really worth such a huge amount. There is even an opinion floating around that the team might have spent such an amount just to create the buzz. “The biggest, spiciest ad film of the year is HERE! Atlee x Ranveer Singh team up with Sreeleela & Bobby Deol for the wildest cinematic explosion of action, drama, comedy & masala,” the team wrote, while releasing it. The team launched the teaser, which features Ranveer Singh as Agent Ching. Sreeleela displays swag as Agent Mirchi while Bobby Deol is also seen as Professor White Noise.



K-Ramp: Sundeep Kishan congratulates Kiran Abbavaram

“K-Ramp” continues its strong run at the box office. After gaining momentum from Saturday evening, the film is now dominating the charts, especially with mass audiences responding well to its comedy-packed second half. Joining in the celebrations, actor Sundeep Kishan extended his congratulations to Kiran Abbavaram and the “K-Ramp” team. Sundeep shares a special bond with producer Razesh Danda of Hasyam Movies and expressed happiness over yet another success for the banner. “Go laugh with your family in theatres this Diwali,” he wrote, applauding the entire team. Directed by newcomer Jains Nani, “K-Ramp” features Kiran Abbavaram as a wealthy but academically weak youngster in love with fellow student Yukti Thareja. The film banks heavily on youthful humour and light-hearted entertainment.



Rashmika Mandanna juggles two major film promotions

There’s a lot happening in Rashmika Mandanna’s life right now, both professionally and personally. While she and Vijay Deverakonda are yet to make an official announcement, buzz in film circles suggests that the couple got engaged in a private ceremony in Hyderabad earlier this month. Back on the work front, Rashmika has plunged into promotions for her upcoming releases. For Diwali, her Hindi film “Thamma” is set to hit theatres. This horror comedy, produced by the highly successful Maddock Films, features Rashmika in a quirky role as a vampire. She has been actively touring across cities, attending events and interacting with audiences to build strong pre-release momentum. Up next, she will shift her attention to her Telugu film “The Girlfriend,” scheduled for release in the first week of November. Although the film currently lacks buzz, Rashmika is expected to step in and drive its publicity after “Thamma” hits the screens. With two Hindi releases and a Telugu film already out earlier this year, “The Girlfriend” is likely to be Rashmika’s final release of 2025.

