

As India, Taliban Reset Ties

A 'We Are Neighbours' Jab For Pakistan Over PoK



New Delhi: India fired a strong and clear message at Pakistan Friday afternoon over its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar referring to Afghanistan as a "contiguous neighbour" in a joint state-

ment with Afghani Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. India and Afghanistan share a narrow 106 km land border - the Wakhan Corridor, a strategically important parcel being eyed by the Chinese. In the context of Jaishankar's state-

ment, the corridor connects Afghanistan with that part of Kashmir unlawfully controlled by Pakistan. The reference to a "contiguous neighbour" is, therefore, a sharp reminder to Pak. "As a contiguous neighbour, and a well-wisher of the Afghan people, India has a deep interest in your development and progress," the minister said as he announced restoration of full diplomatic ties with Afghanistan, including upgrading the mission in Kabul to an embassy. But that wasn't the only dig at Pakistan. He also said both India and Afghanistan 'face the problem of cross-border terrorism'.

That remark is significant since it comes against the backdrop of military action by Pak in Afghanistan - against what the former claims are Afghan-backed terrorists striking its territory. In fact, the Pak Air Force reportedly launched strikes in Kabul hours before the Jaishankar-Muttaqi meeting in Delhi, targeting what they claimed were 'terrorist safe havens' in the city. "The sound of an explosion was heard in Kabul. But no one should worry... all is well and good, and no report of any damage has been given so far," a Taliban spokesperson said.

Mental Health Fundamental To Our Overall Well-Being: PM Modi

New Delhi: Mental health is a fundamental part of our overall well-being, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday on World Mental Health Day. World Mental Health Day is observed every year on October 10 to raise awareness about mental health issues. "World Mental Health Day serves as a powerful reminder that mental health is a fundamental part of our overall well-being," PM Modi shared in a post on social media platform X. He stressed the need to show compassion to people suffering from mental health issues like anxiety and de-

pression, among others. "In a fast-paced world, this day underscores the importance of reflecting and extending compassion to others," PM Modi said. The Prime Minister urged the need to bring mental health conversation to the mainstream. He also saluted people working to heal others. "Let us also work collectively to create environments where conversations around mental health become more mainstream. My compliments to all those working in this field and helping others heal and find happiness," PM Modi said.



Taliban Minister's Message From Indian Soil To Pakistan On Terrorism



New Delhi: Terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad have long operated from Afghan soil. But the Taliban has wiped out all terrorists in the last four years, claimed visiting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi during his India visit, advising Pakistan to follow the same path of peace. "Not a single one of them is in Afghanistan. Not an

inch of land is controlled by them in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan against whom we carried out an operation (in 2021) has transformed," Muttaqi told reporters this afternoon after holding a meeting with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar. He also had a message for Pakistan: "Let other countries also act against such terror groups like Afghanistan

did for peace." Muttaqi's maiden visit to India was marked by India restoring full diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. New Delhi will also upgrade its Technical Mission in Kabul to an embassy, Jaishankar said during his meeting with Muttaqi, asserting a "deep interest" in the progress of the neighbouring country.

Afghan Minister Sparks Outrage With 'Ban' On Women Journalists At Press Meet

New Delhi: A press conference by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in New Delhi has caused outrage because no women were allowed to attend the event. Muttaqi is a part of the Taliban government in Afghanistan and the group is known for the restrictions it imposes on women, essentially barring them from working. The Taliban's human rights record and the possibility of



terror groups getting a safe haven in Afghanistan have been some of the factors

which have made India cautious in its engagement with the group.

Visakhapatnam Emerges as an IT Hub: CM

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 10 : In a recent cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu declared that Visakhapatnam is evolving into an IT hub reminiscent of Mumbai, following the arrival of major corporations such as Google and TCS. Emphasising the significance of investment, the CM urged ministers to take ownership of the approval process for new investments and to facilitate

the swift establishment of these companies. He instructed the relevant ministers to coordinate the approval of companies discussed during the meeting. Chandrababu also expressed his desire for the public to recognise the benefits stemming from the government's efforts to attract investment to the state. Following the discussion of the agenda items, he engaged the ministers on a range of important issues.



Purpose of the PPP model is to give opportunities to the poor in medical education: Kommareddy Pattabhiram

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 10 : Swachhendra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram criticized former CM Jaganmohan Reddy for visiting Narsipatnam and seeing walls, thorny trees and crazy plants. He accused him of playing dramas to deceive the people by saying, "Aha.. Oh.." after seeing them. He said that the PPP model does not mean selling to the private sector.. There will only be private cooperation in the work. Pattabhiram clarified that all control of the colleges will be in the hands of the government.



15 thousand will be allocated to poor students under the same category. He reminded that the PPP method was supported by the Chairman of the National Medical Commission, Dr. Abhijat Set. He revealed that the NMC has made it clear that PPP is the right way to take medical education forward. Pattabhiram expressed hope that poor students are getting the opportunity to

study medicine at low fees through PPP colleges. He reminded that it was the Jagan government that released G.O. No. 108. He said that the coalition government is continuing the same G.O.O.. Swachhendra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram lashed out saying that YCP leaders are conspiring to obstruct the work being done as per the G.O.O. of the previous government.

Cabinet approves... 1.17 lakh crores of investments



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 10 : Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said that the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved key decisions. The minister spoke to this effect at the cabinet meeting chaired by CM Chandrababu Naidu here on Friday. He said that the cabinet meeting held today will be useful for the economic progress of the state and the development of AI. Minister Kolusu clarified

that the cabinet has also approved the decisions discussed in the SIPB meeting. Kolusu Parthasarathy said that in the last 15 months, many policies have been given for the development of the state and the welfare of the people. He said that the cabinet has approved investments worth Rs. 1.17 lakh crore by giving incentives in accordance with various policies. He expressed happiness that the cabinet has taken a

decision to create about 70 thousand jobs. He also said that the cabinet has given the green signal to the Tata Power Renewable Limited plant and Chinta Green Energy Limited projects. Minister Parthasarathy said that the cabinet has decided to provide 24 MCM of water from Thotapalli Barrage. Along with this, water has also been allocated for evaporation losses. He said that arrangements are being

made to set up a factory in Kurnool district with an investment of Rs. 758 crore under Reliance Consumer Products. He explained that steps will be taken to provide jobs to 500 people through this. He said that the tourism policy is a game changer, which is why the cabinet has paid special attention to it. Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy clarified that the cabinet has decided to set up special land parcels for this.

Perni Nani creates chaos in police station over YCP protest case

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Oct., 10 : Former Minister Perni Nani got angry. The former minister got into an argument with a CI at Machilipatnam police station. Recently, YSRCP cadres protested at the Medical College under the leadership of Perni Nani. However, the police issued 41A notices to 400 people, including Perni Nani, for participating in an unauthorized protest. However, city president Mekala Subbanna sent a message to the YSRCP group not to respond to the police notices. In this order, the police summoned Subbanna to the station and spoke as

part of the investigation of the case. Upon learning of the matter, Perninani reached the police station along with the activists and created a ruckus. The former minister got into an argument with the R Peta CI. On one occasion, he behaved very rudely with the police. The former minister severely criticized the Machilipatnam police. He expressed anger that they were acting like pawns to the ruling party leaders, ignoring the laws. He said that the constables were getting crushed by the behavior of some police officers. Perninani condemned the illegal arrest of YCP town president Mekala



Subbanna. The former minister denounced the police for the illegal arrest. They

were fired for filing false cases against YCP leaders and causing trouble.

Annaparru BC Hostel incident: Minister Savita inquires



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 10 : Minister Savita inquired about the incident of students falling ill at Annaparru BC Hostel in Guntur district. She instructed the officials to provide better medical treatment to the students. Following Minister Savita's instructions, BC Welfare Secretary Satyanarayana, Director Mallikarjuna, and Collector Tamim Ansaria went to Pedanandipadu PHC. They visited the students. Director Mallikarjuna told Minister Savita that the health of the students is improving. It was revealed that the students will be discharged by this evening. Minister Savita instructed the officials to report to her on the health of the students from time to time. She asked them to be vigilant about the health of the remaining students in the hostel. She clarified that only boiled and cooled drinking water and fresh food should be provided. An investigation into the incident was ordered. Minister Savita said that drinking water and food samples should be sent for medical tests and a report should be submitted.

EDITORIAL

Who is responsible for this unjust attack?

What would have happened if the lawyer who threw the shoe at the Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai, had been Rahim Khan instead of Rakesh Kishore? An interesting question, no doubt. He would not have been allowed to go unpunished for the crime he committed. He would have had to face charges under the National Security Act, the Public Safety Act (if he was a Kashmiri Muslim), and perhaps even the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. I have raised that question to draw people's attention to the social ecosystem where uncivilised public opinion can influence the criminal justice process and create a climate of hateful, narrow-minded conflicts. Let us take a closer look at the sequence of events that led to the shoe attack on the CJI. Chief Justice Gavai dismissed a petition seeking an order to restore a broken Vishnu idol in a temple in Khajuraho to its former glory. On that occasion, the CJI commented that 'this is a petition filed with a campaign slogan'. Gavai also said that 'if the petitioner is a devotee of Lord Vishnu, he should pray to the god and meditate a little'. His words, which sound like a rebuke, are completely unnecessary. However, it should be remembered that they were just comments made casually during the hearing. The Supreme Court dismissed the petition, making it clear that the re-installation of the Vishnu statue in Khajuraho was not a matter within the jurisdiction of the court and that it was for the Archaeological Survey of India to decide on it. The wisdom to read the Supreme Court's rational judgments is unfortunately completely lacking in the ranks of the political and ideological forces that are raging on social media. The CJI's comments on the Khajuraho Vishnu statue have unleashed uncontrollable reactions of anger from the right-wing political and ideological groups. These right-wing groups have been provoked in this way because of the support of the country's rulers. It has become inevitable for the CJI to explain his comments with this strategically launched 'Prajagraha'. Gavai said, 'I believe in religions, I visit places of worship of all religions with equal devotion, and I have complete faith in 'true secularism'. However, this explanation did not satisfy the hard-line right-wingers who have been criticizing him on social media. They continued their attack on CJI Gavai with even more ferocity through memes, hashtags and YouTube videos. In this heated atmosphere, 71-year-old senior lawyer Rakesh Kishor tried to express his anger by throwing a shoe at CJI Gavai in the Supreme Court. 'Sanatan Dharma ka apman, nahi sahega Hindustan!' (India will not tolerate insult to Sanatan Dharma) he commented. Justice Gavai reacted with restraint to the attack on him and continued with his investigation duties. He refused to file a case against the Sanatanist who threw the shoe. Rakesh Kishor has no remorse for his barbaric act. Rejoicing at the 'fame' he has received, Rakesh Kishor also said, 'I will do such a thing again'. The Delhi Police, which should have taken action against this tyrant, has failed to intervene in the shoe attack on the CJI. This has left the contempt of court lawyer Rakesh Kishore with even more fearlessness to speak his mind. He is receiving more praise from those who support his action. How can we understand such glory for a criminal who should have been ostracized from society? Law Minister Arjun Meghwal remained silent on the attack on the CJI. He did not make any public comments. Eight hours after the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded. 'Every Indian is outraged by the attack on the Chief Justice of India this morning in the Supreme Court premises. Such barbaric acts have no place in our society. This is completely condemnable,' the Prime Minister tweeted. Words to be welcomed, no doubt. However, in this context, there is a need to remember an old story. In 2019, BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur praised Nathuram Godse. Modi expressed his grief over this and said that he could not completely forgive her. However, neither the government nor the party took any action against that BJP MP. Pragya Thakur completed her term in Parliament without creating any further confusion. She is a follower of Hindutva ideology. That is why she did not hesitate to praise Godse. In fact, the Sangh Parivar has not distanced itself from the worship of Godse. Rakesh Kishor, who claims to be the 'protector' of Sanatan Dharma, is also part of the Sangh Parivar ideology. When Godse fired a gun to kill the Mahatma, Rakesh Kishor used a relatively soft weapon, a shoe, to express his anger. No one can deny the fact that intolerance was evident in both these incidents. Godse then and Rakesh Kishor today committed inappropriate acts with the personal understanding that 'Hindu sentiments' were hurt. Both of their emotions turned violent due to the disruption to their feelings. How are these Hindutva fanatics different from Islamists who chant 'San Tan Se Juda' (punishment for insulting Islam is cutting off the head from the body)? The hurt to sentiments is not limited to one religious group but is widespread across different religious groups. In such circumstances, it is not enough to simply condemn the shoe attack on the CJI. Reacting violently to the hurt to sentiments is not justified. It is something to be completely condemned. There is another problematic aspect to the shoe attack on the CJI. Justice Gavai is the second Dalit to become the Chief Justice of India. He hails from a political family that believes in the neo-Buddhist tradition and Ambedkar's ideology. Justice Gavai's father is a prominent leader in the Republican Party of India movement. Justice Gavai's rise to the Chief Justice of India can be seen as a symbol of Ambedkar's dream of equal opportunities for the downtrodden sections of society. Justice Gavai has been under attack from the right wing from the beginning due to his family roots in the Dalit movement. When he delivered his verdict on 'bulldozer justice' a year ago, he faced severe criticism from right wing groups. The Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been at the forefront of implementing 'bulldozer justice'. It is a strong, uncompromising Hindutva government. And it is not surprising that Hindutva activists are raising their flag against Justice Gavai for giving a verdict against 'bulldozer justice'. In this context, the objective behind the shoe attack on the CJI should be understood. The shoe attack on Justice Gavai was an attempt to establish the supremacy of 'Sanatana Dharma' in the constitutional system of governance that is popularly accepted. In his shoe attack, Advocate Rakesh Kishore targeted not only Justice Gavai but also the judiciary that is functioning sensibly, legally and impartially. The attack was a deliberate attempt to intimidate and weaken that impartial judiciary. Advocate Rakesh Kishore's action was a planned attempt to achieve a specific goal.

The Price Of Pragmatism: What India Gains (And Loses) By Courting The Taliban

In a move that would have seemed unthinkable just a few years ago, Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi arrived in New Delhi on October 9 for an eight-day official visit that marks a watershed moment in India's foreign policy. His meetings with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, followed by visits to Islamic seminaries in Agra and Deoband, represent India's most significant engagement yet with the Taliban regime. New Delhi has agreed to set up full fledged embassy in Kabul, this is a major turn in India-Taliban relations., This visit signals a pragmatic recalibration driven by shifting regional dynamics and India's own security imperatives. Yet this approach comes with thorny questions about how India reconciles engagement with a regime notorious for its oppressive treatment of women and regressive policies.

Understanding who Amir Khan Muttaqi is helps explain the complex web India now navigates. Born in 1970 in Helmand province, Muttaqi's life story mirrors that of many Taliban leaders who came of age during Afghanistan's decades of conflict. At just nine years old, he fled to Pakistan following the Soviet invasion, receiving his education in refugee schools while joining the fight against the communist government. When the Taliban movement emerged in 1994 and swiftly captured Kandahar from feuding warlords, Muttaqi joined their ranks, quickly rising to become Director General of the city's radio station and a member of the Taliban's High Council. By March 2000, he held the position of Education Minister, a role he kept until American forces arrived. His involvement in the 2019 negotiations with the United States and his subsequent appointment as acting Foreign Minister after the Taliban's 2021 return to power demonstrate his enduring influence within the movement.

India's history with the Taliban has been fraught from

the start. The 1999 hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 to Kandahar forced then-External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh into difficult negotiations with Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil. A telling encounter from 2000, documented in Avinash Paliwal's book on India's Afghanistan policy, illustrates the challenges India faced. When Taliban representative Mullah Abdul Saleem Zaeef met India's ambassador to Pakistan, Vijay K. Nambiar, in Islamabad, the friendly atmosphere yielded nothing substantive. Nambiar concluded that genuine understanding between India and the Taliban remained impossible, with Pakistan's influence over the movement creating an insurmountable barrier to meaningful engagement.

Since the Taliban's return to Kabul in August 2021, India has pursued what officials describe as cautious engagement. Just hours after the last American troops departed, Indian ambassador to Qatar Deepak Mittal met with Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, head of the Taliban's political office in Doha. Stanekzai, interestingly, had trained at the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun during the 1980s as part of a bilateral defence programme. This meeting, held at the Taliban's request, came after Stanekzai publicly emphasized India's regional importance and expressed desire to maintain Afghanistan's cultural, economic, political, and trade ties with India.

Despite these diplomatic overtures, India has not hesitated to voice concerns about the Taliban's governance. When the Taliban announced a cabinet devoid of women and minority representation, India called for an inclusive government. In September 2021, India officially recognized the Taliban as those holding power across Afghanistan, a carefully worded acknowledgment that fell short of formal recognition. India's strategy has centered on distinguishing between the Taliban regime and the Afghan



people, focusing humanitarian efforts on ordinary Afghans while maintaining limited official contact with their rulers. This approach manifested in December 2021 when India sent essential medicines to Afghanistan, followed by the deployment of a technical team to Kabul in June 2022 to oversee humanitarian projects and maintain embassy operations.

The relationship has progressed through fits and starts. India expressed concern when the Taliban banned women from universities in December 2022. The Afghan embassy in India announced its closure in late 2023, citing lack of support from the Indian government. Yet engagement continued with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri meeting Muttaqi in Dubai in January 2025, and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar speaking with him by phone in May 2025 after India and Pakistan agreed to halt military strikes following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The question naturally arises: why engage now, and why so publicly? The answer lies in a dramatically altered regional landscape. Pakistan, once the Taliban's primary backer, has become an adver-

sary. Iran faces its own challenges and diminished influence. Russia remains preoccupied with its war in Ukraine. The United States under Donald Trump's second term has adopted a different approach to Afghanistan. Most significantly, China has moved to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Taliban, exchanging ambassadors and positioning itself as a major player in Afghanistan's future. India recognizes that stepping back now risks surrendering years of investment and influence in a country critical to its security interests.

India's support has been substantial and visible. The country has sent fifty thousand metric tonnes of wheat, hundreds of tonnes of medicines and earthquake relief supplies, pesticides, over one hundred million polio vaccine doses, Covid vaccines, and hygiene kits for drug rehabilitation programmes. Both countries have discussed sports cooperation, particularly in cricket, which enjoys immense popularity among Afghan youth. They have also agreed to utilize Iran's Chabahar port to facilitate trade and deliver humanitarian aid, while India

has committed to continuing development projects across all thirty-four Afghan provinces.

The Taliban, for its part, has requested that India issue visas to Afghan traders, patients, and students. This presents challenges given India's lack of formal recognition, security concerns about travellers from Afghanistan, and the absence of functioning visa operations at its Kabul embassy. Yet the very fact that such practical matters are being discussed reveals how far this relationship has evolved from the hostility of earlier decades.

India now walks a tightrope between pragmatic engagement and principled opposition to the Taliban's treatment of women and minorities. The global context has forced Delhi's hand, but the path ahead remains treacherous. Each meeting, each humanitarian shipment, each cricket match discussed must be weighed against the regime's continued oppression. Whether India can maintain this delicate balance, pursuing its strategic interests while not abandoning its values, will define not just its relationship with Afghanistan but its broader role in a rapidly changing region.

Israel-Hamas Deal Has Lessons For The Global Anti-War Movement Supporters

The agreement reached between Israel and Hamas has raised a ray of hope that the massacre of Palestinian children and women, being carried out by the Israeli army for nearly two years, might finally stop. However, reports continue to emerge that Israel has not ceased its bombings even after the agreement. Still, there is some hope that these attacks may subside in the coming days. This massacre, however, has revealed many important truths.

On October 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked inside Israel, killing over 1200 innocent people and taking 251 hostages, it shattered Israel's long-standing claim of having an impenetrable security shield. The world widely condemned Hamas's attack because innocent people were killed or taken hostage. But the way Israel retaliated in Gaza, unleashing a large-scale massacre, is nothing but genocide and is violation of all International humanitarian laws.

Many people justified Israel's brutal response by saying that Hamas's attack was wrong and provoked Israel's actions. However, it must be understood that Israel's intentions in the region were already clear — this incident merely provided the pretext. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated, Hamas's attack "did not occur in a vacuum". It was the outcome of years of oppression. Reports suggest that Israel itself had indirectly allowed Hamas to grow —

even funding it — to weaken the peaceful Palestinian liberation movement led by the PLO. Since Hamas's armed approach could never gain global support, it benefitted Israel.

Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu declared that his country would "eliminate Hamas," but the war waged was not limited to Hamas. On one side stood children and women, and on the other, heavily armed Israeli soldiers. Starving and displaced, children were shot dead even while trying to fetch water. According to reports, over 65,000 people have been killed, 60% of them women and children. Some reports estimate that if those buried under the rubble are included, the death toll could exceed 100,000.

During the same period, Israel's ambitions became even clearer — it launched attacks not only on Syria, Lebanon, Iran, and Yemen, but also continued expanding illegal settlements in the West Bank, driving Palestinians from their homes and dividing their territory into disconnected enclaves. Movement between these areas now requires passing through Israeli checkpoints, making daily life of Palestinians extremely difficult.

It has now become evident that American imperialism aims to erase Palestine entirely and rebuild Gaza as a modern city for tourism, corporate and strategic interests. Major multinational corporations and construction lobbies are already eyeing profits from rebuilding



Gaza — but where will Palestinians go?

Clause 12 of the agreement says that no one will be forced to leave Gaza, and those who wish to leave will be free to do so and free to return. We will encourage people to stay and offer them the opportunity to build a better Gaza. There is nothing about returning to their original homes, which is an indication that Palestinians no longer have a place in Gaza. The Palestinians will not have full control in governance.

The United States has played a central role in maintaining and strengthening Israel's military might by continuously supplying advanced weapons and bombs used in Gaza. Even when Israel faced difficulties in its

war against Iran, the U.S. provided intelligence and support. There were even attempts to assassinate Hamas leaders in Qatar. Western nations largely stood by Israel throughout this massacre even though people in these countries held several protests against Israeli action.

During the Holocaust in 1940s, the world had little knowledge of the ongoing genocide against Jews. But today, the world has watched the killing of children and the suffering of the hungry and thirsty in real time — yet remained silent. Palestinians may have hoped for support from other countries, but none of the Arab regimes openly backed them. Most of these are monarchies where democracy is absent,

and rulers value their ties with the U.S. more than the will of their people. Even Pakistan, which calls itself an "Islamic republic" and advocates an "Islamic NATO," did nothing meaningful for Palestine and is now trying to align closely with the U.S. Meanwhile, corporations profited from the massacre. A UN report revealed that several companies supplied Israel with weapons, drones, and surveillance chips that strengthened its military and prolonged the genocide. This UN report lists companies complicit in Israel's 'genocide'. UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese has issued a report naming several US giants among companies aiding Israel's occupation and war on Gaza.

From Temple To Actor's Home: Untold Story Of Sabarimala Gold Door's Journey

Thiruvananthapuram: An investigation has reconstructed a strikingly irregular chain of custody for a sacred artefact from Kerala's Sabarimala temple -- the gold-clad door panels associated with the Dwarapalaka idols -- showing that the pieces were removed in July 2019, travelled across southern India for more than a month and returned with a measurable loss of precious metal. The disclosure, pieced together from court filings and company records, has triggered a High Court-directed probe. The "mystery" begins with a routine-sounding restoration job in 2019. According to court documents accessed, the gold cladding on the Dwarapalaka idols and door panels was removed and weighed on July 19, 2019 at 42.8 kilogrammes. The following day -- July 20, 2019 -- the dismantled pieces left Sabarimala in the custody of sponsor Unnikrishnan Potti, bound for Smart Creations, a Chennai firm contracted to do electroplating

work. But the consignment did not arrive in Chennai until August 29 -- 39 days later -- and when Smart Creations recorded the panels, their weight had fallen to about 38.25 kg, a loss of roughly 4.54 kg. Those facts lie at the centre of the legal and political storm. The story of those 39 days is more than a delay on the highway. The panels were not taken straight to the workshop and back. Instead, the artefacts were, at various points, reportedly taken to a private temple in Kottayam, to temples in Andhra Pradesh and Ayyappa shrine at Srirampuram in Bengaluru; perhaps most strikingly, the panels were also brought to the house of Malayalam actor Jayaram for a private puja, before ultimately being returned to Sabarimala on September 11, 2019. Smart Creations, in a Facebook post, stated: "The life-size idols of the Dwarapalakas are situated aside the inner sanctum doors. The Kavachams were consecrated at the

Chennai Home of Padmashree Actor Shri Jayaram. They were then transported to Sabarimala and installed amidst Pujas and rituals with the divine songs of Ayyappa." **The Key Questions** Was it the same door that left Sabarimala that reached Chennai Smart Creations? If yes, what happened to the gold and why was it copper when it reached Chennai? **Who was responsible for the gold and the door safe-keeping?** What is it now? Is it fully gold or gold-plated copper? Those questions, now being pressed by litigants and political opponents alike, remain largely unanswered. Whether the panels that returned were the original pieces and, if so, what explains the inexplicable loss of nearly four-and-a-half kilos of gold during the excursion. **The Vijay Mallya Connection** The public record, and multiple reports, say the first major donation of gold to Sabarimala's sanctum came

in 1998 from businessman Vijay Mallya. Mallya donated around 30 kg of gold to the sanctum sanctorum. A year later, 800 grammes were added for the gold cladding of the doors. The High Court and vigilance reports have repeatedly returned to the question of how much of that 1998 donation remains accounted for and whether records were properly maintained. A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court -- Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and KV Jayakumar -- has directed that the matter be investigated, ordered seizure of relevant files and asked the Travancore Devaswom Board's (TDB) vigilance officer to file a sealed report. The state government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by ADGP H Venkatesh. The SIT includes officers drawn from district police stations and the cyber cell and has been instructed to follow the High Court's directions. **The Political Flashpoint**

Opposition parties and the BJP have seized on the revelations as proof of mismanagement and alleged theft. Hundreds of BJP workers staged protest marches across Kerala; in Kozhikode a march led by former state BJP president K Surendran was met with barricades and water cannon as protesters attempted to press to the collector's office. "They looted crores from the Thiruvananthapuram gold smuggling case and other airport-based gold smuggling cases. Now they are looting Devaswom treasures, like they recently did in Sabarimala. We are demanding a free and fair inquiry. The BJP demands that this case be handed over to the CBI," Surendran said. In the Kerala Assembly, the issue has repeatedly disrupted proceedings. The Leader of the Opposition, VD Satheesan, told colleagues that the Congress would maintain protest action until ministers and officials involved were held to account. Opposition mem-



bers have demanded the resignation of the Devaswom minister and insisted on a central agency probe; the ruling front has urged patience for the court-supervised inquiry while also defending procedural and institutional steps taken in the past. **'Leftover Gold'** A 2019 email from the sponsor Unnikrishnan Potti revealed that he sought permission to "use" any leftover gold for personal ends, including a wedding. The Kerala High Court de-

scribed that revelation as "deeply disturbing" in open hearings. The TDB has said it acted within rules when it handed the panels to the sponsor and that a preliminary vigilance check had been undertaken. What is now in the temple? The TDB has returned panels to Sabarimala after the Chennai work, but the High Court has kept the matter under close supervision, seized relevant registers and left open the question of whether the panels currently installed are the origi-

nals, replicas or copper shells re-plated in gold. Investigations and flings point to inconsistencies in inventories, transport documentation and custody lists -- gaps the SIT will be obliged to explain. The Kerala High Court today directed the state police to register a criminal case in connection with "misappropriation of gold" from the "side frame or lintels" of the shrine. The High Court has ordered the SIT to probe and file its report within six weeks.

Public Healthcare – A People’s Right

- Launch of the One Crore Signature Campaign Poster



Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam A.S.R. District In-charge Paderu, (Pen Power) October 10: Opposing the privatization of newly established government medical colleges, a poster for the One Crore Signature Campaign was unveiled at the MLA camp office in Paderu. The event was inaugurated by Alluri district YSRCP

president and MLA Matsyaraasi Visweshwara Raju, along with party leaders from various mandals. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Visweshwara Raju said that during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure (2019–24), several new medical colleges were built to provide quality healthcare to the people. However, the present coal-

ition government led by Chandrababu Naidu is attempting to hand over these colleges to private organizations. Condemning this move, the YSR Congress Party is organizing Rachabanda programs from mandal to village level to gather public opinion and collect one crore signatures. The collected petitions will be submitted to the Gover-

nor after a massive rally on November 12 at the district headquarters. Party leaders Sidhari Rambabu, Nurmani Matyakonda Naidu, Bidi Jana Apparao, Kankipati Giri Prasad, Benni Babu, Neelapu Suribabu, Lake Ramakrishna Pathrudu, Dusuru Sanyasi Rao, Vanugu Basavanna Dora, and Pratap participated in the event.

Awareness on Super GST 2.0 Essential for All : District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar

Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam A.S.R. District In-charge Paderu, Oct 10 (Pen Power): District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar emphasized the need for public awareness about Super GST 2.0, describing it as beneficial to all sections of society. He said the central government has revised GST slabs to benefit people across all sectors — reducing them from four to two. About 99% of essential goods now fall under the 5% slab, while electronics and vehicles come under the 18% slab, and health insurance is fully exempted from tax. The Collector noted that these changes would significantly reduce the cost of essential commodities, easing the burden



on common citizens and boosting the economy by creating new employment opportunities. He inaugurated a two-day exhibition and sales event organized by the Commercial Taxes Department and the Chamber of Commerce at a coffee

house on Friday. He also announced a month-long awareness campaign, "Super GST – Super Savings," to educate people at all levels — from villages to districts — about the benefits of GST reduction. Joint Collector Dr. M.J. Abhishek

Gowda, ITDA Project Officer Tirumani Sripoja, Assistant Collector Sahith, Assistant Commissioner Achayya, and officials from the Commercial Taxes Department and Chamber of Commerce were present at the event.

Speedy Redressal of Public Grievances Stressed: Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar

Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam A.S.R. District In-charge Paderu, (Pen Power) October 10: A total of 137 petitions were received during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) held at the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) office on Friday. District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar, Joint Collector Dr. M.J. Abhishek Goud, ITDA Project Officer Tirumani Sri Pooja, Assistant Collector K. Sahith, and DRO K. Padmalatha jointly accepted



petitions from applicants across various mandals and instructed officials to ensure speedy disposal of all complaints. The Collector urged the public to make use of the

1100 call center and the meekosam.ap.gov.in website to register and track their petitions. He appealed to people to utilize these platforms effectively to get their

grievances resolved. Officials from various departments including Tribal Welfare, Agriculture, DRDA, R&B, and Treasury participated in the program.

UPI Adoption In France Drives 40% Surge In Indian Tourists: French Firm

New Delhi: The growing adoption of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in France has not only enhanced the convenience of digital transactions for visitors but has also led to a significant increase in the number of Indian tourists visiting the country, according to Christophe Mariette, Chairman of Lyra Network. In an exclusive conversation with ANI on the sidelines of the Global Fintech Fest 2025, Mariette said that the introduction of UPI payments in France, particularly at popular tourist destinations, has contributed to a 40 per cent

increase in Indian tourists. "We launched UPI more than one year ago at the Eiffel Tower, and it's going quite well. More and more Indian tourists are going to the Eiffel Tower. I was with the general manager of the Eiffel Tower a few weeks ago, and he told me that the number of Indian tourists has increased by 40 per cent," Mariette stated. He explained that the ability to use familiar digital payment systems such as UPI helps Indian tourists feel more comfortable and secure while traveling abroad. "When you are in a country, you feel much more secure if

you are using your own payment method. And the great thing with UPI is that you see exactly the amount of the expense in rupees, and the same amount is deducted from your account. It's very secure for Indian tourists when they come to France to pay with UPI," he added. Speaking about Lyra Network's operations in India, Mariette said that the company has been active in the country for over 18 years. "We are working with major banks. We got our payment aggregator agreement from the Reserve Bank of India, and we are very happy

that UPI is more and more accepted right now," he noted. He also announced that UPI payments will soon be accepted in Bicester Village, with the first location being La Vallee Village in France. "Indians love to do luxury shopping but with discounts, and this is what Bicester provides," Mariette said, emphasizing the growing collaboration between India's fintech ecosystem and global retail destinations. Bicester Village is a designer outlet shopping centre on the outskirts of Bicester, a town in Oxfordshire, England.

Amid Cough Syrup Deaths, Auditor Flags Madhya Pradesh's Mega Purchase Of Banned Drugs

New Delhi / Bhopal: Even as Madhya Pradesh reels from the tragic deaths of 23 children in Chhindwara due to a toxic cough syrup, a new revelation from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has exposed a deeper crisis in the state's drug regulation and procurement system. The CAG's 2024-25 report reveals that the Madhya Pradesh Public Health Services Corporation Limited (MPPHSCL) continued to purchase and distribute medicines which were explicitly banned by the Government of India for human use, putting public health at serious risk. Between 2017 and 2022, the corporation entered into rate contracts (fixed-price agreements) worth Rs 1.5 crore with pharmaceutical companies for these banned drugs and further procured medicines worth



Rs 22.9 lakh through local tenders at the district level, bringing the total value of prohibited drug purchases to Rs 1.8 crore. The CAG report states that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had notified a list of 518 medicines and fixed-dose combinations prohibited under the Drugs and

Cosmetics Act, 1940. These drugs were banned by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for manufacture, sale, and distribution for human use. Despite this, the CAG found that the MPPHSCL not only executed rate contracts for such medicines, but also facilitated their purchase by state health

institutions. Among the banned drugs procured were fixed-dose combinations of Metronidazole + Norfloxacin (which is an antibacterial and anti-amoebic medication), prohibited since March 10, 2016, but supplied through contracts dated October 27, 2016, and July 1, 2017, amounting to Rs 32.1 lakh.

Land-for-Land Initiative for Polavaram Displaced Families

Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam A.S.R. District In-charge Gangavaram, (Pen Power) October 10: Rampachodavaram Sub-Collector Shubham Noqual stated that necessary measures are being taken to provide land-to-land compensation for tribal families displaced by the Polavaram Project. During a meeting with affected Konda Modalu tribals at the R&R Colony community hall in Gangavaram mandal, the Sub-Collector said that about 160 acres of land have been identified for distribution to the dis-



placed families. He directed officials to clear the identified land for cultivation and ensure it is suitable for agricultural use. He added that land allocation will be carried out

as per government norms under the R&R package for all eligible beneficiaries. Officials including Tahsildar C.H. Srinivasa Rao, Executive Engineer (Tribal Welfare) I.

Srinivasa Rao, PAO L. Rambabu, APO (Employment Guarantee Scheme) Prakash, and Konda Modalu Panchayat Sarpanch Vetla Vijaya participated in the meeting.

RISHAB SHETTY OPENS UP ABOUT FUTURE OF KANTARA UNIVERSE

Kannada star Rishab Shetty has done it yet again. After delivering a massive pan-India blockbuster with the 2022 fantasy drama, Kantara, the National Award-winning actor-director has scored yet another hit with the film's prequel, Kantara Chapter 1. The prequel has nearly reached the 500-crore milestone.

In an exclusive interview with Gulte Pro during his promotional tour in New Delhi, Rishab Shetty opened up about the fascinating world of Kantara. "I delved deep into this world ever since I made Kantara. This world is not new to me, and I've known it since my childhood. The Daiva whom we worship has been connected to me and my family since my childhood. The prardhana (Kola) embodies all the stories about the Daiva in itself. These stories narrate the divine power and the Maya Loka," said the passionate filmmaker.

Elaborating further, Rishab added, "The ideas, characters, and humour should evoke the feeling of the Maya Loka. It's



like our Ajji Kathe (Grandmother's fairy tale). The real story begins from there. Chapter 1 is the most complicated script. It was very difficult to convey it to the people. The characters in the prequel are the ancestors of the characters we established in the first part. The connection will extend further as I bring in more stories."

When asked about the mythical well that he has established in the franchise and how long the franchise would continue, Rishab candidly admitted that he doesn't know and that he is just going with the flow. "We didn't find a clear start or end for these stories. We really don't know how long this will continue," he quipped with a hint of intrigue.

During the conversation, Rishab also expressed his fondness for the Telugu language and its people. With a smile, he said, "If I start speaking slowly, I can pick up the Telugu language. Anyway, I have a lot of Telugu-speaking friends, so I'll learn it soon." His ease and connection with the Telugu audience clearly show how naturally he embraces every culture he interacts with.

SSMB29: No Update, But a Candid Pic on Jakkanna's Birthday

Maverick director SS Rajamouli celebrates his 52nd birthday today. On the occasion, fans and other audiences expected an update regarding Rajamouli's upcoming film with Superstar Mahesh Babu, tentatively called SSMB 29.

But unfortunately, there hasn't been any update about the movie yet. However, Mahesh Babu shared an unseen candid picture of Rajamouli and himself, and conveyed his best wishes to the director.

"Wishing the one and only @ssrajamouli a very Happy Birthday... The best is always yet to come... Have a great one sir," Mahesh captioned the picture. Both of them are seen with wide smiling faces in this picture, making it so adorable.

Mahesh looks dashing, sporting long hair covered with a cap and a thick beard. On the other side, Rajamouli is seen in his trademark long salt and pepper bearded look. The picture went viral on social media in no time.

According to the rumours, the title of this untitled project will be unveiled on November 16 in a grand event. Reportedly, the makers are considering naming the film "Varanasi".

SSMB 29 features Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran in other main roles. KL Narayana is bankrolling the project. PS Vinod is handling the cinematography, and MM Keeravani is composing the music for the film. It is expected to hit the screens in 2027.



Deepika Finally Speaks About Leaving Spirit and Kalki

There were reports earlier that Deepika Padukone was replaced in Spirit, Prabhas' film directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The reason mentioned was her working hour preferences, and Tripti Dimri took her place in the project. Recently, something similar has happened with the Kalki 2898 AD sequel. Deepika, who played a key role in the first film, was expected to continue in the next part. However, the makers recently announced that she won't be part of the sequel, citing "commitment issues." After a long collaboration, both sides decided to move on separately.

Even though she was replaced in two big films, Deepika didn't comment for a while. Many were curious to hear her side, and she finally spoke about it in an interview on Thursday.

Speaking about her exit from both films, Deepika said, "I don't want to take names or make this a big thing. But it's widely known that many male actors have been working 8 hours a day for years, Monday to Friday and they don't work on weekends. Now, even many women and new mothers have started working 8-hour shifts, but that never makes headlines." She went on to say that



such challenges aren't new to her. "I've faced this throughout my career. Even when it comes to pay, I've had to deal with whatever comes my way. I've always fought my battles silently," she said. Deepika added, "Sometimes those battles become public, which isn't how I was brought up. But I believe in facing them quietly and with dignity." On the work front, Deepika will next be seen reuniting with Shah Rukh Khan in King, directed by Siddharth Anand.

Pakistan Minister Mohsin Naqvi Issues Fresh Asia Cup Order, Locks Away Trophy

Islamabad: The Asia Cup trophy, which was not presented to the victorious Indian team after its refusal to accept it from Asian Cricket Council chief Mohsin Naqvi, has been locked away at the ACC's Dubai headquarters with "instructions that it should not be moved or handed over" without the Chairman's approval. The trophy has been at the ACC office after Naqvi walked away with it from the presentation ceremony following the Indian team's refusal to accept it from him. India beat Pakistan in the Asia Cup final in Dubai on September 28. Naqvi is also the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman and the Interior Minister of his country and India-Pakistan tensions have hit a peak after the Pahalgam terror attack. "As of today the trophy is still in ACC offices in Dubai



with clear instructions from Naqvi that it should not be moved or handed over to anyone without his approval and in person presence," a source close to Naqvi told. "Naqvi has given clear instructions that only he will hand over the trophy in person (whenever that happens) to the Indian team or BCCI," he added. The entire Asia Cup was overshadowed by Indo-Pak hostilities. The

Indians refused to shake hands with the arch foes throughout the tournament and players from both sides mocked each other with politically charged gestures. Naqvi too made political statements on his social media pages. The BCCI took strong exception to his act of walking away with the trophy and vowed to raise the matter in an ICC meeting next month. It is being widely speculated that a strong move to get Naqvi censured and even removed as Director in the ICC could be made. "It remains to be seen what will be the long term ramifications for the PCB or Naqvi because the BCCI is clear he (Naqvi) didn't have any right to insist on handing the trophy himself to the Indian team and refusing to send it to the BCCI who were official hosts of the event," the source said.

Sanam Sekhon sets new Guinness World Record for highest altitude drift by a car

Hyderabad: Sanam Sekhon has carved his name into motorsport history by setting a new Guinness World Record for the Highest Altitude Drift by a Car at 5,798 metres (19,023 ft) at Umling La Pass in Ladakh on 31st July this year. The breathtaking feat pushed the limits of both man and machine, as Sekhon executed the record-breaking drift against low oxygen levels, chilling winds, sub-zero temperatures, and unpredictable road surfaces. The achievement was powered by JK Tyre's Levitas XTREME, a cutting-edge ultra-high-performance tyre designed for precision, control, and durability. Widely regarded as India's 'Drift King,' Sanam Sekhon has steadily risen through the ranks of Indian motorsport, earning a reputation for his unrelenting desire to push the limits. The winner of the inaugural JK Tyre Drift Challenge in 2023, Sanam has built a career rooted in passion and persistence. His success at Umling La is a reminder that drifting requires skill, endurance, and engineering all working in perfect harmony.

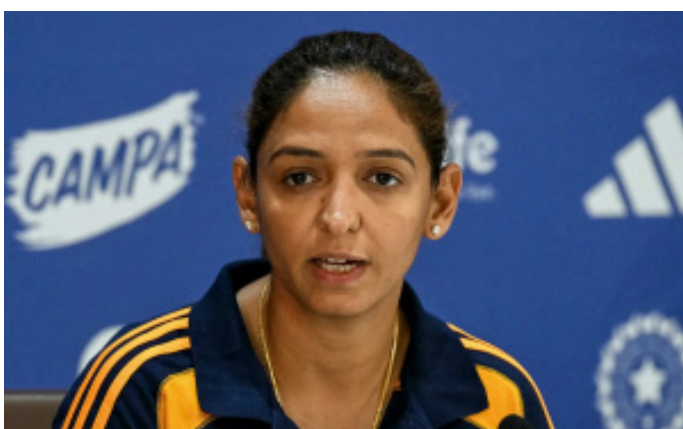
Speaking on this massive achievement, Sanam said, "I'm



absolutely thrilled to hold this record, but honestly, I couldn't have done it without my fantastic team. We knew what we were getting into and were both mentally and physically prepared, but the oxygen levels and altitude really tested us. Just running around and man-

aging things up there was tough, and we even had ambulances on standby. Getting everything in place with a 20-21 member crew, our tuner flying in from Thailand, and ensuring a steady fuel supply was a challenge in itself. The tyres played a huge role too.

Harmanpreet Kaur Throws India's Top Order Under The Bus After Bitter Defeat Against South Africa



New Delhi: India's top order did not take responsibility to bat well against South Africa, captain Harmanpreet Kaur said after her side lost by three wickets in their Women's World Cup match. India were rescued by their big-hitting wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh, who struck a 77-ball 94 with 11 fours and five sixes while batting as low as No 8 to take her side to 251

all out from a precarious 102 for six. However, Ghosh's first-innings exploits were eclipsed by Nadine de Klerk's 54-ball 84 not out (8x4s, 5x6s) as well as Laura Wolvaardt's 70, as India suffered their first defeat in the tournament. "We didn't take the responsibility as a top-order. We have to change things. We have to get the good totals. It is a long tournament. It was a tough

game, but (there are) lots of learnings. We need to keep ourselves in the positive frame (of mind)," Harmanpreet said after the match. "(It was a) tough game. Both teams played really well. Even though we collapsed while batting but we still managed to put 250 on the board." "In the end, Chloe and de Klerk batted, they showed it was a very good pitch and they deserved to win with the way they batted," the Indian captain said. Harm anpreet also praised Ghosh's stunning knock which eventually went in vain. "Richa has been outstanding for us. Today we were very pleased too see Richa's hitting. She can get the big totals. Hope she continues," Harmanpreet said. De Klerk, who won the Player of the Match award for her batting exploits, said there isn't any greater achievement than beating India in their backyard.

Aryna Sabalenka Extends Wuhan Open Winning Streak To 20 Matches, Reaches Semifinals

Aryna Sabalenka extended her winning streak at Wuhan to 20 matches with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over eighth-seeded Elena Rybakina to reach the semifinals of the WTA 1000-level tournament. The U.S. Open champion won the Wuhan Open title in 2018, '19 and again last year on her return to the Chinese city.

