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Modi: Cong most corrupt, run by 'tukde tukde' gang

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'HYD'S FORMER INTIMACY HAS FADED'



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Martin actress says goodbye to having been a sex SYMBOL!



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

It is a shame that BRS which corrupted Arogyasree, EHS and JHS schemes for 10 years, is now trying to justify it. Without releasing dues to hospitals and revising package rates, Arogyasree denied treatment to patients. Employees and pensioners who went for treatment under EHS were humiliated by corporate hospitals. Employees are not ignorant of your schemes and gimmicks. BRS leaders should refrain from such cheap criticism.



- Damodar Rajanarasimha, Health Minister, Telangana

P2

DON'T MISS...

Govt to plan rural women-centric ...

Assuring that more rural women-centric policies and incentives to uplift women will be planned by the government, Seethakka, Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, and Women and Child Welfare, participated in CII Telangana's 10th edition of the CII Indian Women Network's annual Leadership Conclave 2024 at Tech Mahindra on Friday.
Addressing the women at the conclave, Seethakka noted that many come from rural backgrounds and emphasised the important role women ...

-PAGE: 3

Left MLA escalates attack...

Left legislator P V Anvar has continued to keep Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office on edge by intensifying his attack against ADGP M R Ajithkumar and the Chief Minister's political secretary, P Sasi. Anvar, despite receiving assurances from both the CPI(M) and the Chief Minister regarding his demand for an investigation against Ajithkumar, alleged on Friday that an illegal parallel investigation is being conducted alongside the inquiry led by the state police chief into the accusations against...

-PAGE: 5

Food price volatility remains risky: RBI...

Food price volatility remains a contingent risk even as the overall retail inflation has remained below the target of 4 per cent for the second consecutive month in August, said the latest Bulletin of the Reserve Bank released on Friday. The September Bulletin also said that global economic activity is slowing down while the pace of disinflation remains sluggish, provoking caution among monetary policy authorities.
"Consumer price index inflation came in below the Reserve Bank's target for the second...

-PAGE: 8

Pacers put India on top, big lead...

Jasprit Bumrah's artistry seemed incomprehensible for an out of sorts Bangladesh batting line-up as India took complete control of the opening Test with an overall lead of 308 runs at end of second day's play. Bumraj (4/50) once again worked his magic in company of Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep (2/19) and Ravindra Jadeja as Bangladesh were all-out for a paltry 149 in their first innings in reply to India's 376. With a lead of 227 runs, India ended second at 81 for 3 with Shubman Gill (33 batting)...

-SPORTS

Cabinet gives legality to HYDRAA

▪ Gives it extensive powers ▪ Allows it to check encroachments inside ORR area

- Rs 500 bonus for fine variety paddy from Kharif season
- 12-member panel comprising top officials to finalise South part RRR alignment
- Approval for SLBC revised estimate works worth Rs 4,637 crore
- Cabinet decides to set up Logistic Park on 72 acres in Manoharabad
- Industrial Park on 58 acres in Khammam district
- Merger of 27 urban and local bodies, 51 gram panchayats located inside ORR in core urban area



KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU
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■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cabinet decided to provide legality to HYDRAA and give full freedom and extensive powers to it by relaxing rules.

The Cabinet also decided to provide HYDRAA with adequate staff on deputation from other departments. The Cabinet decided to provide 169 officers and 964 outsourced staffers to HYDRAA.

Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and N. Uttam Kumar Reddy revealed details of the Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday at the Secretariat.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti said the Cabinet decided to provide extensive powers to HYDRAA and also give it legality. The Cabinet decided to give HYDRAA powers to remove buildings built in the FTL areas and buffer zones of water bodies. The Cabinet gave powers to HYDRAA to check encroachments of tanks, lakes and drains inside the ORR area. It also decided to merge the 27 urban local bodies and 51 village panchayats located inside ORR in the core urban area.

The Cabinet decided to appoint a committee comprising 12 members under R&B Special Chief Secretary to finalise the South part of RRR alignment. The R&B Principal Secretary will be the committee's convener.

The Cabinet also decided to implement the Police Health Security Scheme and to set up a Logistic Park on 72 acres in Manoharabad. The Cabinet approved the appointment of around 3,000 teaching and non-teaching staff in eight medical colleges. Notifications will be issued regarding this very soon.

The Cabinet approved the setting up of an industrial park on 58 acres in Khammam district and sanctioned 34 staffers for the Eturunagaram Fire Station.

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HYDRAA effect? August property sales drop sharply

NAVEENA GHANATE
naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Property registrations in Hyderabad witnessed a sharp drop in August 2024, dropping by 27% compared to the previous month.

According to the latest data, 6,439 properties were registered in August, a significant fall from the 8,781 registrations recorded in July.

This dramatic drop comes amid concerns that the demolitions by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA) may have contributed to the slowdown in the real estate market. Market analysts say that the uncertainty surrounding HYDRAA's large-scale demolition drives, aimed at removing illegal structures and addressing urban flooding, could be making potential buyers postpone investments.

5

LADDU INGREDIENTS

AP CM asks EO to submit report



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat to address concerns regarding the quality and alleged use of impure ingredients in the preparation of Tirumala laddus during the previous government's tenure. CM Naidu directed officials, including the Executive Officer (EO) of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), to submit a detailed report on the adulteration of

5

'Chandrababu using God for political gains'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday hit out at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over the ghee adulteration in Tirumala, saying the latter was trying to divert public attention from his 100 days of rule.

Addressing a press conference, he said Naidu is such a person who will



5

2015 CASH-FOR-VOTE CASE

SC to Revanth Reddy: Don't interfere with prosecution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy not to interfere in anyway with the functioning of prosecution in the proceedings of the 2015 cash-for-vote case, in which he is one of the accused.

While refusing to transfer the trial in the case from Telangana to Bhopal, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said the director general of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) would not report to the chief minister regarding prosecution of the case.

The apex court, which had earlier voiced strong displeasure over Reddy's comments on the top court granting bail to rival Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, said it was expected that all the three wings of the Constitution showed mutual respect for functioning of each other. The bench, while taking note that Reddy has tendered an apology in the court, said it did not wish to proceed further on the issue.

"Though we do not wish to proceed further in the matter, we may only put on caution all the constitutional functionaries -- the legislature, the executive and the judiciary -- to discharge their constitutional duties in the spheres earmarked for them by the Constitution," it said.

"Such unwarranted comments unnecessarily bring about a friction. We may, therefore, only put a piece of advice that one should be careful enough while making comments about the orders passed by the courts," the bench said.

It said no doubt that right to fair criticism of the verdict was always welcomed but one should not transgress the limits. The apex court passed the order while hearing a plea filed by BRS MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and three others who had sought transfer of trial in the case from Telangana to Bhopal.

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'Show mutual respect for each other's functioning'

SC on 3 wings of Constitution

It is expected that all three wings of the Constitution show mutual respect for each other's functioning as "unwarranted comments" bring friction unnecessarily, the Supreme Court said on Friday.

Observing that a fair criticism of judgments is always welcome but one should not "transgress the limits", a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said one

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MEDIGADDA PROBLEM

Engineers blame it on storing too much water, non-lifting of gates during floods

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Engineers from the Telangana State Engineering Research Laboratory (TSERL) appeared before the Justice PC Ghosh Commission and answered questions about the Kaleshwaram Project.

The commission examined the role of the laboratory in conducting model studies for the three key barrages of the project.

During the session, the engineers said that research was conducted as per rules, focusing on locations and reports from CDO authorities. They explained that model studies for the barrages were conducted from 2016 to 2023 under the laboratory's supervision.

The engineers clarified that research and construction activities were going on concurrently for certain parts of the project

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BRS will win in Station Ghanpur bypoll: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao has confidently stated that the BRs flag will once again fly high in Station Ghanpur constituency. During a meeting with former deputy chief minister Tatikonda Rajaiah in Hyderabad, KTR discussed the upcoming by-election and expressed certainty that the current MLA, Kadiyam Srihari, who switched parties, will be disqualified.

Rajaiah, who met KTR to share strategies for the by-election, emphasised that the people are ready to defeat Srihari, who betrayed the party and

5

KTR demands inquiry into graft in TG AMRUT tenders

Alleges CM's family involved



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) has written a letter to Union Ministers for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar and Tochhan Sahu, raising serious concern over the corruption in the AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) scheme tenders invited by the Telangana government.

KTR demanded an inquiry into the awarding of these contracts and alleged favouritism towards companies connected to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's family without following proper norms.

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Govt announces bonus for SCCL workers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

- SCCL to pay Rs 796 crore as bonus
- All permanent employees will get Rs 1.90 lakh each as bonus
- Contract workers will get Rs 5,000 each as bonus

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced a 'Dussehra' bonus for SCCL workers even before the beginning of festivities.

The CM said the bonus is being paid to workers from the profits earned by the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) last year. Every permanent worker of SCCL will get a bonus of Rs 1.90 lakh and contract workers Rs 5,000.

Addressing the press at the Secretariat on Friday, Revanth

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Konda Laxman Bapuji Jayanthi to be State function

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has declared the birth anniversary (Jayanthi) of Konda Laxman Bapuji as a State function. The celebration will be held on September 27, 2024, marking the birth anniversary of Bapuji, and all district collectors across the State, along with the Resident Commissioner at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, have been directed to organise the event accordingly.

The General Administration (Poll.B) department issued a government order (G.O.Rt.No. 1253) on

5

RRR alignment changed to help CM's kin, Congress leaders: BRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



BRS MLA Vemula Prashant Reddy accused the Congress government of being behind the illegal land acquisitions and disruptions caused by changes in the RRR (Regional Ring Road) alignment in its southern section.

Addressing the media at the Telangana Bhavan on Friday, he called for a CBI investigation into these allegations, stating that if an investigation is not conducted, it would prove that the BJP and the Congress are hand in hand.

"Revanth Reddy's government is facilitating land scams through changes in the southern alignment of the RRR," Prashant claimed and added that KCR had earlier requested Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to give Central approval for the project.

He said that while the northern part of the RRR alignment was approved smoothly, issues arose only with the southern section, where changes were made to benefit Congress leaders who had land nearby.

Prashant highlighted the financial burden, noting that while the state is expected to spend Rs 2,500 crore, the Centre will contribute Rs 12,500 crore for land acquisition and road construction.

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KWDT-II directs AP to submit affidavit on Operation Protocol

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II) has directed Andhra Pradesh to submit the affidavit of its witness regarding Operation Protocol within four weeks. The tribunal, chaired by Justice Brijesh Kumar, said that no further time extensions would be allowed.

The decision came after Andhra Pradesh's senior counsel, G. Umapathy, submitted that the state intends to examine one witness and sought time to file the affidavit.

Telangana, represented by senior counsel CS Vaidyanathan, requested two additional weeks to file supplementary documents. The tribunal agreed to Telangana's request, allowing the state to submit its documents within the same period as Andhra Pradesh. Both states have been told to file and mark their documents in the tribunal registry within 10 days after submission,

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the pioneer
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Time to rethink temple management in secular India

The current policy of government control over Hindu temples poses a potential threat to our national cohesion and integrity and is also unfair to non-Hindu politicians and officers. In a secular country where a Christian, Muslim or even those who despise religion call it "the opium of the masses" - the Communists, can gain power, it is unfair to put them in a position where they are susceptible to undeserved suspicion by the majority Hindus



KISHORE POREDDY

The shocking news that cow ghee used to make the sacred prasadam at one of Hinduism's most revered shrines, the Tirumala Tirupathi Balaji temple, was adulterated is a stark reminder of the dangers of State control over religious places in a secular country. The report by the Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), which analysed the cow ghee samples used to make the iconic Tirupati laddu, mentions the presence of foreign fats, including tallow (beef fat), lard (pork fat), fish and vegetable oils.

Although the CALF report came with a caveat of potential false positives, for the Hindus, who regard the cow as sacred, as a Goddess, and killing a cow as the greatest of sins, the very possibility of such sacrilege sent shockwaves. The doubt that by consuming the sacred maha prasadam of Lord Venkateswara, one could have possibly committed the greatest of sins was beyond devastating for the devotees. The sentiments around such sacrilege are so strong that historians consider it the trigger that launched India's first war of independence in 1858 against the British East India Company (EIC). When the East India Company introduced a new model of the Enfield Rifle, whose cartridges the Hindu and Muslim sepoys believed to be greased by tallow (cow fat) and lard (pork fat), they mutinied against the company.

Under our country's laws, state governments control and manage Hindu temples. The Andhra Pradesh state government constitutes the Tirumala Tirupathi Devastanam Board (TTD), which oversees the Tirumala temple. The state government appoints a top bureaucrat, typically an Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer, as the temple's Executive Officer (EO). Reports indicate that the TTD Board and the EO appointed by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of the previous YSRCP government replaced the supplier who had supplied cow ghee to the temple for over three decades with a new contractor. The current government sent the samples of the ghee supplied by the new contractor to the CALF laboratory, which found them to be contaminated.

If the Hindu temples were controlled by the Hindu community, as in the cases of Muslim and Christian religious places which are overseen by the respective communities, the adulteration issue, however egregious and sacrilegious it might be, would have had a limited impact on our national cohesiveness. Since that is not the case, and ex-chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's family practices the Christian faith, accusations that his government had intentionally adulterated cow ghee with prohibited animal fats are gaining ground.

Earlier instances of temple vandalism in Andhra Pradesh during the YSRCP rule had already led to suspicions among the Hindus that the Jagan government had a sinister anti-Hindu agenda. In 2020, a temple priest found the decapitated head of the 400-year-old Sri Rama idol of Ramathirtha temple in Vizianagaram in the temple pond. Reports of a 12th century Nandi from a Siva temple in Chittoor district had surfaced earlier. Just a year after Jagan Mohan Reddy had come to power, the chariots of Prasanna Venkateswara Temple at Kondabitragunta Village, Nellore, and the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi in East Godavari district were set ablaze and destroyed. No one knew who was behind these sacrileges; there was no proof that the Jagan government had an explicit or implicit role in these acts. Yet, the suspicions grew stronger by the day.

It is irrelevant if the perception that a government led by a non-Hindu will be detrimental to Hindu temples and faith is backed by truth or not. The very fact that such a perception can arise has grave consequences for our national cohesiveness and integrity. We are a nation that has seen Hindu temples destroyed by past non-Hindu rulers, however long ago it may be. We are also a nation which was partitioned because some believed that a government controlled by the numerically dominant Hindus would be anti-Muslim. Though independent India disproved the sceptics, the bitter reality is that the false narrative was enough to partition India and give birth to a mortal enemy.

The current policy of government control over Hindu temples poses a potential threat to our national cohesion and integrity and is also unfair to non-Hindu politicians and officers. In a secular country where a Christian, Muslim or even those who despise religion call it "the opium of the masses" - the Communists, can gain power, it is unfair to put them in a position where they are susceptible to the suspicion that they are against their religion by the majority Hindus. It erodes their legitimacy and unnecessarily puts them in a disadvantageous position concerning electoral politics.

It is time for Indian society to take a relook at the laws that selectively put only Hindu religious places under government control. If social discrimination in religious institutions is a concern, the Judiciary has proven competent in addressing it. Government control over Hindu temples or any other religious places of worship does not behove a secular India.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

SECONDARY AGRI CAN BOOST RURAL ECONOMY

Murmu tells ICAR to focus on converting waste to wealth

PNS ■ RANCHI



President Droupadi Murmu on Friday asserted that secondary agriculture could significantly enhance the rural economy, urging the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to focus on converting waste into wealth.

"Secondary agriculture has the potential to boost the rural economy. ICAR should work towards this goal to boost farmers' income," she said while addressing the centenary celebrations of the ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture (NISA) here as the chief guest.

Highlighting the export potential of Indian lac, which is in high demand in the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries, the President noted that Jharkhand accounts for 55 per cent of the country's total lac production.

"Jharkhand's lac production is a vital source of income for the tribal community," she emphasised.

She recalled that during her tenure as governor, raw lac produced by farmers was sold for Rs 100-200 per kg, while processed lac could fetch up to Rs 3,000 per kg.

HC asks MRDCL to decide on its jurisdiction

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court said that the government authorities to decide the land extent for Musi River beautification project. Justice T Vinod Kumar of Telangana High Court heard a writ petition challenging the GHMC order, which is not to change the land adjacent to Musi river for Musi Riverfront Development Project.

The court said that if they want to develop, they have to conduct a survey and come to a final report. All those details like buffer zone, FTL and other proposed details should be recorded. Then the government should do anything. Respondents of the case are GHMC, Revenue department, District Collector and Musi River Front Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL).

A counsel for the respondent said that a few months back, the MRDCL wrote a letter to the GHMC Commissioner not to grant any permission adjacent to Musi river.

As the letters pertaining to the Musi river development project are being sent from one department to another, the court expressed dismay on that issue. The court said, "We are mute spectators to what is transpiring between you."

The court said that the MAUD Principal Secretary is the head of all three departments. The Secretary should call the departments and hold a meeting and sort out the issue.

The court observed that there should be no constructions in Buffer and Full Tank Level (FTL) of the lake.

Gaganyaan should proceed with caution, says ISRO chief

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Although Gaganyaan is ready for launch by the end of the year, we should proceed with caution, said Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath on Friday.

Gaganyaan, which is among the projects approved by the Union cabinet on Wednesday, is India's first human mission.

"I don't want what happened to the Boeing Starliner, so we should be very careful," added Somanath.

The first test flight of Boeing Starliner spacecraft with astronauts, launched by NASA on June 5 returned to Earth on September 7, but without the astronauts. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the astronauts –Sunitha Williams and Butch Wilmore – were forced to extend their eight-day stay in the International Space to eight months, as they will now be picked up by SpaceX Crew Dragon in February.

Somanath also stressed the importance of exploring Venus.

The Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) is also among the four projects approved by the Union cabinet and it has been allocated Rs 1,236 crore.



ASI to resume survey of Jagannath temple 'Ratna Bhandar'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will undertake a technical survey of the 'Ratna Bhandar' (treasury) of the 12th century shrine in Puri from Saturday.

SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee in a statement on Friday said that the survey will be carried out on September 21, 22, and 23, from 1 pm to 6 pm.

"There will be restrictions on devotees visiting the temple. The temple gates will remain closed for devotees during the survey work between 1 pm to 6 pm," he said.



Nerella victims meeting Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to demand action and justice on Friday.

Nerella victims meet CM seeking justice

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The victims of the Nerella incident, accompanied by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and MLA Adi Srinivas, met with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to demand action and justice regarding the events of July 2017.

The victims claimed that they were subjected to third-degree torture for raising concerns about the fatal accidents caused by sand lorries in the area. According to the victims, former SP Vishwajit and SI Ravinder were involved in the alleged third-degree treatment inflicted upon them. They appealed to the Chief Minister for action against these officials, expressing their suffering and long wait for justice.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy listened to their grievances and assured the victims that justice would be delivered, promising to investigate the matter thoroughly.

Damodar slams KTR's remarks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narsimha warned BRS working president KT Rama Rao to refrain from indulging in loose talk. He alleged that the previous BRS government corrupted Aarogyasri, EHS and JHS for 10 years and now shamelessly trying to justify their corruption.



Damodar Raja Narsimha tweeted in this regard on Friday saying, "It is a shame that BRS which corrupted Arogyasree, EHS and JHS schemes for 10 years, is now trying to justify it. Without releasing dues to hospitals and revising package rates, Arogyasree denied treatment to patients. Employees and pensioners who went for treatment under EHS were humiliated by corporate hospitals. Employees are not ignorant of your schemes and gimmicks. BRS leaders should refrain from such cheap criticism

"As soon as our government came, the free medical limit under Arogyasri was increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. Revision of packages which you could not do in 10 years was done within 6 months. Newly 163 types of procedures have been brought under Aarogyasri. We are going to implement EHS in a manner acceptable to the employees and pensioners as desired".

Banks must give loans unconditionally to poor: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that banks should give loans to the poor unconditionally and that the number of ration cards should be reduced in the country.

"People should come to a state that they will say that they don't want freebies. The country should go in that direction… People must stand on their feet," he said.



Participating in the first PM Vishwa Karma anniversary meeting at the National Institute for Training, Vidyanagar, on Friday, Eatala said that banks should give loans unconditionally to the poor.

Women's groups are repaying 98 per cent of their loans, however, bigwigs are avoiding repaying bank loans. People who have skills and innovative ideas will create wonders if financial help is extended to them, Eatala said.

He said that vocational workers will benefit society as a whole and so there is a need to protect vocations . There is a need for society to change their mindset towards vocational workers and they should not be looked down upon.

Prime Minister Modi introduced the PM Vishwa Karma Scheme as there is poverty and hunger in the nation even 77 years after getting freedom.

Later, Eatala handed over certificates to persons who completed the PM Vishwakarma training.

Chilkur priest's ire over use of foreign substances in *laddu prasadam*

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chilkur priest expressed his disappointment over the recent news sources which states that the most sought after laddu prasadam offered to Sri Venkateswara Swamy by using pure cow ghee has been compromised by using foreign substances like vegetable oil and animal fat. He urged the Andhra Pradesh government to investigate into the issue and identify the culprits.

He also said, "We also support the formation of Dharmika Parishad proposed by Deputy Chief Minister of AP Pavan Kalyan. Dharmika Parishad should be a part of Central government body which has been proposed by the Deputy CM so that temples can be run under the body autonomously. Further, steps should be taken so that there is no compromise on the quality of ghee used for making laddus as millions of pilgrims from across the globe visit Tirumala temple to have darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy with utmost devotion and there is every need to protect the sanctity and divinity of Tirumala Divyakshetram and laddu prasadam."

Moreover, the State government has stated that the quality and taste of laddu prasadam needs to be ensured and sanctity to be restored by using pure cow ghee as it involves the sentiments of millions and millions of devotees across the globe.

"As per the sources, there were five suppliers of ghee to TTD in the past and the rates were between Rs 320 to Rs 411. Now the reason for the lack of quality is not having an in-house lab. The suppliers took advantage of these deficiencies. There is a need to thoroughly enquire and book the culprits. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) should stall all cow based products used for making prasadams. They has to form a committee of experts including senior potu workers who had maintained the quality till date", he added.

Lay down arms or face strong action: Amit Shah warns Naxals



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday appealed to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender, saying an all-out operation will otherwise be carried out against them.

Addressing 55 victims of Naxal violence from Chhattisgarh at his residence here, Shah also asserted that Maoists will take their last breath by March 31, 2026, and will be eliminated by then. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that Naxal violence and ideology will be wiped out from the country.

"I appeal to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender as the militants in the northeast have done. If you do not listen, then an all-out operation will be carried out soon to end the menace," Shah said.

He said Naxalism is a threat to both humanity and the internal security of the country.

The home minister said security forces have achieved significant success in their operations against Maoists as the problem is now confined to just a few districts of Chhattisgarh.

"The central government is committed to completely eliminate Naxalism by March 2026. Due to the policies of the Modi government, Left Wing Extremism has now been restricted to a few districts in Chhattisgarh," he said.

The Union minister said Maoists once had planned to establish a corridor from Pashupatinath (Nepal) to Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) but that was destroyed by the Modi government.

Shah said those advocating the human rights of Naxalites should also consider the human rights of those who suffer because of Naxalism.He said the Ministry of Home Affairs will chalk out a comprehensive welfare scheme in the next three months for Naxal violence-affected people of Chhattisgarh, in close coordination with the state government.

Cong slams Pak Minister for statement on Art 370

PNS ■ JAMMU

Congress leader Pramod Tiwari Thursday warned Pakistan against interfering in India's internal matters, slamming the country's defence minister for his statement that the Shehbaz Sharif government and the Congress-National Conference alliance were on the same page on the restoration of Article 370. He said that instead of giving such statements, Khawaja Asif should focus on protecting their citizens from "starvation and poverty".

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha also criticised the BJP for talking about Asif's statement in the election campaign, "It appears that the BJP and Pakistan's establishment are reciprocating each other's interests," he told reporters here.

"We warn Pakistan against interfering in India's internal matters. Instead of giving such statements, ministers of Pakistan should focus on protecting their citizens from starvation and poverty," Tiwari said. The timing of the Pakistani minister's absurd statement and the BJP's reaction to it are a clear indication that there is a tactical understanding between them, the Congress leader said.

He tried to corner the BJP over matters related to Pakistan and mentioned the 2016 Pathankot terror attack .

BRS panel to probe deteriorating healthcare services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS has constituted a fact-finding committee to investigate the alarming decline in the quality of healthcare services in the state, including the tragic maternal and infant deaths reported at Gandhi Hospital. The announcement was made by KTR, the Working President of BRS.

The committee will be headed by former Deputy Chief Minister and former Health Minister Dr Rajayya, with MLA Kalvakuntla Sanjay and former MLA Dr Methuku Anand as its members. KTR said that this committee will visit the Gandhi Hospital and other hospitals in the state to study the conditions there. The committee is expected to submit a detailed report with constructive recommendations to the state government.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Chaturthi:	Sep 20 09:15 PM to Sep 21 06:14 PM
Panchami:	Sep 21 06:14 PM to Sep 22 03:43 PM
Nakshatram:	
Bharani:	Sep 21 02:42 AM to Sep 22 12:36 AM
Krithika:	Sep 22 12:36 AM to Sep 22 11:02 PM
Rahukalam:	9:08 AM to 10:38 AM
Yamagandam:	1:39 PM to 3:09 PM
Varjyam:	11:49 AM to 01:19 PM
Gulika:	6:08 AM to 7:38 AM
Amritakalam:	08:13 PM to 09:41 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:45 AM to 12:33 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Thunder Showers
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 76%
Sunrise: 6:05 AM
Sunset: 6:13 PM

Updated: September 20, 2024 5:00 PM

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CITY EVENTS

Rivaayat

An evening of Sufi and classical musical journey with Ustad Puran Chand Wadali and Lakhwinder Wadali. After two decades, the legendary Wadali family returns to Hyderabad for an unforgettable evening of Sufi and classical music.

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur
Sunday September 21, at 6.30 pm

MexaRosa

grand launch of MexaRosa, an authentic Mexican restaurant. JVibrant flavors, fresh ingredients, and the perfect fusion of tradition and modernity.

Venue

MexaRosa
September 21, 7 pm

Dandiya and Garba

Celebrating the Upcoming Festival of Navratri

Venue

Hotel TAJ DECCAN, Rd#1, Banjara Hills
September 21, at 3 pm

Save Damagundam

Save Damagundam' programme

Venue

Dharna Chowk, opposite Indira Park
September 22, 11 am

Mrs Mage

Launch of New Menu at Mrs Mage

Venue

Hyatt Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Road No. 2, Financial District, Nanakramguda, September 24, 7.00 pm



CII'S IWN TG ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE

Govt to plan rural women-centric policies, incentives: Seethakka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Assuring that more rural women-centric policies and incentives to uplift women will be planned by the government, Seethakka, Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, and Women and Child Welfare, participated in CII Telangana's 10th edition of the CII Indian Women Network's annual Leadership Conclave 2024 at Tech Mahindra on Friday.

Addressing the women at the conclave, Seethakka noted that many come from rural backgrounds and emphasised the important role women play, despite facing suppression from male dominance and feelings of inferiority. She urged them to stand up to their fears, highlighting her rural background experience as a three-time MLA and the first Adivasi Cabinet Minister. Seethakka highlighted the workplace insecurity as a global issue, referring the recent rape and murder of a doctor in her workplace in Kolkata, and stressed that many feel unsafe even at home seeing such incidents. She called for team work to identify such problems and write down to the government for actions through new GOs and Acts to eliminate women insecurities.

She pointed out that towns and cities represent business opportunities, as many women from rural areas migrate, leading to more competition for resources. Explaining that she herself is a daughter of a rural background, she called for decentralised women's development activities in industries across districts and emphasised the need to research resources in rural areas and suggested plans should be made for factories and businesses within reach for women in rural areas to boost exports.

She said that women's potential shines in a crisis and encouraged them to face challenges, noting Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's plans for the Young India Skill University, which focuses on skill development and uplift for rural women and other districts in the State.

Seethakka also assured that safety apps like T-Safe, developed by the Telangana Police, will provide support and inputs to the government. She urged women to use the app and encouraged them to share their suggestions with the government.



Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai speaking at the Dikshant Parade at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy on Friday

Tackle cyber crime with tech skills: Union Minister Rai

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyber crime has emerged as a major threat now. There is an urgent need to tackle these crimes, said Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Friday. He urged young IPS officers to tackle this menace with their technical skills.

Speaking at the Dikshant Parade of the 76th batch of Regular Recruits (RR) of IPS at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Nityanand Rai highlighted multiple initiatives by the Union Home Ministry, including the establishment of a cyber forensic lab aimed at strengthening the country's defence against cyber threats.

Speaking about the terrorism and Left Wing Extremism, the Minister said that they both have been controlled to a great extent, young officers face the challenge of rooting out the remaining portion of terror and make sure that these two do not raise their ugly heads again.

He said that the country's internal security and law and order can be strengthened only if investigators trace the origin of a crime and try to tackle a criminal's potential to harm peace in the country. The investigation of any case should not draw any particular boundary, he said.

Rai urged the officer trainees to embrace the new laws with naturalness and with commitment to justice. As the officer trainees play their role as guardians of law with the completion of their training, they should retain the qualities of honesty, courage and kindness, he added.

The Parade marked the culmination of basic course training for 207 officer trainees, including 188 IPS officers and 19 foreign officers from countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Mauritius, with a notable 58 lady officers among them.

IITH institutes ANR Award for acting

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad announced the establishment of the Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR) Award for acting and performing arts, instituted by the Akkineni family through Akkineni International Foundation to honour the legacy of the legendary actor ANR.

The award aims to recognise and support exceptional talent in the field of acting and performing arts, fostering creativity and innovation among aspiring artistes. It will celebrate individuals who have made significant contribution to the performing arts, encouraging a new generation of performers to pursue excellence. The initiative reflects the Akkineni family's commitment to promoting cultural heritage and the arts within the academic community.

Prof BS Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, expressed his gratitude to the Akkineni International Foundation on behalf of the IIT Hyderabad community for bestowing this honour upon the institute.

23 faculty members of IITH in Stanford top list

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 23 faculty members of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) have made it to the top two per cent scientists of the world list released by Stanford University (SU) and Elsevier on Friday. The list is divided into two categories based on career-long research (11 faculty) and based on research in 2023 (23 faculty).

The list identifies the world's leading researchers, representing approximately two per cent of all scientists worldwide. It encompasses standardised data on citations, h-index, and a wide range of bibliometric indicators.

Dr BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman of IITH, congratulated all the faculty members for this achievement and said, "The exceptional showing our commitment to groundbreaking research and our status as a global leader in the field.

India to be one of top five in sports in 25 years: Union Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Heartfulness, in collaboration with the Telangana government, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) inaugurated 'Rising with Kindness', a three-day youth summit at Kanha Shanti Vanam, the headquarters of Heartfulness, on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Friday.

The annual summit which is aimed at inspiring the youth to inculcate kindness and compassion, is in the second edition this year and attracted over 10,000 students and youth from various streams of study from across the country.

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya was the chief guest. He said, "Meditation gives us stability, sustains us, shows direction for life. To be successful you need to study the lives of successful people. For the vision of the next 25 years for the country's development, we are also aiming at bringing India to the top 5 in the world in the sports arena. We also welcome to hear from our youth on their ideas and thoughts as a responsible government. Our aim is to progress holistically."



Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya ecieves a bouquet from Rev Daaji, guide of Heartfulness and president of Shri Ram Chandra Mission

Rev. Daaji, guide of Heartfulness & president of Shri Ram Chandra Mission, said, "Rising with kindness are the three very important words.

What would be our lives like had it not been for kindness starting from our mother and family who spoilt us with all their love and kindness. The ultimate purpose of life is to be happy as told by Lord Krishna himself."

A Fireside chat involved Pragya Mishra, Lead, Public Policy & Partnership, Open AI; Neeti Goel Founder What Now Initiative - a Youth Forum against Cyber Harassment with Dr Nivedita Shreyans, Director Youth Programme Heartfulness Institute. Breakout sessions for youth were also conducted.

UoH to organise Oggu Katha on Sept 23, 24

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Joly Puthussery, Head of the Centre for Folk Culture Studies (CFCS), University of Hyderabad, announced on Friday that the CFCS, in collaboration with the Department of Language and Culture, Government of Telangana, will organise a presentation and workshop on the ancient folk theatre art form of Telangana, Oggu Katha on September 23 and 24.

The Oggu Katha troupe, led by Komuravelli Mallanna Oggu Katha team Raj Kumar and under the guidance of Dr Kumara Swamy G, a prominent playwright, director and teacher from Telangana, who is an alumnus of the UoH, will conduct the performance and workshop. Assistant Professor Nijil V, CFCS UoH is the coordinator of the programme.

These programmes aim to enhance awareness of Telangana's folk theatre forms among students from across the country and abroad.

Kazakh keen on direct flights between Astana and Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, met with the Governor of Telangana, Jishnu Dev Varma, at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The meeting followed Dr Khan's recent official visit to Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan.

Dr Khan briefed the Governor about his productive discussions in Astana. A key highlight was his meeting with Yousuf Aljawder, Chairman of the Management Board of Astana International Airport, and Talgat Lastayev, Vice Minister of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The discussions focused on the prospects of operating direct flights between Hyderabad and Astana. Both Kazakh officials expressed keen interest in launching these direct flights and committed to visiting Hyderabad by the end of this year. Their visit aims to engage in further talks with GMR Airport and Indian airline operators to facilitate the initiation of these operations.



Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma greeting Dr Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kazakhstan

He also informed the Governor about his engagement with Kairat Sadvakassov, Chairman of the Management Board of JSC "National Company Kazakh Tourism." During this meeting, they discussed plans to jointly promote tourism between India and Kazakhstan. Sadvakassov is scheduled to visit Hyderabad in November-December 2024 to organize a tourism promotion program in partnership with the Consulate of Kazakhstan in Hyderabad, thereby strengthening tourism ties between the two nations.

Additionally, he discussed his meeting with Kairat Torebayev.

The discussion centered on the significant potential for enhancing export and import activities between India and Kazakhstan, particularly in the fields of pharmaceuticals and information technology.



Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Board G Chinna Reddy receiving grievance applications at the Praja Bhavan on Friday

401 applications received at Prajavani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 401 grievance applications were received at Prajavani on Friday at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan, with the highest being 116 on revenue issues.

According to the officials, 51 applications for the electricity department, 51 for Singareni, 46 for SC welfare, 45 for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, and 115 for other departments were received.

Deputy Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission G Chinna Reddy and Special Officer of Public Administration D Divya, received the applications.

Jani Master remanded to 14-day judicial custody

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A city court on Friday remanded Tollywood choreographer Jani Master to 14-day judicial custody, after he was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a colleague choreographer.

Jani Master was arrested in Goa by the Cyberabad police on Thursday and he was produced before a local court in Goa and a transit warrant was obtained. He was brought to Hyderabad on Friday and produced before an Upparpally court which remanded him to 14-day judicial custody. According to sources, he was lodged in the Chanchalguda Central Prison.

The woman choreographer, in a complaint with the police, had alleged that Jani Master had sexually assaulted her in 2020 during a work trip to Mumbai.

HC asks govt to explain how FTL of a lake is fixed

CHITHALURI REVANTH
revanth.chithaluri@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Friday ordered the government to produce the rules under which the government is fixing the water bodies Full Tank Level (FTL). A two-judge panel, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Sreenivas Rao heard a writ petition on Durgam Cheruvu FTl area.

The petitioner said that the Full Tank Level (FTL) area of Durgam Cheruvu to be more than 160 acres as opposed to the original extent of 65.12 acres as per the original engineering standards of the said tank shown in the official descriptive memoirs of the Irrigation department.

The petitioner said that there is no statutory order of fixation of Durgam Cheruvu FTL. The committee constituted by the government in 2015 and that report said that the FTL of Durgam Cheruvu is 160 acres.

The court asked the government that under which provisions of law, the FTL level of a water body is fixed. Another one is to show the document that the FTL level area of Durgam Cheruvu is fixed at 160 acres. If there is no law then there has been a procedure prescribed by the government.

The court mentioned that if it is not so, we will provide guidelines.

The court ordered the government to produce the documents on Saturday and the case would be heard on Monday.



996 people caught by SHE Teams for misbehavior

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In 11 days of Ganesh festival celebration in the city, SHE Teams caught 996 people red-handed for misbehaving with women devotees.

According to the release issued by the SHE Teams, these incidents occurred at Khairatabad Bada Ganesh and other crowded areas within the city. These offenders were caught in the act, engaging in indecent behavior towards women in public places with video and photo evidence.

Petty cases U/s 70(c) of CP act and 292 BNS will be registered against them and they will be produced before the magistrate along with the evidence. In some cases where the video evidence could not be captured, such individuals were counselled and warned strictly in presence of their family members.

SHE Teams for the safety and security of all citizens, especially women, during this grand festival, ensured for sure and this operation serves as a bold reminder that public misconduct will not be tolerated any more.

Telangana

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 04

Govt committed to completing irrigation projects: Bhatti

During his visit to Nalgonda district, the Deputy Chief Minister has promised to release monthly funds for timely completion of SLBC project

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday announced monthly release of funds to ensure the timely completion of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project in Nalgonda district. He emphasised need the give priority to the projct..

On Friday, the Deputy Chief Minister, along with State Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and State Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy, visited the SLBC tunnel at Mannevaripalli, which will provide irrigation water to Nalgonda and Mahbubnagar districts. They were accompanied by senior officials from the state-level Irrigation and Electricity Departments.

During the meeting held at the site, Bhatti Vikramarka stated that according to the estimates provided by the Irrigation Department officials, the completion of the SLBC tunnel will require Rs 14 crore per month. The Finance Department is ready to allocate these funds regularly, and a calendar will be set up to ensure timely completion of the tunnel construction. He further assured that the Dindi Lift Irrigation project would also be completed. He added that irrigation projects in the Bhongir constituency and the Achampet Lift Irrigation Scheme would be taken up, ensuring that all pending projects in Nalgonda district would be completed, transforming the district into a prosperous agricultural hub. He also mentioned the completion of Brahmana Vellamula, Dharmareddy Canal, Pillayapalli Canal, and Bunyadigani Canal. He assured that all pending R and R (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) packages related to these projects would be resolved.

He stated that the state government is committed to completing irrigation projects statewide and that they are prioritising the projects based on importance, allocating funds for their completion. For the repair of SLBC machinery, parts were imported from America, and Rs 42 crore was released for this purpose. He emphasised that all related clearances, including R&R and forest clearances for lift irrigation projects, must be completed alongside the construction work.

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the revised estimates for the SLBC tunnel works amount to Rs. 4,400 crores, which would be approved in the cabinet meeting on Friday.

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy instructed officials to complete the repair of the 4th pump at the SLBC high-level canal within three days and release irrigation water immediately. He announced the allocation of Rs. 37 crore for land acquisition under Udayasamudram and Brahmana Vellamula projects, which would allow the filling of all tanks within two months, benefiting 70,000 acres in Katangur and Narketpally mandals.

Nalgonda MP Raghavir Reddy suggested appointing a special officer at the central level to address the pending forest clearances for the Dindi and other projects. He requested the Deputy Chief Minister to approve three new lift irrigation schemes in Devarakonda constituency.



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka inspecting progress of works of SLBC in Nalgonda district on Friday. Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and N Uttam Kumar Reddy are also present

Komatireddy vows to enhance green cover in Nalgonda dist

Minister for Roads and Buildigns Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project in Nalgonda district will be completed. Monthly funding will be ensured. He stated that for the past decade, farmers in Nalgonda district have been struggling due to a lack of irrigation water. He assured that with the blessings of the people, the tunnel work would be completed within the next two years fulfilling his commitment to the people of Nalgonda.

Accompanied by the state's Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, State Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy, and senior Irrigation and Electricity Department officials, he inspected the SLBC tunnel at Mannevaripalli, which aims to provide irrigation water to Nalgonda and Mahbubnagar districts. Later, he directed officials to complete the repair work on the fourth pump of the SLBC high-level Canal within three days and to release irrigation water immediately. He mentioned that Rs 37 crore would be released for land acquisition under Udayasamudram and Brahmanavellamula, which would enable the filling of all the tanks within two months. This would help irrigate approximately 70,000 acres in the Kattangur and Narketpalli mandals through these tanks. He acknowledged that the AMRP (Alimineti Madhava Reddy Project) is not a permanent solution, which he realized earlier, and therefore included the SLBC as a permanent solution in the 2004 manifesto. Even if the water level in Srisailam drops to dead storage, the SLBC can still provide water to four lakh acres. He urged the Deputy Chief Minister to release Rs. 30 crore immediately to expedite the completion of the SLBC.



Former minister T Harish Rao speaking to the media at Mallannasagar project on Friday

Harish performs prayers at Mallannasagar after water released

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Former Minister and MLA Harish Rao visited Mallannasagar to offer special prayers following the release of a record 21 tmc ft of water into the project. Joining him in the event were MLAs Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, MLC Venkatram Reddy, along with several BRS leaders and party workers.

Harish asked when will the government start the distribution of fishlings. "Last year, in August fishlings were distributed, it's September and so far distribution has not started", he said

"Mallannasagar, built by KCR, now holds 21 tmc ft of water, appearing like an ocean," said Harish Rao. "The sight brings immense satisfaction." He added that the fully filled Mallannasagar is a slap in the face of those who claimed that the Kaleshwaram project had failed and drowned.

He also countered Congress leaders' statements that Rs 1 lakh crore was wasted, stating that the gushing waters of the Godavari stand as testimony to the success of Kaleshwaram. "If Kaleshwaram had failed, where did the 21 tmc ft of water in Mallannasagar come from?" he questioned. He further mentioned that water from Yellampally, Lakshmi Barrage, Annapurna Barrage, Ranganayak Sagar, and Kondapochamma Sagar is flowing due to the connectivity through Kaleshwaram. Rao emphasised that every crop grown under the Kaleshwaram project holds KCR's name in the hearts of farmers, and he urged Congress to stop their false propaganda. Rao praised the successful filling of Annapurna (3 tmc ft), Ranganayak Sagar (3 tmc ft), and Kondapochamma (10 tmc ft) tanks, attributing the success to KCR's efforts. He criticised Congress for continuing its smear campaigns and highlighted that the BRS is focused on providing water to farmers, unlike Congress, which is involved in diversion politics.

"With 21 tmc ft, Mallannasagar stands as a living witness to the success of Kaleshwaram," Rao concluded, inviting Congress leaders to visit Mallanna Sagar and atone for their false accusations by offering prayers. He questioned whether they were against crops flourishing in Medak, Yadadri, and Siddipet districts.

Misuse of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial use on rise

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Diversion of domestic LPG gas cylinders for commercial use is on the rise. The 14.2 kg domestic gas cylinders are allegedly being diverted on a large-scale to commercial use in the district.

The LPG subsidised cylinders meant for domestic use are being used in restaurants, fast food centers, hotels, tea stalls and small, hotels.

Some hotels totally depend upon the LPG cylinders meant for domestic use. They are violating the rules with impunity. As there are no checks, even the SCCL, NTPC, RFCL and other companies have been allegedly using LPG cylinders meant for cooking for welding purposes, which reflects the extent at which the illegal business is thriving. The Civil Supplies officials, who are supposed to regulate the LPG cylinders' supply, remained tight-lipped and mute spectators.

The illegal business of diverting the LPG cylinders meant for domestic use for commercial purposes is going on unhindered for the reasons best known to the officials concerned.

DC asks Indira Dairy officials to increase milk procurement

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Collector Muzammil Khan has asked the Indira Dairy to implement action plan to produce three lakh litres and asked the officials to increase milk procurement, marketing and transportation.

He reviewed the activities of the Indira Dairy with Additional Collector P Srija and with officials of Indira Dairy.

He asked the officials to take steps to set up 8 to 10 milk procurement centres in Madhira Assembly constituency.

After the procurement of the milk, an action plan should be drawn to set up a chilling unit. A building has been identified to set up 4,000 to 5,000 litre milk chilling facility. He asked the officials to take steps for the renovation of the chilling unit in the building.

The Collector directed the officials to arrange loans to the 40,000 members of Indira Dairy through Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minority Corporations. A check list should be prepared for setting up of dairy units and take steps to launch the units. Priority should be given to allot the units those who have the cattle sheds and fodder facility. The officials should work with coordination and implement the action plan for the success of the dairy, he said.

DRDO Sanyasaiah, District Animal Husbandry officer Venu Manohar, District Scheduled Cates Welfare Officer K Satyanarayana, District Backward Classes Welfare Officer G Jyoti, District Tribal Welfare Officer vijayalakshmi, vijaya Dairy Deputy Director Murali Mohan, in-charge executive director Scheduled Castes Corporation Navin and others



Khammam district Collector Muzammil Khan holding a review meeting in Khammam on Friday

Bhatti urged ensure timely complete of SLBC

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) leaders on Friday appealed to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarak and Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy to ensure timely completion of Srisailam tunnel worke

CPI-M leaders, led by former MLA Julakanti Rangha Reddy and party district unit secretry Mudireddy Sudhakar Reddy, submitted a memorandum to Bhatti Vikramarka.

The CPI-M leaders highlighted that around 3.20 lakh acres of irrigation and drinking water needs of hundreds of villages depend on the Srisailam Tunnel project. The work on the proejct began 19 years ago, it still remained incomplete.

They stressed that the current estimated cost the project has escalated to Rs 4,658 crores. Completion of the project would improve water supply to Hyderabad city and Nalgonda district, they stated.

The leaders also called for the approval of the DPR and environmental clearances for the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme, which is part of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, aimed at providing irrigation to 3.61 lakh acres in the districts of Mahbubnagar, Ranga Reddy, and Nalgonda.

One held, 338 kg of marijuana seized

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A man allegedly smuggling marijuana was taken into custody jointly by Hasanparti police and Telangana Anti-Drugs Warangal Division Police on Thursday and seized 338 kg of marijuana, worth Rs 85 lakh, packed in 96 packets and a tractor used to smuggle ganja.

Disclosing this to media here on Friday, Warangal city police commissioner Amber Kishore Jha identified the arrested man as K Lakshmi Narayana (24), a resident of Pata Kota, Y Ramavaram mandal of East Godavari district in AP.

Lakshmi Narayana, acting under directions of another accused K Narayana of Alluri Sitaramaraju district in Andhra Pradesh, on September 17 procured 338 kg of ganja packed in 96 sachets hid in a secret chamber under the tractor and transporting the substance via Kamareddy district, Bikanoor mandal, Bhadrachalam, Mulugu, Hanamkonda and Siddipeta from Darakonda.

On a tip off, the Hasanparti sub inspector Devender Reddy and Warangal Anti-Drug Division Police searched the tractor at Sagar X Road under Hasanparti limits and found the contraband hidden in a secret chamber under a tractor. The tractor driver was taken into custody and interrogated. He admitted to his crime.

The person who ordered the driver to procure marijuana and the persons who supplied contraband to the driver were at large.

Telangana Anti-Drugs Warangal Division ACP Saidulu, Kazipet ACP Tirumal, Telangana anti-drugs Warangal division inspector Suresh, Hasanparti inspector and Cheralu SI Devender and Ravi respectively and other police personnel were praised by the city police commissioner.



New committee for Elikatta Amba Bhavani Temple sworn in

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY



Members of Elikatta Amba Bhavani Temple management committee being sworn in in Shadnagar on Friday

A new management committee has been appointed on Friday for the Elikatta Amba Bhavani Temple, one of the oldest and most revered temples in Shadnagar constituency. The new committee, led by president Mutyala Raju, was formed under the leadership of Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar. The swearing-in ceremony took place on the temple premises with the members taking their oaths amidst the sacred chants of Vedic scholars.

MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, former MLA Choulapalli Pratap Reddy, Municipal Chairman Narender, and former ZPTC Syam Sundar Reddy were among the prominent figures present at the ceremony. Other key attendees included Congress leaders Srikanth Reddy, Elikatta ex-MPTC Srisailam, Balaraju Goud, Chandrasekhar Harinad Reddy, Gunna Bhimaiah, Krishna Reddy, and Budda Narasimha, alongside temple committee members and locals.

During the event, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar assured full support for the development of the temple, emphasising the importance of preserving its rich history and spiritual significance. The temple's Executive Officer (EO), Siva Kumar, administered the oath to the newly appointed committee chairman and members.

Several local leaders, including former ZPTC Venkata Ramireddy, party presidents Srikanth Reddy and Harinad Reddy, along with other dignitaries were present at the occasion.

They collectively pledged to work for the continuous development of the temple and the surrounding area, ensuring its growth and sustainability for future generations.

KITSW hold workshop on 'Global Managers of Tommorrow'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Department of MBA (Management) Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science, Warangal (KITSW) organised a one- day workshop on " KITS MBA Students- Global Professional Managers of Tomorrow' said principal Prof.K Ashoka Reddy. Global trainer and visiting professor Prof Ramesh Vemuganti was the chief guest. It was held at Civil Seminar Hall, KITS Warangal campus on 20th September, 2024.

On this occasion former Rajyasabha MP and KITSW chairman V Lakshmikantha Rao, KITSW treasurer P Narayana Reddy, KITSW additional secretary Vodithala Sateesh Kumar congratulated and appreciated the Department of MBA and their faculty for successful conduction of the management workshop.

Minister's son distributes notebooks, computers

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao's son Dr Tummala Yugandhar on Friday distributed notebooks to students and computers to schools. The computers were given away to schools in which the devices were damaged during recent floods.

He promised to develop the Nayabazaar Government School which was damaged in the recent floods as a top school in the district and build the compound wall immediately. The problems of the school would be brought to the notice of the government, he said.

He offered to extend his support to the flood-hit students and promised to extend support to students qualified in NEET and IIT tests.

He distributed notebooks to 250 students of government hostels. Nayabazaar Government high school headmistress Sudha Rani, college principal K Rama Rao, corporator Rafida Mustafa and others took part in the event.



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao's son Yugandhar distributing notebooks to students in Khammam on Friday

DOWRY AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

Bhadradri temple chief priest suspended

PNS ■ BHADRACHALAM

Bhadrachalam Sri Sita Ramachandraswamy Temple Executive Officer Ramadevi placed the temple's chief priest Podicheti Sitaramanujacharyulu under suspension on charges of sexual harassing his daughter-in-law and also pressuring her to bring Rs 10 lakh as dowry. His adopted son Venkata Sitaram, who is also a priest in the temple, was also suspended.

The Executive Officer took the action on the basis of a case filed by the chief priest's daughter-in-law against her father-in-law and her husband, according to delayed reports reaching here on Friday.

The incident created a sensation among the people and everyone started discussing about it. According to the police and the victim, the chief priest has had no sons, but two daughters. Therefore, he adopted Venkata Sitaram several years ago. Afterwards, he got job for his adopted son as a priest in the temple.

He got the marriage of the son performed with a woman belonging to Tadepalligudem in 2019. After several months of the marriage, Sitaram started harassing his wife for bringing more dowry.

In this backdrop, the chief priest allegedly started leering at his daughter-in-law. He even allegedly outraged her modesty stating that he had no sons and wanted a son through her.

The woman complained about it to her husband, who reprimanded her in return and made her to say sorry to his father stating that his father was not a person of such a mean mentality.

The victim approached the Tadepalligudem police station who filed zero FIR on the basis of her complaint.

the pioneer

Nation 05

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

ACROSS THE STATES



UP: SP MLA Zahid Beg, son transferred to separate jails

Samajwadi Party MLA Zahid Beg and his son, who were arrested in connection with an abetment to suicide case, were transferred to separate jails on Friday. Bhadohi MLA Zahid Beg was transferred to Naini Central Jail in Prayagraj while his son Zaim Beg was moved to District Jail, Varanasi, said Subedar Yadav, the jailer of District Jail, Bhadohi. "The MLA's son was arrested on Wednesday, followed by Zahid Beg's surrender on Thursday. Both were moved to separate jails under tight security, according to the orders of District Magistrate Vishal Singh," Yadav said. Two FIRs were registered against the MLA, his wife, and their son for allegedly forcing a minor girl into labour and instigating another to commit suicide. The local Anti-Human Trafficking Unit initiated an investigation following the suicide of a minor girl and the rescue a 17-year-old girl working at the MLA's residence. The labour department has also initiated proceedings against the MLA and his wife.

Modi: Cong most corrupt, run by *'tukde tukde'* gang

PNS ■ WARDHA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lashed out at the Congress, saying the "most corrupt" party was being run by the tukde tukde gang and urban Naxals.

"The Congress which you see today is not the party with which a great man like Mahatma Gandhi was associated," Modi said, addressing a public meeting at Wardha in Maharashtra on completion of one year of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

"The ghost of hatred has entered the Congress," Modi said. "In today's Congress the soul of patriotism has breathed its last," he added.

Modi also spoke of the "anti-India agendas" of the Congress leaders in their speeches abroad, without naming that party's leader Rahul Gandhi, who is facing flak from the ruling dispensation for his remark in the US on scrapping the reservation system.

"If there is a corrupt party it is the Congress and the most corrupt family is its shahi parivar," Modi said, without naming the Gandhi family.

"Congress hates Ganpati puja as well," Modi said. "I went to a Ganesh puja programme and Congress criticised it for appeasement politics. Ganpati Bappa was put behind bars in Karnataka. Ganpati idol was put in a police van," he said.

"Congress allies in Maharashtra kept mum and did not take a stand on Ganpati Bappa's insult," Modi said.

In an apparent reference to the ensuing state assembly elections in Maharashtra later this year, Modi said, "In Maharashtra, we have to be aware of their duplicity." "Falsehood and betrayal are the hallmark of the Congress and people of Maharashtra should beware of the party," he said.

The Congress used farmers only for politics and corruption, Modi said.

"We should not give another chance to Congress, which destroyed farmers. Falsehood and betrayal is the hallmark of Congress," Modi said. The Congress did not fulfil its election promises in Telangana, he added.

Modi said the SC, ST and OBC categories are the biggest beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma scheme, and accused the previous Congress governments of neglecting the Vishwakarma community.

"Congress did not allow SCs, STs and OBCs to prosper. We have put an end to the mindset of the Congress which didn't allow these communities to prosper. Our vision is to ensure that the beneficiaries don't remain just artisans but also become entrepreneurs," he said.

He said his government wants to take the textile industry to the global market and restore the glory of the textile sector.

Modi said the British rulers had conspired to finish off India's traditional skills. Mahatma Gandhi gave a boost to rural traditional skills but governments after Independence did not give justice to the Vishwakarma community, leading to deterioration in the sector, Modi said.

Chhattisgarh: school books sold as scrap; top official suspended

PNS ■ RAIPUR



The Chhattisgarh government has suspended the GM of the state textbook corporation after piles of school books from the ongoing academic session were found to be sold as scrap and lying at a recycling centre, officials said on Friday.

After learning about the negligence, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had instructed Additional Chief Secretary Renu Pillai to get the matter probed, a government official here said.

Preliminary investigation suggested that the textbooks were sold to a scrap dealer at a paper mill, indicating negligence on the part of Chhattisgarh Textbook Corporation General Manager (GM) Prem Prakash Sharma.

He said Sharma, a State Administrative Service officer, was suspended on Thursday.

The CM has affirmed that his government is committed to good governance and maintains zero tolerance towards corruption. Sai has asserted during recent meetings with collectors and superintendents of police that negligence at work will not be tolerated. Immediate stringent action will be taken in such cases, the official said.

Notably, former Congress MLA Vikas Upadhyay had on Tuesday alleged that the books printed through 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' and Chhattisgarh Textbook Corporation for 2024-25, for free distribution among students in government and private state board schools, were sold as scrap at throwaway prices.

Congress had claimed corruption in printing the textbooks and demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or by a retired judge.



Kejriwal joins AAP's Haryana poll campaign

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal on Friday joined the party's campaign in Haryana and held a road show in the Jagadhri constituency in Yamunanagar district. Elections to the 90-member Haryana assembly will be held on October 5 and counting of votes will be undertaken on October 8. Kejriwal resigned as Delhi chief minister after being released from Tihar jail last week in the excise policy case. After the former Delhi chief minister reached Jagadhri in the afternoon, his roadshow began around 3.30 pm during which crowds gathered on the roads. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo waved at the crowds from the sunroof of his vehicle. AAP's Haryana unit chief Sushil Gupta accompanied Kejriwal during the road show. Delhi minister Atishi is set to take oath as chief minister on Saturday. The AAP is contesting the Haryana polls on its own after its talks with the Congress over a seat-share agreement broke down.



Delhi BJP stages protest against Rahul Gandhi over his remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP OBC Morcha on Friday held a protest near the Congress headquarters here against Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's alleged remark on reservation during his US visit.The protest march was led by Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, Members of Parliament Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Kamaljeet Sehrawat.

The protesters were seen marching along with a large banner towards the Congress headquarters. They also burnt an effigy of Gandhi and raised slogans against him, demanding an apology.

On Thursday, the Delhi BJP had filed three separate police complaints against Gandhi, including for his "divisive and provocative comments" on the condition of Sikhs in India and remarks to end reservation, during his recent US visit.

The complaints against Gandhi were filed by the Sikh cell, SC Morcha and ST Morcha of the Delhi BJP at different police stations.

AAP demands govt accommodation for Kejriwal, says he is entitled to it

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Aam Aadmi Party on Friday demanded a government accommodation for outgoing Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying he is entitled to it on account of being the convener of a national party.

At a press conference here, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said the party will be writing to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and hoped that it would provide the accommodation to the party's national convener in one or two days.

Kejriwal, who resigned as the chief minister of Delhi earlier this week, will move out of the official residence within 15 days, the party said earlier.

Chadha said every national party was entitled to two resources, an office and an accommodation for its head, to function from Delhi.

AAP became a national party following the Gujarat assembly polls in 2022 in which it got some seats and a good vote percentage, he said.

The Centre provided AAP with an office after two years of struggle and the intervention of the court. AAP moved to its new office on the Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane in Mandi House last month, vacating its old DDU Marg office near ITO.

"I urge the Centre to follow the rules without any delay and any political consideration, and provide a government accommodation to party national convener Arvind Kejriwal which is his and the Aam Aadmi Party's right," Chadha said.

The presidents of the six national parties in the country, including JP Nadda of the BJP, Mallikarjun Kharge of the Congress and Mayawati of the BSP, have been provided government accommodation in the national capital, he said.

AAP's national secretary is writing a letter to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, he said, adding that he hoped the accommodation would be provided to Kejriwal without any "politically motivated" decisions.

"This demand of government accommodation as a resource is a right of AAP as per the law. The AAP has been fighting for its right since long," he said.

HYDRAA effect?..

Continued from page 1

As per data from Knight Frank Despite, the overall value of registered properties in August touched Rs 4,043 crore, reflecting a 17% year-on-year increase. However, the steep monthly drop in registrations overshadowed these gains, raising concerns about a possible long-term impact on the market.

While the demand for premium properties priced at over Rs 1 crore remained strong, with a 61% year-on-year increase in this segment, registrations of more affordable homes under Rs 50 lakh saw a 13% decline compared to August 2023.

BRS will win in..

Continued from page 1

disregarded public aspirations for political gain. He noted that the BRS cadre is prepared to teach Srihari a lesson. KTR also mentioned that BRS president KCR had already announced Rajaiah as the candidate for the Station Ghanpur constituency, expressing confidence that Rajaiah's leadership would ensure the party's victory.

Konda Laxman Bapuji..

Continued from page 1

September 20, formalising this decision. The BC Welfare department is designated to oversee the arrangements, with expenses covered from the department's budget provision. The announcement follows a request from the BC Welfare department (U.O.No. 1885/D/2024) and aims to honour the legacy of Konda Laxman Bapuji by involving various districts and key locations like New Delhi in the celebrations.

Left MLA escalates attack against CM's confidantes

Oppn says Vijayan scared of Anvar

PNS ■ MALAPPURAM (KERALA)



Left legislator P V Anvar has continued to keep Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office on edge by intensifying his attack against ADGP M R Ajithkumar and the Chief Minister's political secretary, P Sasi.

Anvar, despite receiving assurances from both the CPI(M) and the Chief Minister regarding his demand for an investigation against Ajithkumar, alleged on Friday that an illegal parallel investigation is being conducted alongside the inquiry led by the state police chief into the accusations against the ADGP.

The Nilambur MLA said that the parallel investigation is aimed at discovering the sources from which he received the evidence against Ajithkumar and others. An inquiry has been launched against Ajithkumar, conducted by a team of top officials headed by the state police chief, based on Anvar's allegations. The Left MLA told reporters here that Ajithkumar is conducting this parallel investigation, violating all police rules. A parallel investigation is something unprecedented in the history of Kerala police, he said.

"Ajithkumar is proving that neither the government, the Chief Minister, the Home Department, nor the police rules are applicable to him. This violation alone is enough to suspend him," the MLA said.

Anvar levelled fresh allegations against Ajithkumar a day after the Home Department, headed by Vijayan, ordered the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate Ajithkumar.

RRR alignment changed to..

Continued from page 1

"The Congress government reviewed the project over nine months to see if it could profit from it and then changed the alignment to grab the lands of the poor," he said.

Detailing the changes, he said that the RRR alignment in areas like Sagar Road and Chevella was altered by a few km, conveniently avoiding areas of concern and instead affecting farmers and the poor.

"In Aman Ghal, 400 acres of fertile land being cultivated by the poor are being targeted, and they are being displaced to help big businessmen and Congress leaders. From as early as January, farmers have been coerced into signing land release agreements they don't fully understand," he said.

"Why is the alignment being changed through Congress MLAs' villages? Why is Madoogul village, where the Chief Minister's relatives have land, involved? The alignment has also been shifted near Manneguda, where Congress leaders own significant parcels of land, raising suspicions among the public. This entire episode reeks of a bigger conspiracy," Prashant added.

KTR demands..

Continued from page 1

In his letter, KTR accused the state government of awarding tenders worth hundreds of crores under the AMRUT scheme to firms linked to the Chief Minister's brother-in-law, Srujan Reddy, despite their ineligibility.

He said the government has been withholding information regarding these tenders for the past nine months.

KTR urged the Centre to release tender details to the public immediately. KTR also called for the cancellation of tenders which violated norms and for an inquiry into all the tenders awarded under the AMRUT scheme in the last nine months.

KTR urged the Centre to release tender details to the public immediately. KTR also called for the cancellation of tenders which violated norms and for an inquiry into all the tenders awarded under the AMRUT scheme in the last nine months.He expressed frustration at the state government's silence on the matter, despite continuous demands from the opposition to clarify on the issue.

Chandrababu using God for..

Continued from page 1

use god also for political gains.

"This is a diversion politics. On one hand, people are expressing their anger at Chandrababu Naidu's hundred days rule. They are demanding what happened to their "Super six" (poll promises). In order to divert people's attention, this concocted story," he said. The ghee adulteration allegations are atrocious, he said, and asked is it fair to play with sentiments of crores of devotees across world.

All samples, tests and results mentioned in lab test reports as evidence occurred under the NDA government, he said.

Selecting the ghee supplier is a routine process every six months by TTD. It has been going on for decades together, nothing new, the YSRCP chief said. During an NDA legislative party meeting on September 18, TDP supremo Chandrababu Naidu claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara temple and used substandard ingredients and animal fat for making laddus.

Nadda seeks report on Tirupati *laddu* issue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Nadda on Friday said he had spoken to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and sought a full report on the Tirupati laddu issue.

He added that the Centre would examine the matter and take suitable action.

Naidu has claimed that animal fat was used for making Tirupati laddus during the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government, triggering a massive political row with the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) accusing the chief minister of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) circulating a lab report to back the claim.

Engineers blame..

Continued from page 1

However, some issues arose with barrages like Medigadda due to high water storage and the gates not being lifted during floods.The commission asked whether model studies were completed before construction. The engineers said that the studies were going on throughout the process and adjustments were made in response to floods.

Cabinet gives..

Continued from page 1

The Cabinet sanctioned an Engineering College in Kosgi and a Junior College in Hakimpet.The cabinet approved naming the Handloom Technology Institute after Konda Laxman Bapuji, the Women's University after Chakali Ailamma and the Telugu University after Suravaram Prathap Reddy. Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Cabinet approved work on the SLBC tunnel with a revised estimation of Rs 4,637 crore.

Govt announces bonus..

Continued from page 1

praised SCCL workers for playing a key role during the Telangana movement and commended their contribution in achieving the Telangana State.Explaining details of SCCL's profits, expansion plans and bonus, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the SCCL has been supplying coal to thermal power plants, and other companies in the state and also exporting to other states.

The company earned a net profit of Rs 4,701 crore in 2023-2024. Of this, Rs 2,289 crore has been allocated for the expansion of the company and other investments.

Of the remaining Rs 2,412 crore profit, the company earmarked Rs 796 crore to pay bonus to its workers. A total of 41,387 permanent employees are working in the company. Each worker will get Rs 1.90 lakh as bonus. Last year, the employees got only Rs 1.70 lakh as bonus. This year, each employee will get Rs 20,000 as bonus additionally.

AP CM asks EO to..

Continued from page 1

ghee without delay.The Chief Minister emphasised that the state government is treating the issue of adulterated ingredients in the making of the revered 'Srivari Laddu' with utmost seriousness, particularly given the outrage among devotees worldwide. He noted that the government is fully aware of the concerns being raised and is committed to addressing the matter.

During the meeting, CM Naidu instructed the TTD EO to provide a comprehensive report detailing the lapses that occurred during the previous government's administration. He assured that the state would take appropriate measures after consultations with the Agama, Vedic, and Dharmika Parishads to preserve the sanctity of Tirumala. He further reiterated that the government would uphold the faith of devotees and safeguard the traditions of the temple.

SC to Revanth Reddy: Don't..

Continued from page 1

The petitioners had claimed that no fair trial in the case was possible in Telangana with Reddy at the helm. They had said if a criminal trial was not free and fair, the credibility of the criminal justice system would undoubtedly be at stake, eroding the confidence of the common people in the system which would not augur well for society at large.

During the hearing on Friday, the counsel appearing for Revanth Reddy told the court that the plea seeking transfer of trial was filed with a political motive. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the chief minister, said the trial in the case was half-way through and the prosecution was being conducted by a prosecutor who was appointed by the erstwhile regime.

The bench noted the petitioners have expressed concern that Reddy, who is also the state home minister, has a direct control over the ACB and the director of the bureau was directly answerable to him.

Show mutual..

Continued from page 1

should be careful enough while making comments about orders passed by courts.

The court's observations came while dealing with the issue pertaining to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's comments on the top court granting bail to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam.

KWDT-II directs..

Continued from page 1

with the assistance of both parties. The tribunal scheduled the cross-examination of witnesses from November 6 to 8.

The tribunal's clear direction for the timely submission of affidavits underlines its intention to speed up the long-pending dispute resolution process, ensuring that no unnecessary delays occur.

Telangana had earlier demanded the commencement of arguments, urging the tribunal to proceed with issuing orders without further delays.

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Opinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION

A formidable task

The feasibility of implementing simultaneous elections in a diverse democracy like India remains uncertain

The Union Cabinet has cleared the ambitious proposal of "One Nation, One Election," aiming to synchronise elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, urban bodies, and panchayats. This monumental shift is grounded in the recommendation of a panel led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, which reported "unanimous" support for the proposal. As the Modi government inches closer to presenting this initiative to Parliament, the question arises: Is this plan feasible, and where do we stand today? At its core, "One Nation, One Election" envisions holding elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and local bodies concurrently. This system was standard practice from India's first general election in 1951/52 until 1967. However, the cycle was disrupted in the late 1960s due to the premature dissolution of some state governments and the Lok Sabha, breaking the simultaneous electoral rhythm. Implementing "one nation, one election" is easier said than done, given the present constitutional provisions that allow for dissolution of state governments midway or even the central government if it loses majority in the house.



Reverting to simultaneous elections would require significant constitutional changes and logistical planning. The Kovind panel's report, submitted in March, outlines the support for simultaneous elections, noting approval from 32 political parties and prominent figures from the judiciary. For "One Nation, One Election" to become reality, the Modi government must navigate significant legislative hurdles. Parliament would need to pass two critical bills -— one addressing Lok Sabha and state assembly elections and the other governing municipal and panchayat polls. Constitutional amendments dealing with the duration and dissolution of legislatures and President's Rule are essential. In the present composition of parliament, it may be rather difficult. While the BJP holds a simple majority, it falls short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional amendments by 52 votes in the Rajya Sabha and 72 in the Lok Sabha. Support from opposition parties will be crucial, but given the opposition's resistance it would be tough. In addition to parliamentary approval, the second bill requires ratification by at least half of the states. Currently, the BJP and its allies control 19 states, meaning that even with opposition protests, this step is achievable. According to proponents, synchronised elections will reduce voter fatigue and increase turnout. The government claims that cutting down the number of elections would reduce the deployment of security forces, lower the costs of EVMs, and enable political parties to save on campaign expenditures. But concerns about political power grabs and constitutional violations loom large. Curtailing or extending the terms of state governments undermines democratic norms and could trigger legal challenges. The biggest impediment is India's size and diversity. Whether this ambitious plan becomes a reality will depend on the government's ability to navigate the legal and political minefields that lie ahead.

PICTALK



Dark clouds hover over Statue Circle, in Jaipur PTI

Can tougher laws alone protect women



ARCHANA **DATTA**

With rising cases and low conviction rates, it is imperative to have societal change beyond legal reforms to address the deeply ingrained gender biases



Two recent episodes of sexual violence against women at the workplace, one, the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor inside a Kolkata government hospital, and the other about the systematic sexual abuse of women in the Malayalam film industry, as revealed in the Justice Hema committee report, have once again confirmed that women are still unsafe, prone to violence, and suffer from an existential crisis. Amid a huge political uproar, a few years ago a global survey dubbed India 'as the most dangerous place for women', which, perhaps, had hurt the nation's collective ego that fostered a sentiment that 'India is a land where women are worshipped'.Following the prolonged public outrage in the state and across the country, the West Bengal government adopted an anti-rape bill, titled 'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024', seeking capital punishment for rape convicts. Earlier, in 2013, the gruesome Nirbhaya episode, brought in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, with the introduction of a new clause (376 A) for the offences of rape that caused death or persistent vegetative state of the victim and the death penalty to the perpetrator.

While the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018, which came in after the horrific incidents of Kathua and Unnao, specifically provided for capital punishment for offenders convicted of raping minors. States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh also enacted amendments for enhanced punishment for sexual assaults. So far this has been an 'established political playbook', as the public demand for justice is high pitched. Studies also indicated that 'whenever society faces a problem with a bourgeoning number of crimes, the public response is almost invariably to increase the criminal penalties'. A 2021 research study noted that a significant number of people believe that the death penalty has the potential to discourage others from committing crimes. However, a recent study (Michael Radelet & Traci Lacock, University of Colorado) revealed that '88% of the leading criminologists do not subscribe to the view that the death penalty is an effective crime deterrent'.

In India, Justice J.S. Verma Committee was not 'inclined to recommend the death penalty for rape even for the rarest of rare cases' and observed that it would be a 'regressive step in the field of sentencing and reformation'. Earlier, the Justice Malimath Committee also rejected the idea of the death penalty for rape cases and called for procedural amendments which result in certainty of punishment rather than a quantum of punishment as a real deterrent. The Constitutional Bench of the SC (Mithu v. State of Punjab, 1983), proclaimed that Section 303, IPC, is violative of Constitutional rights, and deprives judges of their discretion in sentencing. In 2015, the Law Commission recommended that the 'legal system should move towards a restorative system of justice, based on human rights and criminal psychology'.

> DESPITE HAVING SEVERAL LAWS AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO MAKE THEM MORE STRINGENT, THE LATEST NCRB DATA, SHOWED A RISE OF 20 PER CENT IN THE REPORTED CASES OF RAPE, AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY 90 RAPES A DAY, WHILE, THE CONVICTION RATES FOR RAPE RANGED BETWEEN 27-28 PER CENT(2018-2022)

While, a feminist criminologist (Bibha Tripathi, Professor, Faculty of Law, BHU) remarked that a series of 'reactionary' amendments in India, might have temporarily responded to the 'collective conscience' of people, but, failed to prevent crimes against women, and for that, the law and society should evolve hand-in-hand'. A prominent lawyer activist, also opined that 'public anger has done little to improve the lives of Indian women, the outside world still belongs firmly to men, and the government has failed to enforce its laws, with only about a quarter of cases that go to trial result in a conviction'. Despite having several statutory laws and subsequent amendments to make them more stringent, the latest NCRB data, showed a rise of 20 % in the reported cases of rape, an average of nearly 90 rapes a day, while, the conviction rates for rape ranged between 27-28% (2018-2022). A 2020 study on rape adjudication in the aftermath of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, of 2013, found that in Delhi trial courts, the rate of conviction(2013-2018), dwindled to 5.72% from 16.11% under the old law. 'Some judges are reluctant to convict since the tougher sentences came in, and if there is some doubt on evidence, which doesn't stand up to judicial scrutiny, then they are compelled to acquit, …..if there was some discretion, they could have lowered the sentence, and ensured that he's convicted', a senior criminal lawyer commented. As incidents of rape and sexual assault pour in day in and day out, reaffirming the reality that 'mere legal reforms, unaccompanied by governance and societal change, do not yield far-reaching results'. It is now high time to go beyond 'the belief that increasing penalties increases deterrence'. I

n a society that nurtures patriarchal social norms the deeply ingrained gender biases and prejudices can only be removed through a change in the mindset.

The education and grooming of boys and girls need a thorough overhaul to inculcate and respect the values of human rights and the rights of each other. The intervention and action should be at state, community, family and individual levels for mitigating risk factors.

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

Harmony day: Building a world without walls



VINOD **BEHL**

True peace begins within, and only by dismantling the barriers in our hearts can we hope to restore harmony in the world

Today, social media, newspapers, news channels and websites are all filled with depressing and sad news about conflicts, violence, war, bloodshed and destruction all over the world. There seems to be no end to the long-drawn Russia- Ukraine and Israel-Palestine wars which have heaped untold misery with unprecedented loss of human lives.



Elsewhere in the world, extremist and terrorist activities are taking a heavy toll on not just human life but also on our economic progress. When the Berlin Wall was demolished in 1989 for the unification of East and West Germany, we had envisioned a world without walls, a world of peaceful co-existence. However, over the years, the clock turned back as instead of erecting bridges of love, we raised the walls of division, with growing hatred and hostility shattering the world peace.

Today, the world is facing the biggest ever threat of division of humanity on the lines of caste, colour religion, culture, ethnicity and nationality.In this prevailing scenario, we are faced with the moot question- Why has the world become so hostile, strife-torn, insecure and devoid of peace? World peace is nothing but the reflection of inner peace among humans. If we find the world embroiled in conflicts and peace eluding us, it is only because we humans lack peace within us. Vedas say that we need to have peace within ourselves before we can hope to establish peace in the world. We will not be able to bring down the walls of division in the outside world unless we first dismantle the walls of hatred and hostility in our minds. Human greed and unending desires are creating tensions, conflicts and subsequent unrest as we don't think twice about riding roughshod over fellow humans for our selfish gains. History is a witness that wars and bloodshed took place because of human lust for dominion, power and pelf. Today, instead of loving and respecting fellow humans, we are discriminating and running them down to establish our supremacy. Even Swami Vivekanand questions it, " When we can love ourselves with all our shortcomings, why do we fail to accept others with their drawbacks ?"

Love is a sure recipe for peace. What we need today is a world of love and not hatred, a world of light and not darkness, a world of association, not isolation, a world of harmony, not hostility and a world of peace not war. It is spirituality that fosters love, peaceful coexistence and unity of mankind. When we realize our original divine nature and connect to the Self, we are freed from all kinds of delusions, false notions and religious fundamentalism and as an enlightened person, we are in a state of harmony with the Creator. We then tend to embrace the qualities of love, kindness, compassion, tolerance, humility and patience and the vices that shatter love and peace, get dispelled. With that, we can develop a broad outlook with an inclusive attitude and become open to the thoughts, beliefs and faiths of others. And the feeling of 'otherness' gives way to a sense of oneness, promoting goodwill for mankind. Thus, by understanding the essence of spirituality and by adopting it in day-to-day life, we will be able to shun the feeling of jealousy and hatred-the root cause of disharmony, unrest and strife. Instead, we will develop the feeling of fellowship, with artificial walls of caste, creed, religion, and nationality, giving way to the bond of belongingness. Then, in the true sense, we will be able to build a world based on the equality of humans with the spirit of social cohesiveness and peaceful coexistence.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE LABYRINTH OF GST

Madam — Last week, when FM Nirmala Sitharaman met the MSME representatives in Coimbatore (TN) a restaurateur posed a problem he is facing due to variable rates in GST in a comical manner. He narrated that while a plain bun and cream sold attracts 5% each, GST, the bun with cream applied attracts 18% and hence his patrons buy the bun and the cream separately.

He also mentioned that sweets, snacks and coffee sold attract different rates and even the computer in his restaurant fumbles at times. FM promised to take up the matter with the GST council. The next day FM explained this in greater detail in a press meet that the GST rates are decided in the GST council and all the states FMs are members of the council and the centre and the FM has no role in the matter.

FM also explained that the states apart from 50 per cent of the GST collected also are given a share equivalent to 41per cent of the remaining 50 per cent of the collection as decided by the Finance commission, an independent constitutional body, where again the FM or the centre has no role.

In the meantime the restaurateur met the FM and apologised, seemingly, with no provocation. This video clip has unfortunately gone viral and the state BJP president who is on a sabbatical in UK called him and apologized for the leakage of the video clipping.

The leaked video clipping has drawn criticism from all quarters viz. LoP Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Kharge, TN Chief Minister M K Stalin and protest from local DMK cadre. While the GST council as 'chief' decides on the rate structure on GST and FC decides on sharing the collection, FM only presents it in the Lok Sabha and her office implements it as a 'bearer' bears the brunt of the people. It is high time the the finance ministry sensitizes the people on GST in detail.

Gopalaswamy J | *Chennai*

Price hike hurts poor people



The recent policy decisions of the NDA government, which has come to power for the third time after the general elections in the country, are hindering the lives of the common people. Recently, the central government increased the import duty on foreign goods, and the increased prices on essential goods came into force. Due to this effect, the prices of cooking oil increased from Rs 15 to Rs 25 per kg. The prices of palm oil and sunflower oil, which are widely used, have gone up. Besides, the use of oil increases in the background of festivals like Dussehra and Diwali.

All the people have to bear this burden. In addition to these, the prices of pulses, onions and vegetables, which are the daily necessities of the people, are also skyrocketing. This can be considered as an example of the fact that the Center, which has been careful not to go into any kind of reforms without increasing the prices of essential goods until the end of the general elections in the country, is determined to implement them one by one when it comes to power. In addition to this, some groups are hoarding essential commodities informally and creating artificial scarcity and selling the commodities at high prices, doubling the hardships of the common man.

Appanna Gonapa | *Visakhapatnam*

NETANYAHU PUTTING ISRAEL IN DANGER

Madam —After a disagreement between the Israeli government and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, it appears that former member of the Israeli War Council, Benny Gantz, does not agree with the current Israeli government. Once again, he criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stating: "Whatever Netanyahu is doing is against the betterment of the country. No Prime Minister in the history of Israel has committed such mischief." Netanyahu's actions could lead to the destruction of the country. Moreover, it is against the international laws and gross violation of human rights.

Protests can be seen across the country, even in the capital city of Tel Aviv. The brutality against humanity and human rights, the behavior and nature of a blood-thirsty wolf in human form, must be stopped. All secular countries that claim to uphold justice must come forward to stop the war for the sake of saving humanity.

Md Taukir Rahmani | *Mumbai*

JUSTICE BULLDOZED

Madam — The recent Supreme Court directive halting bulldozer demolitions reaffirms the core constitutional values of fairness and justice. Unchecked demolitions, especially targeting individuals accused of crimes, pose a serious threat to due process.

No one's property should be razed merely because of allegations. This ensures protection from arbitrary actions by authorities while preserving the rule of law.

However, the exemption for unauthorised structures on public roads and footpaths maintains a necessary balance. The Supreme Court's proactive stance signals that punitive actions must always align with legal standards. Such developments highlight the judiciary's commitment to safeguarding rights and preventing misuse of power under the guise of law enforcement.

Priya Gupta | *Kushinagar*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRST COLUMN

BOREDOM IN THE AGE OF DISTRACTIONS

Boredom, once fleeting, has now become a hallmark of our hyper-connected lives



SHAINY **SHARMA**

In a world where options are seemingly endless, from Netflix shows; and YouTube videos to social media platforms, one would expect that boredom would be a thing of the past. However, the situation is that the opposite is often true. With so many choices, people are frequently overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information, leading to a paradox of choice. This cognitive overload has started causing decision fatigue, making it difficult for an individual to enjoy or engage fully with any one activity. Instead of being satisfied, many people end up feeling detached, disengaged and ultimately 'bored'.The rise of social media and short-form content mainly on Instagram and YouTube has led to a consumption pattern that prioritizes brief and often superficial engagements. Scrolling through an Instagram feed, watching TikTok or browsing YouTube videos provides the users with momentary distraction but often lacks depth. The omnipresence of smartphones and the internet means that people are almost always "on."

The expectation to be constantly available for work emails, social media updates or even texts has eradicated much of the natural downtime that was once a part of everyday life. Ironically, while these technologies offer endless stimulation, they have also heightened the experience of boredom. The constant pressure to stay connected prevents people from truly resting or engaging deeply with meaningful activities, leaving them in a perpetual state of mental restlessness.

Many jobs involve repetitive tasks, long hours of screen time or tasks that lack a sense of personal fulfilment. Even jobs with a high workload



can leave individuals feeling mentally unstimulated or disengaged. In a world that seems more connected and stimulating than ever, it may seem paradoxical to say that boredom is increasingly becoming the new normal. The expectation that we should be constantly entertained or productive has reshaped the way we engage with the world, leading to a persistent feeling of boredom despite the abundance of choices and distractions.In today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world, one might assume that boredom would be a rare occurrence.

With endless digital entertainment, social media platforms and work demands at our fingertips, the idea of being bored seems almost anachronistic. Yet, paradoxically many people report feeling bored more frequently than ever. The experience of boredom has shifted from an occasional, fleeting state to a regular part of life. In many ways, feeling bored has become the new normal.This lack of true downtime fragments our attention and prevents us from engaging deeply with any activity. Despite its negative reputation, boredom can be a powerful catalyst for creativity and self-discovery. Many of the world's greatest thinkers and innovators have credited their breakthroughs to periods of boredom. When the mind is not distracted by constant input, it has the space to wander, reflect, and come up with new ideas. Boredom provides the mental downtime necessary for deeper thought and creativity to flourish.By reframing boredom as a chance to pause and explore deeper mental states, individuals can find fulfilment beyond the superficial distractions of the modern world, ultimately creating a more meaningful and balanced life.It is no longer simply a temporary state but has grown into a regular part of modern life, exacerbated by an overload of choices, the attention economy, and the pressure to always be productive. Boredom can be an opportunity to cultivate mindfulness and self-awareness and avoiding the feelings may turn to escapism, often in the form of mindless social media scrolling, binge-watching shows or engaging in other passive forms of entertainment. While these activities provide short-term relief, they rarely address the root cause of boredom and can lead to a cycle of avoidance. Instead of being mentally enriching, these distractions can deepen the sense of dissatisfaction.

(The writer is an educator; views expressed are personal)

India-Bangladesh relations hit new low



HIRANMAY **KARLEKAR**

Despite India's efforts for cordial ties, rising anti-India sentiments within Bangladesh's hardliner-dominated interim government pose a major challenge



The harsh fact is that however much India may concede, it will not have cordial relations with Bangladesh's interim government. This may surprise many who believe that Muhammad Yunus, the chief advisor, whose position is analogous to a prime minister's, is neither an India hater nor a dyed-in-the-wool fundamentalist Islamist. He is a survivor with whom one can do business.

Even if one goes with this assessment, and believes that he wants good relations with this country, the trouble will be with those who call the shots in the interim government--the student leaders, the coordinators of the Anti-Discriminatory Students' Movement (ADSM) that caused Sheikh Hasina's exit. They reportedly elevated Yunus to his present position and, heeding the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP's) demand, also got Lt-Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (Retd) to replace Brig-Gen Shakhawat Hussain (Retd) as advisor, Home Affairs, supposedly because the latter had made "pro-Awami" league remarks. Brig-Gen Hussain has been given the ministry of Textiles and Jute.

Most of the coordinators are intensely—and, to go by their conduct, incurably--hostile to India. The manner in which they and multitudes of students sprang to blame India for the floods in the eastern districts of Bangladesh in August, 2024, clearly indicated their pathological hatred towards this country. Attributing the deluge to India opening the sluice gates of the Dumbur dam on the Gumti river flowing into Bangladesh, without warning to the latter's authorities, and thus providing them no time to prepare to deal with the consequences, they took out processions and held rallies condemning India and mouthing threats to it.

According to a report in *The Daily Star* (August 22, 2024) headlined "Students protest blaming India for flash floods," students of several public universities staged demonstrations, rallies and torchlight processions, blaming India for the flash floods and chanting slogans like "Bharatiya agrashon rukhe dao jonogan" ("People, halt India's aggression"). The report further quoted a coordinator, Golam Kibria Chowdhury Mishu, as saying, "For the past 53 years India has been torturing Bangladesh in different ways."

> INDIA NEEDS TO DELIVER A SIMPLE MESSAGE TO THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT: WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH YOU, BUT DO NOT MESS WITH US

Similar slogans were shouted, and vituperations against India mouthed, in other processions and rallies in most of the important universities across Bangladesh. A report in the daily sun (August 22, 2024) carried under the heading "Protest at DU [Dhaka University] blames India for the flash floods," quotes Hasib Al Islam, a coordinator of the ADSM, as saying, among other things, "Delhi, forget your dominance and aggression. The time of the Fascist Hasina is over."

According to a report in *The Daily Star* (datelined August 22, 2024) carried under the heading "India has shown 'inhumanity' by opening the dam, says Nahid," Md Nahid Islam, a coordinator and an advisor holding multiple portfolios including Information and Broadcasting, said while briefing journalists in Dhaka at the end of an advisory council meeting, "We can see upstream water coming in and creating a flood situation. India has shown inhumanity and non-cooperation by opening the dam without prior warning."

He added, "We will urge, and hope that India will refrain from this kind of policy against the people of Bangladesh soon. We must find a solution on how we can protect the people of India and Bangladesh from this kind of natural disaster together." That the second sentence within the above quotation reflected a fraudulent effort to show a desire to do business with India, is clear from what else he said, "Students and people of Bangladesh are angry with this policy of India" and that the people of Bangladesh are struggling for their share of the water for a long time—implying that India had been denying it to them.

India showed subsequently that the floods were triggered by unprecedented torrential rainfall in the contiguous areas of India and eastern Bangladesh and not any of its actions. No thunderous anti-Indian pronouncement on the deluge has since been heard from Bangladesh's student "revolutionaries" in shining armour. What they said and did, however, indicated two things. The first is a deep-rooted hatred for India which bursts forth in instantaneous accusations on the basis of suppositions and not verified information. Nahid Islam's outburst mentioned above is an example of this, which is particularly reprehensible because, his being an advisor, his pronouncements bear the stamp of the government's authority.

Second, the rallies and protests showed that there is either an organisational infrastructure for expressing anti-India sentiments through action, or an ability and intention to use the mobilizational mechanism deployed in the ASDM to condemn India. In other words, it showed a mindset that waits for any opportunity to condemn India, and which will be very difficult to eradicate.

In any case, a serious effort to eradicate this mindset is unlikely to be forthcoming given the composition of the council of advisors, which is dominated by people hating this country.

Consider the case of advisor for home affairs, Lt-Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (Retd). His intense hatred for India was in evidence a number of times when, as a major-general, he was director-general of Bangladesh Rifles (now Border Guards Bangladesh). During a visit to India for talks with the then director-general of the Border Security Force (BSF), Ajay Raj Sharma, he had, on September 28, 2004, mockingly dismissed the detailed information India had provided about the location of training camps of north-east India's secessionist rebel groups in Bangladesh, saying, "There is not a single camp in Bangladesh. We looked for the camps' locations given in the BSF list. Some of the addresses were of our cantonment area and our headquarters…. Some addresses even pertained to the Bay of Bengal." During the same visit, he had said in respect of illegal Bangladeshi entrants into India, "Why should people come from Bangladesh to India? Your economic situation is not better than Bangladesh's. There are 50,000 Indian in Bangladesh who have entered the country illegally." He had added that if India's economy was better than Bangladesh's, "You would not have gone for work in (the) Middle East and the Arab countries."

Advisor, Religious Affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is a Nayeb-e-Ameer of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh (Hefazat) and an advisor to Islami Andolan Bangladesh, both bitterly hostile to India. Thirteen persons were killed and scores injured in clashes between Hefazat's supporters on the one hand, and the security forces and Awami League activists on the other, during the violent protests it staged against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence on March 26, 2024. Chief advisor Yunus had a cordial meeting with leaders of the Hefazat on August 31, 2024.

Given all this, India needs to deliver a simple message to the interim government: we want good relations with you, but do not mess with us and do things like resuming the sanctuary and support some of the earlier governments of your country gave to north-east India's secessionist rebels. And please remember that we can cause you far greater trouble than you can cause to us.

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

The expanding horizons of physiotherapy: Integrating technology with holistic care

The integration of new technologies is revolutionising physical therapy. Wearable sensors are enhancing the precision and effectiveness of physiotherapy



KHYATEE

The critical role of physiotherapy in promoting workforce health, addressing sedentary lifestyle issues, correcting postural imbalances, and enhancing productivity is increasingly being recognised not only by the common man but also by the corporate sector.Needless to say, physiotherapy is a holistic approach that aids individuals in recovering, maintaining, and enhancing their mobility and overall well-being. This evolving field which is continually shaped by technological advancements and shifts in healthcare practices, enhances its effectiveness in patient care in different arenas.

Expanding Roles in Mental Health: Physical therapists are increasingly involved in mental health care, particularly in managing depression and anxiety. By leveraging the mind-body connection, physical therapists can offer low-intensity psychological interventions to address symptoms related to mental health conditions. Electroceuticals like Deep Brain Stimulation can help reduce insomnia, anxiety, and depression. We can also help in the well-being of children with autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Deficit. This shift towards integrating physical therapy with mental health care reflects a broader trend toward holistic patient management.

Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is transforming physical therapy by enabling more personalized and efficient patient care. Advanced algorithms analyse extensive patient data to create tailored rehabilitation programs and forecast pain patterns.

AI-powered wearables and immersive technologies like virtual and augmented reality are enhancing therapeutic interventions, allowing for real-time adjustments and improved patient engagement.

Adoption of the PRISM Pain Model: The Pain Recovery and Integrative Systems Model (PRISM), developed through collaboration between the APTA and the National Institutes of Health, is set to revolutionize pain management in physical therapy. PRISM addresses the complex nature of pain beyond traditional models, facilitating more effective decision-making and treatment approaches.

Boon in Geriatric conditions: Elders are susceptible to various illnesses usually including musculoskeletal, neurological, and cardiopulmonary problems, mental illness, balance problems, and chronic pain. Physiotherapy treatment has been successful in managing each of these ailments.

Emphasis on Primary Care



Physical Therapy: The trend towards preventive and patient-centred care is spotlighting primary care physical therapy. By focusing on non-pharmacological interventions and early intervention, physical therapists are providing alternatives to manage pain and chronic conditions. This approach not only reduces healthcare costs but also enhances patient outcomes through collaborative, holistic care. For instance, take the case of stroke rehabilation. Physical therapy helps stroke survivors regain motor functions and improve muscle strength, coordination, and balance through targeted exercises and treatments. Similarly, the therapy promotes neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to reorganie and form new neural connections. Therapists use techniques to encourage the brain to adapt and compensate for damaged areas.In functional training, therapy includes functional training to help patients perform everyday tasks, which can significantly enhance their quality of life and self-sufficiency.

Growing Popularity of Aquatic Therapy: Aquatic therapy, or hydrotherapy, continues to gain recognition for its benefits, including reduced joint stress and increased flexibility. This low-impact therapeutic option is particularly effective for patients with musculoskeletal issues and is becoming a more common feature in rehabilitation facilities. **Innovations in Technology:** The integration of new technologies is revolutionizing physical therapy. Motion capture technology and wearable sensors are enhancing the precision of care plans. Virtual reality and interactive video games are improving patient engagement and adherence to therapy. Additionally, rehabilitation robotics, such as exoskeletons and intelligent prosthetics, are offering tailored support that adapts to patients' progress. Telehealth is also on the rise, providing patients with flexible, convenient access to therapy.

Increasing Need for Referrals: As physical therapists take on more comprehensive roles, collaboration with physicians becomes increasingly important. Physicians are recognizing the benefits of physical therapy interventions, leading to a higher demand for referrals. These trends highlight the ongoing evolution in physical therapy, emphasizing a shift towards more personalized, technology-driven, and integrated approaches.

(The author is a senior physiotherapist and former senior research officer with AIIMS Director. She is also a Co-Founder of Pratyaksh Medical Care; views are personal)

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IN BRIEF



BharatPe fraud case: Grover's family member held

Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has arrested a family member of BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover in connection with the alleged misappropriation of funds with the fintech company, police officials said on Friday. Deepak Gupta, who is a brother-in-law of Grover, was arrested on Friday, they said.
Gupta was named in the FIR which was registered against Grover, his wife Madhuri Jain and their family member in May 2023 in the Rs 81-crore fraud case, an officer said, adding that Gupta is being interrogated. Gupta's arrest is the second arrest in this case so far, officials said. In August this year, the EOW had arrested Amit Kumar Bansal, who allegedly was one of the members of the non-existing firms that had received payments of Rs 72 crore from the then directors of BharatPe between 2019 and 2021.



IIFLF shares settle over 7% as RBI lifts curbs on gold loan

Shares of IIFL Finance on Friday ended over 7 per cent higher after the firm said RBI has lifted the restrictions imposed on its gold loan business. The stock ended at Rs 530.75, a jump of 7.37 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it surged 13.39 per cent to Rs 560.50. On the NSE, shares of the firm climbed 6.15 per cent to Rs 526.50. Intra-day, the stock soared 13 per cent to Rs 560.60. The company's market valuation jumped Rs 1,548.91 crore to Rs 22,516.66 crore. In terms of volume, 16.40 lakh shares of the firm were traded on the BSE and 451.97 lakh shares on the NSE during the day. These restrictions were imposed on March 4, 2024, which prohibited the company from sanctioning, disbursing, or assigning/ securitising/ selling any of its gold loans. "The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), through its communication dated September 19, 2024, has lifted the restrictions imposed on the gold loan business of IIFL Finance Ltd," IIFL Finance said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.



Tripura CM lays stone of ADB-funded water project

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Friday laid the foundation stone of Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded water supply improvement facility for 12 towns in the state. The ADB has sanctioned Rs 530 crore for water supply improvement in 12 civic bodies of the northeastern state, out of which Rs 330 crore has already been released. The project aimed at boosting the water supply to households and is supposed to be completed in the next three years. The chief minister laying the foundation stone of a project at Udaipur in Gomati district said the ADB project will improve the water supply to 75,000 families of 12 civic bodies. "It (ADB) has already released Rs 330 crore out of Rs 530 crore project. Under the ADB-funded project, 305 km water pipeline will be laid in the 12 urban bodies while 25 deep tubewells, 18 iron removal plants and four water treatment plants will be constructed", he said. The ADB-funded project will be implemented in the civic bodies in three phases.



Govt seeks explanation from edible oil firms on rising prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday sought an explanation from edible oil firms for the rise in retail prices of cooking oils despite advising them to ensure price stability amid the availability of adequate stocks imported at lower duties.

On September 14, the Centre hiked the basic customs duty on various edible oils to support domestic oilseed prices, and subsequently on September 17 the food ministry convened a meeting with edible oil industry bodies to make sure that there was no rise in retail prices.

"The industry has been asked to clarify and furnish reasons as to why the prices are showing upward trend since the announcement of import duty hike, despite the government's directions to maintain retail prices in the coming festival season," a senior food ministry official said on Friday.

The ministry's assertion is that stocks imported at lower duties would easily last 45-50 days and therefore the processors should refrain from increasing maximum retail prices. Also, the price increase comes at a time when the festival season is round the corner and demand will be on the rise. Effective September 14, 2024, the basic customs duty on crude soyabean oil, crude palm oil, and crude sunflower oil has been raised to 20 per cent from nil, making the effective duty on crude oils to 27.5 per cent.

Additionally, the basic customs duty on refined palm oil, refined sunflower oil, and refined soyabean oil has been increased from 12.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent, making the effective duty on refined oils to 35.75 per cent.

On Tuesday, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra chaired a meeting with the representatives from Solvent Extraction Association of India (SEA), Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) and Soyabean Oil Producers Association (SOPA) to discuss the pricing strategy.

Sebi allows mutual funds to buy, sell credit default swaps

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday allowed mutual funds to both buy and sell Credit Default Swaps (CDS), a move aimed at increasing liquidity in the corporate bond market.

This flexibility to participate in CDS would serve as an additional investment product for mutual funds, Sebi said in a circular.



Earlier, mutual funds were only permitted to use CDS transactions to buy protection against the credit risk of corporate bonds they held. These transactions were limited to Fixed Maturity Plan (FMP) schemes with a duration of more than one year.

Now, "It has been decided to allow greater flexibility to mutual funds to both buy and sell CDS with adequate risk management," Sebi said.

In market parlance, Credit Default Swaps are like insurance contracts that protect against default by a borrower.

For mutual funds, CDS helps manage the risk of debt securities they hold. When a mutual fund purchases a CDS, it pays a premium to the seller in exchange for protection if a specific bond (the reference entity) defaults.

Under the new framework, Sebi said mutual funds can buy CDS to hedge the credit risk of debt securities they hold.

However, the CDS exposure can't exceed the value of the debt security being protected.

The regulator said that mutual funds can only buy CDS from sellers with an investment-grade rating or higher.

On CDS sellers, Sebi said that mutual funds can sell CDS as part of synthetic debt investments backed by cash, government securities, or treasury bills. However, Overnight and liquid mutual fund schemes cannot sell CDS.

ED raids ex NOIDA CEO, builders in fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ED has seized cash, gold and diamond jewellery worth more than Rs 42 crore after it raided multiple locations linked to retired NOIDA Authority CEO Mohinder Singh and builders in a money laundering case linked to the alleged duping of home buyers' funds.

The federal probe agency searched premises in Delhi, Noida and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh as well as Chandigarh and Goa on September 17-18 as part of an investigation into alleged fraud by Hacienda Projects Private Limited, its promoters and directors and related entities.

The fraud, to the tune of Rs 426 crore, was against home buyers of the Lotus 300 Projects in Noida, the Enforcement Directorate said in a statement.

Office and residential premises of the company, its promoters and related entities such as HPPL, Cloud 9 Projects Pvt. Ltd., Surpreet Singh Suri, Vidur Bhardwaj, Nirmal Singh, Aditya Gupta, Ashish Gupta and that of retired IAS officer Singh were searched, it said.

The money laundering case was filed by the ED on the directions of the Allahabad High Court against Hacienda Projects Pvt Ltd and its promoters for "diversion and siphoning off the hard-earned money of investors and home buyers and ultimately not providing them the promised flats".

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police had initially filed FIRs in this case.

The ED said cash and jewellery worth Rs 42.56 crore was seized during the searches. This included "unexplained" cash of Rs 85 lakh, gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 29.35 crore,a solitaire diamond worth Rs 5.26 crore, diamond jewellery of Rs 7.1 crore and documents of property worth crores of rupees.

RBI extends tenure of IDFC First Bank MD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank has extended the tenure of IDFC First Bank Managing Director V Vaidyanathan for another 3 years till December 2027.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), through its communication dated September 19, 2024, has granted its approval for the re-appointment of V Vaidyanathan as the MD & CEO of the bank for a period of three years effective from December 19, 2024, to December 18, 2027, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

On April 27, 2024, the bank's board of directors had approved the re-appointment of Vaidyanathan for three years post the expiry of his current term on December 18, 2024.

He took over as the MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank in December 2018, following the merger of Capital First and IDFC Bank.

Sensex soars 1,359 pts to settle above historic 84,000 mark

PNS ■ MUMBAI



Benchmark Sensex closed above the historic 84,000-mark for first time while Nifty settled at a new record high on Friday, powered by a rally in frontline bank stocks along with upbeat trends in the US and Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,359.51 points or 1.63 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 84,544.31. During the day, it soared 1,509.66 points or 1.81 per cent to hit the momentous intra-day peak of 84,694.46.

The NSE Nifty surged 375.15 points or 1.48 per cent to close at a record 25,790.95 level. During the day, the gauge zoomed 433.45 points or 1.70 per cent to reach an all-time intra-day peak of 25,849.25.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra jumped over 5 per cent. JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata Steel were the other big gainers.

State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Bajaj Finance were the laggards.

"The Indian market has joined the rally following the 50bps Fed rate cut and super accommodative monetary policy. It is expected to bring positivity to the economy and foreign inflows in the short to medium-term as the global economy continues to be robust," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green.

Equity markets in Europe were quoting lower. The US markets ended remarkably higher on Thursday.

Sardega-Bhalumuda rail proj to streamline coal transport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Vedanta Aluminium on Friday said the 37-km long Sardega-Bhalumuda rail project will streamline coal transport from the company's mines, ensuring consistent quality of the dry-fuel and seamless logistics through rapid loading systems.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently approved three railway projects which includes Sardega-Bhalumuda New Double Line.

"Vedanta Aluminium... has welcomed the government's decision to facilitate the Sardega-Bhalumuda rail line connectivity project between Odisha and Chhattisgarh, an initiative aimed at streamlining coal transportation sustainably and efficiently," the company said in a statement.

By replacing road transport with 100 per cent rail-based coal evacuation from Vedanta's Jamkhani and Ghogharpalli captive mines in Odisha, the project will significantly reduce the carbon footprint and expenditure associated with coal logistics.

The development marks an important step in the company's broader strategy towards achieving its Net Zero carbon emissions goal by 2050.

This rail-based approach is a key driver in advancing the company's broader environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategy, focused on decarbonising operations and enhancing supply chain efficiency, as the company works towards a greener, more resource-efficient future.

This development will help reduce road congestion, emissions, and fuel consumption.

"This project marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts toward Net Zero by 2050. More importantly, this infrastructure will support regional industrial growth, benefiting local industries and creating meaningful economic opportunities for nearby communities," Vedanta Aluminium CEO John Slaven said.

The rail line project is poised to generate new employment opportunities for local communities, particularly during its construction and operational phases. This infrastructure development is poised to boost regional industries by enhancing transport efficiency and attracting further investment.

RBI approves appointment of Vincent as TNMB Director

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tuticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd on Friday said the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Vincent Menachery Devassy as its Whole Time (Executive Director) of the bank.

The appointment would be for a period of three years, from the date of assuming charge, and subject to the approval of shareholders, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank said in a BSE filing.

"Reserve Bank of India vide its letter September 19, 2024, in terms of Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, approved the appointment of Vincent Menachery Devassy as the Whole Time Director (Executive Director) of the bank," the over century-old bank said.

BL Agro signs MoU with Sweden-based DeLaval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BL Agro's arm B L Kamdhenu Farms Ltd, has signed an initial pact with Sweden-based DeLaval for a partnership in the dairy sector with an investment of around Rs 1,500 crore.

On the second day of World Food India 2024, B L Kamdhenu Frams signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sweden-based DeLaval. The MoU was signed in the presence of HE Jan Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden, who was the chief guest at the event.



"The partnership focuses on promoting a zero-waste economy and long-term sustainability in cattle breeding and dairy technology, with an investment close to Rs 1,500 crore," a company statement said.

The collaboration is designed to harness advanced technologies and farming solutions including milking essentials, farm management and cow comfort. By integrating all components of the milk value chain—from feed requirements to waste management—the initiative aims to create a circular economy, driving both economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Navneet Ravikar, Director of BL Kamdhenu Farms, said, "It is a crucial step in our efforts to innovate and transform the White Revolution. Through this collaboration, we are committing to creating a fully integrated and sustainable milk value chain. Because only when we ensure zero waste, can we create long-term benefits for farmers and the environment alike."

DeLaval is a global leader in dairy farming technology that works towards reducing environmental footprint while improving production and the well-being of the animals involved.

It brings expertise in integrated solutions that enhance a) milk quality, b) volume of production, and c) overall quality of life for dairy producers.

Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden, said, "Sweden is proud to be part of India's journey towards sustainable agriculture and dairy innovations.

This MoU reflects our shared values of innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. We believe that the collaboration between B L Kamdhenu Farms and DeLaval will show the world what partnerships across borders can do for everyone."

SECI plans to launch IPO in one or two years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) will go public to raise funds in next one or two year in order to expand renewable energy capacity in the country, said a top company official.

The remark comes at a time when India aims to have 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

The 500 GW target is in the pipeline and it will be done, said SECI Chairman and Managing Director R P Gupta.

"But we have to think beyond 2030. The power demand will be 2,000 GW by 2047," he said at a press conference here. India has 207 GW of renewable energy capacity and still needs to add at least 50 GW per annum every year till 2030 to achieve 500 GW target.

Food price volatility remains risky: RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Food price volatility remains a contingent risk even as the overall retail inflation has remained below the target of 4 per cent for the second consecutive month in August, said the latest Bulletin of the Reserve Bank released on Friday.

The September Bulletin also said that global economic activity is slowing down while the pace of disinflation remains sluggish, provoking caution among monetary policy authorities.

"Consumer price index inflation came in below the Reserve Bank's target for the second consecutive month in August, although in light of the recent experience, food price volatility remains a contingent risk," said an article on 'State of the Economy' in the Bulletin.

The article authored by a team lead by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra further said in India, domestic drivers – private consumption and gross fixed investment – were robust and net exports remained sequentially positive in their support to gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the April-June period of this financial year.

The underperformance of agriculture was compensated for by a buoyant manufacturing sector and resilient services. Household consumption is poised to grow faster in the second half of the fiscal as headline inflation eases, with a revival of rural demand already taking hold.

NIZAM'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Punjagutta, Hyderabad - 500082, Telangana
Invites Bids on e-Procurement Platform (www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in)
for miscellaneous civil and electrical works at NIMS
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Rc. No. Proc II/28/2024/TCU/Newspapers Dt.13.9.2024
Bids are invited for 14 Nos. of tender notifications of miscellaneous civil and electrical works at NIMS through e-Procurement Portal (www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in). Bidders are requested to visit the above website for complete tender specifications, amendments, corrigendum, pre-qualification criteria, due dates, regular updates and participation. Information about the tender is also available on NIMS website (www.nims.edu.in).
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Saturday
September 21, 2024

'Hyd's former intimacy has faded'

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PROF. MAJOR DR. S. BAKHTIAR CHOUDARY (RETD) WALKS US DOWN HIS MEMORY LANE IN THE "CITY OF NIZAMS", IN AN EXCLUSIVE COLLOQUY WITH *THE PIONEER*, DISCUSSES HIS ASSOCIATION WITH HYDERABAD, THE CITY IN THE 70S AND MORE AROUND IT

In a world where medicine, sports and environmental advocacy rarely intersect, Prof. Major Dr. S. Bakhtiar Choudary (Retd.) stands as a remarkable exception. A visionary with over four decades of unparalleled contributions, Dr. Choudary is a man of many hats—a trailblazing sports medicine doctor, a dedicated environmentalist and a passionate educator. His journey, rooted in a proud military lineage, has taken him from the front lines of the Indian Army to the forefront of medical innovation. From saving thousands from invasive surgeries with groundbreaking research to pioneering eco-restoration methods, Dr. Choudary's multifaceted expertise has touched countless lives, including world-class athletes and everyday citizens.

When Major Dr. S. Bakhtiar Choudhury, reflects on his long-standing relationship with Hyderabad, his voice resonates with both nostalgia and pride. "I arrived in Hyderabad in 1976, when my father was posted here. I was just starting my first year of intermediate studies. Although our military family had moved frequently, this city marked a significant chapter in my life," he recalls.

His early days in Hyderabad are etched in his memory with vivid clarity. "We had been living in a village before this, so Hyderabad was a revelation. I joined New Science College in Ameerpet, which had one of the few Telugu-medium sections at that time. Later, I secured a spot at Gandhi Medical College, achieving one of the top 10 ranks despite my Telugu-medium education—a moment of immense pride. My father retired here and we settled in the Defence Colony. It's been over 45 years since," he says, reflecting on his deep connection to the city.

The transformation of Hyderabad over the decades is something he has witnessed firsthand. He reminisces, "In the late '70s, we lived in Ammuguda and the winters were so distinct, with fog so thick you'd need woolen caps, gloves and layers of clothing. It felt almost like living in Switzerland! Sainikpuri was serene, with its expansive green lawns and minimal housing, predominantly occupied by retired military officers. People would visit to admire its cleanliness and tranquility."

However, time has brought significant changes. Today, he says, Hyderabad is bustling with vehicles, immigrants and rising pollution. "Despite this, it remains distinctive. Compared to other cities, Hyderabad has relatively low crime rates and is among the more affordable and safe cities to live in. The ease with which people communicate across languages adds to the city's welcoming nature."



The cultural essence of Hyderabad, according to him, seems to have been overshadowed by pollution. "Once, mutual respect and harmony between communities were the norms, with festivals of both Hindu and Muslim traditions celebrated with equal fervour. But now, these communal bonds have been politicised and the city's former intimacy has faded," he laments. The city's growth is commendable, with new buildings, IT companies and job opportunities, yet the softness and greenery of old Hyderabad have diminished. Sainikpuri, once lush with its own microclimate and abundant greenery, is now overshadowed by concrete and urban sprawl."

Coming from a rural background, Hyderabad was an eye-opener for him. The clean, green and calm environment of the Army area was captivating. "My family and I decided to make it our home. I immersed myself in diverse activities—karate, kung fu, music and painting. I was never a bookworm; I balanced my studies with these passions," he shares.

Over time, his talents flourished as he became an accomplished painter, participated in numerous exhibitions and even won awards in wildlife photography. His enthusiasm for martial arts led him to achieve black belts in karate and kung fu. "I also explored dance, mastering various styles, some of which were quite obscure," he says with pride.

In 1985, Dr. Choudhury held his first painting exhibition in Sainikpuri. To support himself financially, he sketched portraits at Secunderabad station, earning modest sums. He also taught painting to local children and army families. "My mother gifted me a Bullet motorcycle and I needed to fund its petrol, so sketching became a way to earn," he laughs.

His early writings for the Indian Express and Deccan Chronicle showcased his environmental awareness. "I wrote about local bird species and their habitats. The response was encouraging. Unfortunately, many of those lakes have since diminished, though the government is making efforts to address environmental concerns," he explains. His commitment to wildlife conservation led him to found the Friends of Snakes Society with his son, a skilled snake rescuer.

His home garden, recognised in the Guinness Book of World Records, is an evidence to his enduring passion for nature. "In just 125 square yards, I have over a thousand plants, including more than a hundred bonsai trees. His career in sports medicine has been marked by significant achievements. He was among the first in India to specialise in this field, contributing groundbreaking research and treating numerous notable personalities, including actors Balakrishna, Venkatesh and Anil Kapoor. "My work in sports medicine and environmental health has been fulfilling. I've developed innovative treatments for back and neck pain and authored a book on vitamin D," he shares.

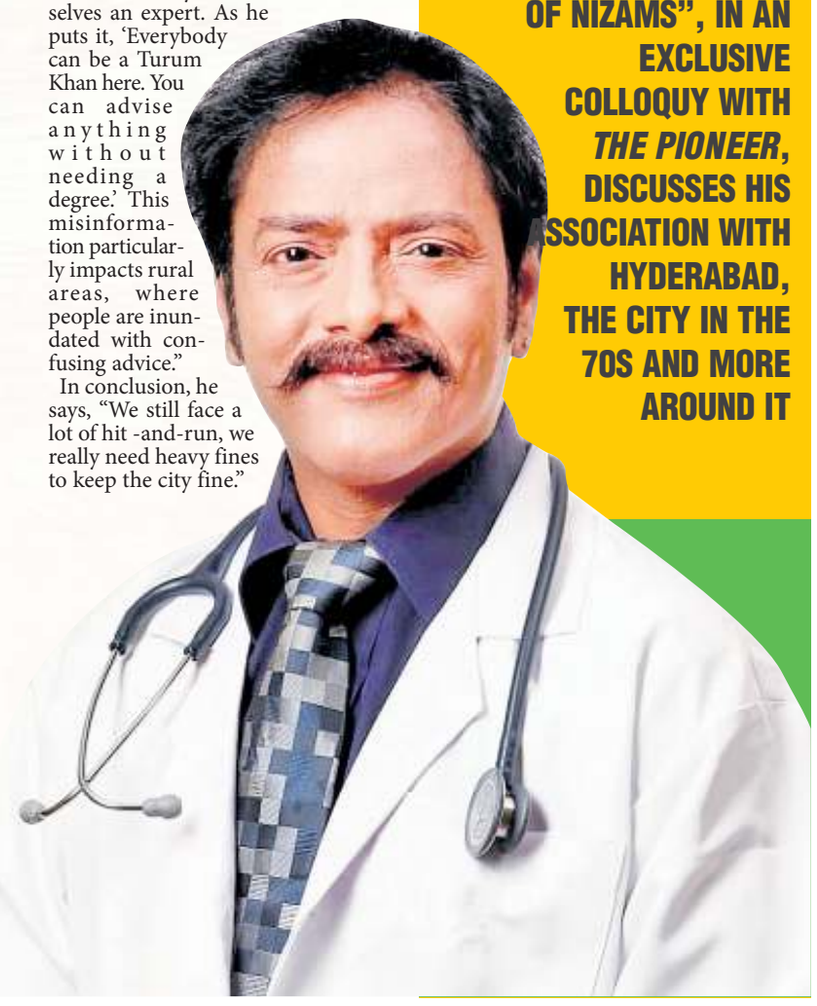
Reflecting on Hyderabad, he sees it as a city of freedom and opportunity. "Hyderabad stands out with its unique character. My journey, from securing a medical seat to hosting a painting exhibition and joining the army, has been shaped by this city. I hope that as Hyderabad continues to grow, its distinctive culture is preserved."

His observations on Hyderabad's healthcare infrastructure highlight the disparities in access and quality between public and private sectors. "While Hyderabad's corporate healthcare sector has set high standards, public hospitals like Gandhi and Osmania need upgrades and better service quality. Implementing modest consultation fees and involving volunteers could improve public health services."

Now, you focus on helping people avoid hospitalisation altogether. According to him, "The more medical development progresses, the less hospitals should be needed. It means people should become healthier." He highlights the issue with the influx of unverified information through WhatsApp: "None of your WhatsApp messages include the originator, their qualifications, their email, or their address. How can you rely on such inputs for your life? You shouldn't."

He continues, "Everyone talks about nutrition without understanding the calories of each item. Even doctors often lack proper knowledge about nutrition, as it's not a core subject in medical school. People mistakenly view yoga merely as an exercise program, forgetting its philosophical roots. In Hyderabad, it seems like everyone considers themselves an expert. As he puts it, 'Everybody can be a Turum Khan here. You can advise anything without needing a degree.' This misinformation particularly impacts rural areas, where people are inundated with confusing advice."

In conclusion, he says, "We still face a lot of hit -and-run, we really need heavy fines to keep the city fine."



Emotions unplugged with beauty of *Yaara Tere Bin*

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Social media is ablaze with praise for the smash hit series *Call Me Bae*. Fans are gushing about the show, particularly the beautiful song *Yaara Tere Bin*. The wait is finally over as we reveal the exclusive interview with the highly awaited duo for the song. The Joash and Reuel song captivated everyone with its intense emotion and unplugged beauty and now the fans have been waiting impatiently for the interview to bring the raw emotions to life!

Excerpts from the interview

What was your original plan for Call Me Bae's background score?

RUUH: Azeem Dayani and Collin D'Cunha enjoyed the sound design of *Yaara Tere Bin* after hearing it. Collin and I talked about my idea to create a sound cosmos centered around these components. Given the unusual nature of some of these sounds, it had a very new feel, even though it felt a little unrealistic at the time. We tried to capture that tone in the music as well.

Could you name a few particular musical styles that influenced it's score?

RUUH: We were greatly influenced by disco, funk, synths from the 1980s and modern music. We wanted to enjoy ourselves with the music and not be restricted to any certain genre.

JOH: Musicians such as Taylor Swift, Meghan Trainer and others in the girl pop genre served as inspiration for some of the music we composed for the show's score. Additionally, in order to keep the score more modern, we included subtle disco and trap influences.

Did you compose unique musical themes for each of Call Me Bae's characters?

RUUH: I have to talk about Hey, Bae! Every time Bae did something that only Bae could do, I used to desire a catchy call-out and Hey Bae just stuck. A character played by Vir Das, possesses a highly frightening quality. We employed a menacing *Moog* synth bass with percussion that made you tense whenever you see him enter a space. There were also a lot of emotionally charged themes. This score also includes a number of tracks that span genres, including R&B, hip hop and current music. This series had a lot of music, to put it mildly!

What impact did working with the producers and directors of the show have on the direction the score took?

RUUH: If I told you we never once fought during the process, would you believe me? I doubt I've ever collaborated with a group that could match the Dharma crew. The reason I admire and respect Collin so much is because he constantly gave us an opportunity to try something new. He fully trusted us and there were no allusions to the song. Instead, we were free to act in the way we thought fit for the situation. I've been following Azeem's work for a long time and it's been my goal to collaborate with him. He goes above and beyond what you would expect from a music supervisor; he is very hands-on. He collaborated with us on this soundtrack, for instance and wrote the lyrics for a song. In general, he played a key role in the process of developing this sound.

What methods did you employ to produce the distinct ambiance of show?

RUUH: The seventh episode ends with a scene. Without giving anything away, Vir's character, is aware that he is in danger. We changed our song *Yaara Tere bin* into the ominous Weekendesque tune *Bad Trip* because we wanted listeners to experience the same worry that he is. With these ominous vocals, it has powerful percussion and synths. You wouldn't expect to hear these sounds in a drama named *Call Me Bae*. It isn't your typical comedy show, though!

JOH: We used a lot of voices as instruments to create a distinctive vibe. Several vocal textures have been used in the score to enhance specific scenarios. For example, to generate and evoke the intended mood in the viewer during a sorrowful scenario, softer tones and a different set of chords were used.

How did you go about writing pieces that inspire certain feelings?

RUUH: The *Behencode*, a group of girls, get together in episode 8 to celebrate their victory. Since you could see them come full circle, it was a truly memorable moment. These lovely nylon string guitars have a very straightforward vocal hook that says, "*Mein aur mera dil Hain yahaan*." I may or may not have sobbed a little because it was the last episode I was scoring and such a sentimental moment.

JOH: My brother and I would watch the scenes together a few times and attempt to compose songs using instruments that complemented the mood of the scenario. Pop keys and lone guitars would be used to heighten the emotional effect.

In soundtrack, did you use any unusual instruments or sound effects?

RUUH: I was approached by my brother JOH with the suggestion that we attempt to make this entire music primarily vocal. That struck me as such a novel concept since, as composers, we usually gravitate toward employing pianos or string sections, but we also wanted to push the boundaries. I refused to accept "basic." You'll hear voice beds and sounds we made by tinkering with our own vocals throughout the score. What you may perceive as strings or synth pads is actually our voices, which have been infinitely manipulated, reversed, pitched up, piled and revved. The voice, in my opinion, is the most distinctive instrument and it plays a significant role in our sound as musicians.

What was your approach to bringing in and out of various musical settings?

JOH: The show features a lot of humour. It turned out to be rather difficult to leave those scenes. We would come across dialogue that alters the scene's mood or tone. The majority of the time, my brother and I would watch the scene with Collin and Pearl and decide how the change in feelings would unfold. It was undoubtedly a difficult procedure.

What unique elements did each of you add to the soundtrack?

RUUH: We respond with "expensive" when someone asks us to characterise our sound. Whether we're performing an orchestral cue or a straight-up dance hit, the idea is to leave the audience thinking, "Damn, what was that?" Every time, my brother remarks, "We compose only bangers." I want the listener to feel the sound, not simply hear it. The sound must have a majestic quality. Above all, it must come from the heart. I know I put my everything into the songs and all I want to do is write honest music!

Could you tell us about a particularly memorable time you had while working on soundtrack?

RUUH: After a few weeks of trying, I told Azeem that the *Behencode* was not going to happen. We were having musical difficulties. When he returned the following day, he remarked, "Just give me a beat." That day, he pulled together an incredible song in the studio with at least nine people present. That whole song was done in a single day! I savour these moments because they demonstrate our strength as a team.

What response did the audience give you in regards to the score?

RUUH: The last thing I would normally anticipate with an event this big is for someone to bring up the background score. It does have "background in its name," after all! However, I'm flooded with reviews praising the music for feeling new, energetic and having a distinct sound. People are loving me and asking if we can release the background score or if I can email them the tune, all over my DMs! I've been working on this series for eight months, but my brother and I have spent our entire lives refining this sound, so it makes me very pleased. What an adventure!

JOH: We made every effort to provide the greatest sound we could for the performance. For the score, we also wrote a couple of songs. The show's and the score's musical elements have struck a deep chord with viewers. We have only received positive feedback thus far. Many of our friends have commented on how current and Gen Z-sounding the music is.

What changes have you made to your writing style for upcoming projects as a result of working on Call Me Bae?

RUUH: If this project has taught me anything, it's probably to trust my music and stop trying to be someone else. The sound we designed for is exclusive to this series and it will be reinterpreted in a different way in my upcoming releases. I want to keep you wondering, so I won't recycle.

JOH: If it were just the two of us, RUUH and I would be the musicians. However, we worked together on this show with the entire crew—from the sound crew to the film department. That was such a wonderful experience in and of itself and I really believe that we ought to do this more frequently. We enjoy creating music and we can continuously reinvent ourselves thanks to projects like *Call Me Be*.



The musical duo behind the mesmerising track Yaara Tere Bin from Call Me Bae, Joash and Reuel, discuss with ***The Pioneer*** about this song and its behind the scenes.

the pioneer
Hyderabad | Saturday September 21, 2024

what's brewing?

PARTY


Prakruthi Kambam


NIFD Global had the honour of hosting Prakruthi Kambam, Femina Miss India Telangana 2024 and Bhavya Reddy, Femina Miss India Andhra Pradesh 2024, for an exclusive interactive session with its students. During their visit, the Femina Miss India 2024 state winners shared their inspiring journeys, offering invaluable insights into the fashion, beauty and lifestyle industries.


Bhavya Reddy


Mini


Manya, Yashika and Seema


Sahitya


Konda Vishweshwar Reddy along with Jehangir R. Bisney, CA, Trustee of Parsi Zoroastrian and M.V. Ramana Reddy, President, Hyderabad Art Society, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated the Mazda Art Festival 2024. The art exhibition will end on September 22.



Vispi cyrus Tarapore and Dilnawaz Tarapore

Bala bhakta Raj and Lakshmi

Bharathi


Anusha


Ashna turabi


Haritha

Radhika and Maredu Ramu

Naresh bollu

Hema Nalini


Vaishnavi Deshmukh

Photos by- SV Chary


The much-awaited musical concert *Chithramrutam*, featuring the legendary playback singer K.S. Chitra, is all set to take place on December 22, 2024 at Shilpa Kala Vedika in Hyderabad. The official poster for the concert was released on Friday by renowned singer Sunitha Upadrasta at a special event in Hyderabad.


Aukera has announced the grand opening of its four new stores in Hyderabad. Following the successful launch of its store in Somajiguda, they will now open new locations in Banjara Hills, Jubilee Hills and Inorbit Mall.

FUN

ARCHIE



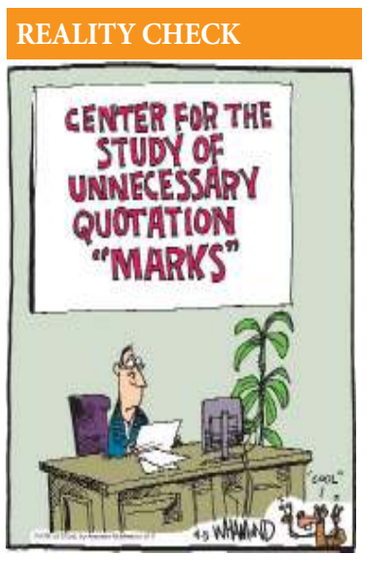
CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



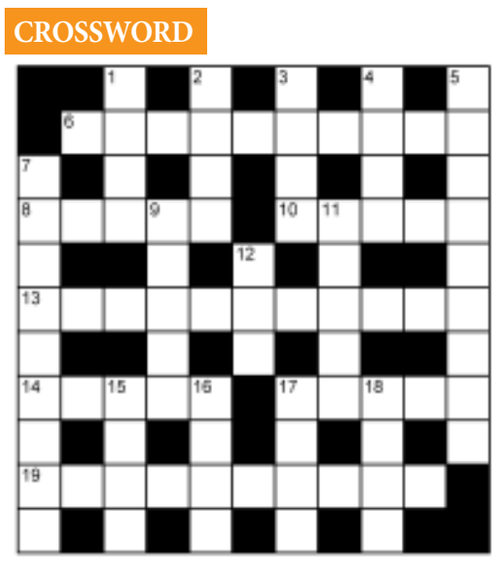
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6 A two-wheeled vehicle
8 Unclean
10 Our planet
13 A party for something special
14 Close-fitting
17 Money used in France before the euro
19 Cooked too long

DOWN

1 Number in a quartet
2 Replica
3 Throbbing pain
4 A mark from a healed cut
5 Car engine repairers
7 Schooling
9 Use these to bite
11 Change
12 Attempt
15 Got bigger
16 Mark correct
17 You need this to stay alive
18 Chopping tools

SOLUTION

R	E	C	I	P	E	■	T	R	U	E
I	■	A	■	■	P	■	A	■	X
D	R	U	M	■	P	O	L	I	S	H
E	■	G	■	O	R	■	N	■	A
■	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	■	L
F	■	T	■	T	■	I	■	D	E
L	■	■	F	O	R	G	E	R	Y
I	■	E	■	P	■	N	■	I	■	A
G	E	N	I	U	S	■	D	Y	E	R
H	■	V	■	S	■	■	E	■	N
T	O	Y	S	■	N	E	A	R	L	Y

NANCY



SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

GINGER MEGGS



the pioneer

Hyderabad | Saturday September 21, 2024

Martin actress says goodbye to having been a sex symbol!

ACTRESS-SINGER ANVESHI JAIN, WHO IS ALL SET TO MAKE HER KANNADA DEBUT WITH THE ACTIONER *MARTIN*, TAKES *THE PIONEER* THROUGH ITS BEHIND-THE-SCENES, HER CHARACTER AND ALSO SHARES HER EXCITEMENT TO WORK DOWN SOUTH



TEJAL SINHA
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A debut is always special for any actor. But this debut of Anveshi Jain is pretty much more special with thrills. The talented star is already in the news for her upcoming project *Martin*, alongside Dhruva Sarja, directed by AP Arjun.

Anveshi, who has been an actor and singer, is poised to make a significant impact in 2024 with her roles in two big projects and one of them is *Martin*.

The Pioneer had Anveshi onboard for a quick chat as she shares her excitement of being a part of an actioner, which marks her Kannada debut. Basically, "It's a very interesting process that I had adopted for *Martin*. Apparently, I was always training at home with my coach, one of the best we have in Mumbai. So when *Martin* came my way, I was told by my coach to design the entire life of this particular character."

In *Martin*, one may or may not be able to see all of it, but this certainly is going to be something that's going to be very evident in her dialogues and body language. From giving a full name to the character, deciding its place, to understanding the situations, for her, she says, it was the mental practice of life of its own. "Having to play a character closer to what I would like to play, I started watching *Money Heist* again and started adaptations and hints from the character Tokyo and took inspiration from her," says the *Commitment* fame.

"I have to take over the container, which is full of money; it's like the entire truck is filled with 'gaddis,'" she continues to reveal to us. "Then an auto arrives and simply flies off the entire truck, so I had to steal that. I had to sprint through the dusty ground, holding firearms in my hands, leaping and falling on that. Subsequently, after that, the truck is lifted up by a JCB, but it appears to be with a helicopter. I lost my balance while gripping the poles, shooting simultaneously and projecting the pistol shot at the appropriate moment when the truck took up and we were in the air. I was moving while all of those things were going on, so it was a difficult process." Beyond a doubt, that hints of the intensity that we would be getting to see in *Martin* on October 11!

"The trailer alone makes you shiver. These action sequences are really well thought out and equipped; numerous views are captured in a single shot. At first, I didn't really get why we were filming a single, little action scene that would last only five or six seconds. I realised it later when I viewed the results. It was my first time doing action."

However, what's the deal? "They were simultaneously placing it on the screen and roughly editing the film to place the right shots to see if they have something more to take," the actress claims. "It was enjoyable to witness the editing with the appropriate sound effects. Aside from that, Dhruva had a strong sense of conviction in doing these strenuous moments because they may be incredibly taxing, challenging and physically painful. The actors who are being thrashed are not the only ones who are fighting physically." It appears that the crew has carefully chosen and orchestrated the manner in which they have presented it as larger-than-life action. Goosebumps were given to the actress when she saw Dhruva fighting and she really liked it when the conviction dropped Mike Tyson on the set! She felt that filming something like this required a lot of money and even though it included Mike Tyson, she didn't want a single minute of it to be cut.

Going ahead, she shares that the location hasn't certainly influenced the work. However, it's the love of the art and craft that makes everything look less and less like an obstacle, but more as an opportunity to love what you do and to do what you love.

"I can speak for myself when I say that there were difficulties, times and settings, dust and fight scenes and many difficulties we encountered. However, at the end of the day, we slept soundly because we knew we gave it our all and felt even better about ourselves for managing the difficult tasks we faced," says the *Tera Chhalava* fame as she continues, "*Martin's* production crew was excellent. It was also evidently tough for me to grasp the language in the scene because Kannada is their native tongue. Previously, the directors or production crew would try to provide me with a script in Hindi or English. The action master will personally visit me and explain this sequence of actions along with any English or Hindi that he can manage to impart. I would be assisted by a translator. It is surprising to learn that Dhruva is one person who is multilingual in Hindi, English and other languages. He was the one who most assisted me in comprehending what we were actually going to shoot, as well as in all of my dialogue and sequences."

Action without injuries? Anveshi, however, had experienced that too. "The team were very supportive, especially the producers, who were very kind when I faced an injury because of which I could not do the action scenes. Hence, we modified, rectified, and redid the action sequences wherein it was comfortable for me. So it was very kind of them to accommodate so much for a newcomer like me."

Anveshi also desires to break her image as a sex symbol through her acting prowess, as she shares, "I don't want my visual appearance to become my definition. I have a lot more to offer, not just in my craft, but as a personality. So, I think *Martin* is the kind of person who is extremely strong and powerful. She is a gangster, so to speak. This character is my alter ego personally and I loved playing it. It's like you're your own superhero and with this, you let the superhero side come out and not fear anything. So I love that fearlessness that you would see in that character."

Heading towards the end of this chat with Anveshi, who is very excited about the release of the pan-India project *Martin*, signs off, saying, "After *Martin*, I'm hoping to work a lot more in action films in Bollywood, a lot more in South. I am doing Telugu projects. I want to work in Tamil also. Kamal Hassan sir, Nayanthara ma'am and Mahesh Babu are all my favourite."

Srinidhi Shetty to romance Nani in *Hit 3*

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Natural Star Nani is currently busy shooting for his upcoming film *Hit 3*. Sailesh Kolanu is the director and this is the third franchise of the *Hit* series. Prashanti Tipirneni is the producer. The makers had already announced that the film would hit cinemas on May 1, 2025. According to a source, the team has completed some key scenes for Nani, Rao Ramesh and Samuthirakani.

In fact, the source also revealed that the female lead in this film is Kannada actress Srinidhi Shetty, known for her stint in the *KGF* franchise. It was director Prashanth Neel who spotted her and took her as the lead opposite Yash in the film *KGF*. The film turned out to be a big sensation and became one of the highest grossers in Indian cinema. Interestingly, Srinidhi didn't sign any other Kannada film after the success of *KGF* films. The actress is now romancing Nani, who is playing Arjun Sarkar in *Hit 3*.

Initially, they wanted to rope in another actress; nevertheless, they finally roped in Srinidhi Shetty, as she is perfectly fit for the role, said the source.

Srinidhi is also starring in the Telugu film *Telusu Kada* opposite Siddhju Jonnalagadda, directed by Neeraja Kona. This film, which marks Neeraja's directorial debut and also Srinidhi's Telugu debut. After the success of *KGF*, Srinidhi Shetty did act in the Tamil film titled *Cobra*, which was released two years ago and is now entering the Telugu film industry with these two Telugu films.





Pawan back to filming; who needs a break from action

After his hectic election campaign and later as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the actor-turned-politician, Pawan Kalyan, is now back to shooting and wants to complete his upcoming films.

Pawan Kalyan has been appearing on cinema cameras after a long time due to his busy schedule with elections and serving as Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The actor who transitioned into politics is expected to finish filming three movies, *Hari Hara Veeramallu*, *OG* and *Ustaad Bhagat Singh*. The production of all three movies began a while back, but his commitment to his political duties led to a pause in filming. The actor promised the filmmakers he would finish the films when he had some free time.

The makers also recognised the circumstance and patiently awaited his return to the set. The moment has arrived and the actor has finally agreed to appear in front of the camera after a prolonged absence. Initially, he desired to direct the action-packed film *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*. Pawan Kalyan has paused his political responsibilities to resume filming for *Hari Hara Veera Mallu Part-1, Sword vs. Spirit*. The makers are making every effort to provide audiences with an unforgettable theatrical experience and everyone in the cast and crew is thrilled to collaborate with him again after a lengthy period. As per the producers, the film is set to kick off in Vijayawada on September 23. The producers have announced that they will be filming an impressive action scene with the stunt coordination of Hollywood icon Nick Powell. The stunt coordinator has previous experience on films such as *Braveheart*, *Gladiator*, *Bourne Identity*, *The Last Samurai*, *Resident Evil: Retribution* and others. The plan is to film the action sequence with 400 members as well as a large group of junior artists and stuntmen. Nasser, Raghu Babu, Sunil, Abhimanyu Singh and Ayyappa will also be involved in the filming. Krish, who was initially in charge of directing the film, has now moved on and is directing a different film. AM Ratnam's son Jyoti Krisna has taken over as director from *Krish* and is meticulously planning the action sequence on an unprecedented scale. Another Bollywood actor, Anupam Kher, has been cast for a very important role, alongside another Bollywood actor, Bobby Deol, in a key supporting role. Niddhi Agerwal has been cast as the female lead, with MM Keeravani handling music composition.

Starting off with this important Vijayawada schedule, the film initiates its journey towards the finish line as makers prepare to release *Hari Hara Veera Mallu Part-1 Sword vs. Spirit* in the near future. Dayakar Rao is collaborating with AM Rathnam to produce the film.

Dakshina to hit screens on Oct 4



Sai Dhansika is popular among the Telugu audience after her role in the film *Kabali* that stars Rajinikanth. Sai Dhansika plays a contract killer and also daughter to Rajinikanth in the film. Now, she is acting in Telugu films and one of her films, *Dakshina*, is all set to hit the screens on October 4.

Osho Tulasiram, who got fame as a director with films like *Mantra* and *Mangala*, is back with this film. Ashok Shinde is the producer. Sai Dhansika is playing the lead in this film, alongside *Mahabharat Murders* actor Rishav Basu in another prominent role. This is another female-centric film like Tulasiram's earlier films.

The makers recently released some of the glimpses and also the trailer for the film, which received positive reviews. The makers of the film are confident that *Dakshina* will redefine the thriller genre. Director Osho Tulasiram is poised to deliver another trendsetting psycho-thriller with this, says the makers. The suspense-filled storyline will keep audiences on the edge of their seats, eager to know what happens next. Mythri Movie Makers are distributing the film in Nizam Area.

STANDALONE



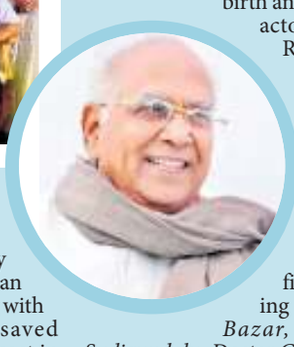
Megastar Chiranjeevi is receiving this year's coveted ANR award. Akkineni Nagarjuna made this announcement during the celebration of ANR's 100th birthday in Hyderabad. October 28 is when the award ceremony is scheduled to take place. Amitabh Bachhan, the renowned actor, has consented to present Chiranjeevi with this honour at his primary guest appearance, according to Nagarjuna.

ANR at 100, still the real star



On the occasion of the late legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao's (ANR) hundredth birthday, the Annapurna Studio and the Film Heritage Foundation, along with PVR Inox, decided to celebrate the ANR birthday with special celebrations. Some of his old films, like *Devadasu*, *Mayabazar*, *Gundamma Katha*, *Manam* and some of his other classic films, are to be screened in some selected theaters from September 20 to 22.

Interestingly, there are few legendary actors like Raj Kapoor, Mohd Rafi and Tapan Sinha who also completed 100 years along with ANR, but only Nageswara Rao saved negatives/prints of his movies at his own cost in those days at NFDC! He believed that film is forever and should be available for generations to come. With this in his mind, he stored his films' content that has been restored and is being shown to audiences today. Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor old films are not available today, since negatives and prints were never made accessible.



Akkineni Nageswara Rao, who started Annapurna Studios in 1976 in collaboration with the Film Heritage Foundation, is celebrating the birth anniversary of the legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao by re-releasing 10 of his classic films. Out of the 10 films, seven will be screened for free in selected theatres across Vizag, Vizianagaram, Vijayawada, Guntur, Bhimavaram and Hyderabad from September 20 to 22. The films available for free viewing include *Devadasu*, *Maya Bazar*, *Bharya Bharthalu*, *Sudigundalu*, *Doctor Chakravarthy*, *Prem Nagar*, *Premabhishekam and Manam*.

This initiative aims to honour ANR's incredible legacy by allowing new generations to witness his classic performances on the big screen, helping them appreciate his immense contributions to Telugu cinema. Free show tickets will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis!

Balakrishna's interesting note on ANR

Nandamuri Balakrishna, the son of another legendary actor, NT Rama Rao, put a note on the occasion of ANR's 100th birthday. "The characters that have stayed in our hearts forever and the invaluable services he has done to the Telugu cinema are memorable. His hard work, fame and inspiration are the guide to every actor (sic)," said Balakrishna in his note. Balakrishna said that ANR is a big inspiration for every actor. "From theatre to the film industry, his journey is an inspiration to everyone," said Balakrishna.

the pioneer
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Pacers put India on top, big lead against Bangladesh on Day 2

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Jasprit Bumrah's artistry seemed incomprehensible for an out of sorts Bangladesh batting line-up as India took complete control of the opening Test with an overall lead of 308 runs at end of second day's play.

Bumraj (4/50) once again worked his magic in company of Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep (2/19) and Ravindra Jadeja as Bangladesh were all-out for a paltry 149 in their first innings in reply to India's 376.

With a lead of 227 runs, India ended second at 81 for 3 with Shubman Gill (33 batting) and Rishabh Pant (12 batting) at the crease.

The rest of the six Bangladesh wickets were equally shared by rookie Akash Deep (2/19), seasoned Ravindra Jadeja (2/19) and Mohammed Siraj (2/30).

However, the beginning of India's second innings was not really bright as they lost skipper Rohit Sharma (5) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (10) with 28 on board.

Rohit was forced to play a slightly short of the length delivery from Taskin Ahmed, and the resultant edge ended with Zakir Hasan at gully.

Jaiswal was guilty of succumbing to the temptation of going for an expansive drive after pacer Nahid Rana pitched one full following up on a few short-pitched deliveries.

But the 28 for two was not really alarming considering the substantial first innings lead India had amassed by then. However, they needed immediate consolidation to further tighten the grip.

Gill provided that in the company of Virat Kohli (17, 37 balls) for the third wicket while adding 39 runs.

Gill played some delectable shots either side of the pitch, generating immense power and timing from his typical minimum-follow through of the bat method.

A short-arm jab through covers off Rana for boundary was the standout shot from the right-hander on the day. But the Kohli's dismissal, leg before to spinner Mehidy



Hasan Miraz, late on the day slightly soured the proceedings for India.

However, on a day when a total of 17 wickets fell, Bumrah, as usual, was the lead performer.

The quick slipped into his elements straightway and fetched India the first breakthrough dismissing in-form Shadman Islam, who shouldered arms to an in-cutter with disastrous consequences.

It was a dismissal where Bumrah set up Shadman with a few deliveries round the wicket (for the southpaw) and then came over the wicket to keep the length intact but subtly changing the line of attack.

That indecisiveness was the hallmark of the rest of the Bangladesh innings, as Bumrah added the wickets of Mushfiqur Rahim, Taskin and Hasan Mahmud to his collection.

Centurion Ravichandran Ashwin endured a rare wicketless innings but others stepped in for him, and Bangladesh too contributed with their timorous approach.

It was reflected in the dismissals of Litton Das (22, 42 balls) and the vastly experienced Shakib Al-Hasan (32, 64 balls).

They were looking comfortable in the middle during the course of their 51-run (94 balls) alliance for the sixth wicket.

But Litton chose to play a rather needless uppish slog sweep off Jadeja that was grabbed by substitute fielder Dhruv Jurel, who came in for pacer Mohammed Siraj. Siraj had left the field for a few overs to tend to cramps.

Shakib's dismissal was even more bizarre. The left-hander went for a reverse sweep off a Jadeja full delivery and the ball took a deflection off his boots en route to the big gloves of Rishabh Pant.

Pacer Akash chipped in with two wickets in as many balls to oust Zakir and Mominul Haq which hastened Bangladesh's downfall.

Before they collapsed in a heap, Bangladesh had a few moments of delight as they managed to price out the last four Indian wickets, including Ashwin (113) and Jadeja (86), to put a quick end to the hosts' first dig. Ashwin and Jadeja departed after adding 199 runs, which came off 240 balls and 189 minutes, across three sessions. Taskin (3/55) bowled better lines and returned with the wickets of Ashwin, Jadeja and Akash.

Fellow pacer Hasan Mahmud added a fifth wicket to his kitty in the form of Bumrah to bring curtains to the Indian innings.

RR appoints Vikram Rathour as batting coach

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals on Friday announced the appointment of former India opener Vikram Rathour as their batting coach ahead of the IPL 2025.

Rathour, 55, is the second high-profile appointment by the franchise for the upcoming season after they roped in Rahul Dravid as their chief coach.

Rathour served as India's batting coach in the set-up under Dravid as they guided Rohit Sharma and Co to victory in the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

"Rathour, a seasoned cricket professional, joins the Royals' coaching setup shortly after the franchise welcomed Rahul Dravid back as head coach," Rajasthan Royals said in a statement.

"It will reignite a successful partnership that elevated India to the top of the rankings in all three formats during their stint together, and led the country to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 title earlier this year."

Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs and has 33 first-class centuries to his name.

He was India's batting coach



from 2019 till 2023, during which he guided players like Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, and KL Rahul through crucial phases of their development.

"Having worked closely with Vikram for many years, I can confidently say that his technical expertise, calm demeanour, and deep understanding of Indian conditions make him a perfect fit for the Royals," said Dravid.

"Together, we've built a strong rapport, guiding India to key successes, and I'm thrilled to reunite with him. His ability to nurture young talent and elevate players' potential will be invaluable as we aim to further strengthen our squad and continue building a world-class team here at Rajasthan Royals," added the former India head coach.

Rathour said he was looking forward to working again with Dravid and contributing to the Royals' success.

"It's a privilege to be part of the Royals family.

The opportunity to work again with Rahul, and now with a talented group of young cricketers, is hugely exciting," Rathour stated.

"I look forward to contributing to the team's vision and working toward our goal of developing top-class players for RR.

Indian men beat Iran to inch closer to gold; women shocked by Poland

PTI ■ BUDAPEST

The Indian men's team scored yet another thumping 3.5-0.5 points victory over Iran to stake claim for the gold medal in the Open section but the women suffered a shocking 1.5-2.5 points defeat at the hands of Poland in the eighth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad currently underway here.

With their eighth victory in as many matches, the Indian men took their tally to 16 points and stretched their lead to a massive two points over nearest rivals Hungary and Uzbekistan with just three rounds left in the biggest chess event on the planet.

World number four Arjun Erigaisi started the rampage with black pieces and crashed through the defences of Bardiya Daneshvar who proved no match for the Indian. World Championship challenger D Gukesh then put it across Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces, swindling the Iranian towards the end of the first time-control.

R Praggnanandhaa played out



a draw with Amin Tabatabaei to make sure of an Indian victory and Vidit Gujrathi added to the team's tally as he outclassed Idani Pouya in all departments of the game to give another huge victory to the team.

For Arjun, this was another step towards the 2800-rating mark as he took his personal tally to a remarkable 7.5 points from eight games. In live ratings, Arjun is now at 2793 points, and if he does cross the 2800 mark, he will be the 16th player in history -- and only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand -- to do so.Taking a cue from Arjun, Gukesh made sure he kept closing in, and his victory took him to 2785 rating points. This is the first time ever that there are two Indians in top-five of the world rankings.Arjun created early complications again, going for the reverse Benoni with his black pieces. Daneshvar fell for some tactical tricks in the middle game and could not recover.

Gukesh also won with black and it was another Queen pawn game wherein the Indian chose to play the Dubov variation in the Tarrasch defense. Maghsoodloo went for some unwarranted complications and was caught off-guard as the clock ticked away in the middle game. Soon, the Iranian parted with a piece for a handful of pawns but fell prey to an easy tactical stroke that ended the game.

Vidit Gujrathi went for the Sozin variation against the Sicilian defense by Pouya and his attack was simply overwhelming, while Praggnanandhaa took things easy to ward off any serious counter play by Tabatabaei.

In the women's section, the Indian team faltered for once as Grandmaster D Harika continued to struggle with her form on the top board, going down to Alina Kashlinskaya. This was Harika's third loss in the event.Polish Monika Socko defeated R Vaishali on the second board in a technical endgame where the latter made some unforced errors while Divya Deshmukh fought very hard to beat Aleksandra Maltsevskaya on the third board. It was left to Vantika Agrawal to equalise and it looked like she had a complete winning position on hand. However, in to the sixth hour of play, Vantika made an optical blunder under time pressure and had to be content with a draw in the end with Alicja Sliwicka.

The Indian women's team was joined by Poland and Kazakhstan on 14 points apiece at the top of the table, while USA, Armenia and Ukraine are a point behind.

In the next round, Indian men will take on Uzbekistan while the women are pitted against USA.

Results (Round 8) Open: Iran (12) lost to India (16) 0.5-3.5 (Parham Maghsoodloo lost to D Gukesh; R Praggnanandhaa drew with Amin Tabatabaei; Bardiya Daneshvar lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi beat Idani Pouya); Hungary (14) beat Armenia (12) 2.5-1.5; Serbia (12) lost to Uzbekistan (14) 1.5-2.5; United States of America (13) beat France (11) 2.5-1.5; China (13) beat Romania (11) 2.5-1.5.

Women: Poland (14) beat India (14) 2.5-1.5 (Alina Kashlinskaya beat D Harika; R Vaishali lost to Monica Socko; Aleksandra Maltsevskaya lost to Divya Deshmukh; Vantika Agrawal drew with Alicja Sliwicka); Kazakhstan (14) beat France (12) 2.5-1.5; Uzbekistan (11) lost to United States of America (13) 0.5-3.5; Hungary (11) lost to Ukraine (13) 1.5-2.5.



Dhanush wins bronze at Junior Weightlifting World Championships

PTI ■ LEON (SPAIN)

Indian lifter Loganathan Dhanush on Friday claimed the bronze medal in the 55 kg weight category at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships here.

This achievement marks the first-ever medal for an Indian male athlete in the Junior weightlifting World Championships.

The 17-year-old lifted a total of 231 kg, also securing a bronze in the snatch event with 107 kg.

Interestingly, Dhanush competed in Group B, and sat through the group A session. The lifters with the highest entry weights are placed in Group A, followed by B and so on.

"I got more and more nervous as it went on, but I never thought I would win a medal," Dhanush told IWF.

He finished 13th in the clean and jerk section with a best effort of 124kg.

K. Duong of Vietnam took the gold with a total of 253 kg, while Tomari Kotaro of Japan earned silver with 247 kg.

In women's competition, Payal finished 6th in the 45 kg weight category with a total lift of 150 kg.

A total of nine Indian athletes are participating in the event.

Early red card hampers Barcelona in Champions League

AP ■ MONACO

Barcelona's perfect start to the season ended with a 2-1 loss at Monaco in the revamped Champions League on Thursday, a defeat which happened after defender Eric Garcia was sent off after 11 minutes.

Garcia pulled back Takumi Minamino when the Japan forward intercepted a panicky pass out from Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen.

Barca won its first five league games in the Spanish league under new coach Hansi Flick but saw Monaco take the lead in the 16th through midfielder Maghnes Akliouche.

Akliouche, who represented France at the Paris



Olympics, scored from the right side of the penalty area with national team coach Didier Deschamps watching.

Deschamps was not the only well-known face in the crowd at Stade Louis II. Basketball great Michael Jordan was there, too.

Jordan watched teenage superstar Lamine Yamal equalize for Barca in the 28th with a fine left-footed strike from the edge of the penalty area.

It was his fourth goal of the season but the first of the European Championship-winning Spain forward's career in the Champions League.

According to UEFA, Yamal became the second-youngest scorer in Champions League history at 17 years and 68 days - just 28 days older than teammate Ansu Fati when he netted against Inter Milan in December 2019.

In July, Yamal became the youngest player ever to score at a Euro when he netted a stunning goal in Spain's semifinal victory over France.

George Ilenikhena showed equally good composure to restore Monaco's lead in the 71st. The 18-year-old forward latched onto a pass over the top and confidently beat Ter Stegen with Prince Albert of Monaco among the celebrating fans.

It was his first goal for Monaco and his second in the Champions League, with the other also coming against Barca last season when he played for Antwerp.

"I'm happy, we played really well together and we deserved the victory," Ilenikhena said. "If we play like this we can go far."

Fati, meanwhile, recovered from a foot injury and came on as a substitute in the 88th minute.

The 21-year-old forward, who returned from a loan to English Premier League club Brighton, had not played for Barca since 2023.

McLaren, Norris seek pressure on Red Bull in Singapore Grand Prix

AP ■ SINGAPORE

McLaren is ahead of Red Bull in the Formula 1 constructors' race. Now for Lando Norris to put pressure on Max Verstappen for the drivers' title.

Oscar Piastri's win last week at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix put McLaren top in the teams' standings - the key to F1's lavish prize money - but teammate Norris only took a small bite out of Verstappen's lead.

After starting 15th, Norris passed Verstappen late in the race to finish fourth, but the Dutch driver still leads by 59 points heading into the Singapore Grand Prix.

The talk in F1 this week has focused on McLaren's seemingly flexible rear wing, which might help at high speed. Piastri said Thursday it's legal and isn't a "magic bullet" for their recent success. F1 looks wide open right now with Ferrari and Mercedes both fighting for wins. McLaren will still have to battle hard even if Red Bull isn't on the pace at a track where Verstappen has never won. Piastri is the on-form driver in recent races, but in only his second season, he's heading into a late-season swing of tracks like Singapore that he doesn't know well.

The Australian confirmed Thursday he'll still help out Norris' title challenge where he can. "There's still going to be some tough races in the latter part of the year on tracks that I've only been to once," Piastri said. "I feel like I'm improving a lot as I go through my career, but I'm certainly not the finished product yet."

Red Bull's bumpy ride Singapore was the only track where Red Bull didn't win last year. The team couldn't find a competitive setup and Verstappen was far off the pace all weekend as Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. Took the victory. Red Bull left Azerbaijan with some optimism that it's fixed at least some of the balance problems introduced by its attempts to upgrade the car this season. Verstappen - now without a win in seven races - wasn't happy with the car in Baku but emphasized it was a mistaken setup choice, not the underlying performance.

Singapore is slower than Baku and a trickier track for Red Bull, though. "Our car generally is not very good on bumps and curbs and that's of course what you have around here, so we need to try to stabilize that a bit," Verstappen said Thursday in Singapore.

Street circuits tend to suit Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez, who was fast in Baku in search of a podium finish since April. Colliding with Sainz meant all those efforts were for nothing, though.

After Singapore, Red Bull and its second team RB are expected to choose whether to keep Daniel Ricciardo at RB or recall Liam Lawson instead. Ricciardo said "decisions will be made" before the next race in Austin, Texas, on October. 20.