

sunday pioneer

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Search and rescue operations in Wayanad in final stage

5

'Akshay Kumar made no requests for adjustments in Sarfira'



11

Driven by **PURPOSE**



10

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

As the CM is saying there was no mention of the word Telangana in the Union Budget, can the state government reveal whether they are spending the revenue generated in the GHMC area only in GHMC limits. The state government has been constructing CC roads with Central funds. How can the Chief Minister say that the Centre is not giving funds when many Central projects are being executed in the state?.

-Katipally Venkatramana Reddy, BJP MLA, Kamareddy

P2

DON'T MISS...

Speakers demand restoration...

Several prominent persons from Warangal district have expressed concern over the previous BRS regime carving out six districts out of the historic Warangal district on the pretext of greater administrative convenience and rendered severe injustice to the people of the district. Several prominent persons from Warangal and Hanamkonda districts shared their views at a symposium held at Press Club here on Saturday on the topic of 'Rebuilding of greater Warangal City, Administrative...'

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Focus on promoting ...

Union Minister Ramnath Thakur said on Saturday that the Centre is focusing on limiting the use of chemical fertilisers in agriculture and promoting organic farming, especially in the northeastern states. He maintained that budgetary allocation for the agriculture sector has increased manifold under the BJP-led NDA government, with special attention on minimising problems faced by farmers. Addressing a press conference on the provisions of Union Budget 2024-25 ...

-NATION

BSNL subscribers on rise, homegrown ...

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday claimed that the subscriber base for the government-run BSNL has been increasing, while a homegrown 4G network is also ready and work is on to convert it to 5G. Talking to reporters here, the Union minister for communications said under Atmanirbhar Bharat, a 4G network with indigenous technology is ready and, in a few months, its services will be available across the country through the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited ...

-MONEY

Watch, savour & indulge ...

TG's The Oriental Grill at the Hyatt Hyderabad Gachibowli is more than just a restaurant; it's an immersive culinary theatre. The moment one steps into this elegant space, a harmonious blend of contemporary sophistication and traditional charm envelops you. The restaurant's signature "Eat what you see" philosophy is brought to life at the Teppanyaki counter, where skilled chefs transform the art of cooking into a captivating performance. Teppanyaki, also known as teppanyaki, is a captivating Japanese dining experience where a chef transforms fresh ingredients into a culinary masterpiece on a sizzling iron griddle. The term derives from 'Teppan' (iron plate) and 'Yaki' (grilling), ...

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OBTUSE ANGLE



'END OF AN ERA'
Bharatanatyam doyenne Yamini passes away

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi veteran Yamini Krishnamurti died at the Apollo hospital here on Saturday. She was 84. "She was suffering from age-related issues and was in the ICU for the last seven months," Krishnamurti's manager and secretary Ganesh said. Krishnamurti's mortal remains will be brought to her institute -- Yamini School of Dance at Hauz Khas -- at 9 am on Sunday. The details of her last

- Awards**
- Received Padma Shri at the young age of 28 in 1968
 - Padma Bhushan in 2001
 - Padma Vibhushan in 2016
 - Conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977

rites are yet to be finalised. Krishnamurti is survived by two sisters. Born on December 20, 1940 in Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district to Sanskrit scholar M Krishnamurti, she took to dance at the tender age of five at the Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai under the tutelage of legendary Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale.

Continued on Page 2



Bid to bring Rs 16,000 cr investments to Telangana

CM REVANT'S US VISIT FROM TODAY

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu are visiting the US and South Korea from August 4 to 11. On Saturday, Sridhar reviewed the tour schedule at the Secretariat. While a team led by the Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, left on Saturday, another team of officials will leave with Sridhar Babu to

the US on Sunday. The main objective of this visit is to attract investments. During the visit agreements are expected to be signed in sectors like IT, healthcare/life sciences and food processing and is expected to attract investments of around Rs 16,000 crore. These agreements are expected to give a considerable boost to the state's industrial development, said Sridhar Babu during the review.



2

IAS rejig in Telangana

Commercial Taxes Dept gets new head

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has transferred many IAS officers with notable changes in the Commercial Taxes Department.

Dr TK Sreedevi, the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, has been transferred and posted as the Commissioner of Scheduled Caste Development, replacing N. Sridhar.

Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi, the Principal Secretary of Commercial Taxes and Excise Department, has been given full additional charge (FAC) of the post of Commissioner of Commercial Taxes.

Vikas Raj, the Special Chief Secretary in the Housing and General Administration Department, has been re-designated as the Special Chief Secretary of Transport, Roads and Buildings Department. Harish, the Joint Secretary of the Transport, Roads and Buildings Department, has been transferred and posted as the Joint Secretary of the Revenue (Disaster Management)

Department with the MoS in FAC of the post of Joint Secretary of the Transport, Roads and Buildings Department (LA for RRR Project). Uday Kumar, the Joint Secretary of Agriculture and Cooperation Department, has been given FAC of the post of Director, Marketing.

Ch e k k a Priyanka, the Additional Collector (Local Bodies) of Suryapet, has been transferred and posted as the Deputy Secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department.

K. Chandrashekar Reddy, the Joint Registrar of the Cooperation Department, has been transferred and posted as the Managing Director of HACA Limited in Hyderabad. Srinivas Reddy, the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes in Warangal, has been transferred and posted as the Managing Director of Markfed, replacing Satyanarayana Reddy.

The transfer orders were issued by Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari in the name of the Governor of Telangana.



CAG exposes Rs 77 cr scam in Excise Dept

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) said that there were irregularities amounting to Rs 77 crore in the payment of tax to the Telangana Excise Department. It said that the irregularities took place during 2017-22 during inspections.

The CAG was also angry with the working style of the state Excise Department. In 179 cases, it was revealed that taxes were underpaid and delinquent fees were not collected despite late payment. It also said that no action was taken against those who did not pay actual taxes.

The CAG said that it has already given a report to the state government, but there has been no response so far. The CAG said that after giving the report to the state, the Excise Department collected Rs 11 lakh in 11 cases.

2

Speed up LRS process

PONGULETI ASKS COLLECTORS TO COMPLETE WITHIN 3 MONTHS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy directed Collectors to regularise lands as per rules and complete the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) within three months. He also asked Collectors to protect government lands.

Participating in a video conference at the Bhupalpally Collectorate with collectors of all districts on Saturday, Ponguleti directed collectors to speed up LRS as it benefits lakhs of families.

The Minister directed Collectors to complete the process without giving any chance for irregularities. He said that people have pinned their hopes on the Congress government and asked officials to complete the process and ensure that commoners do not face any problem from middlemen.

He also directed Collectors to ensure that government lands do not go into the hands of private individuals during the LRS process. Speaking on the occasion, Ponguleti said the BRS government had accepted LRS applications from August 31, 2020, to October 31,

The Minister directed Collectors to complete the process without giving any chance for irregularities. He said that people have pinned their hopes on the Congress government and asked officials to complete the process and ensure that commoners do not face any problem from middlemen.

Details of applications

- 3.58 applications were received from HMDA limits
- 1.06 applications from the GHMC area
- 13.69 lakh applications from various municipal corporations and municipalities
- Six lakh from Gram Panchayats
- 1.35 lakh applications from Urban Development Authority areas across the state.

2020. The BRS government received 25.70 lakh applications but it did not do anything to help the applicants. He said that 3.58 applications were received from HMDA limits, 1.06 applications from the GHMC area, 13.69 lakh applications from various municipal corporations and municipalities, six lakh from Gram Panchayats and 1.35 lakh applications from Urban Development Authority areas across the state.

Pointing out that applicants have been waiting for a solution for the last four years, the Minister asked Collectors to help LRS applicants quickly.

2

TG bags award for best organ transplant programme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana has been awarded the Best State/Best State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The award was presented by Anupriya Patel, the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and Dr Vinod K. Paul, a Member of NITI Aayog here on Saturday at a function held at the Gandhi Medical College auditorium to honour 143 organ donor families on the 14th Indian Organ Donation Day.

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has been designated as the Appropriate Authority for Cadaver Transplantation (AACT) and along with 40 other hospitals including Osmania GH and Gandhi Hospitals, NIMS is now in the forefront of this life-saving endeavour.

Ensuring continuous power supply is govt's goal: Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the people is the Congress's primary goal, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka inaugurated the new 132/33 KV substation in Mallannapalem Village in Mudigonda Mandal.

He said that in the past, power



was not restored promptly after a trip, but the Congress government

is working diligently to address complaints even at midnight. Field staff are working tirelessly to ensure this, risking their lives in the process.

He pointed out that some are spreading false information about the staff for political gain. There are no power outages in the state except during natural disasters or line maintenance when trees have to be cut.

2

Govt sanctions Rs 3,489 cr for 3 STP projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state government has sanctioned Rs 3,489 crore for constructing 39 sewage treatment plants (STP) in the city.

The government issued a GO saying that 39 sewage treatment plants (STPs) would be established in urban local bodies (ULB) located between GHMC and ORR areas in the Hyderabad urban agglomeration as part of the Musi Riverfront clean-up project.

Of the 39 STPs, one STP will be constructed in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. The remaining 38 STPs will be constructed in the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) mode.

The STPs will be completed in two packages. 16 STPs will be constructed under Package-1 and 22 STPs will be constructed under Package-2. Once these plants become operational, 972 megalitres per day (MLDs) of sewage can be treated.

Working to find solutions to global food security: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India has become a food surplus country and is also working to provide solutions for global food and nutritional security.

The Prime Minister said agriculture is at the centre of India's economic policies, and the Union Budget 2024-25 has given a big push to sustainable and climate-resilient farming and developing a complete ecosystem to support Indian farmers.

He was addressing the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), which is being organised in India after 65 years.

Recalling the last International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Modi mentioned that India was then a newly independent nation, and it was a challenging time for the country's agriculture and food security. "Now, India is a food surplus country," he said, adding that the country is the number one producer of milk, pulses and spices in the world.

Also, the country has become the second-largest producer of foodgrains, fruits, vegetables, cotton, sugar and tea.

"There was a time when India's food security was a concern for the world."

2

TG IT exports touch Rs 2.9 lakh crore

We will beat Bengaluru in software exports in 3 years: Sridhar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The IT exports of Telangana which stood at Rs 2.7 lakh crore as on March 31, 2024, increased to Rs 2.9 lakh crore by the end of June, 2024, logging a growth rate of 11.28 per cent, IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said.

The TG government is working hard to make the state numero uno in the country in software exports, he said.

Speaking to the media at the Secretariat on Saturday before his visit to the US, he said that currently Bengaluru is ahead in software exports with exports worth Rs 7 lakh crore while Hyderabad is second.

He said that plans have been prepared to overtake Bengaluru in the next three years and that a roadmap to increase the growth rate from 11.28% to 25% has been prepared. He said that with the emergence



of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) City, Hyderabad will become a major AI hub not only in the country but globally.

The AI City is being established to address the risk of job losses for millions of coding engineers due to Artificial Intelligence, he added.

He said that two lakh engineers skilled in coding would be trained as AI experts and that thousands of new jobs would be created. The Young India Skill University, which we are about to launch, will help

Telangana software engineers seize new opportunities through digital classes, he added.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is a visionary leader. During his visit to the US he would hold talks with industry giants to bring massive investments to the state, Sridhar said.

He said that plans are on anvil to make the entire world look towards Telangana in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

2

Revanth's fashion choices get noticed

In 'Praja palana', palakulu can afford to stand out in matters of fashion because, all said and done, they need to mingle with their counterparts in other states and leaders of nations as well as some of the people living there. This explains why Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's attire and accessories, at times pricey, are drawing attention. Since he is in power, everything on his person gets noticed. Recently he was seen wearing a Balmain Paris sweatshirt which costs Rs 66,000. His Gucci footwear is around Rs 50,000. His Louis Vuitton footwear is over one lakh rupees. He has MBT shoes which are around Rs 30,000. Revanth prefers Hublot watch which costs around Rs 30 lakh. During his last US trip, he was seen wearing Armani Exchange cardigan. He is a football freak and even the footballs he uses to play are imported. For fashionistas, Revanth, relatively young and energetic, is definitely surprising with his style quotient. A typical attire of any Telangana politician these days is white shirt, black pant and Birkenstock footwear. Most of the MLAs are seen sporting Birkenstock footwear, including Revanth Reddy.

the House was amused, and some laughed about it. Although Bhatti's social media persona may not be strong yet, his team has been putting all efforts to post videos of high quality, some of which are better than the ones relating to Revanth posted by the CM's team.

WHY TSAT CEO LETS HIS PREDECESSOR'S TEAM RUN THE SHOW

When there is a regime change, those appointed by the previous government are usually sent packing. The new incumbent of the department will then

ists, maintained that the 'sins' of BRS leaders could not be expiated easily. He recalled that the BRS government had arrested one woman journalist for not aligning her ways with the tune of BRS party's 'dictators'. The previous government filed a case under The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in the Banjara Hills Police Station and sent her to jail for one month, after having cracked down on her channel. Alluding to jailed MLC Kavitha, the Chief Minister remarked: "Sins committed on other's daughters do not go away... Sins committed do not go away easily... That is why (members are) going to jail from your house". He then recalled that the previous BRS government kept him in jail for 16 days. "That also will not go easily," the CM warned BRS leaders in his impromptu discourse on karma.

REPORTERS' DIARY

staff it preferably with people handpicked by him. However, Bodanapally Venugopal Reddy, CEO, T-SAT has not changed even one employee. Asked about this abnormal retention of staff, he observed: "The role of the government is to help facilitate employment, not deprive people of jobs". In the same building, however, there is We-Hub, which saw a near total revamp after the new CEO took charge. Many of the erstwhile government's appointees were removed summarily without even the elemental courtesy of being given the reason.

CM SEES KARMIC LINK TO WOES OF BRS LEADERS

Leaders are dislodged from power for non-performance, venality or, to put it in politically expedient terms, "due the anti-incumbency factor". If, even after losing power, a political leader is powerless as a father or as an individual, could there be reason that is not apparent ordinary mortals? Well, at least Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy sees a karmic link to the woes of the brass of Bharat Rashtra Samithi. During the recent Budget session, Revanth, while responding to BRS working president KT Rama Rao's charge that the Congress government had been 'harassing' journal-

FOOD, HYGIENE AND SERVICE QUALITY

Of late, media houses in Telangana have been frequently putting out reports of unhygienic conditions in popular hotels and other eateries, citing findings following appreciable raids by the food safety authorities. Of course, lawmakers need time to fix all those problems once and for all. But what beats scribes is that these days the 'lunch' that is provided to them during the Assembly session is served in a shed that is unhygienic and outside the pretty decent enclosure where lunch used to be served in good old days. Even the quality of food served leaves much to be desired. Scribes are equating it with what is served in ill-regulated refugee camps. Things had taken a turn for the worse about two years back under the BRS regime which literally 'threw out' scribes. Caught unawares, the present Congress regime has been continuing it, while incurring the displeasure of journalists. The worst part is that security personnel gatecrash into this shed for having their lunch.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate and K Venkateshwari)

Foundation stone laid for Mylara Industrial Park

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The establishment of an industrial park in Bhupalapally has brought promises of substantial employment opportunities in the region. The visits of three ministers, an MP and other key officials has infused enthusiasm among Congress activists.

Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka, Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya, TSIIC Chairman Nirmala Jagga Reddy and Trade Promotion Corporation State Chairman Aita Prakash Reddy visited Bhupalapally on Saturday.

During the visit a function was held to lay the foundation stone of the Mylara Industrial Park. The industrial park spanning approximately 60 acres in Ganapuram mandal is expected to create jobs in the region. The ministers emphasised



the importance of industrial development in creating direct and indirect employment. They assured the public that the government is committed to leveraging Skill India initiatives and is introducing a job calendar to provide jobs.

The ministers highlighted the success of Indiramma Rajyam in Telangana and pledged to fulfil all promises made to the public, reaffirming the government's dedication to public welfare.

Minister Seethakka reviewed the district hospital and inau-

changes in the Dharani Portal despite challenges.

Plans are underway to establish similar industrial facilities in Mulugu with land acquisition already going on. The ministers announced that the government is formulating plans to meet the irrigation needs of Bhupalapally and Mulugu and will prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) soon.

After the event, the ministers held a district-level review meeting with officials of various departments at the IDOC meeting hall in the Collectorate. They instructed district officials to coordinate to ensure the district's progress.

Before leaving for Hyderabad, the ministers had lunch at the Collectorate and thanked the MLA, the Collector officials and the public for their cooperation.

STRONG SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE ELUDES BHATTI VIKRAMARKA

Whenever there is rivalry for the CM's gaddi, the one who has an edge in social media presence will ultimately make it. This is the impression one would get from the unsolicited opinion of certain Bharat Rashtra Samithi legislators, who, much to the liking of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, told him that had he been 'strong' on social media, he would have definitely become the chief minister of Telangana, instead of A Revanth Reddy. The Deputy Chief Minister, while speaking about social media in the Telangana Legislative Assembly during the recent Budget session, conceded that he was "not very strong" on social media. Taking him at his word, BRS MLAs in the House commented: "Anna, if you were strong, you would have been CM". A legislator who shared this detail said that everyone in

'BJP, Cong politicking with the word Telangana'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Kamareddy MLA, Katipally Venkataramana Reddy, commented that it is sad that both the BRS and the Congress parties are politicking with the name "Telangana" even 10 years after the formation of a separate State.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office on Saturday for the first time after being elected as an MLA, Katipally said the Congress government too was wasting time by stating 'Destruction of Telangana' and 'Reconstruction of Telangana'. Venkataramana said the KCR government is the reason for unemployment, question paper leaks, the destruction of roads and the deaths of mar-

tyrs. The Kamareddy MLA criticised the language of BRS Working President KT Rama Rao by stating, "One can see KCR everywhere in Telangana. KCR is in Kaleshwaram, KCR is in Yadadri, KCR is in the Police Command Control room, KCR is in the Secretariat and KCR is in Mission Bhagiratha and everywhere in Telangana." "KCR in every scam, KCR is in Nirudyogi, KCR is in the destruction of Telangana, KCR is in the liquor scam, KCR is in the Dharani Scam and what not. KCR is involved in every scam in Telangana. KTR should fight on public issues changing his language. KTR should stop make political gains by using Telangana martyrs. BRS lead-

ers did nothing for Telangana and wasted time in the name of martyrs," Venkataramana said.

"The BRS leaders are still living in an imaginary world, but we are used to martyrs," Bangladesh said.

Criticising Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for stating that Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy is not meeting him to discuss Central funds, Venkataramana asked Revanth Reddy to reveal why he did not meet Kishan Reddy? Will the CM's crown fall if he meets Kishan Reddy?, he asked, recalling that R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy met both Union Ministers from Telangana, Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Kishan Reddy.

Working to find...

Continued from page 1

Now, India is working to provide solutions for global food security and global nutritional security," he said at the conference, attended by about 1,000 delegates from around 70 countries.

Therefore, Modi said, India's experience is valuable for discussions on food system transformation and will benefit the global south.

The Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to global welfare as a 'Vishwa Bandhu'. He highlighted various mantras put forward by India on various fora, including 'One Earth, One Family and One Future', 'Mission LIFE' and 'One Earth One Health'. He underlined India's approach of not viewing the health of humans, plants and animals in silos.

"Challenges before sustainable agriculture and food systems can only be tackled under the holistic approach of One Earth, One Family and One Future," he said.

Modi emphasised the importance of the agriculture sector in the Indian economy and highlighted the work done by his government in the last

10 years for the growth of the farm sector in a sustainable manner.

"Agriculture is at the centre of India's economic policies," he said.

In Indian agriculture, 90 per cent of farmers own very little land, and these small farmers are the biggest strength of India's food security, Modi said. He pointed out that a similar situation is prevalent in several developing countries in Asia, making India's model applicable.

The Prime Minister also said India has provided 1,900 new climate-resilient varieties of crops in the last 10 years.

India is promoting chemical-free natural farming, he added.

He also said the country is moving towards achieving the 20 per cent ethanol blending target in petrol.

The conference will highlight India's proactive approach to global agricultural challenges and showcase the nation's advancements in agricultural research and policy.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the seriousness of the nutrition challenge, along with water scarcity and climate change.

AP Chambers' roadmap for growth submitted to govt

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A delegation from the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), led by president Potluri Bhaskara Rao, met with Minister for Industries & Commerce, TG Bharath, Minister for MSME, Kondapalli Srinivas, and Secretary to Government (Industries & Commerce), Dr. N Yuvaraj, in Vijayawada.

AP Chambers presented a comprehensive 'Roadmap for the Rapid Economic Development of Andhra Pradesh,' which includes sector-wise sugges-

tions addressing 28 major areas. The delegation briefed both Ministers and the Secretary on the key aspects of the roadmap. The Ministers and the Secretary appreciated the initiative and efforts of AP Chambers in identifying sectoral issues and providing detailed suggestions for their resolution. They assured that the inputs would be considered while drafting new policies. The delegation highlighted their efforts to attract NRI investments from the USA, detailing various virtual and physical meetings held a month ago to showcase the strengths and potential of Andhra Pradesh.

Venkat asks officials to demolish Nalgonda BRS office

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy set a deadline for officials to demolish the BRS office in Nalgonda which was constructed without permission.

He directed officials regarding this on Saturday after laying the foundation stone for an additional building in the municipal office. "I am going to the US and I will come back on August 11. The BRS office must be demolished before my arrival or else I will take action against officials as per law," Venkat said.

TG bags award for best organ transplant...

Continued from page 1

Jeevandan has so far facilitated the retrieval of 5,541 organs and tissues from 1,465 cadaveric donors enabling 550 organ transplants performed free of cost under the Aarogyasri

scheme of Telangana. This initiative strictly adheres to the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA-1994), ensuring compliance through various measures such as hospital licensing, coordinator training, online por-

tals and awareness programmes. The latest data reveals that the donation rate in Telangana in 2023 stands at 5.48 per million population (PMP), significantly higher than the national average of 0.8 PMP for the same year.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Amavasya Aug 03 03:50 PM to Aug 04 04:42 PM
Sukla Paksha Pratipada: Aug 04 04:42 PM to Aug 05 06:03 PM
Nakshatram: Pushya: Aug 03 11:59 AM to Aug 04 01:26 PM
Ashlesha: Aug 04 01:26 PM to Aug 05 03:21 PM
Rahukalam: 5:08 PM to 6:44 PM
Yamagandam: 12:22 PM to 1:57 PM
Varjyam: 03:15 AM to 04:59 AM
Gulika: 3:33 PM to 5:08 PM
Amritakalam: 06:39 AM to 08:20 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms
Temp: 86°
Humidity: 72%
Sunrise: 5:56 AM
Sunset: 6:48 PM
Updated: August 3, 2024 5:00 PM

Ensuring continuous...

Continued from page 1

Power outages only occur when tree branches fall on power lines.

Despite these challenges, the opposition is spreading misinformation about power cuts during natural calamities.

He assured that the state is providing 24-hour power supply and is importing electricity whenever needed to meet growing demand.

The TG government is focused on producing pollution-free electricity and is ensuring that there will never be any power cuts in the state.

Speed up LRS...

Continued from page 1

He directed Collectors to arrange special teams in districts and hire staff from other departments on deputation if there is any staff shortage. The Minister said the government will provide staff from the Revenue Department if requests are made.

He advised Collectors to set up multi-disciplinary teams with Revenue, Irrigation and Municipal officials for examining LRS applications. He asked Collectors to set up help desks in Collectorates and in the offices of local bodies to clear issues regarding notices issued in response to LRS applications.

He said that Collectors would supervise the processing of LRS applications in all areas except GHMC, HMDA and Municipalities.

Speed up LRS...

Ponguleti asked Collectors to continuously monitor the LRS process by training staff taking part in it and to prepare an action plan as per the LRS guidelines.

He said that there were valuable lands in the seven districts which are located in the HMDA area and asked officials to take adequate precautions while regularising lands.

He said the government stands for planned, sustainable development in urban and rural areas.

The Minister said the government will encourage development through approved layouts giving recognition to the assets of the public. An approved layout helps owners to get building permits for constructing houses, get bank loans and buy and sell property.

Bharatanatyam...

Continued from page 1

Also proficient in the form of Kuchipudi, Krishnamurti expanded her horizon by learning Odissi from the likes of Pankaj Charan Das and Kelucharan Mohapatra.

Besides learning the various dance forms, Krishnamurti was trained in Carnatic vocals and the veena.

Krishnamurti received Padma Shri at the young age of 28 in 1968, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016. She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.

Speaking about her contribution to Bharatanatyam, veteran dancer and one of her first students, Rama Vaidyanathan, said she brought "power, beauty and

glamour" to the dance form. "Bharatanatyam is not going to be the same without her... She was so focused and dedicated to classical dance. I am so fortunate to have been her first student almost 40 years ago. She added the star quality to the dance form," Vaidyanathan said.

Krishnamurti only thought about dance, as if she was "haunted by the dance inside her", she added.

Vaidyanathan remembered a train journey she shared with Krishnamurti and being surprised at seeing her sitting in the dark, as everyone else slept around her, thinking about a dance composition.

"I remember once we were travelling by train. I was in the upper berth and she was in the lower berth. In the middle of

the night, I woke up. Everyone was sleeping and I could see her sitting there in the darkness, composing something. She was doggedly and feverishly dedicated to Bharatanatyam," the 57-year-old said.

Condolence messages poured in on X.

Former Rajya Sabha MP and Bharatanatyam dancer Sonal Mansingh said Krishnamurti "blazed like a meteor in the sky".

"Just got the sad news of the passing away of India's great dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy, Padmabhushan and Padma Vibhushan awardee. She blazed like a meteor across the sky, the firmament of the Indian dance art. She was my senior. We all looked up to her," Mansingh said in a post on the microblogging platform.

Bid to bring Rs 16,000 cr...

Continued from page 1

He expressed confidence that Telangana will emerge as a robust economy through innovations and investments. Sridhar highlighted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's strategic initiatives are establishing Telangana as a prime destination for investments.

He said the tour to the US and South Korea will not only strengthen existing partnerships but also attract new companies. The new investments are expected to generate thousands of jobs. Under Sridhar's guidance, the IT and electronics departments have secured several agreements in the last six months which will be officially announced during the tour.

Duolingo English Test

Fireside Chat with celebrity panel

Venue:
Le Maridien, Gachibowli

Sunday Times 5.30 pm

Book Launch

Launch of book The Resilient Path

Venue:
Hotel Dasapalla Convention Centre Madhapur

Sunday Time: 5.45 pm

Palaram Bandi Celebrations

Chief Guest

Nara Lokesh

IT & Human Resource Development Minister, Andhra Pradesh

Guest of Honor

Arikepudi Gandhi

MLA

Time: 7 pm

Date: 4th Aug.

Venue:
Durga Matha Temple, Ayyappa Society Madhapur, Hyderabad.

City Pioneer

sunday pioneer

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | AUGUST 4, 2024

03

PROTEST AGAINST GO 46

Police job aspirants vow to continue agitation

The youth have been on indefinite fast for last 36 hours

SAMUEL JOSHUA
HYDERABAD

The police job aspirants, who are denied recruitment due to Go 46, on Saturday, demanded that Attorney General attend the next hearing of their case on August 7. They said that their case challenging the GO 46 was adjourned 24 times.

The order pertains to The Telangana Public Employment (Organisation of Local Cadres and Regulations of the Direct Recruitment) - contiguous district and zonal cadres. Issued in April 2022, the order is contentious among police job aspirants as the government directs that 95% of the posts to be filled by direct recruitment at any time in the said contiguous cadres.

The police job aspirants staged a protest at Prajavani on Friday,



Police job aspirants staging a protest in front of the State Secretariat in Hyderabad on Saturday

seeking a proper response from officials. They expressed their grievance to State Planning Commission Vice President G Chinna Reddy, who said, "We

will look into it," but failed to provide a serious response. This led the victims to continue their hunger strike at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan until

midnight 3 a.m.

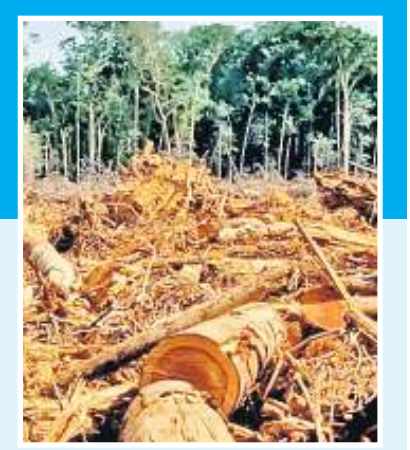
When asked, one of the aspirants, Ashok from Warangal, said, "We are protesting for a concrete response, but we keep receiving the same old reply, 'We will look into it.' If we accept this and leave, the High Court will proceed with adjournments with the absence of the AG."

Ashok added that "All the 50 members had not eaten anything and stayed until 2.30 a.m. at Praja Bhavan. The police then took them to various bus stations and directed them to go home. Despite this, they protested on the opposite road at the State Secretariat, he added.

Later on, at the Secretariat, the police forcibly bundled them into a police van and whisked them away to Bandlaguda police station, where they spent the entire



Quote: State Planning Commission Vice President G Chinna Reddy promises to look into the grievances of aspirants



Gulf Oil Corporation fined Rs 1 lakh for cutting trees

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state Forest Department has imposed Rs 1 lakh fine on Gulf Oil Corporation limited for cutting trees without permission of the department. However, the corporation paid the fine on July 31.

An environmentalist Vinay Vangala said that trees were chopped down at green hills road at Moosapet. "I complained to the forest department on July 21. After a few days the forest department levied Rs 1 lakh against the violators. Thanks to the forest department."

A forest Department official said that the Forest Department imposed a fine for violating the rules.

They have used bulldozers to remove the trees without any permission from the Forest Department that is why we imposed a fine on them."

Those who want to get permission to cut the trees, they should file an application to the forest department.

After a committee with protection committees and NGOs, the department gives permission to the people.

Three held for smuggling PDS rice, wheat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force (South) Zone in coordination with the Bhavaninagar police on Saturday arrested three persons for transporting rice meant for Public Distribution System (PDS) and wheat worth Rs 2,97,000.

The accused were identified as Shaik Rasheed (53), a businessman, Shaik Ayaz (24) both residents of Bhavaninagar and Mohammed Akhtar (48), a business man and resident of Talab Katta. The police seized 31 quintals of wheat and 102 quintals of rice from the accused. Rasheed and Ayaz are father and son who operated a transport business at Afzal Gunj. Following the loss of business they chose to transport PDS rice and wheat illegally.

The father-son duo procured the PDS rice and wheat from the beneficiaries at s 12 per kg. This was sold to Shaik Saber Navaz and Suryakanth Mascoti at Rs 20 per kg.

Akhtar, a resident of Talabkatta, operated a Kirana shop, due insufficient earnings he began procuring PDS rice from beneficiaries and stored it at his residence. Akhtar sold the procured rice to a dealer identified as Akram at a higher price.

Based on a tip off the police and officials from the civil supplies department apprehended the accused. All the accused were booked under 316 (2), 318(4), of BNS and Sec 7 of EC Act.

Telangana Safe tracks 7,263 women trips with 4.8 star rating

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Over 17,263 Women trips have been tracked by the Telangana Safe (T-Safe), which is a digital platform designed to enhance the safety and security of citizens, particularly women during travel. Since its launch by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in March, T-Safe has gained significant public support, with 10,958 downloads in less than five months. This service aims to make the journeys of unaccompanied women and children safer in Telangana.

According to officials, any citizen can use the T-Safe service to have their journey monitored by the police anywhere within the state. Once initiated, the service

tracks the journey for deviations, such as the citizen not responding to alerts, long stoppages, or route changes. It automatically creates an emergency response ticket to Dial 100, ensuring that the police can respond even if the citizen is unable to call for help.

The service is accessible on both smart and feature phones, expanding police support from emergency SOS calls to continuous journey monitoring. Till now, 17,263 trips have been tracked by the T-Safe service desk. The service has received positive feedback, with a 4.8-star rating on the Google Play Store and numerous reviews from users, particularly women traveling alone at night.

DCA seizes illegally manufactured cosmetics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) on Saturday raided a pharma company in Rangareddy and seized illegally manufactured cosmetics worth Rs 15,41,000.

During the raid, DCA officials detected that the firm manufactured the cosmetic product Retibak (0.2% retinol) face serum during the 'Stop Production Order' period.

The administration seized 571 bottles, each containing 30 ml of the cosmetic product Retibak (0.2% Retinol) Face Serum, for being manufactured during the 'Stop Production Order3; period, along with Batch Manufacturing Records, Sale Invoices, and other documents. Aaroohee Healthcare Private Ltd. was issued a Stop

Production Order in May 2024 by the Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, due to various non-conformities with respect to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and other provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Cosmetics Rules, 2020, as reported during a Risk-based inspection carried out by the DCA, Telangana. The firm was not permitted to carry out any manufacturing activity related to cosmetics thereafter. However, Aaroohee Healthcare Private Ltd. illegally manufactured cosmetics during the Stop Production Order period. The cosmetics were also found to be misbranded, as the product did not comply with the labeling provisions as per the Cosmetics Rules, 2020.

Toddy tapper commits suicide atop palm tree

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Driven by family circumstances, a toddy tapper committed suicide by hanging from a palm tree in Mukundapuram village of Munagalmandal of the district on Friday, according to the police. He was identified as Venkatesam, 75. He went to tap the toddy on Friday as part of his daily routine. It could not be known immediately what prompted him to take the extreme step.

Farmers going by the area noticed body of Venkatesam hanging from the palm tree, alerted the villagers who in

turn alerted the police. The police reached the area. With the help of some village youth the police took steps to bring the body down.

One of the youths from the village also Venkatesam climbed up the tree and reached close to the body. Another youth with the help of a rope managed to climb half of the tree. Meanwhile, while Venkatesam was bringing down the body with the help of a rope the rope got snapped up and the body fell on Nagarjuna who could climb the tree up to the half. He along with the body fell down inflicting on him serious injuries.

Government sanctions Rs 3,400 for 3 STP projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state government has sanctioned Rs 3,489 crore for constructing 39 sewage treatment plants (STP) projects in the city.

On Saturday the government released a Government Order (GO), where it mentioned that for construction of STPs for urban local bodies (ULB) between GHMC & ORR area under Hyderabad Agglomeration as part of Musi Riverfront-Music Cleanup in 3 sewerage projects with fund-

ing. Out of total 39 STPs, one STP will be constructed in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. Remaining 38 STPs will be constructed in Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) mode.

These STPs will be completed in two packages. 16 STPs will be constructed under Package-1 and 22 STPs will be constructed under Package-2. If these become available, 972 megaliters per day (MLD) of sewage can be treated.

COURTESY CALL



MAUD Minister KT Rama Rao and Health Minister K Lakshma Reddy speaking at a meeting on 'Basthi Dawakhana' at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

Food Safety officials flag rat faeces, hygiene violations



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Food Safety Commission conducted inspections at three restaurants at Shamshabad in city and found rat infestations and multiple violations.

The task force team found a rat infestation at Yes Bwarchi Multi Cuisine Restaurant during an inspection. The officials found out rat faeces on the racks and floor, and rat infestation was found in the storeroom. The TDS (total dissolved solids) of drinking water provided to the customers was found to be 24 (much lower than the mandated minimum TDS of 75). Synthetic food colors were found in the storeroom and disposed of. Windows were not fitted with insect-proof screens. Food articles found in the refrigerator and bread and buns kept on display were not labeled. The only positive observation was that the FSSAI true license copy was displayed in a prominent place.

Meanwhile, the officials also inspected the Hotel Hyderabad Grand and found that food articles like red chili sauce, sweet chili sauce, coconut milk, rose water, fish masala, and



Food Safety officials inspecting the kitchen of restaurant at Shamshabad in Hyderabad on Saturday

conducted inspections at the Airport Bawarchi Restaurant and found pest control records and medical fitness certificates of the food handlers were not available. The officials found that the kitchen premises were not fitted with insect-proof screens. Food articles found in the refrigerator and bread and buns kept on display were not labeled. The only positive observation was that the FSSAI true license copy was displayed in a prominent place.

Officials stated that a notice will be issued to the premises and further action will be taken accordingly.

Amaravati no competition to Hyd: CREDAI

MOHAMMED BALEEGH
HYDERABAD

Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Hyderabad President Rajasekar Reddy on Saturday said Amaravati is still growing and it is not a competition to Hyderabad.

"So far Hyderabad has competed with Bangalore which is much ahead of it and cities like Delhi and Mumbai. Currently Hyderabad is ahead of Mumbai in luxury segment. It is a preferred destination. Amravati may be useful for business prospects."

Differentiating between the two cities, Rajasekar Reddy said, "The AP government says it will develop Amravati, good it is about how much employment they can generate in the next five years. What kind of activity they can generate in the next 2 to 3 years and the



potential to generate employment. Are people going to stay in Amravati and invest in it immediately? Ten thousand acre might be available in Amravati whereas in Hyderabad there are lakhs of acres. Employment is the only thing which guides real estate, for the last three years 1.5 lakh people are employed only in

the IT sector in Hyderabad each year irrespective of other sectors. So this makes up to 4.5 lakh people out of which we assume that 1.5 lakh were interested in buying properties. The remaining 3 lakh people are considered prospective buyers tomorrow. So which place has a better potential? Hyderabad is at par with other

metro cities."

Expressing his view on the Telangana government's plan to develop the new city, airport and the Musi river, The CREDAI Hyderabad President said, "The Musi development can happen since it is a stretch of 85 kilometers. However, when we talk about the new city if it is over 10,000 acres, the Magarpatta city in Pune is an example. It is a mixed concept township separately developed by a private builder. It took almost 10 year to come into reality. Likewise, the new city project will begin and will grow gradually similar to Cyberabad which began in 2004."

Addressing the buyer sentiment in the present times, Reddy said, "Currently the CREDAI property show is going on, the genuine crowd is still coming. Investors may have stopped for a while how-

ever those who are interested in buying nothing stops them. I have been interacting with people individually and I would say that the buyer sentiment is on a positive side."

Stressing on real estate growth, he said, "Hyderabad has a growth story of 30-40 years and is 400 years old. Particularly, in the last 5-10 years the real estate growth has been impactful post the formation of Telangana. Core city of Hyderabad has evolved in a much better manner." Reddy further said, "With the new government coming up with new city, it is an innovation. The government has also made a proposal of developing a net-zero city. The concept is unique and the way it is being planned is good, however it will take time to become a reality with good vision and focus in 15-20 years."



PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday said that Telangana would promote education.

He was laying the foundation stone for the construction of additional classrooms to be constructed with an MLA fund of Rs 1 crore at the Government Women's Degree College in Nalgonda district headquarters.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the government would not allow politics to come in the

way of promoting education in the State. Students should concentrate on their studies and strive to achieve their goals. The Minister said that a skill development centre is coming up in Nalgonda district at a cost of Rs 20 lakh and in future this centre would be linked to the Skill Development University to be built in Hyderabad. He said that recently there has been a revolutionary change in the IT sector and there is a need to prepare students in accordance with Artificial Intelligence. He said that every student studying in the college should be given computer training.

Speakers demand restoration of erstwhile Warangal dist



Prof Kurapati Venkata Narayana speaking at a symposium in Warangal on Saturday

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Several prominent persons from Warangal district have expressed concern over the previous BRS regime carving out six districts out of the historic Warangal district on the pretext of greater administrative convenience and rendered severe injustice to the people of the district.

Several prominent persons from Warangal and Hanamkonda districts shared their views at a symposium held at Press Club here on Saturday on the topic of "Rebuilding of greater Warangal City, Administrative convenience and development with Muppidi Sampath Reddy in chair."

Those who shared their views on the topic include Prof Kurapati Venkata Narayana, former mayor T Rajeshwar Rao, senior advocate and Telangana activists Muddasani Mahodar Reddy, Gudimalla Ravi Kumar, chairman of Forum for Better Warangal Pulluru Sudhakar, Soma Ramamurthy, Sayini Narendar, Chilla Rajendra Prasad, Karra Yadava Reddy and Kondra Narsinga Rao.

They expressed opinion that former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao on the pretext of achieving greater administrative convenience the historic city was divided indiscriminately and formed various dis-

tricts and dealt a crippling blow to the undivided Warangal district leadership and also that of the North Telangana Movement leadership. They have dealt a blow to the political consciousness of the people.

Several prominent persons from Warangal and Hanamkonda districts shared their views at a symposium held at Press Club here on Saturday on the topic of "Rebuilding of greater Warangal City, Administrative convenience and development with Muppidi Sampath Reddy in chair"

speakers demanded the present regime to review the sabotage caused by the previous regime and merge Warangal and Hanamkonda districts and develop them. Development is feasible only through merger of Warangal, which is the biggest market for agricultural products, with Hanamkonda, which is a seat of education, and Kazipet, which is an important railway junction in the South Central Railway.

The districts have been created by previous BRS regime to benefit political leaders and businessmen but not to pro-

mote industrialization and to improve the living standards of the people, they said.

The traces of great historic city Warangal, which was once the capital city of the South India during the Kakatiya regime, have been wiped out, they alleged.

In terms of development, Hanamkonda was ranked No. 30. The creation of new districts has affected the development they said. In fact, district headquarters of the district prior to carving out into many districts out functioned as development centers.

Development of Warangal city will lag behind due to denial of the national funds and denial of educational institutions to the city. In fact the people have been migrating to Telangana from all districts, they lamented. If Warangal district were to be developed in North Telangana, it would provide livelihood to many people, they reasoned. There is a need to launch relentless struggles to save Warangal city, which is the birth place of many a struggle, they said.

They said that memoranda would be submitted to MLAs by uniting people from various walks of life in the two districts and utilize the services of MLAs from the two districts to explain the present situation to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Drunk and drive: Cyberabad Police nab 309 people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police apprehended 309 offenders during drunk and drive drive in the Police Commissionerate limits on August 2. A total of 261 two-wheelers, 11 three-wheelers, 36 four-wheelers and 1 heavy vehicle driver were caught. Out of those cases, Miyapur police booked 52 drunk and drive cases.

The Cyberabad police said that 33 offenders were caught with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) ranging between 200 mg/100 ml and 550 mg/100 ml. All those caught will be produced before the court.

"If anybody indulges in driving under the influence of alcohol and causes accidents killing people, such persons will be arrested and sent to jail under section 105 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) for which maximum punishment is 10 years of jail and with fine", police said.



Nine TG MPs have not asked even a single question in LS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana has 17 MPs in Parliament of which two are Ministers. Of the remaining 15 MPs, nine MPs have not asked even a single question in Parliament.

Five MPs have neither participated in debates nor asked any questions. These MPs are BJP's Mahabubnagar MP, DK Aruna, and Congress MPs

Balram Naik Porika (Mahabubabad), Warangal's Kadiyam Kavya, Nalgonda's Kunduru Raghuvveer and Peddapalli's Vamsi Krishna Gaddam.

The BJP MPs of Malkajgiri, Eatala Rajender, (Chevela) Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, (Medak) Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao and the Congress MP, Dr Mallu Ravi, took part in debates but didn't

ask any questions. Interestingly, while three first time MPs of the Congress have not asked even one question, two first time MPs from the same party asked the highest number of questions.

Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy asked 13 questions and participated in one debate. Suresh Kumar Shetkar asked five questions.

This is followed by the

Congress's Khammam MP, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, who asked 12 questions and participated in one debate. AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi participated in two debates and asked five questions. Arvind Dharmapuri asked eight questions and Godam Nagesh asked three questions.

The Budget Session of Parliament began on July 22 and will continue till August 12. The BRS raised this as a big issue during the election campaign and had claimed that it will be the voice of Telangana in Parliament. It would be interesting to see if these MPs will ask any questions.

TG govt to fund 4 agriculture undergraduates to pursue master's in US

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government will bear the expenses for four top students chosen by the State Agriculture Department to pursue master's degrees in the US.

Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao announced that the government would fully fund the education of these students, selected by the State Agriculture Department, to pursue their master's degrees at Auburn University in Alabama.



Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao with BSc (Agriculture) graduates in Hyderabad on Saturday

These students completed their degrees from Jayashankar Agricultural University and Konda Lakshman Horticulture University in the years 2023-

24, 2024-25, and 2025-26. The government will cover a total of Rs.55.50 lakh for all four students over two years. A sum of Rs.2.22 crore has been allocated for this purpose.

Nageswara Rao said that the government is committed to supporting the talented and underprivileged students in the state. He congratulated the students, Pravallika from Warangal district, Pavani from Karimnagar district, Aishwarya, and Nidha Begum from Hyderabad

Tahsildar turns teacher, begins teaching KGBV students

PNS ■ CHANDAMPETA

Chandampeta Tahsildar Srinivasulu has donned the role of a teacher voluntarily teaching students of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya here.

Srinivasulu, who hailed from Gattu village in Gadwal district, was a teacher in a government school, before he went on to become Tahsildar. He served as a teacher for 10 years.

Not satisfied with his

career as a teacher, he appeared for examination held by Telangana Public Service Commission and was selected for the post of Tahsildar and served in various mandals in Nagarkurnool district.

Recently, on a transfer, he was posted as Chandampeta Tahsildar.

Recently, he inspected the KGBV at Chandampeta and found that there is an acute shortage of teachers in the school. Since he has the expe-

rience as a teacher, he has offered to teach to the KGBV students till a new teacher is posted to the school.

Accordingly, prior to going to his office he is teaching at the KGBV.

Parents of the students and people of the mandal have been appreciating the service mindedness of the Tahsildar who on one hand takes care of the land-related problems and on the other takes care of conducting classes for KGBV students.

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Bakkani Narsimhulu, former MLA of Shadnagar and member of the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) politburo, expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for his efforts towards the classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs). Addressing the media in Shadnagar town, Narsimhulu recalled that from October 26, 2012, when Naidu spoke about the significance of SC classification during the "Vastuna Mikosam" programme in the joint Palamuru district.

Narsimhulu recalled that Naidu's then emphasised that the hands that stitch shoes should make history—a vision that had now become a reality. He highlighted Naidu's commitment to the SC classi-



Shadnagar former MLA Bakkani Narsimhulu

Narsimhulu recalled that Naidu's then emphasised that the hands that stitch shoes should make history—a vision that had now become a reality.

fication, known as the ABCD classification, and his support for the Manda Krishna's Madiga Dandora movement. Although the Supreme Court later halted the implementation, Naidu's support for the classification efforts never wavered. His consistent advocacy for the cause was acknowledged as a testament to his dedication and visionary leadership.

Narsimhulu also recalled his own contributions as the SC cell chairman of the TDP, including efforts to eradicate untouchability and support for the Justice Punnaiah Commission's recommendations. He mentioned the provision of red caps and leather shoes to Madigalas during the TDP government and the party's relentless pursuit of social justice through programs like Janmabhoomi.

Congress bulldozed budget session, says BRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former BRS Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy, MLAs Padi Kaushik Reddy and Kova Lakshmi lambasted the Revanth Government, accusing it of bulldozing through the Assembly's budget session.

Prashant criticised the government for allocating only one day for question hour, eliminating zero hour and stifling the voices of the opposition. He said that the discussions on demands were focussed on just 2 days and that he did not get a chance to speak on R&B funds.

The Finance Bill was passed without a full-fledged debate, and there was no interaction with opposition members.

The Revanth administration has demonstrated its penchant for suppressing opposi-

tion rather than engaging in democratic governance, he noted.

AIMIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi said that in his 25-year tenure as an MLA he had never witnessed such a deplorable session. Prashant echoed these sentiments, accusing Revanth of behaving like a despot rather than a leader, and using the Assembly sessions to hurl insults at KCR.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth misled the Assembly on issues like smart meters for the agricultural sector and employment notifications.

Prashant also criticized the government's handling of welfare schemes, pointing out the absence of promised pensions and financial support under the Mahalakshmi and student guarantee schemes.

Annual credit plan with outlay of Rs 5,279 cr released

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

District Collector Hanumanth Zengde on Friday advised the bank representatives to give priority in providing credit to farmers. The government has been according priority to agriculture sector and the banks should help in fulfilling the objective.

He was holding the district-level review meeting of the bank's consultative committee held at the Collectorate conference hall on Friday.

The Collector released the annual credit plan of the district with an outlay of Rs 5,279.34 crore for the year 2024-2025.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, the highest allocation of Rs 4,513.9 crore has been made for priority sector and Rs 766.25 crore for non-priority sector. Among the priority sectors, Rs 3,636.27 crore



Yadadri Bhuvangirir Collector Hanumanth Zengde holding district-level Bankers Meeting at Bhongir

has been allocated for agriculture, Rs 762.29 crore for micro, small and medium

enterprises, Rs 17.55 crore for education, Rs 70.20 crore for home loans, Rs 11.76 crore for

social infrastructure and Rs 15.2 crore for renewable energy.

A major portion of the district's annual plan has been allocated to the agriculture sector. He said that the bankers should provide timely loans to every eligible farmer and farmers should also get their crop loans renewed and get back the loan for cultivation. The loans should be disbursed to the beneficiaries on time. He said that Kisan credit loans should be given to dairy and fisheries industries on time. He said that the main objective of Mahila Shakti is to empower women and asked the banks to provide financial support for the production and skilling of women in dairy, fish outlet, micro industries, micro enterprises, food processing centres and agriculture related equipment to the eligible people in 14 types of livelihoods through self-help

groups. The bankers should coordinate with the authorities concerned to ensure timely repayment of loans of self-help groups. He said that as per the instructions of the Reserve Bank, efforts should be made to provide digital services to 100 percent of the people and banks should take awareness programs to make people aware of this.

District Lead Manager Sivaramakrishna, District Agriculture Officer Anuradha, District Industries Officer Ravinder, RBI AGM Satyanarayana, NABARD DDM Satyanarayana, SC Corporation ED Shyamsundar, District Animal Husbandry Department Officer Dr. Krishna, District Backward Classes Officer Yadaiah, officials and representatives of various bankers participated in the programme.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTIFICATION
TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 08/EEC-2/UP/LGH/MC/2024-24 Dt: 03-08-2024
Name of the Work: For 1 Work "Providing of manpower and vehicle for UBD plantation and distribution of plants to Households under Swachadnam-Pachadnam Programme in Ward Nos.7- Chikangar, 8- Habisiguda, 9-Ramanthapur and 10-Uppal of Uppal Circle-2, GHMC. (Reserved for ST community Individuals and Societies)." Estimate Amount: Rs. 2.70 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 05-08-2024 @ 11:00 AM. Name & Address Officer: Sri. L. Nagender Executive Engineer, Uppal Div.No.2, GHMC. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer Circle-2, Uppal, GHMC.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
4th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ammerpet, Hyderabad - 500038
Public Notification U/S. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008
(Government Memo. No. 14708/Plg.(1)/2023, dt:07.10.2023)
In exercise of the Powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Master Plan MDP-2031 approved by the Government vide G.O.Ms. No.33, MABUD, Dt:24.01.2013. The site in Sy No.52/P, 53/P, 54/P, 55/P, 57, 55, 56, 78 & 83/P situated at Ramesswaram Banda (V), Patancheru(M), Sanga Reddy district, to an extent of Ac:98-02gts, which is presently earmarked as Peri Urban use zone as per the notified Master Plan MDP-2031 approved by the Government vide G.O.Ms. No.33, MABUD, Dt:24.01.2013, is now proposed to be designated as Residential use. The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/ and http://hmda.gov.in/. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to the Principal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.
Sd/-
DPR R.O. No. : 361/PLC-AGENCY/UD/11/2024-25 for Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

ACROSS THE STATES

206 PEOPLE STILL MISSING: KERALA CM

Search and rescue operations in Wayanad in final stage



BJP asks DMK Ministers to reach a consensus on Lord Ram

Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai on Saturday took a dig at state Transport Minister S S Sivasankar for contradicting his Cabinet colleague on Lord Ram's existence and asked the Ministers to reach a consensus on Lord Ram. Posting a video of Sivasankar making the controversial remark, Annamalai remarked on X, "DMK's sudden obsession with Bhagwan Shri Ram is truly a sight to behold — who would've thought?" In the video the Minister, while speaking at King Rajendra Chola's birth anniversary in Ariyalur, claimed that ponds and temples constructed during Rajendra Chola's reign showed that the king lived. "But there is no evidence of history mentioning that Ram existed," Sivasankar said at the event. Taking exception to the remark, Annamalai said in a lengthy post that last week DMK Law Minister S Reghupathy declared that Lord Ram was the ultimate champion of social justice, the pioneer of secularism, and the one who proclaimed equality for all.

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Saturday that search and rescue operations in disaster-hit Wayanad are in their final stages, but 206 people remain missing. Addressing the media here, Vijayan said there is difficulty in identifying the dead bodies and parts recovered from the Chaliyar river.



"Till now, 215 bodies have been recovered, of which 87 are women, 98 are men, and 30 are children. As many as 148 bodies have been handed over so far. There are 206 people missing. Eighty-one people are injured and are under treatment in various hospitals," he said. The chief minister said 67 bodies are yet to be identified, and the panchayats will do the last rites.

Hunt for 45 missing continues in Himachal

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Rescuers are attempting to blast a boulder after they spotted a victim trapped under it in Rajban village in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district on Saturday where five people are still missing. Meanwhile, the hunt for about 45 people who went missing after cloudbursts

in three districts.. Shimla, Kullu and Mandi .. resumed this morning. According to officials, 410 rescuers from teams of the Army, NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, CISF, Himachal Pradesh Police and home guards are involved in the hunt with the help of drones. On Friday, the death toll rose to eight in the flash floods triggered by a series of cloudbursts in Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana; Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31. "A combined rescue operation is underway and efforts are afoot to search for the missing people. We are using various equipment and sensors to detect victims buried or trapped under the debris."



Mohanlal pledges Rs three crore for rehabilitation works

PNS ■ WAYANAD

Well-known actor Mohanlal, who is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Territorial Army, on Saturday pledged Rs three crore for the rehabilitation works of the disaster-hit region. The actor held a brief discussion with the officers and left for the landslide-hit zone along with others. He visited Chooralmala, Mundakkai and Panchirimattom, among other places, and interacted with the various rescue workers, including the Army and the locals, to get an understanding of the gravity of the incident. Speaking to the media, Mohanlal said the magnitude of the disaster can only be understood by witnessing it firsthand.

'Disburse claim amount to victims'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Saturday asked public sector insurance companies including Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to speedily disburse the claim amount to landslide victims and their families in Wayanad and other districts of Kerala.

The insurance companies have initiated efforts for reaching out to their policyholders through various channels (local newspapers, social media, company websites, sms, etc) to provide the contact details for assistance in the districts of Wayanad, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Thrissur, where a significant number of claims are being reported, the finance ministry said in a post on X.

"In view of the unfortunate landslide incident and heavy rains in Kerala, the government has mandated the Public Sector Insurance companies (PSICs), including LIC, National Insurance Corporation, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance, and United India Insurance to extend all possible support to the victims.

Focus on promoting organic farming: Union minister



PNS ■ DIBRUGARH (ASSAM)

Union Minister Ram Nath Thakur said on Saturday that the Centre is focusing on limiting the use of chemical fertilisers in agriculture and promoting organic farming, especially in the northeastern states.

He maintained that budgetary allocation for the agriculture sector has increased manifold under the BJP-led NDA government, with special attention on minimising problems faced by farmers.

Addressing a press conference on the provisions of Union Budget 2024-25, Thakur said, "You must have seen in media that two states have been given special attention in this Budget - Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. But our Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji has already clarified that not just two states, allocations have been made for all states across sectors, be it railways, health, agriculture or other."

The Union budget had been prepared under the guidance of the prime minister, after taking into account the problems faced by different states, he said.

"In the agriculture sector, where the use of chemical fertilisers is a problem, the Centre is working on moving from chemical to organic fertilisers. More focus is on the northeastern states in this aspect," Thakur, the union minister of state for agriculture, said.

He pointed out that it was important to have healthy soil and the government was promoting the concept to minimise the use of chemicals in farming.



Dalit quota sub-categorisation may help BJP boost outreach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP may not have taken a categorical stand at the national level on the Supreme Court's landmark decision allowing states to create sub-categorisation within the SCs and STs, but several of its leaders are of the view that the verdict can help the party boost its outreach to the more disadvantaged sections of Dalits.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has assiduously cultivated the numerically-weaker Scheduled Castes (SCs) in many states, such as Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and

Karnataka, over the years, and the apex court's verdict may allow the party to promise these communities with their most coveted wish -- their fair share in government jobs and schemes, they said.

The erosion of Dalit votes that hit the BJP in the recent Lok Sabha polls has sent its brain trust to the drawing board, as the party looks to reinvigorate its outreach to the community after the opposition's allegation that the Narendra Modi government wanted to change the Constitution found some traction in the election.

Punjab CM denied political clearance to visit Paris

The Centre has denied political clearance to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for visiting to Paris to support the Indian hockey team at the ongoing Olympic Games, an official source said on Saturday. Meanwhile, Punjab Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Sandhu said he has also been denied political clearance for going to the US to participate in a conference of speakers of legislative bodies from August 4 to August 7. Mann, who holds a diplomatic passport, was scheduled to visit Paris from August 3 to August 9 for the Indian hockey team's quarterfinal clash on August 4, and had sought political clearance for the same. The Centre denied him the permission, saying since Mann is a Z-Plus security protectee, it is not possible to arrange his level of security at a short notice, the source in the Punjab government said.



Mediation part of Indian culture, says Law Minister

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Saturday said mediation has been part of the Indian culture for long and invoked tales from the epic Mahabharat to drive home his point. Addressing an event organised by the Supreme Court, he said the power to introspect helps resolve disputes. Appreciating the role of Lok Adalats in settling matrimonial disputes, the minister said what was earlier done by family elders is now being handled by alternate disputes resolution mechanisms. Meghwal said the first Lok Adalat was held by Lord Krishna when he tried to settle the dispute between the Kauravs and the Pandavs. He also quoted the lines of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar on as to how Lord Krishna tried to find a peaceful solution. To mark 75 years of its establishment, the Supreme Court has organised a special Lok Adalat week to settle disputes ranging from compensation, land acquisition, appointments on compassionate grounds, matrimonial differences. Meghwal said over a thousand cases were settled.

Indian submarine INS Shalki visits Sri Lanka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian submarine INS Shalki is on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka in reflection of growing maritime security cooperation between the two countries. The Shishumar class diesel-electric submarine arrived in Colombo on August 2, the Indian Navy said on Saturday.

India sends submarines to a handful of countries with whom it has close defence and strategic ties. The Indian submarine's visit to Colombo comes against the backdrop of China's persistent attempts to enhance its strategic and military influence over the island nation. The submarine



was accorded a ceremonial reception by the Sri Lanka Navy on its arrival on Friday. INS Shalki was commissioned into the Indian Navy on February 7, 1992. It is the first ever submarine to be built in India.

Earlier, Kalvari class submarines INS Karanj and INS

Vagir had visited Colombo in February this year and June last year. The Commander of the submarine was scheduled to call on the Commander of the Western Naval Area Rear Admiral WDCU Kumarasinghe, the Indian Navy said in a statement.

People get so fed up with judicial process that they just want settlement: CJ

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People get "so fed up" with the matters of courts that they just want a settlement, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said on Saturday while highlighting the role of Lok Adalats as alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.

Lok Adalats are forums where disputes and cases pending in courts or at pre-litigation stage are settled or compromised amicably. No appeal against the mutually accepted settlement can be filed. "Log itna trast ho jate hain court ke

mamlon se wo koi bhi settlement chahte hain...Bas court se dur kara dijiye (People are so fed up with the matters of the court that they just want a settlement). This process is the punishment and that is a cause of concern for all of us as judges," Chandrachud said at the commemoration of the special Lok Adalat week at the Supreme Court.

The CJ said he got tremendous support and cooperation from everyone including the Bar and the Bench in setting up of Lok Adalat at every stage.



'1930' helpline saves Rs 100 cr of victims' money

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The '1930' cyber helpline for people to alert police about online frauds has ensured retrieval of Rs 100 crore in the last seven months in Mumbai after banks were contacted promptly, an official said on Saturday.

The Rs 100 crore that had been stopped from falling into the hands of fraudsters came from action in 35,918 cases of online cheating connected to share trading, investments, courier calls, digital arrest threats, online tasks etc, he added. "After a complaint is received on the helpline.

'We set example by evacuating students from Ukraine'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India set an example for the world by evacuating its students from Ukraine and it could happen after Prime Minister Narendra Modi negotiated with both Russia and Ukraine for a 24-hour ceasefire, former president Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday.

Delivering the fifth Dr Rajaram Jaipuria Memorial Lecture here, the former president said India is on the path of being a "vishwaguru" or global leader and called upon the youth to contribute to it. He also gave several examples of how India proved itself to be a global leader, including



"When six-eight months passed, the situation became such that it was difficult to survive. The concern of parents of the students was acknowledged by the government. I am deliberately giving this example, I was in Rashtrapati Bhawan at that time," Kovind said

the recent Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam for giving reservation to women in legislature. Talking about the Russia-Ukraine war, the former president said everyone expected it

to be over in a month or two, which is why several Indian students got stuck in the war-struck Ukraine. "When six-eight months passed, the situation became

such that it was difficult to survive. The concern of parents of the students was acknowledged by the government. I am deliberately giving this example, I was in Rashtrapati Bhawan at that time," Kovind said.

"I asked why so many Indian students go to Ukraine. I was told medical education is cheap there. Our students got stuck, if something would have happened to them, the government would have been held responsible. Though it was not the government's responsibility, parents sent them there, but the government would have been blamed," he added. Asserting "our gov-

ernment set an example", Kovind said they played the role of a global leader and talked to both nations, Russia and Ukraine, to have a ceasefire for 24 hours.

"Both are big nations. Would they have agreed if any other country would have intervened? No," he said.

"Our prime minister talked to both Russia and Ukraine, and thank god both agreed. For 24 hours, war was paused," Kovind claimed. He also said the students from other countries like the US, Pakistan and China were also stuck, but their governments could not evacuate them.

Will oppose any move to apply creamy layer criteria in quota for SCs/STs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union minister Ramdas Athawale has strongly opposed any move to apply creamy layer criteria in reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a comment coming in the backdrop of a historic Supreme Court verdict on sub-classifications within these communities for wider quota benefits.

Athawale, who heads the Republican Party of India (Athawale), noted that the



Supreme Court's decision of sub-classifying SCs/STs by states will provide justice to

castes that are more backward among these groups.

Speaking here on Friday, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment also demanded similar sub-classifications for OBCs and general category members.

"The reservation for SCs/STs is based on caste. The RPI (A) will strongly oppose any move to apply the criteria of creamy layer to reservation for SCs and STs," Athawale, whose party is a constituent of the BJP-led NDA, said.

LIVING IT UP IN JAIPUR

Jaipur, a bustling hub of commerce and culture in North India, is famed for its grand palaces, majestic forts, and exquisite crafts. Known globally for its intricate artwork and stunning jewellery, the Pink City exudes charm with its vibrant colours and rich artistic heritage. Alongside its historical grandeur, contemporary spaces reflecting local elegance have emerged as the city continues to evolve and thrive

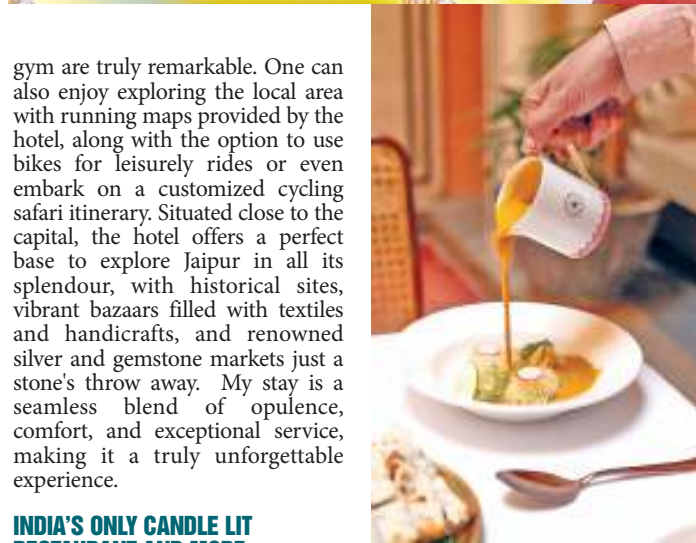
BY **AKANKSHA DEAN**

JAIPUR, is a delightful place to visit with its colourful palaces, historic forts, lively markets showcasing local crafts, and diverse food options. It's a city that offers something for everyone. The pink city is also home to luxurious hotels and unique restaurants. Stroll along streets lined with palaces, temples, and the occasional cow. Indulge in royal culinary delights, explore exquisite jewellery shops, and discover a weekend of tranquillity amidst the bustling vibrancy.

TRADITION MEETS CONTEMPORARY

Nestled near Amber fort off Delhi-Jaipur highway, The Leela Palace Jaipur sits with the backdrop of Aravalli hills amidst 8 acres of gardens. This hotel aims to impress guests with luxury while maintaining a cosy atmosphere. Royal opulence can be felt in the wood panels, windows, and artwork, yet there's a touch of modernity. The design reflects local artistry, from ancient Thikri mirror engraving to Shekhawati canvases on the walls. Traditional meets contemporary in a blend of comfort and grandeur at this splendid hotel. Stepping into the Leela Palace Jaipur feels like entering a world of extravagance and refinement

deeply rooted in history. This stunning hotel offers a range of accommodation options, including rooms, suites, and villas - all meticulously designed to provide a lavish experience. The Royal Plunge Pool villa is a highlight of my stay, radiating a sense of lightness and luxury. The spacious layout, complete with cosy armchairs, indulgent day beds, and a private pool, makes me feel like royalty. The attention to detail was exquisite, from the walk-in wardrobe to the marble-trimmed bathroom with a tub, not to mention the plush robes and organic toiletries provided. And for those seeking the epitome of luxury, the Maharaja suite exceeds all expectations with its grand living spaces, luxurious bathrooms, and stunning Palace views. One of the standout aspects of my experience at Leela Palace Jaipur is the warm and welcoming presence of Sharad Puri, the General Manager. His humble approach and dedication to ensuring guests feel at home set the tone for the genuinely gracious service throughout the hotel. The meticulous butler service, provided by a dedicated team of footmen in true Leela Palace style, adds an extra touch of luxury to my stay. In terms of relaxation amenities, the expansive spa and well-equipped



INDIA'S ONLY CANDLE LIT RESTAURANT AND MORE

From its impressive design and stylish interiors to the refined culinary offerings and carefully curated immersive experiences, Leela Palace Jaipur epitomizes authentic Indian luxury. As my eyes wander through the architectural marvels of the Sheesh Mahal, I find myself at Mohan Mahal, the Indian specialty restaurant glowing softly with candlelight. The ambience is crafted with 350,000 pieces of Thikri mirror, meticulously assembled by artisans over three years, creating an aura of refined elegance. Being India's only candle-

lit restaurant, it is truly a delight for the senses. The royal cuisine from Rajasthan and Awadh served at Mohan Mahal is a blend of simplicity and artistry, with standout dishes like the Seekh kebab dressed with barley. Breakfast is equally splendid, presented on beautiful tableware and featuring a selection of à la carte favourites. In the afternoons, I enjoy a delightful tea service at the Jharokha bar, where expertly crafted cocktails are served till late. I am particularly impressed by the Martini concocted by the talented mixologist, who



shares stories of mixing drinks for royalty. For a more intimate dining experience, Hawa Mahal offers a private rooftop setting where both the views and flavours are rich with captivating charm. Truly The hotel creates memorable moments that capture the essence of Indian indulgence, blending traditional rituals with modern hospitality seamlessly. **ALL VEGETARIAN** Burrowed discreetly within the vibrant Johri Bazaar, known for its jeweller's market, the intimate Johri Restaurant seamlessly blends into

the bustling surroundings. Tucked away on a tranquil lane just off the main colonnaded street, which played a pivotal role in securing the city's spot on the UNESCO World Heritage list, this hidden gem welcomes all guests. Attached to a charming five-suite boutique hotel, The Johri, the restaurant offers a unique dining experience that harmoniously intertwines with the heritage and allure of the historic marketplace. Savouring Jaipur's iconic zero-sized peas here is a revelation. Despite its fame that stretches as far as Dubai and Japan,

these peas had somehow escaped my taste buds back in Delhi. The petite yet incredibly sweet and flavourful green peas are beautifully served alongside corn and spinach on a generous plate. Chef Sonu Kumar has expertly crafted a menu that celebrates local and regional flavours with organic, seasonal, and vegetarian ingredients. Signature dishes like paan patta chaat and Dal Johri add a timeless charm to this culinary experience. Indulge in expertly crafted dishes that stay true to their origins, whether presented in a classic style or with a modern twist. The Jackfruit Nihari and truffle cheese kulcha stuffed with mushroom and local cheeses offer a burst of flavours in every bite. Accompanied by Missi roti and palak kofta in cashew gravy, the menu caters to diverse palates. Dietary preferences are accommodated, with gluten-free and Jain-friendly options like sangri ki shammii kebab and mirchi ka halwa.

Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.



Indulge in Pure Joy

Step into a world of craft brews and culinary delights at BeeYoung Brewgarden, the latest hotspot in South Delhi's vibrant social scene

Delhi's social scene has a new star. The BeeYoung Brewgarden, nestled in the bustling heart of South Delhi at The Panchshila Rendezvous. This lively venue is set to redefine your nights out, offering an unparalleled blend of craft beer, exquisite cuisine and endless entertainment. Whether you're a local or a visitor looking for a memorable night out, BeeYoung Brewgarden promises to deliver an experience that is both dynamic and delightful. As you step inside, you're transported to a European getaway, with chic barn-style ambience and lush, vibrant décor. The carnival-like atmosphere is inviting, with alfresco seating and stylish indoor spaces perfect for both intimate gatherings and spirited weekend celebrations. It's a setting where every detail contributes to a sense of revelry and relaxation. At the heart of BeeYoung Brewgarden is its commitment to craft brewing excellence. The menu takes you on a culinary journey, artfully pairing finely crafted brews with gourmet dishes designed to delight the senses. Each dish reflects an immersive culinary art approach, where flavour and presentation come together to create unforgettable dining experiences. With a global array of flavours, local and seasonal specialties cater to South Delhi's cosmopolitan crowd. The emphasis on quality ingredients and creative recipes ensures that every visit offers something new and exciting for

even the most discerning palates. Entertainment at the Brewgarden is as diverse as its menu. Enjoy a blend of games and nostalgia with options like Bocce Ball, Cornhole and vintage arcade machines, providing endless hours of competitive fun. The venue hosts live sports screenings, vibrant music performances and sets by an in-house DJ, ensuring a dynamic atmosphere that keeps you engaged throughout the evening. Whether you're in the mood for a lively party or a serene escape, BeeYoung Brewgarden caters to all your social needs. The soul of BeeYoung Brewgarden is its namesake beer, India's first crafted strong beer, known for its smooth, citrusy notes and crisp finish. BeeYoung Beer embodies the youthful spirit of India, with every sip reflecting Kimaya Himalayan Beverages' dedication to quality and innovation. For those looking to immerse themselves in a world of craft brewing, vibrant social scenes and exquisite dining, BeeYoung Brewgarden is the place to be. It's where the art of microbrewing meets community and celebration, promising unforgettable experiences with every visit. **Address:** The Panchshila Rendezvous, Panchshila Park, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi, 110017 **Timings:** 11 AM - 12 AM **Instagram:** @beeyoungbrewgarden **Price For Two:** INR 2500/- (Approx) **For Reservations:** +91 9354431386

Modern Twist on Classic Gastropubs

Embark on a culinary journey with Monkey Bar's latest gastropub sensation, blending contemporary design and inventive dishes for an unparalleled experience

In a city that's no stranger to culinary innovation, the revamped Monkey Bar emerges as a beacon of excitement and fresh perspective. Nestled within the iconic pyramid glass building in Vasant Kunj, this beloved gastropub has returned with a vibrant new look and a promise to elevate the dining experience. Monkey Bar, which first captured attention in 2012, was instrumental in popularising the gastropub concept in India. Now, it's back with a renewed vision, blending its signature charm with contemporary flair. The space has been transformed into an 'Urban Tropical Dreamscape', reflecting a design ethos that is both inviting and dynamic. The lush greenery and bright, cheerful hues of yellow and sage green infuse the venue with a sense of energy and warmth that's perfect for any time of day. The menu at Monkey Bar is where the true magic happens. It's a celebration of flavours, seamlessly melding the familiar with the innovative. From classic favourites like their renowned burgers to new, exciting dishes such as Methi-spiced Prawns and Jackfruit Tacos, the culinary offerings are designed to surprise and delight. Each dish is crafted with a blend of regional Indian spices and global influences, providing a taste experience that is both unique and accessible. One of the standout features of the revamped Monkey Bar is its new coffee programme. The introduction of three distinct categories, 'The Usual Suspects', 'You Do Your Brews', and 'The Unusual Suspects', offers something for every coffee lover. Whether you're in the mood for a classic Espresso or something more adventurous like the Nitro



Cold Brew, there's a brew to suit every palate. This thoughtful addition enhances the café's appeal, making it a versatile destination for everything from morning pick-me-ups to evening relaxation. The bar menu, crafted by Lead Mixologist Harish Chhimwal, continues Monkey Bar's tradition of inventive cocktails. By incorporating local ingredients and innovative techniques, the drinks menu offers a refreshing take on both classic and contemporary cocktails. The new creations, such as the Manga Mule and Rasam ki Kasam, provide a unique twist on traditional flavours, demonstrating a commitment to both creativity and quality. The revamped Monkey Bar is more than just a place to eat and drink; it's a space designed for enjoyment and connection. With its lively atmosphere, interactive elements like a pool table and Instagram-worthy spots such as the quirky banana sofa, the venue encourages guests to relax,

socialise and make lasting memories. This thoughtful redesign makes it clear that Monkey Bar is committed to providing a comprehensive, engaging experience for its patrons. The new Monkey Bar offers a delightful fusion of tradition and innovation. Its updated menu, inventive drink options and vibrant atmosphere ensure it remains a top choice for those seeking a memorable dining experience. For anyone looking to explore new flavours, enjoy expertly crafted drinks or simply unwind in a dynamic setting, Monkey Bar's latest incarnation promises to be an exceptional destination. **Wallet Factor:** Meal for two with alcohol: INR 1800 plus taxes | Meal for two without alcohol: INR 3000 plus taxes **Open 7 days a Week:** Sunday to Saturday - 1pm. to 1am. **Address:** Monkey Bar, Local shopping complex, 11 Vasant Kunj, Next to mini cooper-110070 **Instagram:** monkeybarind **Facebook:** monkeybarind

Redefining Coffee Culture

Discover a fresh take on coffee with First Coffee, blending innovation and indulgence to cater to the modern coffee lover's palate

Step into a revolution in coffee culture with First Coffee, where each cup is more than just a beverage - it's a celebration of bold flavours and innovative experiences. This fresh, dynamic brand is transforming the coffee scene with a blend of artisanal quality and modern flair, setting a new standard for coffee lovers everywhere. Founded by Sohrab Sitaram, a distinguished name in Delhi's food and beverage world; Shiv Dhawan, a serial entrepreneur with a passion for innovation and Chandini D Purnesh, the visionary behind the Harley Estate, First Coffee brings together expertise and enthusiasm to craft the ultimate coffee experience. Their beans, sourced from the renowned Harley Estate in Chikmagalur, promise an exceptional taste journey, reflecting the lush landscapes and rich heritage of the estate. First Coffee's appeal extends beyond its premium blends. The cafés offer a stylish, minimalist setting that caters to both quick stops and relaxed hangouts. The design ethos emphasises clean lines and a vibrant atmosphere, creating a space that feels both contemporary and inviting. The menu showcases First Coffee's dedication to flavour and creativity. Dive into the 'Untamed Espresso' for a bold start or savour the 'Cold Blooded Brew', a daring concoction that combines cascara syrup with a robust coffee base. For a whimsical twist, try the 'Jelly Jolt Affogato', where coffee meets ice cream and jelly in a delightful fusion. Classic offerings like 'The OG Cold Coffee' are given a modern twist, ensuring there's something for every palate. Tea enthusiasts can also rejoice with the unique blends available. The 'Teaminator', a refreshing mix of hibiscus and watermelon syrup and 'Cascara Thunder' offer bold new takes on traditional favourites. The Boba Nova collection is particularly exciting, featuring the 'Mango Boba Bomb' and 'Lychee Loca Bomb' for those who love a playful and fruity twist. First Coffee stands out as a game-



changer in the coffee industry. The brand's focus on combining artisanal quality with innovative offerings makes it a notable player in the market. The variety of options, from bold espressos to playful boba teas, caters to a wide range of tastes and preferences. Moreover, First Coffee's commitment to sustainability adds a layer of ethical responsibility that enhances its appeal. This brand isn't just offering a cup of coffee; it's creating a vibrant, inclusive coffee culture that resonates with modern consumers. It's exciting to see a brand that balances exceptional quality with social consciousness, setting a high bar for others in the industry. In a world where coffee culture is evolving, First Coffee stands out as a beacon of quality and creativity. With its commitment to exceptional brews and a vibrant coffee experience, it's more than just a place for your daily caffeine fix, it's a destination for those who appreciate the art of coffee. Embrace the revolution and make First Coffee a part of your daily routine. Your taste buds and your coffee cravings will thank you. **Instagram:** @yourfirstcoffee **Price for Two:** INR 450/- (only beverages) **Locations:** DLF Cyber Park, Gurugram; Pacific Mall in Pitampura; Pacific Outlet Mall in Jasola.

A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

IGNORED WARNINGS AND THE PERILS OF UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



BK SINGH

Despite advice in 2020 to relocate 4000 families from landslide-prone areas, Kerala proceeded with a mega hydro-electric project nearby. Incessant rains led to devastating landslides, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable development and better disaster management

The flooding and landslides in Kerala since 1991 had reportedly claimed several human lives, till the state witnessed the worst disaster of its kind at Mundakkai, Wayanad in the wee hours of 30th July. In 2020 State Disaster Management Authority advised relocation of 4000 families from landslide-prone areas that included Mundakkai. State did not heed the warning and on the contrary, has proposed a mega hydro-electric project involving an underground tunnel barely two km from the site of the current horror. Incessant rains of 572 mm in 48 hours have led to two major landslides, one at 2.00 am at Mundakkal followed by another at 4.00 am at Chooralmala towns trapping hundreds of families. The debris further covered Vellarmala GVH school. The landslide also washed away the bridge connecting Chooralmala town with Mundakkai & Attarmala. So far 126 people have been found killed, 196 injured and more than a hundred missing or marooned in swathes of slush, mud and misery triggered by continuous and heavy rainfalls for two days. Dead bodies have also been found at Pothukal village that were carried by flowing water for 20 km in the Chaliyar River. High Tension lines and transformers of the Mekkadi electrical section have also been damaged and resuming power in the area has been a challenge. Landslides washing away the bridge have posed further challenges for relief and rescue operations, though all state and central agencies are putting up their might to remove debris, find survivors, treat the injured and move the people to safer locations and camps. Rescuers are crossing the river in spate with the help of the ropeways but mist, bad weather and unstable terrain are making it more difficult. Army has rushed to set up Bailey Bridge to the site, which has been moved on the road from Chennai.



This deluge affected adjoining areas of Karnataka and left the Kapila River in the Mysuru district in spate, after 80,000 cusecs of water were let out of the Kabin dam, severely affecting the traffic between Karnataka and Kerala. Kodagu roads were also flooded and many persons stuck were rescued. Landslides also occurred repeatedly on the Shiradi Ghats section of NH 75 connecting Bengaluru and Mangalore holding the traffic for several hours and eventually re-routing them via Kodagu and Sampaji Ghats. A few weeks earlier a landslide had occurred near Ankola, Uttar Kannada district along the newly widened National Highway burying moving vehicles underneath that claimed a dozen human lives, and many others went missing. Next to the Himalayas, the

Western Ghats have the most fragile ecosystem and despite the disasters striking frequently, we have not mended our ways and continued to engage in unsustainable activities in the name of development. The entire Ghats section from Gujarat to Kerala once had luxuriant tree/forest cover that provided the source and the catchment of several east-flowing and west-flowing rivers – a key lifeline for everyone in peninsular India. With the changes in land use patterns, the integrity of the catchment of the rivers is compromised, resulting in many of the streams and rivers becoming seasonal. People who have enjoyed the perennial flow of water in the streams in the past have now been suffering for their basic needs for drinking, agriculture and plantations.

Western Ghats comprise undulating terrain and diverting lands comprising tree growth for cultivation of tea, coconut, banana, coffee, spices etc is never sustainable. Kerala has lost its natural forests at a very fast pace and individuals, public and private agencies have grown plantations for quick cash. Some areas are also encroached. Proponents of such projects argue that destroying forests and growing bananas, tea, cashew coconut etc provide employment and help in GDP growth. This perception is highly misplaced. Such projects are not evaluated on a long-term basis. There are hardly any methods to work out an economic valuation of forests destroyed in the process. When a heavy downpour occurs for days, it causes landslides, landslips, destroys houses, roads bridges etc. To rebuild the

infrastructure we need to further spend money. The infrastructure destroyed in 2018 and 2019 in the Kerala flood disaster was rebuilt by spending more than 50,000 crores rupees. If the true environmental cost is considered, none of the plantation projects of growing tea etc would be viable. Labourers of tea gardens as well as banana and coconut gardens must be re-skilled and their services can be utilized for manufacturing etc. 2018 floods in Kodagu Karnataka, a district adjoining Wayanad, also played havoc with the life of the people. I have discussed the reasons for flooding and landslides in this region, in my book, "Changing Land Uses – Shrinking Streams and Carbon Sinks". Like Wayanad, Kodagu is again a hilly district covering an area of nearly 4200 sq km. However only 1750 sq km was reserved as forests and

Protected Areas, leaving another 1000 sq km occupied by habitation and agriculture; the remaining 1450 sq km had still quite a luxuriant tree cover until the 1980s. These were wooded areas under the control of the Revenue Department of the state, and the tree felling in such areas was regulated by the Karnataka (Preservation) of Trees Act, where forest officers were empowered to grant/deny permission for the removal of trees. There is evidence on record to suggest that some officers had connived with the timber merchants and granted permission to remove tens of thousands of trees every year. This has resulted in compromising the ecological security of the region leading to frequent disasters of the type we are experiencing. The only solution that comes to everyone's mind is to stop

destroying the natural forests and making any changes in land use. There is a proposal to tag the Western Ghats as Eco sensitive area, but both governments of Kerala and Karnataka have yet not come on board. Unless they mend their ways the disasters would keep on striking more frequently and would be more destructive. Finally, let the column also deal with the reasons why there are heavy downpours for days in this warming world. The world at present including India is faced with heat waves, wildfires and heavy downpours leading to flooding. The uncontrollable wildfires in Canada, California and other parts of Western world are the consequences of global warming. Leh in India, which is located 3 km above the mean Sea level has the airfield at the highest altitude in the country and has been registering 32 degree Celsius temperature for some days in the last week of July. Due to such unusual temperatures, the air at this altitude gets rarefied and engines cannot develop the thrust required for takeoff. For the first time, all flights to and from Leh have remained suspended for these days. High downpours are functions of higher rate of evaporation from Sea surfaces. As the Sea surfaces warm, evaporation increases leading to excessive moisture-laden clouds in the atmosphere. Once the conditions are favourable, it leads to heavy downpours. It can have very dangerous consequences in urban centres, as we have recently seen the drowning of three students in the basement of Rau coaching centre, Rajendranagar Delhi. The Civic Agencies must re-model the stormwater drains to take the load of 100 mm of rain per hour. These drains were originally designed for 25 mm of rain per hour. Building bylaws should also change; Basements should have only huge sumps and Parking space for vehicles and nothing else. (The writer is Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Karnataka; views are personal)

Unveiling the misogyny in fairytales: A feminist critique

In the enchanting world of fairytales, age-old stories have woven themselves into the fabric of our culture, shaping our perceptions and understanding of the world around us. Yet, beneath the guise of magic and fantasy lies a troubling reality: the portrayal of women through archaic tropes that perpetuate harmful stereotypes writes **SULAGNA MOHANTY**

In the enchanting world of fairytales, age-old stories have woven themselves into the fabric of our culture shaping our perceptions and understanding of the world around us. Yet, hidden beneath the guise of magic and fantasy lies a troubling reality; the portrayal of women through archaic tropes that perpetuate harmful stereotypes. If seen from a feminist lens, tropes like the witch, the evil stepmother and the damsel in distress reflect and reinforce harmful stereotypes about women and limit and distort our understanding of women's experiences. The portrayal of witches in fairy tales as powerful but wicked beings reflects society's fear of women who do not conform to traditional gender roles. Witches are often depicted as old, ugly, and dangerous, embodying traits that are seen as undesirable in women. This portrayal reinforces the idea that women who are independent, assertive or different are to be feared and marginalised, perpetuating a culture of misogyny and exclusion. This concept of "witch hunting," born out of fear and prejudice has had devastating consequences throughout history. In medieval Europe, thousands of women were accused of



SULAGNA MOHANTY

It is essential to challenge and dismantle these harmful stereotypes to create a more inclusive and empowering society for women. By portraying women in positions of authority as capable, compassionate and supportive, we can inspire future generations of women to aspire to leadership roles and contribute positively to society

witchcraft and executed in brutal witch hunts. These women were often healers, midwives or other powerful figures in their communities targeted for their knowledge and independence. The fear of witches and the persecution of women accused of witchcraft spread to colonial countries like India where women were often accused of witchcraft and subjected to violence and even death. Even today, women in some parts of India are killed in the name of witch hunts accentuating the lasting impact of this harmful stereotype. This concept of the witch reflects society's discomfort with powerful women and is a reminder of the importance of challenging stereotypes and celebrating women's autonomy and strength. Further, the portrayal of the evil stepmother in fairytales not only vilifies women in positions of authority but also perpetuates a harmful narrative of competition and division among women. By pitting a woman against another woman, society creates a "divide and rule" policy where women are encouraged to fight among themselves rather than unite for their common rights and goals. This stereotype undermines the credibility of women in leadership roles by painting them as inherently



dangerous and untrustworthy. It diminishes the achievements of women by suggesting that their success comes at the expense of others developing a culture of suspicion and mistrust among women. Moreover, the depiction of the evil stepmother discourages young girls from aspiring to leadership roles as it reinforces the idea that women in power are to be feared and avoided. Instead of inspiring girls to pursue their ambitions and dreams, this stereotype instils fear and self-doubt, limiting their

potential and opportunities for growth. It is essential to challenge and dismantle these harmful stereotypes to create a more inclusive and empowering society for women. By portraying women in positions of authority as capable, compassionate and supportive, we can inspire future generations of women to aspire to leadership roles and contribute positively to society. The damsel in distress trope exemplified by characters like Cinderella, Rapunzel and Sleeping Beauty portrays women as

helpless victims in need of rescue by a male saviour. This narrative diminishes women's agency by suggesting that they are incapable of taking care of themselves and solving their problems. It also underpins the idea that a woman's ultimate goal in life is to find a man to rescue and protect her. In Cinderella, the titular character is rescued from her life of servitude by Prince Charming who saves her from her oppressive stepfamily and offers her a life of luxury and love. Similarly, Rapunzel is locked

away in a tower by a wicked witch until she is rescued by a prince who climbs up her hair. Sleeping Beauty is cursed to sleep for a hundred years until she is awakened by true love's kiss. These stories send a harmful message to audiences particularly young girls by implying that women are incomplete without a man to rescue them. They fail to acknowledge women's strength and ability to overcome challenges on their own. By perpetuating this trope, these stories emphasize outdated gender

roles and limit the potential of women to be seen as capable and independent individuals. Hence, it is time to challenge these harmful tropes and create new narratives that empower young girls and women and celebrate their diversity and strength. Instead of portraying women as either wicked witches, evil stepmothers or helpless damsels, fairytales must depict women as complex, multifaceted individuals with agency and autonomy. By telling stories that reflect the diverse experiences and identities of women, we can create a more inclusive and empowering narrative for future generations. One must realise that the witch, evil stepmother and damsel in distress tropes in old fairy tales are not harmless storytelling devices; they are powerful tools that shape our perceptions of women and their place in society. By examining these tropes through a feminist lens, we can begin to challenge and dismantle the stereotypes they perpetuate paving the way for a more inclusive and empowering narrative for women everywhere. It is time to tell new stories to our kids; stories that empower and inspire women to embrace their true selves and rewrite their destinies.

IN BRIEF



Ambuja Cement to set up grinding unit in Bihar

Adani Group-owned Ambuja Cement Ltd (ACL) on Saturday announced an investment of around Rs 1,600 crore in Bihar to set up a cement grinding unit at Warisaliganj in Nawada district. The 6 MTPA Warisaliganj cement grinding unit is the first venture in Bihar of ACL, which is aggressively expanding its capacity in the country, according to a statement from the Adani Cement entity. "The Warisaliganj Cement Grinding Unit, a standalone facility with an overall capacity of 6 MTPA (million tonnes per annum), will be established at an investment of nearly Rs 1,600 crore," it said. With this announcement, the billionaire Gautam Adani-led firm has become "the largest investment in the state by a cement industry player". "The project will meet the growing infrastructure needs of Bihar, aligning with priorities outlined in the recent Union Budget," it said.



Tata's chip plant in Assam to become operational

Tata Electronics' Rs 27,000-crore chip assembly plant in Assam will create 27,000 jobs and is expected to become operational in 2025, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion of chip plant's Bhumi Pujan ceremony, Chandrasekaran said that the company has already employed 1,000 people from Assam and as the facility expands it will bring entire semiconductor ecosystem companies. "At its capacity it will employ 27,000 people, 15,000 direct jobs and additional 12,000 indirect jobs. We want to move fast. We are trying to accelerate the building of this factory. We hope sometime in 2025 we will be able to complete this facility and quickly start operations," Chandrasekaran said. Already we have 1,000 people who have been employed from Assam. He said the other semiconductor ecosystem companies will start as supplier but gradually they will set up units in the country.



NCL contributed Rs 15,000 cr to govt exchequer in FY24

Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) CMD B Sairam on Saturday said that the company despatched 94 per cent of its total coal to the power sector and contributed Rs 15,000 crore to the central as well as state exchequer in FY24 in the forms of royalty and GST. Sairam also reaffirmed the company's commitment towards fulfilling the energy security of the nation. Speaking at the sidelines of Singrauli Industrial Summit 2024 organised by NCL at its headquarters, the CMD of the Coal India arm also outlined the company's contribution to the inclusive development of the Singrauli region. He also underscored the benefits of adopting an integrated approach based on shared values for the holistic development of Singrauli. The summit was organised with the objectives of driving economic growth, sustainable industrial growth, diversification, harnessing the full industrial potential, and creating employment opportunities with socio-economic upliftment and regional development.



Next round of India-Asean trade agreement review talks in Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The next round of talks for the ongoing review meeting of the India-Asean free trade agreement in goods will be held in November, an official statement said on Saturday.

The third round of the negotiations was concluded on August 1 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Eight sub-committees have been constituted under the India-Asean Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee for undertaking negotiations on different areas related to the review of the pact.

The next meeting of the AITIGA (Asean-India Trade in Goods Agreement) Joint Committee will be held in

India from 19-22 November 2024," the Commerce Ministry said.

The AITIGA was signed in 2009.

In September 2022, both

Committees dealing with national treatment and market access, rules of origin, standards, technical regulations, customs procedures and trade facilitation held substantive discussions.

"The review of AITIGA, signed in 2009, will help create further opportunities for businesses on both sides to enhance the level of India-Asean trade," the ministry said.

During the third round of negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia, all eight Sub-

ASEAN is an important trade partner of India with about 11 per cent share in India's global trade.

India's exports to the 10-nation bloc ASEAN were US\$ 41.2 billion in 2023-24, while imports aggregated at US\$ 80 billion in the last fiscal.

Both sides are aiming to conclude the review in 2025.

The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses.

India is asking for a review of the agreement to eliminate barriers and misuse of the trade pact.

Asean members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

'Atmanirbhar' should not degenerate into inefficient import substitution'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Due to supply disruptions caused by the Russian-Ukrainian war, many countries started thinking about being self-sufficient with respect to 'critical imports' and India needs to ensure that "Atmanirbhar" should not degenerate into inefficient 'import substitution', former

emphasising agriculture, manufacturing and services, absorbing new technologies and promoting a mix of sectors that are employment friendly.

"Any import substitution must look at cost. Expensive, import substitution is not to the advantage of anybody. What we need to do is efficient import substitution. Atmanirbhar should not



Jobless growth is certainly a matter of concern. But job creation without growth is equally bad even as the new technologies can not be ignored, the former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said

degenerate into the old style import substitution. I think that is contrary to what is good for our country," he said.

Jobless growth is certainly a matter of concern. But job creation without growth is equally bad even as the new technologies can not be ignored, the former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said.

"Job creation is going to be the toughest challenge ahead not only in India but the world over," he said.

Based on some assumptions about the future exchange rate of rupee and domestic inflation, India needs to have an average annual real rate of growth of six to seven per cent to achieve over US\$ 13,000 per capita income by 2024.

RBI Governor C Rangarajan said on Saturday.

Addressing the 14th convocation of the ICAFI Foundation For Higher Education, he said India's development strategy should be multidimensional and growth may be stimulated by raising investment rate,

Bank of India net profit grows 10% to Rs 1,703 cr

PNS ■ MUMBAI

State-owned Bank of India on Saturday reported a 10 per cent growth in its June quarter net profit at Rs 1,703 crore, limited by a rise in money set aside for tackling bad loans.

The bank had reported a net profit of Rs 1,551 crore in the year-ago period.

Its core net interest income grew 6 per cent to Rs 6,275 crore in the reporting quarter on the back of a nearly 16 per cent jump in advances and the net interest margin widening by 0.04 per cent to 3.07 per cent.

The non interest income declined to Rs 1,302 crore from Rs 1,462 crore during the quarter.

Deposit growth came at

9.74 per cent during the reporting quarter.

On the credit expansion front, both retail and agriculture showed healthy growth of over 20 per cent during the quarter while MSME book expanded by 13 per cent.

The gross non performing assets ratio improved to 4.62 per cent at the end of the quarter.

The provisions for bad assets increased to Rs 1,215 crore, up from the Rs 776 crore in the year-ago period, and seemed to be one of the major factors limiting the earnings growth.

The overall capital adequacy for the lender stood at 16.18 per cent, with the core buffer level at 13.62 per cent.

SBI profit rises 4% to Rs 19,325 cr in April-June on higher provisions, lower core income growth

PNS ■ MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday reported a 4.25 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit in April-June quarter at Rs 19,325 crore, held back by a rise in loan loss provisions and lower growth in core income.

On a standalone basis, the profit growth was much slower at almost flat pace of 0.89 per cent during the quarter at Rs 17,035 crore.

SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, whose over four years stint at the helm will be ending soon, said the first quarter is generally slow and there were "distractions" which limited the growth.

He said the bank is confident of growth picking up in the remainder of the fiscal year, and achieving his aspiration of the



largest lender reporting a net profit of Rs 1 lakh crore in FY25.

The core net interest income grew 5.71 per cent to Rs 41,125 crore on the back of a 15 per cent advances growth and the domestic net interest margin narrowing by 0.12 per cent to

3.35 per cent.

The other income declined to Rs 11,162 crore in the latest first quarter from the Rs 12,063 crore recorded in the year-ago period, and the fall was attributed by Khara to the change in regulation that led to the reclas-

sification of investment book.

Khara declined to comment on the impact of the RBI's draft norms on liquidity coverage ratio, but pointed out that the critical number for the bank stands at 129 per cent whereas it has a comfort level of taking it down till 110 per cent.

The deposit growth came at 8 per cent, and Khara said the bank will be able to fund the credit growth target of 15 per cent even if the deposit growth is sustained at the same level. However, he added that the bank would want to increase the deposit growth to 10 per cent.

He, however, made it clear that the bank will not want to compromise on NIMs in the process and hinted that more hikes in deposit rates are not in the offing. It will target to keep the NIMs in the 3.2-3.4 per cent range, the chairman said.

Global capability centre industry to become catalyst for creating jobs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With India emerging as the hub of Global Capability Centres, a report on Saturday revealed that 78 per cent professionals expect the GCC sector to become a catalyst for creating jobs, particularly benefiting temporary workforce in the country.

A majority of 78 per cent foresee GCCs as catalysts for creating new job opportunities, particularly benefiting gig workers and the temporary workforce in India, said a

report by HR Services and Workforce Solutions provider Genius Consultants.

This optimism about job creation reflects a positive outlook on GCCs' potential to diversify and expand employment avenues in the evolving job market, the survey stated.

The report on GCCs and their potential impact on the Indian industrial market is based on an analysis of inputs from 1,033 professionals.

Almost all the respondents agreed on the pivotal role



that GCCs play in advancing the adoption of cutting-edge

technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI),

cloud computing, and Internet of Things (IoT), said the report.

This consensus underscores GCCs' significant contribution to enhancing India's technological landscape and fostering innovation across various sectors, it stated.

The report also said that an overwhelming 94 per cent of respondents believed that GCCs will positively influence and enhance India's overall economic output.

This sentiment underscores the perceived role of GCCs in

stimulating economic growth through increased investments, technology transfer, and job opportunities, it added.

However, a small fraction (3 per cent) holds a contrasting view, it added.

Among those participated in the survey, 84 per cent expressed confidence that the establishment of GCCs by multinational corporations in India will lead to improved job availability and increased opportunities for local professionals.

BSNL subscribers on rise, homegrown 4G network ready, says Scindia

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday claimed that the subscriber base for the government-run BSNL has been increasing, while a home-grown 4G network is also ready and work is on to convert it to 5G.

Talking to reporters here, the Union minister for communications said under Atmanirbhar Bharat, a 4G network with indigenous technology is ready and, in a few months, its services will be available across the country through the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

"Several people had asked when Jio, Airtel and Vodafone rolled out the 4G network, why not BSNL? It was the prime



minister's resolution that if we have to develop a government-run company's network, we will not use equipment from China or any other foreign country," Scindia said.

It was decided that an indigenous technology would be developed, he said.

"PM Modi has resolved under Atmanirbhar Bharat that India will develop its own 4G stack, core system or towers called radiation access network (RAN). India will develop its technology and give a 4G network to countrymen, and it took us one and a half years.

Bharat has become the fifth country to have its own indigenous technology," the minister said.

The work of erecting the towers is underway, he said.

Companies, including Indian firms such as Tejas Network, C-DOT and TCS,

were working in various fields, and BSNL is implementing it, he said.

"We will install 80,000 towers by the end of October and the remaining 21,000 by March next year, which means one lakh towers of 4G network will be installed by March 2025," he said.

It will help in speedy downloads and watching television, he said.

"We can use 5G on this 4G core. We will have to make some changes in the towers for 5G services, and work on this is underway. We will soon complete the journey from 4G to 5G," he said.

Scindia also claimed several telecom customers are switching to BSNL from private service providers.

Kothari Group to launch Kickers brand

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Kothari Industrial Corporation Ltd, part of the diversified conglomerate D C Kothari Group, has signed a 30-year licensing and distribution agreement with Royer Group of France, for sales and marketing of popular footwear brand Kickers in India, the company said on Saturday.

The agreement also covers sales and marketing in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Aimed at boosting the Centre's ambitious 'Make

In India' campaign, Kothari Industrial Corporation Ltd along with the Royer Group of France, would be sharing

exchange of technology in the apparel and footwear segment, a company statement here said.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SHORT TENDER NOTICE FOR WORKS
 MIT No: 09/EEC-4/LBNR/GHMC/2024-25 Date: 03.08.2024
 Name of the Work: Maintenance Works-1 No., Estimate Amount: Rs. 2.70 Lakhs.
 Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 04.08.2024 @ 11:00 A.M / 05.08.2024 @ 11:00 A.M., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri. V. Karthik...
 Executive Engineer, L.B. Nagar Circle-4, GHMC (M): 9701365619. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in.
 Sd/- Executive Engineer L.B. Nagar Circle-4, GHMC
 P.O.No: 3476/PPCLADV/10204-25, Dt: 03-08-2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 MIT No: E5026/9/2024-25/134 Dt: 02-08-2024
 Name of the Work: For (7 Works) "Removal of water stagnations by providing of extra Catch pits, Repairs to the collapsed slab on the box drain, Supply, Providing, Removal of silt from Pipe drain and construction of Additional catchpits, Installation of Gym Equipments for Establishing of Open Gym Equipments & Restoration of CC Road at various places in Ward Nos. 11-Nagole, 12-Mansoorabad & 13-Hayathnagar of Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC." Estimate Amount: Rs. 60.50 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 14-08-2024 @ 3:00 PM., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri. K.Ramesh Babu, Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC, (M): 8790374055 & 7331189513. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.aprocurement.telangana.gov.in/ Sd/- Executive Engineer Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC
 P.O.No: 3402/PPCLADV/10204-25, Dt: 03-08-2024

"This journey of education and breaking stigma around HIV is something that will have a legacy everlasting"
— Gareth Thomas



OVERCOMING HIV STIGMA

YOUTH BREAKING BARRIERS

In the face of deep-seated stigma and discrimination, young people living with HIV in Goa, are finding hope and resilience through the Human Touch Foundation. **SHOBHA SHUKLA** explores their personal journeys and examines the collective efforts that are transforming their lives and challenging societal norms

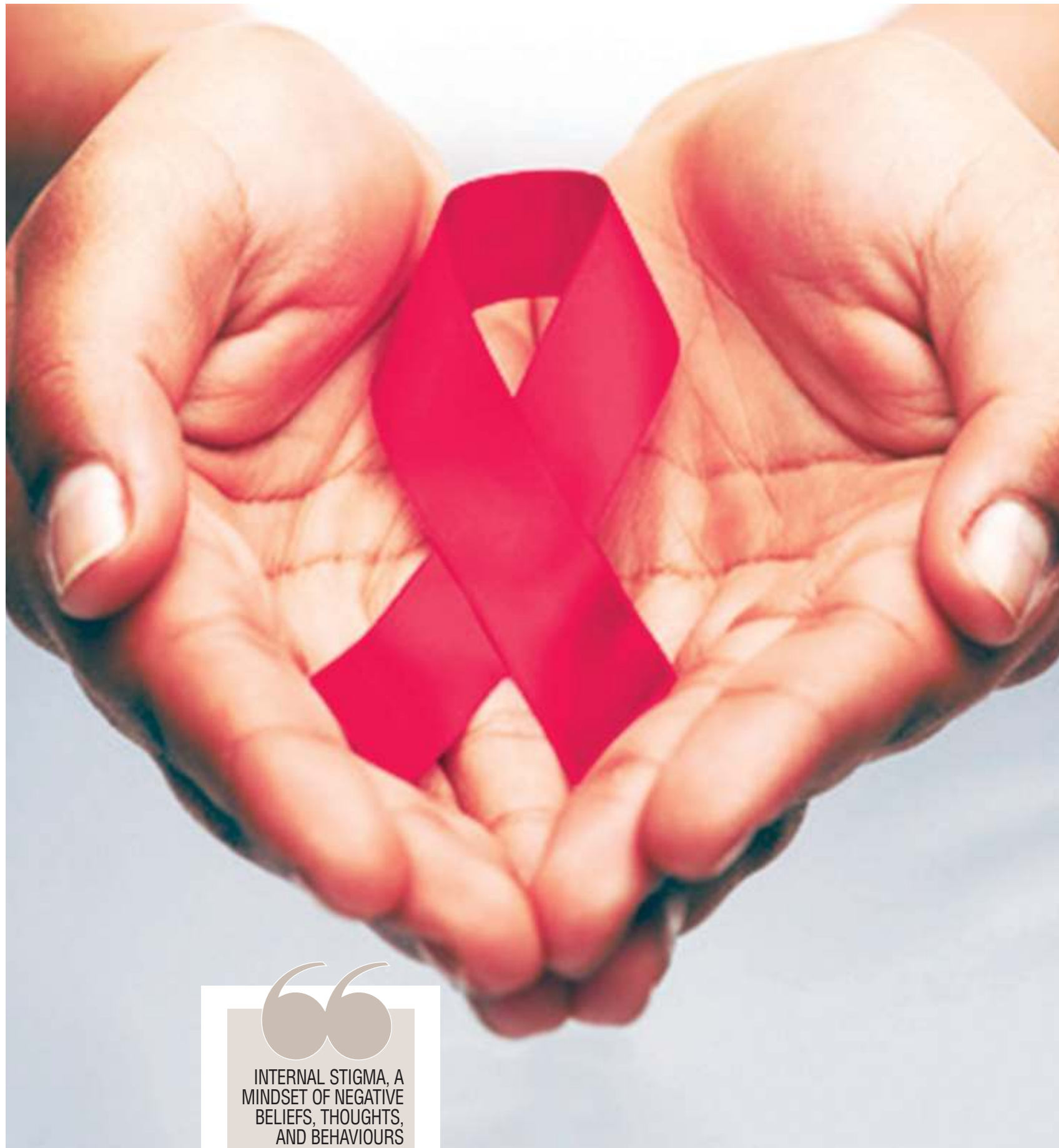


SHOBHA SHUKLA

Living with HIV often comes with a heavy burden of internal and external stigma. For many young people, this fear of discrimination can be paralyzing, affecting their ability to live normal lives. HIV-related misconceptions remain a significant barrier for those living with the virus, impacting their mental health, relationships, and opportunities in life. However, through the dedicated support of the Human Touch Foundation, these youths are not only overcoming their fears but also becoming advocates for change in their communities.

THE WEIGHT OF STIGMA

A young person living with HIV shared, "As a young person living with HIV, I had self-stigmatised myself due to the fear of discrimination... fear of discrimination if I dare disclose my HIV positive status to others... this fear had stopped me from living life like a normal person." This sentiment, echoed by many, underscores the profound impact of internal stigma. Internal stigma, a mindset of negative beliefs, thoughts, and behaviours about HIV, manifests as shame, guilt, feelings of contamination, reduced self-efficacy, self-loathing, low self-esteem, and self-rejection. "Internal stigma happens when we internalise external stigma and judgements and believe that they are true. Internal stigma also happens in the absence of external stigma and discrimination," explained Nadine Ferris France, CEO of Beyond Stigma. A youth shared his trauma, "I and my youth peers have confronted HIV-related stigma and discrimination in schools, workplaces, and societal levels. Sometimes, it is the teachers who were not cooperating or discriminating against them. The fear of disclosure – which means sharing our HIV positive status with family members, friends or others in society – the fear of being discriminated, is faced by many... the fear if we would be thrown out of the house or will our friends unfriend us..." The Human Touch Foundation, based in Goa, India, is dedicated to supporting young people living with HIV. The organization provides a comprehensive range of services including mental health counselling, nutritional support, educational and vocational training, and medical assistance. By fostering a supportive community and empowering youth-led initiatives, the foundation addresses stigma and discrimination at multiple levels. Their efforts ensure that those living with HIV can lead healthier, more fulfilling lives while advocating for broader societal change. A young girl living with HIV



“INTERNAL STIGMA, A MINDSET OF NEGATIVE BELIEFS, THOUGHTS, AND BEHAVIOURS ABOUT HIV, MANIFESTS AS SHAME, GUILT, FEELINGS OF CONTAMINATION, REDUCED SELF-EFFICACY, SELF-LOATHING, LOW SELF-ESTEEM, AND SELF-REJECTION. “INTERNAL STIGMA HAPPENS WHEN WE INTERNALISE EXTERNAL STIGMA AND JUDGEMENTS AND BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE TRUE. INTERNAL STIGMA ALSO HAPPENS IN THE ABSENCE OF EXTERNAL STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION.” EXPLAINED NADINE FERRIS FRANCE, CEO OF BEYOND STIGMA

shared how the Human Touch Foundation helped her overcome her fears of stigma and discrimination: "From my childhood I have been touched by Human Touch Foundation which helped me overcome my fears of stigma and discrimination related to disclosure – and helped me in various ways." She added, "As I am living with HIV, I faced a lot of stigma and discrimination from my own family as well as from society. People in the society told the family to not let me come out otherwise I will spread the virus to their children. I even faced it in my relationship with one guy. I knew him for one year and had shared everything with him but still he blamed me that I got infected because I have been sleeping with others." Despite these challenges, she found a supportive community within the Human Touch Foundation, which provides a range of services including nutritional counselling, mental

health support, and job opportunities.

PERSONAL TRIUMPHS AND COLLECTIVE SUPPORT

Another young person recounted their journey: "I got to know my HIV status at the age of 13. I was with my relatives because I had lost my parents. That is when I first felt being stigmatised and discriminated against by my own family. For example, I was told not to use the common family nail cutter because if any blood comes out while cutting my nails then it can put others at risk. Or sometimes there were separate utensils for eating food. It used to hurt me." Finding support through the Human Touch Foundation, this individual connected with peers facing similar challenges and received guidance from Peter Borges, the foundation's CEO. "Peter Sir helped me a lot from the very beginning. He helped me with my documents too. We used to

have residential camps back then too, with adolescents living with HIV. I learnt a lot from these camps. Doctors were involved in these camps where we learnt a lot about HIV and how can we overcome problems we face."

THE POWER OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Human Touch Foundation emphasizes the importance of youth-led initiatives in the HIV response. "Youth are the best equipped to lead the response to HIV," said a young intern at the foundation. Sandhya Chavan, Lead for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, highlighted the comprehensive support provided: "We at Human Touch Foundation provide a range of youth-led services, such as mental health counselling, psychosocial support, help them avail a range of social protection schemes, nutritional packages, medical help, or treatment adherence support, among others." Masooma Sheikh, a

counselling psychologist at the foundation, stressed the need for proper mental health services in HIV care centres and a holistic approach to support young people living with HIV.

A BEACON OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

As the Human Touch Foundation celebrates its 15th anniversary, its impact is evident in the lives it has touched. Peter Borges reflected on the journey: "Human Touch always had something different to offer when it came to support system or ecosystem which surrounded HIV care and support. For example, young people themselves speaking at different conferences including AIDS 2024 is so important. Lately, the realisation has grown over us about the importance of resilience: we must focus more on building the resilience of the young people. Issues like relationships or livelihoods cannot be missed while young counsellors themselves provide

mental health services." The foundation continues to address various needs, including relationships, sexual and reproductive health, substance abuse, TB and HIV co-infection, and child sexual abuse. Their commitment to non-institutional care and resilience-building for families and communities remains steadfast.

The Human Touch Foundation has also been instrumental in initiating viral load monitoring in Goa and ensuring the uninterrupted supply of antiretroviral therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer free vocational training for young people with HIV, helping them build skills and secure employment.

Dr. Kashyap Bhandodkar, a volunteer with the foundation, emphasized the importance of humane and holistic care: "Usually patients appear as a 'number or statistic' in a report. But experiences (like Human Touch) tell us the life story behind those numbers or statistics. This help us – doctors – provide better care because I believe that humane and holistic care is so key."

The Human Touch Foundation's journey and the stories of those it supports underscore the importance of tackling HIV-related stigma and discrimination through empathy, education, and comprehensive support. Their work serves as a beacon of hope and a model for other organizations worldwide. Despite significant advancements in the treatment of HIV, societal stigma continues to pose a major challenge for those living with the virus. The personal stories shared by young people in Goa highlight the persistent fear of discrimination that can prevent individuals from living their lives to the fullest. Internal stigma, which manifests as self-loathing and low self-esteem, often results from the external judgments and prejudices of society.

Organizations like the Human Touch Foundation are making remarkable strides in addressing these issues. By providing comprehensive support services, fostering youth-led initiatives, and promoting resilience, the foundation is helping to dismantle the barriers that stigma creates. Their work emphasizes the importance of empathy, understanding, and community in overcoming the challenges faced by people living with HIV.

However, the fight against stigma requires collective effort. It is crucial that society as a whole becomes more informed and compassionate towards those affected by HIV. We must reject discriminatory attitudes and instead offer support and acceptance. By doing so, we can create an environment where individuals living with HIV can thrive without fear of prejudice. Only through such a unified approach can we hope to eradicate the stigma associated with HIV and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy, fulfilling life.

(Shobha Shukla is Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service (CNS) and a health and development justice advocate. She is Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Global AMR Media Alliance; views are personal)

Watch, savour & indulge 'Teppanyaki' magic!

AARTI SREENATH

TG's The Oriental Grill at the Hyatt Hyderabad Gachibowli is more than just a restaurant; it's an immersive culinary theatre. The moment one steps into this elegant space, a harmonious blend of contemporary sophistication and traditional charm envelops you. The restaurant's signature "Eat what you see" philosophy is brought to life at the Teppanyaki counter, where skilled chefs transform the art of cooking into a captivating performance. Teppanyaki, also known as teppanyaki, is a captivating Japanese dining experience where a chef transforms fresh ingredients into a culinary masterpiece on a sizzling iron griddle. The term derives from 'Teppan' (iron plate) and 'Yaki' (grilling), highlighting the simplicity and skill involved. Diners are treated to a multisensory spectacle as the chef slices, dices and cooks with precision and flair, creating a communal and interactive atmosphere. This culinary performance blends traditional Japanese techniques with modern influences, resulting in a delightful and memorable feast that celebrates both flavor and showmanship. Each dish is a masterpiece in the making, prepared with precision and flair. The menu is a vibrant exploration of Japanese and Far Eastern flavours. My culinary journey began with a classic *miso soup*. The star of the show, however, was the lamb chops in black pepper sauce. The meat was cooked to perfection and the sauce was a symphony of flavours that danced on the palate. Another highlight at TG's was the prawns in

yellow curry sauce. These tender, succulent prawns were immersed in a fragrant, creamy curry that tantalised the taste buds with every bite. The rich, aromatic sauce was perfectly balanced, neither too spicy nor too mild, making it utterly irresistible. The prawns were paired with a generous serving of stir-fried rice, artfully studded with fresh vegetables and additional shrimp. This combination offered a delightful explosion of flavours and textures, with each ingredient harmoniously complementing the other. The chef's expert use of spices and fresh ingredients took this culinary creation to new heights, showcasing their talent and dedication to quality.

What truly sets TG's apart, however, is the exceptional dining experience it provides. The atmosphere is not just about the food, but about the entire journey from kitchen to table. The chefs at TG's are more than just culinary experts; they are entertainers and hosts who bring their vibrant personalities to the forefront. Their eagerness to engage with guests and customise dishes to individual preferences creates a warm, inviting, and memorable atmosphere that goes beyond a typical dining experience. One dish that exemplified the chefs' culinary prowess was the shredded chicken in black bean sauce. The chicken was cooked to perfection, tender and flavourful and the black bean sauce added a depth of flavour that was both rich and satisfying. At TG's, every bite tells a story, from the prawns swimming in golden curry sauce to the shredded chicken mingling with bold black bean sauce. The chefs here aren't just cooking; they're creating magic with spices and fresh ingredients. To conclude this

gastronomic adventure, we indulged in a *Spicy Negitoro Roll*, a burst of flavour featuring melt-in-your-mouth tuna and a spicy kick. The *banana leaf-wrapped Kochi sea bass* was another highlight, transporting my taste buds to the vibrant spice palette of Kerala. TG's The Oriental Grill is a must-visit for food enthusiasts seeking an extraordinary dining experience in Hyderabad. The impeccable food, coupled with the energetic ambience created by the talented chefs, makes it a truly unforgettable culinary journey.



FOOD
Spicy Negitoro Roll, Prawns in Yellow Curry Sauce

DECOR
Back in the warm white lighting, where a royal and spacious setting enhances the Teppanyaki experience.

PRICE
₹4000 (approx for two)

VERDICT
★★★★



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE AUGUST 4 - 10



ARIES
You will reveal your heart to someone easily. Show the patience to accept advice. Despite career stability, a deep-seated insecurity may cause pain. Stay focused.

TAURUS
Proceed with long-term plans. Maintain patience with siblings and avoid emotional blowups. Your generous nature will bring love. Responsibilities will restrict you.

GEMINI
Embrace unexpected attractions and new projects. Family may be hard to please. Your practical approach ensures career success. Ensure emotional stability.

CANCER
Your supportive, confident nature benefits you and others. Avoid vicarious experiences. Focus on clear goals, new challenges, and effective communication.

LEO
Experiment with new project ideas. Hard work and meditation will improve your social skills. Focus on personal goals and offer guidance effectively.

VIRGO
Supportive siblings will help you realise your dreams. Deal with influential people to overcome bad traits. Focus on shared interests and be open to others' ideas.

LIBRA
Your talent and creativity will win accolades. Despite delays in ventures, success is near. Peculiarities benefit you socially. Avoid self-indulgence; seek advice wisely.

SCORPIO
You'll organise your work and health better. Supportive relationships bring joy. Rely on your philosophy for decisions. Avoid overworking and revive your mind.

SAGITTARIUS
Embrace new ideas and experiment wisely. Avoid clashes with siblings and seek their support. Stay open to novelties and challenges. Enjoy newfound thrills.

CAPRICORN
Experimenting helps you sort budgets and win praise. Peculiarities bring advantages. Implement changes, seek support, and embrace your artistic talents.

AQUARIUS
Nervousness may hinder experimentation. Your vibrant energy will attract people. Seek co-worker support for new ideas. Evaluate your romantic interests carefully.

PISCES
Amidst the chaos, relax and reflect—it's not as bad as it seems. Be gentle with yourself and your loved ones. Organise health and work. Stay focused on growth.

WHAT'S NEW

BFF STYLE CHRONICLES: TRENDY TOKENS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR YOUR FASHIONABLE BESTIE

Who knows us better than our best friends? They're there through our gossip sessions and tears over heartaches, laughing at our lame jokes and sharing late-night conversations. From cooking mishaps to planning trips that never quite materialise, these shared moments create the fabric of our friendships. Remember saving that one special friendship band for that special person? Now is the perfect time to celebrate these cherished bonds with a thoughtful gift, showing just how much we value and appreciate them. Here are some of the gifting options to gift your besties on Friendship Day!



VICTORIA'S SECRET

For a friend who is obsessed with skincare, elevate their skincare routine by giving them a Victoria's Secret Coconut Milk Rose Natural Kit.
Price: INR 6499



Tribe Amrapali
A pendant from a close friend is something that will make a lasting impression and add one more souvenir to your friendship tale.
Price: INR 5047



MAC DUGGAL

For your friend who loves fairytales and doesn't set for anything less, a ruffled mini dress should definitely be on your gifting list!
Price: INR 45,999



GAP

An oversized jacket makes a wardrobe staple and remind them of this jacket for when they say 'I don't have anything to wear!'
Price: INR 4499




India Couture Week 2024 was the talk of the nation this week, with elegance sweeping down the ramp and glitz and glamour adorning every area. Every haute couture show had unveiled a new chapter of extravagance and grandeur, causing excitement among the fashion industry. The fashion show this year promised an enticing fusion of innovation and tradition, with designers exhibiting their most exquisite works against an unmatched backdrop of splendour. A really remarkable week began with the start of an exciting eight-day fashion extravaganza with 14 amazing shows! As the lights lit the ramp walk, fashion aficionados were treated to a dazzling exhibition of creativity and craftsmanship.







LOOKBOOK



'AKSHAY KUMAR MADE NO REQUESTS FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN SARFIRA'



SHIKHA DUGGAL

In what ways has the process of redoing your own movie altered your understanding of narrative?

One thing is certain when I am redoing my own movie: the narrative must be told in a certain way. There isn't any confusion here! I'm confident that I wouldn't have to fight the feelings that the original portrays. However, there is a drawback as well: I won't be making two distinct movies. The good news was—and this is something I firmly believe in—that what worked once will most likely work again. Since their cultures will obviously differ greatly from one another, the experience and difficulties of doing a remake will also vary. That is essentially the distinction. The two movies I made both featured a culture I'm not familiar with! That proves to be a fascinating educational experience for me as well.

So, in what ways do you think your evolution as a filmmaker has changed?

As a writer, forget about being a filmmaker, for sure. I've always maintained that, in business, writing defines who I am. I can write a narrative without needing many years and I can readily see the shortcomings in my writing. Let me just refer to myself as a "stress writer," nevertheless, because I am capable of making the remake's shortcomings better than the original. Every year, I wish a writer would finish a draft for me, but I'm not able to. It's a rule for me to write it on my own! I want to finish writing the movie and get filming with my actors since I am so in love with the creative process.

Please go into more detail on the difficulties you face when trying to retell your tale in a different cultural setting.

When *Soorarai Potturu* arrived, it advised the various sectors not to give up on their individual companies just yet. *Sarfira* had come to me during the pandemic. I also had no intention of seeming preachy. Making *Soorarai Potturu* for Tamil audiences meant that I had to take a character from Karnataka and place him in the Tamil region. For instance, a

girl visits a boy in a community in Karnataka to discuss the possibility of marriage. That isn't how things work in Tamil Nadu. However, I had to provide an explanation for this. I was able to position that specific custom in a cultural framework and take advantage of it. Since *Sarfira* is based on the Deccan Plateau, for instance, funerals are not celebrated outside of Tamil Nadu. Now I have to explain this! What are all of the reasons for it? It wasn't always easy for me because I dislike deceiving my audiences, but I was sitting there, breaking my head on this. I have no interest in translating! Actually, I am not into critics. To avoid confusing the viewers, I went above and beyond by studying Maharastrian culture and making it appear genuine. Dialect was crucial as well! I like the hurdles that I faced while working with Akshay Kumar on *Sarfira*.

How did you manage to keep Sarfira's original spirit with Akshay Kumar?

I've been friends with Suriya for twenty to twenty-five years. It was so simple for me to guide him because I know exactly how he laughs, smiles and feels. However, I had no prior knowledge of Akshay Kumar! The two actors are completely different from one another, and I first encountered him during the screenplay reading sessions. I've known Venky since I was a young child. To get Akshay Kumar to understand my directing style, I had to first grasp how he operates. The fact that we both get up early and dislike working late is a plus.

What further themes will Sarfira highlight?

LET ME JUST REFER TO MYSELF AS A "STRESS WRITER," NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE I AM CAPABLE OF MAKING THE REMAKE'S SHORTCOMINGS BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL

The popular movie covered a number of delicate subjects and *Sarfira* was given special treatment. Even though Radhika Madan hadn't seen the original, she did a fantastic job with the Maharastrian accent that she had learned. Her hometown is Delhi! Observing her perform the dialogue was a delight. Her curiosity about everything that went on in the sets led me to believe that she was extremely brilliant as well. She had a great deal of inquiries! Though there were moments when she felt uneasy using some words or delivering certain dialogues, she ultimately decided to add her own unique touch to things. Since my characters are more important to me than the script—which is not the Bible—I was fine with it.

How did the first conversation with Akshay Kumar go?

Initially, Akshay was rather worried about the movie's runtime. Perhaps it took a little longer to translate Tamil dialogues into Hindi? For instance, when Venky joined the original *Saala Khadoos* cast, he objected to the opening scene, which featured a man making love to another man's wife. He declared, "My reputation in the South film industry is so strong that it will hurt your film!" I quickly made the change. I am aware of the dos and don'ts because I grew up watching Telugu movies. Therefore, in the original, we introduced Venkatesh more effectively. However, Akshay Kumar made no requests for adjustments! The harder part was putting it in its proper place, culturally.

How did a day on the Sarfira sets used to be?

Making a film usually makes me really nervous, but this time, I felt pretty relaxed. Since it's a remake, I should have been more cautious, but everything went smoothly. This was where I had my first AD system and it was really different. I'm used to acting as both the director and the first AD. I only needed to watch the performances by Radhika, Akshay and others. On the *Sarfira* sets, Akshay Kumar instilled a great deal of discipline. The shooting used to begin promptly at seven in the morning. I also remember a time when he was staying at Panchgani and that particular day we were shooting in the night. But beyond some hours of time, he won't shoot! The whole crew travelled 12 hours to Panchgani to shoot a scene at 6:30. So he was very accommodating. Many, many days I said goodbye to him early and he would say things like, "I gave you my time, so please make full use of it. Who wants to go?" He used to pull our legs quite a bit, hehe. Akshay suddenly abandoned the college where we were filming! I discovered that he doesn't shoot on Sundays, but that wasn't part of my agenda. For four hours, from 4 to 8 in the morning, the secretary persuaded him in some way. I thought, but hey, he doesn't shoot at night either, so my AD tells me that it's 4 to 8 in the morning, ma'am. I thought, "Oh my god!" He was getting calls from home at around seven, asking where he was, as he reportedly had to go out to breakfast with Twinkle!

Meanwhile, the film, which has now hit the theatres, marks Sudha Kongara and Akshay Kumar's first collaboration. Also not just as the director, Sudha also dons the hat of its writer in *Sarfira*.

A much-appreciated filmmaker who certainly goes well with the term Boss-lady is none other than Sudha Kongara Prasad. And certainly because of the niche she has created in the industry. The Tamil film *Drohi* marked her directorial debut. Her bilingual film *Irudhi Suttru* (also known as *Saala Khadoos* in Hindi) won her the Filmfare Award for Best Director—Tamil in 2016. Later, in 2017, she directed the Telugu version of the movie *Guru*. She has worked in more than three languages during her career and has won two SIIMA Awards, two Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, two Filmfare Awards South and two National Film Awards. Just a while back, the talented filmmaker entertained the audience with her film *Sarfira*, a remake of her Tamil film *Soorarai Pottru*. The film stars Akshay Kumar and Radhika Madan in lead roles. This week, for our exclusive segment of *Celeb Talk*, we have with us the director, giving us some exclusive tidbits of the just-released.

CHEERS TO FRIENDSHIP: CELEBRATING BONDS WITH LAUGHTER AND GOOD TIMES!

This Friendship Day, celebrate the bonds that make life meaningful by toasting to laughter, love, and unforgettable memories with your closest friends. Forget the usual clichés and overpriced outings. Instead, embrace the spirit of friendship by creating your own rules for fun! Whether you're enjoying a laid-back evening with a rich and smoky drink or sharing laughter and playful cocktails with your squad, make this day a memorable tribute to the friendships that light up your life.

FRIENDSHIP SOUR

INGREDIENTS

- 60 ml Black Label
- 25 ml Orgeat Syrup
- 15 ml Lime Juice
- 1 Egg White
- Orange Zest (Garnish)

INSTRUCTION

- Prepare the glass** - Fill an old-fashioned glass with and set aside.
- Mix the ingredients** - In a double tin cocktail shaker add all the ingredients except egg white.
- Shake it up** - Shake well until the mixture is chilled about 10-15 seconds. Strain the mixture in a second tin and add egg white and shake it again without ice for better froth.
- Strain and pour** - Strain the mixture into the prepared old-fashioned glass.
- Garnish** - Garnish with orange zest.



BLONDE BOBA ICED TEA

INGREDIENTS

- 60 ml Blonde
- 20 ml Peach Syrup
- 15 ml Lime Juice
- 120 ml Chilled Darjeeling Tea
- 1 tablespoon Peach Boba Pearls (Garnish)

INSTRUCTION

- Prepare the glass** - Fill a highball glass with ice.
- Mix the ingredients** - Add all the ingredients in a highball glass.
- Stir it up** - Stir it with bar spoon.
- Garnish** - Put peach boba pearls on top and stir gently.



ASIAN MANGO FIZZ

INGREDIENTS

- 60 ml Black and White
- 20 ml Mango Syrup
- 15 ml Lime Juice
- 2 pc Kaffir Lime leaves
- 2 pc Kaffir Lime Leave (Garnish)
- Top Up Soda Water

INSTRUCTION

- Prepare the glass** - Fill a highball glass with ice and set aside.
- Mix the ingredients** - In a cocktail shaker add all the ingredients and fill it with ice.
- Shake it up** - Shake well until the mixture is chilled about 10-15 seconds.
- Strain and pour** - Strain the mixture into the prepared highball glass.
- Top it off** - Add the club soda to the glass and give it a gentle stir to combine.
- Garnish** - Garnish with kaffir lime leaves.



FRIENDSHIP JAMUN FIZZ

INGREDIENTS

- 60 ml Black Dog
- 20 ml Jamun Syrup
- 15 ml Lime Juice
- Top Up Soda Water
- Mint Sprig and jamun (Garnish)

INSTRUCTION

- Prepare the glass** - Fill a highball glass with ice.
- Mix the ingredients** - Add all the ingredients in a highball glass except soda water.
- Top it off** - Add the club soda to the glass and give it a gentle stir to combine.
- Garnish** - Garnish with mint sprig and jamun.



AARTI SREENATH

In today's fast-paced work environment, the significance of workplace wellness cannot be overstated. To delve deeper into this essential topic, we sought the expertise of a diverse panel.

Advocate for flexibility

"Workplace wellness, conceptually for me, is about the mental and physical well-being of employees," asserts Sritama Maitra, an assistant professor at a private university, emphasising that a one-size-fits-all approach to wellness is ineffective. Instead, wellness programs must be adaptable, evolving based on ongoing psychological research and direct employee feedback. "The concept of wellness must be flexible, constantly evolving with technological and environmental changes. It's crucial to revise wellness policies regularly through constant research and employee feedback," she explains.

Key elements of an effective wellness program, according to her, include structured breaks, discouragement of multitasking, diverse leave policies, and a balanced work schedule. "An effective workplace wellness program should include regular breaks, discourage multitasking, offer diverse leave policies and promote a five-day work week with a maximum of 8-9 hours of work," she elaborates. These components help mitigate the adverse effects of prolonged work stress, which can significantly impact both mental and physical health. "Multitasking takes a huge toll on the mental health of employees and eventually on their physical health as well," she adds.

She further underscores the importance of fostering a balanced work-life approach to enhance overall well-being and productivity. By ensuring that wellness programs are flexible and continually evolving, organisations can better support their employees' needs, leading to a more engaged and healthier workforce.

Emphasising holistic wellness

"A truly comprehensive workplace wellness program is multifaceted, addressing various dimensions of employee health," states Dr. Shubhada Karande, Chief Occupational Therapist and Ergonomic Consultant at Godrej Interio. Physical health, she explains, is not just about gym memberships or yoga sessions. "Ergonomically designed furniture, such as move-up desks, can significantly reduce the risk of musculoskeletal disorders and promote overall well-being by encouraging movement and proper posture throughout the workday," she notes. Proper ergonomics can prevent common workplace injuries and improve employee comfort, thereby enhancing productivity. "A successful example of a workplace wellness program is Godrej Interio's 'Wellness@Work' initiative. This program focuses on ergonomics, a key factor in employee comfort and well-being. Through 90-minute training sessions, employees learn about ergonomic principles and techniques to mitigate risk factors associated with prolonged sitting and improper posture. The program boasts impres-

FYI

WORKPLACE WELLNESS

2.0



sive results: 92% of participants implemented the learned strategies, with 34% investing in ergonomic accessories to improve their work posture. Furthermore, 90% of employees reported feeling more comfortable after the training and 47% experienced a significant reduction in pain."

Addressing mental health

Dr. Nidhi Goradia, a physiotherapist, corporate wellness specialist, and founder of Wellness, advocates for the pressing issue of mental health in the workplace. "Common mental health issues faced by employees on a day-to-day basis due to impending timelines include stress, anxiety, frustration and mental clutter," she explains. These issues can significantly affect an employee's ability to perform and their overall job satisfaction.

To combat these challenges, she advocates for holistic wellness programs that incorporate a variety of strategies. "Workshops like dance and art therapy, team bonding, inculcating gratitude, anger management and stress management are effective in promoting mental well-being," she says. These activities not only provide stress relief but also foster a sense of community and belonging among employees. Leadership plays a pivotal role in creating a supportive wellness environment. "Leaders must be trained to recognise signs of stress and provide appropriate support. Creating a culture where mental health is

openly discussed and addressed is crucial," Dr. Nidhi advises.

Champion of employee voice and inclusivity

Kavita Panyam, a consulting psychologist and founder and director of Mind Suggest Wellness Centre, underscores the importance of genuine communication in workplace wellness. "Often, employees are seen but not heard," she notes. "To truly make a mark, employees must be given opportunities to present their ideas and plans, no matter how brief the conversation."

She stresses the need for equal opportunities for both extroverts and introverts to express themselves. "Extroverts often have an easier time being heard, while introverts and those who seek external validation may struggle. These individuals should be given space to come forward without fear, bringing their talents and skills to the forefront," she explains. Personal growth and career development are also vital components of workplace wellness. "Mentoring, coaching, performance management and emotional intelligence training should be provided to help employees manage their emotions and communication effectively," she advises. She also highlights the challenges of implementing wellness programs, particularly financial constraints. "Limited funding often forces companies to cut the cloth according to what is available, compromising on program design, implementation, and evaluation," she says. She also mentions that fostering positive relationships is not just about maintaining a positive mindset but also about balancing various experiences and co-existing despite differences.

Navigating challenges

While the benefits of workplace wellness programs are clear, implementing them is not without challenges. Financial constraints, a lack of awareness and resistance to change can impede progress. Emerging trends in workplace wellness include integrating spiritual and alternative therapies, sustainability in office design, and hybrid work models.

In conclusion, workplace wellness is a dynamic and essential aspect of modern work environments. By focusing on flexible, employee-centric and research-based wellness programs, employers can promote the mental and physical well-being of their employees, leading to increased productivity and company performance. The insights from these experts highlight the importance of continuous adaptation, inclusivity, and trust in creating a supportive and healthy workplace. By implementing these strategies, organisations can ensure that their employees are not just surviving but thriving in their work environments.

TRENDING

MANU BHAKER

PERSON



Manu Bhaker, the newest sporting celebrity in India, caused waves when she took home a bronze in the 10m air pistol individual event.

A DRUNK MILLIND GABA

VIDEO



A video of the singer has gone viral on the Internet. As per reports, Millind created the ruckus at the office of the popular production company, T-series.

KHEL KHEL MEIN

MOVIE



With the release of the new motion poster for his next movie *Khel Khel Mein*, Akshay Kumar has heightened fan excitement.

A BAR SONG

SONG



A Bar Song (Tipsy) by Shaboozey continues to top the Billboard Hot 100 chart for a third week. Three weeks prior, the song became the singer-songwriter's first number-one on the charts.

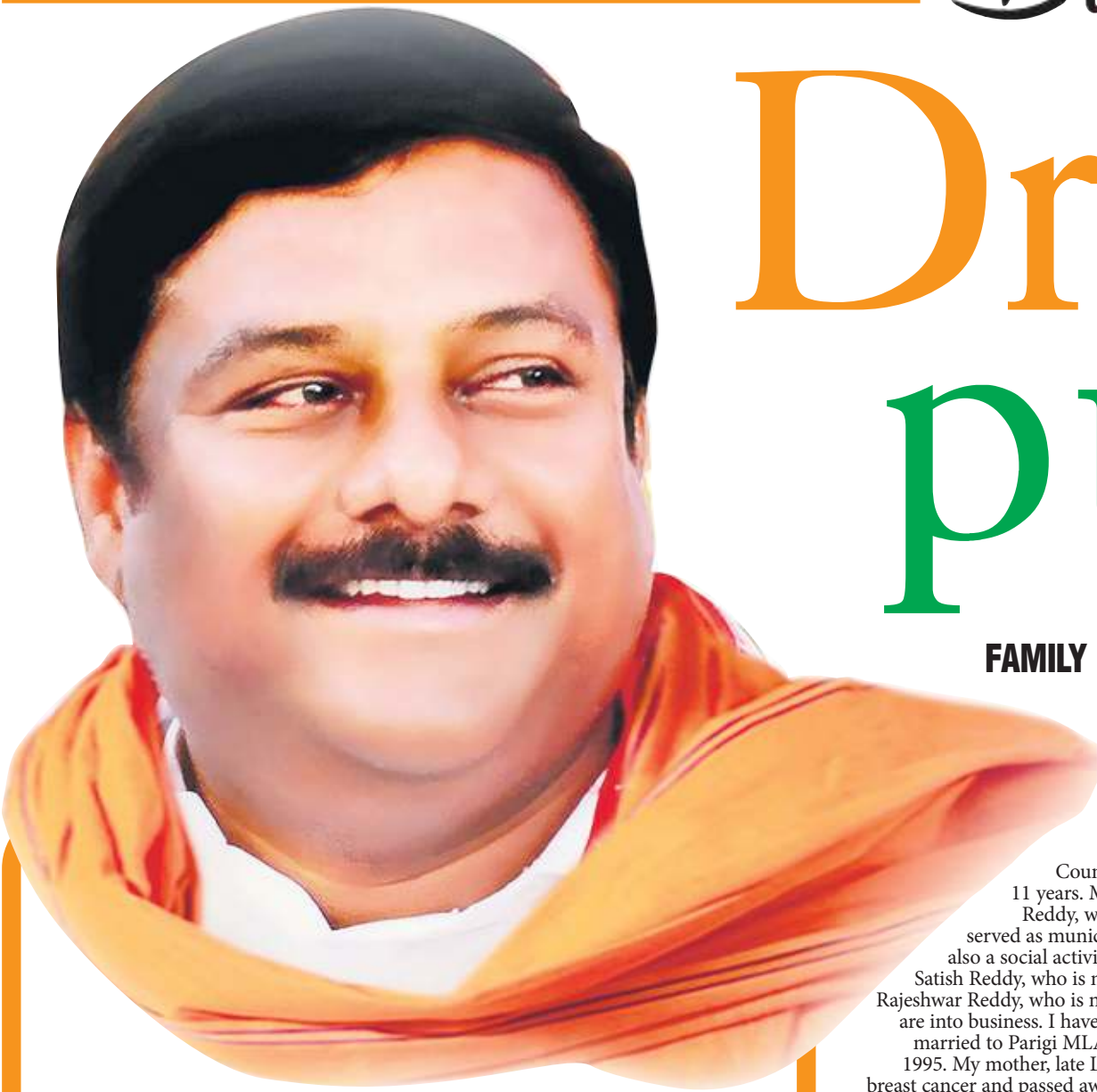
THE OLYMPIC FLAME

PICTURE



A photo of Brazilian Olympic surfer Gabriel Medina, captured by photographer Jerome Brouillet, has become extremely popular on social media and is being hailed as the 'Best Sports Photo Ever'.

Driven by purpose



Bharatiya Janata Party floor Leader in the Telangana Legislative Assembly Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, in an interview with Naveena Ghanate of *The Pioneer*, shares insights into his baptism in student politics as well as the significant roles that he progressively played in the Praja Rajyam Party, the Congress and the BJP. Maheshwar Reddy's journey reflects his dedication to the uplift of the underprivileged and driving meaningful change, making him a respected and influential figure in Nirmal.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

I spend most of my childhood in Nirmal. My grandfather was a freedom-fighter and advocate. He was the first chairman of the Nirmal Municipal Council, serving for around 11 years. My father, Padmanabha Reddy, was also a politician and served as municipal chairman. He was also a social activist. I have two brothers; Satish Reddy, who is married to Sravani, and Rajeshwar Reddy, who is married to Arpita. Both are into business. I have a sister, Uma, who got married to Parigi MLA Ram Mohan Reddy in 1995. My mother, late Lakshmi, was a homemaker. Unfortunately, she suffered from breast cancer and passed away in 1990. We had taken her to the Mumbai Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital for treatment, but she succumbed to the illness within a year. My mother's passing had a profound impact on me. I wanted to do something in her memory; so, I started a trust to help the poor, support marriages and encourage education.



JOB IN CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

During this time, I worked as a preventive officer and inspector in the Customs and Excise Department, having been selected through the Staff Selection Commission. However, after a year, I realised that I did not like the hierarchy and wanted to pursue something more impactful and be in a position to employ people. So, I resigned from my job. Sensing an opportunity to make a difference in the field of education, in 1998 I started an engineering college in Adilabad, named Jathi Pita Engineering College, followed by another college in Nirmal. I then expanded engineering colleges to Hyderabad, Patancheru and Rangareddy districts.

MAHESWARA TRUST

My mother's passing had a profound impact on me. I wanted to honour her memory by doing something meaningful. So I established Maheshwara Trust, which provides support for the poor, assists members from marginalised communities in marriages and encourages education. We are staunch believers in Lord Shiva of Vemulawada; so, the name Maheshwara Trust. We provide financial assistance to poor patients who need medical treatment but cannot afford it. We also support marriages for those who lack the resources to conduct wedding ceremonies. Additionally, we offer scholarships and financial aid to students from low-income families to help them pursue higher education.

SCHOOLING AND YOUTH POLITICS

As a child, I was quite focused and dedicated to studies. I was not particularly naughty; rather, I was diligent and serious about my tasks. Whenever I was given a responsibility, I made sure to complete it to the best of my abilities. I began my schooling in Hyderabad at Saint Paul's School, where I studied from fifth to ninth class. After that, I started my Intermediate education at Nrupatunga but went back to Nirmal as my mother was not well. I pursued a degree in Pune at Symbiosis, where I studied law. During my college days, I wanted to be an entrepreneur and had political ambition. Even my childhood was heavily influenced by the political environment at home. There were always discussions about politics, social issues and community service, which deeply shaped my interests and aspirations. Politics has always been a part of my life, given my family's background. I was actively involved in student politics as a member of the National Students Union of India and later the Youth Congress. During my student life, I managed campaign activities for my uncle P Narsareddy, who was a Member of Parliament.



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TRAINING CONSTABLES AND TEACHERS

I also recognised the dire need for providing quality education in Adilabad, where students did not have access to higher education. At one point, they did not know what to do after tenth; they were either doing B Ed or TTC. To address this issue, we started job coaching and training programs through our trust. These programs were designed to prepare candidates for various competitive exams, particularly for government jobs. We offered comprehensive training, including physical training, study materials and conducted mock tests. In the first year alone, we saw remarkable success, with around 100 constables being selected following our training program. Then I did teachers training program and again another 100 got selected. Then everyone in my area started realising that it was not difficult to get a job.

POLITICAL ENTRY

There was a particularly challenging incident involving a local opposition leader who could not stomach our charitable activities. He was not pleased with the goodwill our initiatives were generating among people. One day, he used his political influence to level false charges of atrocities against me. It was campaign for Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC); one fellow called our people and we went there. We spoke to him for 1-2 hours. Then the police came to home and said there is a case against me. This led to a police investigation and I had to go into hiding for about a week to avoid immediate arrest. During this time, I sought legal counsel and managed to secure bail. I was to join politics five years later, but this incident made me join immediately. This motivated me to enter politics more actively. I decided to contest in the MLA elections in 2009. My family pushed me into politics.



12 YEARS IN CONGRESS

Those 12 of 13 years in the Congress, I worked so hard in the party, right from, you know, grassroots level to all-party activities. I was the DCC president of the erstwhile district and then I was appointed as AICC programs implementation committee chairman. Rahul Gandhi's *Padayatra* and the first visit to Telangana after Telangana was separated, was handled by me with my money, with my resources. During *Bus Yatra*, we organised 36 public meetings. I co-ordinated seriously so closely monitoring, coordinating with the leaders and I worked like anything. Still, I had a dispute with Uttam Kumar Reddy. I never had a dispute with Revanth. When he became PCC president, the first program in the state was in my own constituency which was very successful. Then immediately after that, there was small dispute that he has announced another program without my notice. Then I questioned him and there was a quarrel. I was always struggling, struggling, struggling. Then in the meantime, the Bharatiya Janata Party was also pursuing me. Revanth tried his best to stop me, but Uttam did not. When I came out of the party, the Congress lost its depot.

WORKING IN BJP

My experience with BJP has been very positive. The party welcomed me with open arms. The party president himself welcomed me into party and I was given significant responsibilities. They gave me election expenses. I contested and won the election with a substantial margin. The BJP leadership has been supportive and approachable and they gave floor leader position and respected me. Party will always have challenges and the All-India high command members are reachable, take advice and take along us. Despite the challenges of being in the Opposition, I feel that the BJP provides a robust structure and a clear vision that aligns with my goals for my constituency and the state. In my six months as BJLP leader, I think I delivered what can be.

PRAJA RAJYAM PARTY

Initially, I filed my nomination as an independent candidate with a large following of 30,000 people. However, I was later approached by Allu Arvind of Praja Rajyam Party who convinced and I agreed and filed my nomination under their banner just two days before nomination. I asked them to send the B-form, which was sent through bus courier. Just a day before nomination, I was discussing about this with my friend. Then my cook said there was a letter that came. We went on bike at 3:00 pm and filed nomination. I won the elections and met then party chief Chiranjeevi. During the campaign, he came to the Mudhole constituency but not mine. I was among the two MLAs of PRP to win from Telangana. Chiranjeevi was a genuinely nice person. As a leader, he was soft-spoken and approachable, but not politician. However, he faced difficulties in making decisive political moves. Definitely, had Chiranjeevi sustained, he would have been the Chief Minister. But Pawan Kalyan struggled his way up. Politics needs confidence, fighting spirit and strong determination to stand by people.

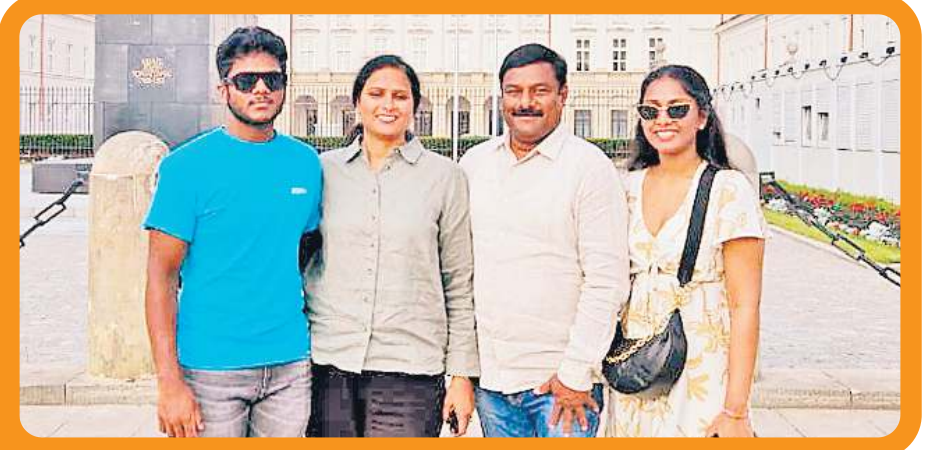


BEING MLA FROM TELANGANA

Chiranjeevi took a U-turn and advocated for Samikyandhra. However, as the agitation for Telangana statehood intensified, it became apparent that the party needed to take a definite stance. So, I threatened to resign as Telangana MLAs and demanded that we should be given opportunity, as several PRP members, including myself, felt that our voices were not being adequately represented. There was a small dispute and I threatened to come out of the party. At the same time, he spoke to the high command of the Congress to merge the party. At that time TRS legislators resigned for the cause of Telangana and I was also planning to resign. Then Ahmed Patel, a senior Congress leader, reached out to me and said there was no point in resigning now as the Congress will anyhow give Telangana. Even if I contest, there is 50% chance of winning and I would be MLA for another three years. He said that Sonia Gandhi Madam was keen and willing to give Telangana, provided I remained patience. Such senior person won't lie for one MLA. On his assurance, I did not resign.

LOST ELECTIONS

After the merger, I continued to work with the Congress party for several years. It was a period of intense political activity, especially with the ongoing Telangana agitation. Balancing development and addressing the demands of the agitation was challenging. Agitation was open and there was an undercurrent sentiment that we could not gauge properly. We thought development would pacify the sentiment as the Congress had announced the state and we felt like champions. Fighter became hero and I lost. Even after I lost, I was always with people. Except for protocol and gunman, everything was as usual. In 2018, I was candidate for the Congress, everyone told me that I was winning but poll management of Telangana Rashtra Samithi was so good and I even managed a few people from my side. I lost.



ARRANGED MARRIAGE AND THREE KIDS

Family is very important to me. It was arranged marriage to Kavitha in 1997 and we have three children. My two daughters completed their education in London. My son is an aspiring cricketer. My elder daughter Shanvitha completed her PG from London, younger daughter Shunitha also did here UG from London. My son Shrunit played under-14, under-16, under-19 and is now at 17 years old. He is preparing for the Ranji trophy. Despite my busy schedule, I always make time for my family and ensure we spend quality time together. I am friendly father but expect discipline. We maintain traditional customs and values at home. We do *puja* every day.

QUICK BYTES

- Favorite colour :** My favorite colours are light blue, light pink and light orange. I generally prefer mild, warm colours that are soothing and not too gaudy.
- Favourite food :** Non-vegetarian food, especially traditional dishes from our region.
- Do you listen to music :** Not very frequently these days. During my childhood, I used to listen to songs more often. Nowadays, my schedule is quite packed and if I get some free time, I usually spend it engaging in political discussions or spending time with my family.
- Any hobbies or interests :** I enjoy spending time with my family and discussing current affairs.
- Sports :** In my childhood, I used to play table tennis.
- Happiest moment :** There have been many happy moments in my life. The birth of my children, my marriage and winning my first election were all significant and joyous occasions. I try to find happiness in everyday moments, whether it is spending time with my family or seeing the positive impact of my work on the community.
- Saddest moment :** Passing of my mother was undoubtedly the saddest moment in my life. It was a difficult time for our family and her absence is deeply felt even today.
- Bad habit :** My tendency to speak the truth bluntly can be seen as a bad habit. In politics, this can sometimes create challenges.
- Your strength :** My greatest strength is my commitment to truth and integrity.
- How do you prepare for your speeches :** I take speech preparation very seriously. I study various books, consult with friends and professionals and focus on current affairs. Being well-prepared with facts and relevant examples is crucial for delivering effective speeches. I always aim to connect with my audience and address their concerns directly.