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HRD Minister Lokesh praises teacher for using innovative teaching methods

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 21 : Minister for Human Resources Development (HRD) Nara Lokesh on Friday praised U. Venkateswara Rao, a Secondary Grade Teacher at the Mandal Parishad Primary School at Chintaluru village under Alamuru mandal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, for his activity-based teaching methods. The Minister said his way of teaching students using the TaRL (Teaching at the Right Level) kit, through field trips and practical experiments, was commendable. Mr. Lokesh also appreciated the teacher for enrolling his daughter U. Vaishnavi in a government school and, thereby, instilling public confidence in the government education system.

He said by cultivating vegetables through a kitchen garden and fruits through a nutri-garden on the school premises, Mr. Venkateswara Rao was inspiring students and teaching them about organic farming, nutritious food, and environmental protection. "The videos you share to raise awareness among students on topics like good touch-bad touch, social issues and innovative teaching methods are excellent," he said. The Minister, meanwhile, mourned the death of an English Assistant Teacher Jyotsna Bai, who lost her life in an accident near the stage construction area at the Zilla Parishad High School at Rajanagaram in Payakaraopeta mandal of Anakapalli district. "I express my heartfelt condolences to her family.

CM calls for rapid expansion of food processing units across A.P.



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 21 : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday underscored the need for rapid expansion of food processing facilities across Andhra Pradesh, directing officials to prioritise the establishment of these units in all MSME parks being developed in the 175 Assembly constituencies. Mr. Naidu, who chaired a review

meeting on the Agriculture Department, said that value addition to agricultural produce is the most effective way to ensure maximum income for farmers. He also emphasised the importance of demand-driven agriculture and encouraged the promotion of commercial crops, intercropping and natural farming techniques. He insisted that agri-tech tools, such as

farm mechanisation, drones and satellite technology, must be introduced widely to improve efficiency and reduce input costs. Highlighting the importance of value addition, Mr. Naidu said that awareness should be given regarding FPOs, food processing units, product refinement and scientific packaging. He directed officials to ensure that farmers are fully informed about minimum support prices, PM-KISAN benefits, input subsidies, Rythu Bazaars and market linkages. Mr. Naidu also called for the statewide promotion of the Agriculture Department's newly developed Farmer App, which provides real-time information on land records, crop data, weather patterns, pest alerts, market prices, soil testing and market intelligence. He noted that timely

information could significantly improve decision-making for farmers. Commending field-level agriculture, horticulture, sericulture and aquaculture assistants, he said they play a crucial role in taking government programmes to every farmer. Aid to farmers Responding to falling banana prices in Anantapur, Kadapa and Nandyal districts, where 40,000 hectares are under cultivation, Mr. Naidu directed officials to ensure support prices and strengthen market linkages. Increased production in other States and rain-induced damage to export-grade produce have impacted prices, officials explained. The Chief Minister advised exploring transport through waterways, railways and air cargo to boost market access.

50 Lakh Fish, 5 Lakh Prawn Seed Released into Godavari



Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, Nov 21: On the occasion of World Fisheries Day, Collector Keerthi Chekuri and MLA Gorantla Buchaiah Choudary released 50 lakh fish seedlings and 5 lakh prawn seedlings into the Godavari at Dhavaleswaram Kancherla Ghat on Friday. Collector Keerthi Chekuri said the government prioritises the welfare of fisher families and is

strengthening the licensing system to ensure all fisher households are brought under government schemes. Although around 4,000 people are engaged in fishing in the district, many work without licences, she noted. Instructions were issued to Fisheries and Revenue departments to complete registration of all fishermen by this month-end. Licence applications are available at village secrete-

riats for Rs.120 (boat & net) and Rs.50 (cast net). Licensed fishermen will receive group insurance and access to all welfare schemes. Presiding over the event, MLA Buchaiah Choudary said Andhra Pradesh contributes 25.64% of India's fish production and 75% of prawn production. The state is promoting the aqua sector on par with agriculture to boost GDP and livelihoods.

Jagan's 'drama' at CBI court unwarranted: Varla Ramaiah

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 21 : TDP Polit Bureau member Varla Ramaiah criticised YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for 'staging a drama' during his appearance before the CBI Court in Hyderabad in connection with the illegal assets cases. He sought to know the reason for the show of strength put up by the YSRCP. Addressing the media at the TDP Central office near Mangalagiri on Thursday, Mr. Ramaiah said Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy was involved in multiple cases of financial irregularities in Andhra

Pradesh and Telangana.



"Mr. Jagan has been named accused number 1 (A1) in

all those cases, and these cases are unique due to the scale and impunity with which assets had been amassed illegally," he said. "The dramas enacted at the Begumpet airport and CBI Court were unnecessary and despicable. It appeared that they were meant to claim certain protocols during future appearances by citing the huge build-up of his supporters," Mr. Ramaiah said. He accused Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy of intentionally mobilising crowds to later cite law and order disturbance as an excuse to stay away from the courts.

Ministers, MLAs submit memorandum to Nitin Gadkari

Puttaparthi: People's representatives from Sathya Sai district briefed Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on the rapid industrial development taking place in Penukonda Assembly segment and within Hindupur Parliamentary constituency. They explained that growing industrial activity has significantly increased traffic movement, necessitating urgent improvements to road infrastructure. Ministers Y Satya Kumar Yadav and S Savitha, along with MLAs Parithala Sunitha and Palle Sindhura Reddy, submitted a detailed memorandum seeking the expansion and upgradation of several



key national and state highways in the region, to the Union Minister during his visit to Puttaparthi for Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centenary Celebrations. The leaders requested widening of in-

ter-state road from Mudigubba to Penukonda, Pavagada and up to Chelikere village, citing its importance for inter-state connectivity and freight transport. They further ap-

pealed for State road from Somandepalli to Hindupur and Doddaballapur up to Yelahanka to be upgraded and declared a National Highway, considering its strategic link to Bengaluru.

Visakhapatnam Para Swimmers Shine at National Championship

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, Nov 21: Athletes from Visakhapatnam delivered an outstanding performance at the 25th National Para Swimming Championship held at GMC Balayogi Sports Complex, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, from November 15-18. They won a flurry of medals across multiple categories. District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad congratulated the winners in his chamber today, calling their success a matter of pride for the district. Medal Winners: Valasanaini Ravi - Gold (100m Freestyle), Silver (50m Backstroke) Kaushar Sahil Sheikh - Gold (50m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle), Silver (100m Freestyle) Adari Praneeth - Gold



(50m & 100m Backstroke), Bronze (100m Freestyle) Nidhi Baipothu - Gold (100m Backstroke), Silver (50m Freestyle) Salapu Poornachandra Rao - Two Bronze (100m &

50m Freestyle) M. Sai Nikhil Gowtham - Bronze (100m Breaststroke) Kavya - Gold (50m Freestyle) The Collector praised their hard work and urged them to

continue excelling at national and international platforms. Officials from the District Differently Abled Welfare Department, Para Sports Association of AP, and parents of the athletes were present at the event.

Strict Action for Errors in Re-Survey: Raghurama Raju

Visakhapatnam, PEN POWER, Nov 21: Deputy Speaker and Legislative Assembly Petitions Committee Chairman K. Raghurama Krishnaraju directed officials to ensure a transparent and error-free comprehensive land re-survey to permanently resolve recurring land disputes across the state. Reviewing the process with committee members Konathala Ramakrishna, Palla Srinivasarao and Vishnukumar Raju, he stressed that re-survey work must begin only after village announcements, holding gram sabhas, and conducting surveys in the presence of farmers. Mobile magistrate teams must remain accessible to receive objections, he said. He suggested



that the current one-year timeframe for objection resolution at the Tahsildar level should be extended to two years for farmers' benefit. Survey Director R. Kurmanath briefed that re-survey was completed in 6,688 villages, with 7 lakh objections received—3 lakh complex. Two lakh have been resolved; the remain-

ing will be cleared by December 31, 2025. Re-survey in the third phase has begun in 2,093 villages. Konathala Ramakrishna proposed reinstating the Jama Bandi system to address issues locally. MLA Vishnukumar Raju urged immediate correction of lands wrongly listed under Section 22-A. MLA Palla Srinivasarao raised is-

sues of 472 steel plant beneficiaries who have not received promised benefits. The chairman said a meeting will be held in Delhi on December 2 to address the issue at the central level. Senior officials including District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad and Survey Director Kurmanath attended the review meeting.

Margasira Masotsavam Begins at Kanaka Mahalakshmi Temple

Visakha, Pen Power, November 21: The sacred Margasira Masotsavam commenced devotionally on Friday at the Sri Kanaka Mahalakshmi Temple in Visakhapatnam. MLA Vamsi Krishna Srinivas, along with his family, offered special prayers in the sanctum sanctorum and formally launched the festivities. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that initiating the celebrations of the god-

dess who fulfills devotees' wishes is a blessing. He stated that nearly six lakh devotees are expected this month, with heavy turnout already being witnessed due to Polipadyami. To ensure a smooth darshan experience, the temple administration has arranged additional prasadam counters and issued guidelines for crowd management throughout the month-long celebrations. Temple EO



Shobharani, AEO Anand, Rajendra, EE Ramana, and temple priests participated in the programme.

Minister Narayana assures of addressing Capital farmers' issues

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 21 : Minister Narayana (Pongu ru Narayana) addressed the ongoing challenges faced by farmers in the capital region during his visit to Venkatapalem and Uddandarayunipalem. He assured that their concerns would be resolved and justice delivered in due course. During the visit, the Minister inspected the construction of Anganwadi and Health Centres, reporting that 15 Anganwadi Centres and 14 Health Centres have been completed under the Amaravati Cities initiative. He highlighted the rapid progress in roadwork and infrastructure aimed at benefiting local farmers.



EDITORIAL

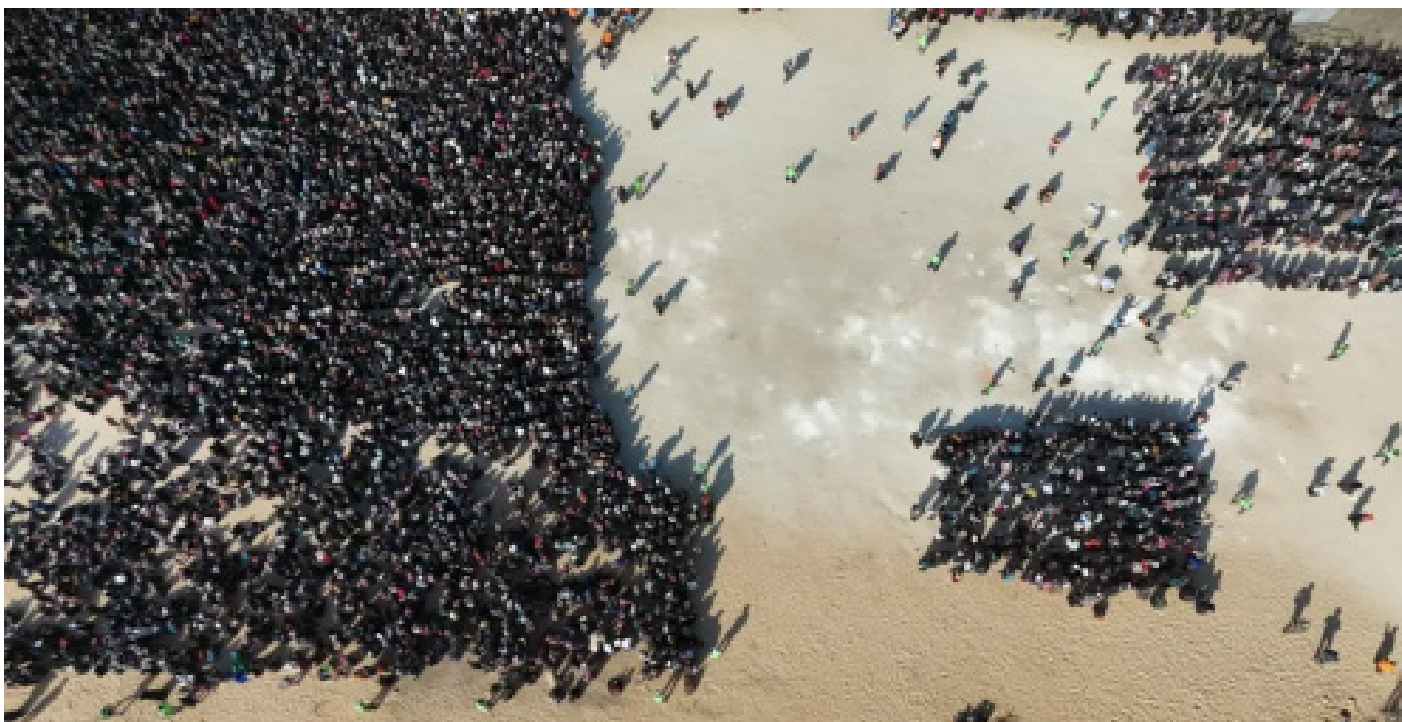
Will Bihar victory reflect
in the next election?

BJP's joy knows no bounds with the landslide victory in the Bihar assembly elections. With this victory, Bihar is already dreaming of a victory in the assembly elections to be held next year in the states of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Caste strength remained a story in Bihar, and finally women voters became the key. With this experience, Prime Minister Modi brought the farmers of Tamil Nadu, the most urbanized state in the country, closer to Pan India on Wednesday (19.11.25). In fact, only 13 percent of Tamil Nadu's income comes from agriculture. However, at a meeting held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on Wednesday, the people present were thrilled to welcome Modi by waving their towels in the air and he expressed his eloquence by saying that the Bihar wind seemed to have blown here even before he arrived. It is noteworthy that the 21st installment of financial assistance from the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi to the farmers of the country was released from Coimbatore. The Coimbatore assembly seat belongs to the BJP. In the assembly elections last year, the BJP candidate defeated his opponent Kamal Haasan with a very narrow majority. Four BJP MLAs won from Tamil Nadu, which has 234 assembly seats, with 2.6 percent of the votes. In 2001 too, the BJP, in alliance with the DMK led by Karunanidhi, managed to win only four seats. But in 2006, out of the total 225 BJP candidates who contested, 221 failed to secure even their deposits and collapsed. Since 2001, the BJP's vote share has not exceeded 2 percent to 3 percent. For the past five elections, the BJP and DMK have been competing fiercely, politically and ideologically, as north-south poles. The handloom sector has been a pillar of agriculture in Tamil Nadu. Like other states, climate change has severely affected the agriculture and handloom sectors. Before Prime Minister Modi's visit to Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister Stalin requested the Center to support the agriculture sector. He appealed for more procurement of well-ripened paddy, increase the moisture content exemption limit, and provide huge opportunities for grain milling. He asked for a reduction in the GST burden on mango pulp from 12 percent to 5 percent. It is not possible to say to what extent these issues will affect the upcoming elections. Regardless of the caste influence, there will be a tough fight between the BJP and the DMK on Sanatana Dharma. Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu government has been demanding for several years to sanction metro rail projects for Coimbatore and Mathura, but the Central government's rejection is also leading to conflict between the state and the Center. Assembly elections are due in West Bengal, along with Tamil Nadu, in six months. The current Trinamool Congress government and the BJP are facing a clash of castes and religious beliefs. New targets are emerging for vote bank. Clashes continue between the workers of the thirty-year-old Left party and the TMC. The party workers are reeling due to many mistakes made in the Mamata Banerjee government. Differences are arising on issues such as sub-castes, special recognition for Gorkhas, religion, language, etc. In addition, a new controversy has come to the fore that all Muslim Bengalis are infiltrators. Despite all this, the BJP is making remarkable progress in Bengal. The BJP, which won three seats with 10% votes in 2016, was able to win 77 seats with 30% votes by 2021. Law and order is creating problems in Bengal for many reasons. Rapes against medical students and hooliganism by some sections of the community are harassing the local people. All this is increasing dissatisfaction with the current government. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is trying her best to prevent this. However, the BJP is looking to shape Bengal, which has become unstable due to the political violence that has turned into organized crime with clashes, to benefit from all this. As some clashes arise due to the arbitrariness of party workers, it has become a routine for the Center and the state to make mutual accusations. Although it is the duty of the Central and State governments to prevent these at the field level and take responsibility for providing security to the people, it is not being fulfilled properly. Both the states of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are opposed to the central BJP. There are some similarities between these two states. Tamil Nadu is an economically and industrially established state. In comparison, West Bengal has more poverty and is an agricultural-based state. The current governments of these two states are opposing the revision of the new voter lists. They also have similar feelings on linguistics and women's welfare. While Tamil Nadu has a female literacy rate of 73%, West Bengal has a literacy rate of 71%. In this context, the election administration has become a formidable system, which has become a challenge for the BJP. Kamal Nath has set out to find out where the flaws are in both states.

Inside An American Mercenary Group
Accused Of War Crimes In Gaza

When the gates of an aid site in Gaza creaked open shortly after dawn, a thin line of men and women waited silently behind coils of fencing. Some held plastic bowls, others documents issued by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). Drone footage accessed shows American veterans -- uniforms stripped of insignia, rifles slung low -- directing local workers as large pallets of food are off-loaded from armoured trucks. They are employees of UG Solutions, a US-based organisation that calls itself a "purpose-driven humanitarian logistics and threat-assessment company," now operating in one of the most politically fraught environments in the world. Aid agencies have heavily criticised the GHF. Over 150 organisations, including Oxfam, have condemned its model. Amnesty International said the Foundation "does not adhere to core humanitarian standards," noting that four militarised distribution sites replaced 400 earlier aid points, forcing millions into overcrowded zones. Doctors Without Borders called the sites "slaughter masquerading as humanitarian aid." Gaza's Health Ministry has reported dozens of killings at GHF-run sites.

For nearly a year, as Gaza attempted to emerge from the shadow of the Israel-Hamas war, UG Solutions has become a fixture at at least four GHF distribution sites. Their presence has raised questions: Who regulates them? What are they authorised to do? And how do they navigate the political minefield between Israel, Hamas, and a battered civilian population? The group says it is neither a private military contractor nor a conventional humanitarian outfit. In operational terms, the company grew out of The Sentinel Foundation, a US anti-child trafficking non-profit known for field operations in Southeast Asia. When Sentinel's staff began receiving requests from private-sector clients, UG Solutions was formed-with a heavy concentration of former elite American military personnel. "UG Solutions, at its core, is a company of American veterans who are mission-driven and want to continue to serve the greater good, just in a new capacity.



After spending many years in uniform, our staff and cadre have significant depth of expertise in operating in areas of conflict and post-conflict, but that is not what drives them. Helping people during difficult times is what motivates them, so the company continues to move from simply classic security contracting to building a bridge between security and humanitarian operations," the company told. They insist they are undergoing humanitarian-sector training and are "building a bridge" between security and aid delivery, not drifting into private military activity. Their personnel at distribution compounds operate mainly with non-lethal tools: bullhorns, sound grenades, and pepper spray. The distinction they draw is that threat assessment relates to ensuring safe distribution and movement of goods, whereas private military activity implies offensive or defensive combat capability-something they say they do not undertake.

What The Company Does

The group operates in Gaza under a contract from Safe Reach Solutions (SRS), which in turn works under the authority of the GHF. Their stated mission is to secure four GHF distribution sites, protect logistics vehicles moving across the Strip and maintain 24/7 readiness. But the company acknowledges that its role could expand. "We are well-positioned to meet any need for expansion of the mission in Gaza,

to include assisting other humanitarian aid organisations with security and advising of the situation on the ground in the Strip," the company told. According to a Drop Site report, the group is expanding recruitment amid expectations that 12 to 15 new humanitarian distribution sites could open in Gaza as early as next month. A former US Army officer who applied for an "International Humanitarian Security Officer" role said a company recruiter described significant hiring needs and deployments beginning in December. He was later rejected despite progressing through multiple interview rounds that included questions on rules of escalation, humanitarian operations, and willingness to take orders from junior-ranked supervisors. The company previously guarded four GHF sites between May and October. During that period, more than 2,600 Palestinians seeking food were killed and over 19,000 were injured by Israeli forces or security contractors at or near aid distribution points, Drop Site reported. The sites were dismantled after an October 10 ceasefire. UG Solutions also runs a global executive-protection arm, separate from its humanitarian work. This includes security for celebrities, politicians, and corporate clients. Inside Gaza, they say no commercial ventures are currently under their protection. But if reconstruction accelerates, they expect demand for "industrial and infrastruc-

ture protection" to rise: "We are able -- and are keen to -- protect reconstruction efforts in Gaza. Without a doubt, there will be a need as unexploded ordnance (UXOs) are removed, rubble is cleaned up and concrete recycled, and key infrastructure is rehabilitated and reconstructed," the company said. Though based in North Carolina, the group maintains operations worldwide. Their largest current project outside Gaza is an extensive UXO removal operation in Argentina, along with "advanced discussions" on work across multiple African states.

Working With Both Sides

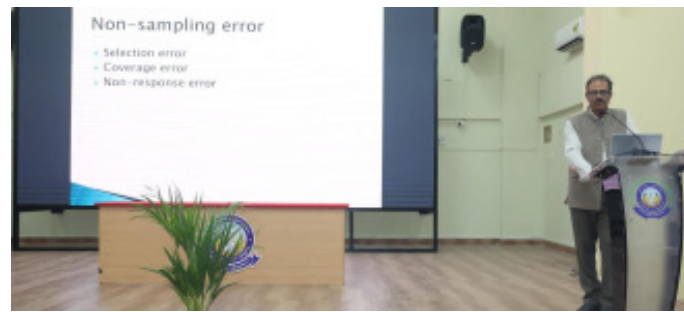
Perhaps the most politically sensitive aspect of UG's Gaza mission is working alongside Israel and

Hamas, each controlling different aspects of the Strip. UG Solutions says that when they first arrived in January 2025, their role was explicitly authorised by both parties under the ceasefire terms. "When UG Solutions first arrived on the ground in Gaza in January 2025 as a contractor to SRS, we operated as a security provider agreed upon by signatories to the ceasefire, namely the Israeli Government and Hamas. At that time, SRS and UG Solutions would largely coordinate movements and any concerns with the IDF and the group of Egyptian security professionals would do the same with Hamas," the company told.

33 Caught Drunk Driving Fined
in Ongole: Traffic CI Jagadeesh

Ongole, Pen Power, November 21: As part of visible policing and vehicle checks, 33 motorists caught driving under the influence were produced before the local court, where the judge imposed a fine of Rs.10,000 each, totaling Rs.3,30,000, said

Ongole Traffic C.I.S. Jagadeesh. He added that vehicle inspections are being carried out as per the directions of District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju and advised all motorists to strictly follow Motor Vehicle Act regulations.

Research Insight is Essential:
Prof. C. Raghava Reddy

Kadapa, Nov 21 — Pen Power: Emphasizing the need for strong research orientation among scholars, Prof. C. Raghava Reddy, Sociologist and Coordinator at the Centre for Policy Research, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India,

Hyderabad Central University, delivered a lecture at Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa. Speaking at the Annamacharya Senate Hall, he highlighted the philosophical foundations and methodologies of research. Faculty members, scholars, and students attended the session.

Collector Rajababu Orders Formation of
‘Dharti Mata Bachao’ Monitoring Committees

Staff Reporter, Ongole – Pen Power, November 21: To promote sustainable farming practices and protect soil health, Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu has directed officials to form Dharti Mata Bachao Nigrani Committees under the Dharti Mata Bachao Abhiyan (Soil Protection Programme-5050). In a meeting with officials at the Collectorate on Friday, the Collector reviewed the guidelines of the programme and instructed agriculture authorities to constitute committees at village, sub-division, and district levels. He emphasized creating awareness among farmers on improving soil conditions, using fertilizers judiciously, and utilizing soil health cards to address micronutrient deficiencies. The Collector noted that excessive use



of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is harming human health and stressed the need to significantly reduce urea use. Agriculture JD Srinivasa Rao, ZP CEO Chiranjeevi, Natural Farming Officer Subhashini, Markfed Officer Hari Krishna, Cooperative Department Officer Srilakshmi, and fertilizer dealers participated in the meeting.

Student from Sri Modamamba High School
Selected for National Archery Championships

Paderu, Pen Power, November 21: Chittapuli Mohith Sai, a 10th-class student of Sri Modamamba High School, Paderu, Alluri district, has been selected for the National-level Junior and Senior Archery Championships conducted by the Andhra Pradesh Archery Association in Nuzvid. Recognising his excellence in both academics and sports, School Principal Smt. Nagamani Ghatta, Coach Adapa Sudhakar Naidu, staff members, and senior archers congratulated the student and



appreciated the encouragement

given by his parents.

Interest-Free Bank Loans Extended
to Self-Help Groups

Paderu, Nov 21 (Pen Power): District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar distributed cheques

worth Rs.2.10 crore to members of 38 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from Dumbbriguda mandal, un-

der the government's initiative to support women in becoming Lakhpatis. He urged SHG members to utilize the loans productively and repay them on time through installments. Additionally, six mulberry farmers from Dumbbriguda mandal received interest-free loans of Rs.1 lakh each, totalling Rs.6 lakh. RDO (In-charge) M. Lokeshwar Rao, DRDAPD V. Murali, LDM M. Matu Naidu, District Sericulture Officer K. Apparao, and SHG members participated in the programme.

Individuals Don't Matter, the System is Permanent : PAC Chairman Kuna Ravi Kumar

Kadapa, Pen Power, November 21: Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Public Undertakings Committee (PAC) Chairman Kuna Ravi Kumar emphasized that individuals are temporary but systems are permanent, and every government official carries responsibility for effective governance. He chaired a review meeting at the Kadapa Collectorate's PGRS Hall, attended by District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri, PAC members MLC Bhoomireddy Rangopal Reddy, MLAs Sravan Kumar (Tadikonda) and Kumar Raja Varla (Pamur), along with senior district officials. The PAC reviewed the functioning and progress of several key institutions including Yogi Vemana University, YSR Architecture & Fine Arts University, RGUKT (IIIT Idupulapaya), Rarsco Ltd, Kadapa Steel Corporation, PADA, KUDA, AP Tourism (YSR Kadapa Region) and AP CARL. Ravi Kumar noted that while YSR Kadapa district is progressing in education, technology, and industrial infrastructure, more work is needed to meet the State Government's development goals. He stressed financial discipline, faster completion of pending works, and responsible utilization of government funds. He suggested introducing certificate courses at RGUKT for financial strengthening and skill development, and recommended practical work experience between UG and PG studies. He directed officials to expedite tourism-related infrastructure, especially at Gandikota, and ensure proper use of AP CARL's advanced research facilities. The Chairman said the PAC would extend full support toward achieving the district's development targets. Senior officials including VCs of Yogi Vemana University and YSR Architecture University, RGUKT in-charge VC, AP CARL CEO, tourism officials, and CPOs attended the meeting.



Resolve Public Grievances Quickly: Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar



Paderu, Pen Power, November 21: A total of 151 petitions were received during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) held at the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) on Friday. District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar, RDO Lokeshwar Rao, and district-level officials received petitions from applicants and directed concerned departments to ensure speedy resolution of all grievances. The Collector urged people to make use of the 1100 call center for complaint registration and status tracking. Citizens can also file petitions through the Meekosam.ap.gov.in portal and should utilise these services to resolve their issues, he said.

Key Petitions Received

Bachuluru village (Y. Ramavaram mandal): Construction of a health sub-centre, school building, Anganwadi centre, and water tank requested. Duppulapalem village (Addateegala mandal): Supply of typhoid medicines and injections to the Primary Health Centre. Pedavutthu village (Munchingiputtu mandal): Request for road works and housing construction. Dunbhaguda village (Pedabayalu mandal): Petition submitted regarding house construction. Paderu, Hukumpeta & Pedabayalu mandals: Adivasi Mahasabha representatives sought sanction of pensions for 225 widows, elderly, and disabled persons, pending for five years due to unopened sites. Kamayyapeta village (Hukumpeta mandal): Request for sanction of a community hall and installation of a Jio cell tower. District officials from DRDA, Agriculture, Treasury, Sports, Industries, Survey & Land Records, and others participated in the programme.

Ratan Tata Innovation Hub Strengthening Startup-to-Industry Pipeline

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 21: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri, along with Nodal Officer Y. Megha Swaroop, visited the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub on Friday to review its operations. The Collector inspected various early-stage startup products and innovation models, stressing that the hub should evolve into a strong platform for industries and young entrepreneurs. She suggested effective 100% utilization of floral waste from Kadiyam nurseries and instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan with the RMC Commissioner to enable bio-gas production. During a Zoom meeting with the Board of Directors, she highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in implementing the "Research to Market" model, directing strengthened collaboration with JNTU Kakinada and Adikavi Nannaya University for incubation, training, and mentoring. Out of 199 registered startups in the district, nearly 100 have succeeded, reflecting positive growth, she noted. The Collector emphasized formalizing unorganized sectors, enhancing value addition in horticulture, aquaculture, and agri-processing, and improving finance-market-technology linkages through public-private partnership models. Joint Collector Megha Swaroop stated that sector-specific acceleration programs, mentoring, market linkages, research integration, and financial connectivity will be implemented. Greenko representative P. Rambabu said the region has strong potential for new industries and startups and expressed readiness for investments and incubation support. District Industries officials and representatives from NIT Aditya, Nannaya University, and other institutions reviewed the progress of the 199 registered startups and expressed willingness to partner in innovation, skill development, and incubation initiatives. Coordination is underway to finalize upcoming MoUs.



Departments Must Coordinate to Resolve Land Issues: TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao



Visakhapatnam, Nov 21: At the Comprehensive Land Survey Petitions Committee meeting held at the Visakhapatnam Collectorate under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, TDP State President and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao urged officials to address long-pending land-related grievances with urgency and responsiveness. He stressed that inter-departmental coordination—between Registration, Revenue and Survey departments—is essential to restore public trust. Out of the 12 lakh petitions received through PGRS in the last 18 months, nearly 7 lakh were related to land issues, reflecting serious gaps in land administration, he said. Palla pointed out issues such as wrong survey numbers, missing or incorrect entries in land records, delays in updating post-22(A) clearance registrations, technical glitches in Webland, changes in survey numbers after re-survey, and delays in issuing pattadar passbooks. He recommended immediate implementation of automatic data synchronization between departments, faster field verification, review of old records, and prompt issuance of passbooks. On the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) issue, he credited recent progress to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's "forward-looking decisions," including conversion of Rs.2,400 crore power dues into share capital, approval of a Rs.14,000 crore package, Rs.9,500 crore infusion into RINL accounts, and restoration of the third blast furnace. He dismissed claims that VSP cannot run without captive mines as politically motivated misinformation spread by YSRCP and CITU leaders. Palla also said the Centre is ready to restore the grant-in-aid for Vimal Vidyalaya once VSP management gives its formal consent. MLAs Vishnukumar Raju, Konathala Ramakrishna, senior IAS officers, and Revenue Department representatives attended the meeting.

public trust. Out of the 12 lakh petitions received through PGRS in the last 18 months, nearly 7 lakh were related to land issues, reflecting serious gaps in land administration, he said. Palla pointed out issues such as wrong survey numbers, missing or incorrect entries in land records, delays in updating post-22(A) clearance registrations, technical glitches in Webland, changes in survey numbers after re-survey, and delays in issuing pattadar passbooks. He recommended immediate implementation of automatic data synchronization between departments, faster field verification, review of old records, and prompt issuance of passbooks. On the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) issue, he credited recent progress to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's "forward-looking decisions," including conversion of Rs.2,400 crore power dues into share capital, approval of a Rs.14,000 crore package, Rs.9,500 crore infusion into RINL accounts, and restoration of the third blast furnace. He dismissed claims that VSP cannot run without captive mines as politically motivated misinformation spread by YSRCP and CITU leaders. Palla also said the Centre is ready to restore the grant-in-aid for Vimal Vidyalaya once VSP management gives its formal consent. MLAs Vishnukumar Raju, Konathala Ramakrishna, senior IAS officers, and Revenue Department representatives attended the meeting.

Demand to Form Markapur as a Separate District All-Party Round Table Held at Erragondapalem

Ongole, Pen Power, November 21: Leaders from various political parties and people's organisations jointly demanded the creation of Markapur as a new district. The round-table meeting was held at the local NGO Home in Erragondapalem, chaired by JAC convenor Medabalimi Venkateswara Rao. Congress district president and Markapur District Sadhana Samiti convenor Sheikh Saïda, CPI senior leader Ande Nasarayya, CPM leaders, AAP, BSP, VC(K) Party, farmers' unions and social organisations participated. Leaders recalled that the demand for Markapur district has existed since the tenure of former MLA Krishay Poola Subbaiah. They criticised previous governments for creating districts unscientifically and ignoring public sentiment. They said that although Chandrababu Naidu had promised Markapur district during elections, no announcement was made during his recent visit to Kanigiri, raising doubts among locals. They announced protest programs, including a demonstration at the Markapur Sub-Collector's office on the 24th, and a resolution to include Srisaïlam within the proposed Markapur district. They called for a Telangana-style mass movement, stressing that district formation is crucial to prevent migration and create employment opportunities for youth. Later, leaders met TDP in-charge Gudur Erixion Babu and appealed for swift action in forming the district. Several prominent leaders from CPI, BSP, VC(K) Party, Dalit and BC organisations, farmers' associations and civil groups attended the meeting.



AP Leads the Nation in Fisheries Income Minister Dr. Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanya Swami

- World Fisheries Day Celebrated Grandly in Ongole



Ongole, Nov 21 – Pen Power: Andhra Pradesh ranks first in the country in fisheries income, said Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanya Swami at the World Fisheries Day celebrations held at Prakasam Bhavan, Ongole. The event was chaired by District Fisheries Officer Srinivasarao and attended by District Collector P. Rajababu, Joint Collector R. Gopalakrishna, MLA Damacharla Janardhan Rao, Ongole Mayor Gangada Sujatha and other officials. The Minister stated that the government is committed to the welfare of fishermen and is strengthening the aquaculture sector by providing electricity at ₹1.5 per unit. He highlighted the government's decision to return lands to protesting fishermen in Uppada and its efforts to empower fisheries cooperative societies. Collector Rajababu urged fishermen to adopt modern technologies, noting that the government is introducing new courses to promote aquaculture education. The Joint Collector detailed coastal development and reminded that prices under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana were fixed in the presence of fishermen. MLA Janardhan Rao emphasized the government's support during fishing-ban periods, including Rs.20,000 compensation and essential supplies during Cyclone Mointha. He noted the enhancement of accident insurance to Rs.10 lakh, upcoming works on the Pallepalem Fishing Harbour, and assured resolution of issues such as diesel subsidy enhancement and housing sites. District Fisheries Cooperative Society president G. Perayya requested an increase in PMMSY subsidies and diesel quota from 300 to 600 liters. During the event, families of seven deceased fishermen received Rs.5 lakh cheques. Ten fishermen were given life jackets, five received GPS sets, and boats, engines, and nets were also distributed.

Dr. Sheikh Mahaboob Vali Appointed WHRC India Vice President

Ongole, Pen Power, Nov 21: Prominent social worker Dr. Sheikh Mahaboob Vali has been appointed as the Vice President of the World Human Rights Commission (WHRC) – India. The WHRC global office issued official orders confirming his lifetime membership and his continuation as India Vice President for life. He will receive his official appointment letter on November 27, 2025. The Commission also announced that Dr. Vali will be honoured with the Rashtriya Ashok Samman Award, marking the 110th award of his career.



Acknowledging the honour, Dr. Vali expressed gratitude to the WHRC and stated that he will work with full commitment to protect human rights and contribute to the organization's growth. Dr. Mahaboob Vali currently serves as the Andhra Pradesh State President for three organizations—Civil Public Welfare Organisation, Corruption Free India, and Yogdan Sahara Samiti—and is also the District Minority General Secretary of the Congress Party. Several friends, well-wishers, and prominent personalities congratulated him on his appointment.

APCARRL Signs MoU with Heviha, Subsidiary of MaxWell Biosciences (USA)



Kadapa, Pen Power, November 21: To attract foreign investments to the district, MaxWell Biosciences' U.S.-based subsidiary Heviha signed an MoU with APCARRL, District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri announced. The agreement was formalised at the Collector's chamber in Kadapa, in the presence of Heviha representative Dr. Chetan Tamahankar and APCARRL CEO Prof. Srinivasa Prasad.

Key Points of the MoU
Rs.30 crore investment in the next six months to establish an R&D laboratory, creating around 50 jobs.
Proposal to set up a manufacturing unit with an investment of Rs.2,000 crore over the next four years.
MaxWell Biosciences has already signed seven agreements with U.S. defence agencies, and this is their first investment in India.
District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri assured full government support, highlighting Pulivendula–Bengaluru International Airport's proximity and the well-developed national highways as major advantages for attracting global investors. APCARRL CEO Prof. Srinivasa Prasad credited the efforts of former AP RERA Chairman Ramanath Velamati, MSME Technical Advisor Shankar Prasad, Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture & Animal Husbandry) B. Rajasekar, and the District Collector for enabling the MoU. Scientists Dr. Shiva Prasad, Admin Lakshmi Prasad and others participated.

Two Home Guards Suspended for Indiscipline Prakasham District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju

Ongole, Nov 21 (Pen Power): During the ongoing Sagar Kavach security arrangements, three Home Guards — Sheikh Yasin (Pedda Araveedu PS), Tangirala Prashanth Kumar (Dornala PS), and Cherukuri Bala Subrahmanyam (Veligandla PS) — stayed at Annapurna Lodge in Ongole on Wednesday night. After consuming alcohol, a heated argument broke out between Prashanth Kumar and Bala Subrahmanyam while smoking, which led to a physical scuffle. Bala Subrahmanyam fell during the altercation and sustained a head injury. Upon learning about the incident, Prakasham District SP V.



Harshavardhan Raju ordered an immediate inquiry, stating that strict discipline is mandatory for all personnel in the police department. A detailed report has been sought. All three Home Guards were called to district headquarters for questioning. Prashanth Kumar and Bala Subrahmanyam have been temporarily suspended from duty, the SP confirmed. A full investigation is underway. The SP emphasized that Home Guards are integral to the police system, and any misconduct or violation of departmental rules will invite strict action.

Akhanda 2 Surgical Strike : Vilaya Thaandavam

The first glimpse of Akhanda 2 left audiences stunned, showcasing Nandamuri Balakrishna in a striking and powerful Aghora avatar. The second glimpse shifted gears, presenting another character of Balakrishna in a full-fledged mass look, packed with high-octane action. Interim, the team unveiled the theatrical trailer of the film, aptly titled Surgical Strike, during a grand event in Bangalore. The trailer opens with an ominous voiceover hinting at a sinister mission to shatter the faith of Indians in God. Just as darkness looms, Akhanda makes a thunderous entry, unleashing Vilaya Thaandavam to safeguard Sanathana Haindava Dharma and the nation itself. Balakrishna is fierce and powerful as Akhanda, showing strong intensity in every scene. Even the way he walks looks energetic and impactful, proving how strong the character is and how well Balakrishna performs. Aadhi Pinisetty plays the villain with dark powers, and he gives a strong and scary performance. Samyuktha plays



the female lead. Director Boyapati Sreenu expands the canvas this time, even weaving a China connection into the narrative. The strong nationalistic undercurrent lends the film a pan-India flavor, while its devotional elements promise to resonate deeply with audi-

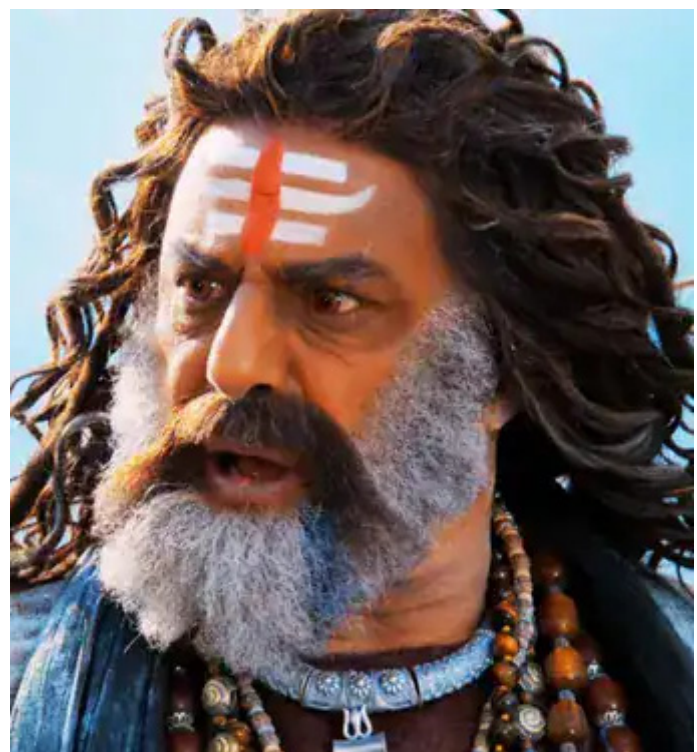
ences across the country. Technically, the trailer is a visual spectacle. The cinematography by C Ramprasad and Santosh D Detakae is top-tier, while S Thaman's pulsating and goosebumps inducing background score elevates the intensity to another level. The

production values are notably grander this time around. Produced by Raam Achanta and Gopi Achanta under 14 Reels Plus, and presented by M Tejaswini Nandamuri, the trailer has undeniably heightened expectations for the film, which is set to hit theatres on December 5th.

Akhanda 2 Speaks About The Roots Of Our Country: NBK

Nata Simham Nandamuri Balakrishna and his team of Akhanda 2 are going all out to promote the film at a Pan-India level. Today, the trailer launch event took place in a spectacular manner in Karnataka, with Karunada Chakravarthy Shiva Rajkumar attending as the chief guest. Director Boyapati Srinu thanked Shiva Rajkumar for unveiling the trailer. "This is a film deeply rooted in the philosophy of Shiva. It's a matter of pride for us to have the trailer launched by Shivanna himself. Balayya and Shivanna even considered cancelling the event due to the rain, but they decided they couldn't leave without meeting the fans and offering their greetings. So here they are, addressing you all in person.

If you're wondering what kind of film you're about to witness, let me put it this



way: If anyone tries to bring disgrace upon this nation, it is Dharma itself that will rise with the trident of justice. That's the kind of film this is." Shiva Rajkumar

spoke about the bond between his family and Balakrishna's. "We're like one family-like brothers. In fights, dances, and everything else, Balakrishna is

always one step ahead. Get ready to celebrate Akhanda 2 in cinemas on December 5th." Balakrishna affirmed that nature itself has blessed the film, like showers of good fortune. "Akhanda 2 is not just a Telugu or Kannada film. It's a Pan-Indian movie. You'll see the essence of Sanathana Dharma in Akhanda 2. My films always carry a message to guide the youth onto the right path. Akhanda 2 speaks about the roots of our country. It shows how we should uphold dharma and why we should never bow before adharma." Expressing his satisfaction with the outcome of Akhanda 2, Balakrishna also made an interesting revelation. "I have no qualms in admitting that I took inspiration for my look in Veera Simha Reddy from Shivanna's get-up in his film Mufti."

Did Half of the Shoot on a Physio Bed – Star Actress Reveals

A broken engine somehow still rolling on the road, that's pretty much how Rakul Preet Singh describes her time shooting De De Pyaar De 2. After doing popular Telugu films like Pandaga Chesko, Sarrainodu and Dhruva, she shifted her focus to Bollywood, but things didn't really go her way there. A few films, including Mere Husband Ki Biwi, didn't click, and honestly, the last couple of years were rough for her. Now, things seem to be settling in her favour again. De De Pyaar De 2, the sequel to the 2019 hit, opened well and kept steady through the week. Even on Day 7, the film was doing fine and had collected around Rs 51 crore Nett. With the movie picking up good buzz, Rakul's recent interview about her injury during the shoot suddenly grabbed everyone's attention and started spreading online. In that chat, Rakul spoke openly about something she never mentioned before, a serious spine injury she got right in the middle of the shoot. She had already wrapped up half the film when the injury hit her. What followed was 40 days stuck in bed, feeling clueless about when she would even walk normally again. After a long three-month break, she came back to the sets, but still couldn't sit properly. "I actually shot half the film lying on a physio bed. You won't even notice it on screen," she said. And that line alone shocked a lot of people.

The toughest part for her was the highway scene everyone's been talking about. Sharing how they pulled it off, Rakul said, "My bed was literally on the highway. I'd be lying down, they'd get the setup ready, I'd get up, give the shot, and go back to lying down again." And now, when people praise her performance, they're also realising the kind of pain and patience that went into it.



Natasa Stankovic Reacts As Smriti Mandhana Gets Surprise Proposal In Cricket Stadium

India Women's World Cup-winning star Smriti Mandhana is all set to tie the knot with music composer-filmmaker Palash Muchhal on November 23. With the wedding just around the corner, the couple has been teasing fans with adorable posts and fun reels. Recently, Palash shared a heartfelt video on Instagram, where he took Smriti to the iconic DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and proposed to her by going down on one knee. Smriti, dressed in a stunning maroon outfit, was completely taken aback as Palash slipped a beautiful diamond ring on her finger. The caption read, "She said yes," and the video went viral on social media like wildfire. Many big names from the cricket and entertainment industries commented on the post and congratulated the



couple. Model-actress and Hardik Pandya's ex-wife, Natasa Stankovic, also took to Instagram to share her excitement, writing: "Omg omg omg, congratulations you guys." Hardik and Natasa, who married in 2020 and renewed their vows in 2023, announced their separation in July 2024. As for Smriti and Palash, their love

story began in 2019 and remained private until 2024. Now, it's all set to culminate in a grand wedding, which will reportedly take place on November 23.

Ahead of the big day, Mandhana released a video featuring members of the Women's World Cup-winning team, including Jemimah Rodrigues, Radha Yadav, and Arundhati Reddy. Rising star Shreyanka Patil also appeared in the clip. In the video, the players can be seen dancing to the song Samjho Ho Hi Gaya from the movie Lage Raho Munna Bhai. At the end, Mandhana proudly shows off her engagement ring. The video left all the fans utterly impressed. Palash Muchhal, 30, is a music composer and filmmaker, and the younger brother of renowned Bollywood singer Palak Muchhal.

'Can't Make Or Break Your Day': Sania Mirza's Advice On Handling Social Media Trolls

"Social media cannot make or break your day," said six-time Grand Slam Champion Sania Mirza while speaking with Indian cricketer Richa Ghosh during a fireside chat at the Future Makers Conclave (FMC) in Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025. Moderated by sports journalist Mayanti Langer, Mirza shared her hard-earned wisdom. "There are a couple of ways to handle it. She (Richa Ghosh) is still young, and my advice to her is just be as somebody who has faced and grown up in an era where electronic media and social media were coming. "When I was coming up, we were about just newspapers, and Sportstar was the only kind of window to sports. But then electronic media started coming, the tabloids started coming in. It started getting boring to talk just about forehands and backhands, and then they wanted to start talking about, you know, other things of an athlete's life just to make things interesting, and then comes the criticism that you lost a match because you were out for dinner some-



where," she added. Recalling the absurd comments that she used to face back then, Mirza said, "It made me very thick-skinned. So, I actually find it quite humorous. I actually find it quite funny that people who have never held a cricket bat or a tennis racket or a boxing glove in their hand can have such a big opinion about what you do professionally. And I feel really sad for them sometimes, because I'm like, you must really be unhappy with your life to hate someone you've never met who's trying to represent the country at the highest level," she added. Pity-

ing the comments that criticises her online, she said, "You don't take the good to heart, and you don't take the bad to heart. Because social media or media cannot make or break your day. It cannot be that important. What can make or break your day is what the people you love feel about you, who you love feels about you, what communication you have with them." Ghosh, a young cricketer of the Indian women's cricket team who grew up in the social media era, had different perspective when asked about the way she handles social media criticism.

No-Handshake Policy Against Pakistan To Continue? BCCI Says : Not An Astrologer



Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia said that the no-handshake policy is expected

to continue on the cricket field as the geopolitical situation between the two countries is not 'conducive'. Indian cricket

team skipper Suryakumar Yadav sparked controversy by not shaking hands with Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha during the Asia Cup 2025 and even though the two teams faced each other three times during the competition, the players of the two teams did not exchange any pleasantries. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side followed suit during the Women's ODI World Cup and India A skipper Jitesh Sharma also did not shake hands with his Pakistan counterpart during the ongoing Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament. In a recent interaction, Saikia was asked whether India will make any changes to their "I am not an astrologer.

Rishabh Pant Asked About India's Excessive All-rounders Policy Under Gautam Gambhir. His Reply

With Shubman Gill ruled out, Rishabh Pant is set to take up the captaincy responsibility of India's Test team for the second match of the series against South Africa. Down 0-1 against Temba Bavuma's men, Pant has a tough task ahead of him, even as he makes his Test captaincy debut on the same ground where he made his one-day debut. Answering reporters on the eve of the match, Pant had to face some tricky questions on Friday. The wicket-keeper batter was also asked about the overflow of all-rounders in the team, and if that is good for the game in the longest format. Under head coach

Gautam Gambhir, India have seen all-rounders being preferred over specialists in every format. In the first match, India played three spin-bowling all-rounders. When asked if specialists should be preferred over all-rounders in the Test format, he gave an honest reply. "Ab to itne saare all-rounders hain, kya aapko lagta hai ki Test cricket specialists ka game hai?," the reporter asked. "I feel it's a balance sometimes for the team combination. You have to see if a specialised player is helping you more, or an all-rounder is giving you more stability in the team. So it's all about finding that team



balance and the way you want to play cricket," he said in reply. When asked about his captaincy philosophy, Pant said he believes in giving players freedom to express themselves.