

sunday pioneer

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Emphasises deeper ties for regional prosperity

Banks should focus on **THEIR CORE** business: FM



Kissa **KHASSA KA**



QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

The TDP will come to power in Telangana. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the party could not contest the TG Assembly elections. However, we are focussing on local elections. I will visit Telangana on all second Saturdays and Sundays. We will launch a membership drive within 15 days.



- N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister

DON'T MISS...

Seethakka urges Centre to...

Minister for Women and Child Welfare Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka appealed to the Central government to sanction new Anganwadi Centres in agency areas and urged the State government to increase financial support for better services. During a video conference with Union Women and Child Welfare Minister Annapurna Devi, Seethakka highlighted the special welfare schemes implemented in Telangana and requested additional resources, such as tablets for Anganwadi...

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Masked men gain entry into...

Exposing the flaws in security, two masked men entered the temple of Goddess Vana Durga Bhavani at Nagsanpally under Papannapeta mandal in the district late on Friday night and decamped with two temple hunds. They stole cash and jewellery in the hunds. The hundi counting had taken place only on July 30. Therefore, the hundi's have offerings made to the deity by the devotees for a period of 10 days only. The culprits wearing masks entered the temple mantap by forcibly removing the grill and looted the temple...

-PAGE: 4

India to open embassy in...

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday lauded the "very small but active" Indian community in Timor-Leste as a "living bridge" for its role in improving bilateral relations and announced that India will soon open its embassy here. President Murmu, who arrived earlier in the day, on the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste, was speaking at an interaction event with the Indian diaspora in this archipelagic Southeast Asian nation. Before this event, Murmu received the Grand...

-PAGE: 5

Domestic food market expected...

The domestic food market is expected to grow by over 47 per cent to reach US\$ 1,274 billion by 2027, a report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry and supported by Danfoss India said. India's food processing industry sees innovative startups emerging with cutting-edge technology, the report titled "Food Processing Sector in India - Potential for Southern States, and released by CII, CII FACE (Confederation of Indian Industry - Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence) and Danfoss India, said. Danfoss India is a leader in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning and is the subsidiary of Denmark-headquartered engineering major Danfoss. Some of the key highlights of the report, which was released...

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EXCISE POLICY CASES
SC to hear Kavitha's pleas tomorrow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on August 12 the pleas filed by BRS leader K Kavitha challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict denying her bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.



The high court had on July 1 dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both the cases, saying she was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formation and implementation of the now-scraped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

According to the cause list of August 12 uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan is slated to hear her petitions.

While dismissing her bail pleas, the high court had said no case for grant of regular bail was made for now as the investigation is at a crucial stage.

5

Ensure 17 days of coal reserves at thermal plants, Bhatti directs officials

Asks them to maximise generation at hydel stations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu directed Chief Engineers to do everything to maximise power generation in all hydroelectric power stations considering the rainfall in the Krishna, Godavari and other regions.

Bhatti conducted a review at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan on Saturday with the heads of thermal and hydroelectric power



stations and asked officials to ensure that all thermal power plants had coal reserves sufficient for at least 17 days. He emphasised the need for

commitment and urged officials to avoid negligence and delays.

5

Israeli airstrike on a Gaza school kills 80 people



PNS ■ DEIR AL-BALAH

An Israeli airstrike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City early Saturday, killing at least 80 people, Palestinian health authorities said, in one of the deadliest strikes in the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

The Israeli military acknowledged the strike on the Tabeen school in central Gaza City, claiming it hit a Hamas command centre within the school. Hamas denied that.

5



Testament to TG's sound biz ecosystem

CM Revanth on Zoetis expansion decision

Holds talks with Stanford's Byers Center for Biodesign

Visits Google HQ, holds talks on tech, AI and skilling

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the expansion of Zoetis Inc in Hyderabad is a testament to the thriving business ecosystem in Telangana where businesses can grow and innovate.

Zoetis Inc., a global leader in animal health, is set to expand its Zoetis India Capability Centre in Hyderabad. The expansion, scheduled to open in September 2024, will create hundreds of jobs and enhance the company's technology portfolio.

The move by Zoetis underscores the strategic importance of Hyderabad as a hub for innovation and talent, and it reflects the growing confidence that global companies have in Telangana's business-friendly environment.

The announcement was made during a high-level meeting with the Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, and the Minister for Industries and Commerce, D. Sridhar Babu, during their US tour.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed

his delight at Zoetis' decision to expand operations in Hyderabad.

"We are delighted with Zoetis' decision to expand their Zoetis India Capability Centre in Hyderabad. This is a testament to the thriving ecosystem we have in Telangana. Zoetis' investment in futuristic technologies aligns with our vision of making Hyderabad a global hub for advanced technologies and life sciences," said the Chief Minister.

5

MEIL responsible for Sunkishala incident, alleges Alleti

Says CM is asking for a share in the money pocketed by KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) is responsible for the Sunkishala Project's retaining wall collapsing, BJP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said the Congress government wilfully hid the incident.

He said the BRS government

and the present Congress government have been trying to protect MEIL.

He said that the Sunkishala incident certainly reveals MEIL's criminal negligence and that MEIL received show cause notices from the Centre for doing inferior work but this government did not take any action.

He said the project falls under



Alleti Maheshwar Reddy addressing the media at Assembly Media Hall on Saturday

the municipal department. So the CM who is supervising that department should be held responsible for this incident.

5

Action plan to strengthen TDP in TG: Chandrababu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that he is confident that the TDP will come to power in Telangana, TDP President Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said that they are chalking out an action plan for strengthening the party in Telangana.

He said that he would visit

Telangana on all second Saturdays and Sundays.

Addressing party leaders at the NTR Trust Bhavan on Saturday, Chandrababu said that they concentrated on party reconstruction and that they will construct the party from the village level soon.

5

NEW WHITE RATION CARD POLICY

TG govt proposes income caps

Rs 1.5 lakh for rural, and Rs. 2 lakh for urban areas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state's Cabinet sub-committee announced that all eligible individuals will be granted white ration cards, following an in-depth discussion taken at the Secretariat on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by Irrigation and Civil Supplies

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and was attended by key members of the sub-committee, including Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.

During the meeting, the sub-committee proposed specific criteria for eligibility. For rural areas, individuals with an annual income not

exceeding Rs 1.5 lakh and landholdings limited to 3.50 acres of wetland or 7.5 acres of dry land would be eligible for white ration cards.

In urban areas, the eligibility would be based on an annual income limit of Rs 2 lakh, with no consideration for landholdings.

5

Shortage of pharmacists increases staff workload

DEEPIKA PASHAM
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The government hospitals of Telangana, particularly in the twin cities, are struggling with increased workload due to a shortage of pharmacists. This has also affected pharmacy stores and healthcare centres, where the lack of registered pharmacists has made it difficult to dispense drugs and medicines. Many pharmacists awaiting recruitment in Telangana are planning to move to private hospitals to reduce the workload there.

G. Koteswar Rao, the President of the Telangana State unit of the Indian Pharmacy Graduates Association said the government

should encourage freelance pharmacists and a method through which the Drugs and Cosmetic Act and the Pharmacy Act can facilitate the registration of freelance pharmacists.

The Telangana Pharmacy Council said there are 53,000 pharmacists registered with the council and 59,847 registered shops.

In Telangana, a total of 6,910 BPharm seats are offered through 114 pharmacy colleges for the first phase of counselling of TS EAMCET-2024.

Speaking to 'The Pioneer', Sudhakar who works as a pharmacist in Gandhi Hospital said, "The vacancies for pharmacists have been an issue for many years now.

5

New Malkangiri rail route to help industries, says Central Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A new rail railway route through Malkangiri's tribal belt will provide better connectivity to industries.

Ashwini Vaishnav, the Minister of Railways, said on Saturday that the Pandurangapuram-Bhadrachalam-Malkangiri railway line will be taken up on priority to provide a new rail route through the tribal belt and will act as an alternative rail route between Asansol and Warangal.

The project connects the Junagarh-Nabarangpur-Jeypore-Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam-Pandurangapuram route. The new rail line has a length of 290 km and is being executed at a cost of Rs 7,383 crore.

He also said an additional rail corridor to northern and eastern India would help thermal power plants in south India to get coal faster. The



The project connects the Junagarh-Nabarangpur-Jeypore-Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam-Pandurangapuram route. The new rail line has a length of 290 km and is being executed at a cost of Rs 7,383 crore.

new line will also provide a wider market for agro products in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

This will provide an additional rail route to the coastal area apart from the existing Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar-Kolkata.

This line will provide connectivity to tribal areas and the districts of Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Rayagada and Malkangiri districts which were affected by left-wing extremism. Now economic activities have started and peace is being restored in these districts.

This new line will lead to the development of the above districts of Odisha, the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh and the Bhadradi Kothagudem district of Telangana.

Continued on Page 5

Why they are not naming the agency that is under a 'cloud'

When a project structure collapses, like the recent crashing of the retaining wall of the Sunkishala project, political heavyweights go all-out to name (and shame) the contracting agency. Surprisingly, even after the deafening 'silence' following the Sunkishala crash, both Congress and BRS leaders have not taken the name of the agency, Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao did demand blacklisting of the agency, but refrained from naming the contractor. Only the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders had no qualms about referring to Megha Engineering. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, in its statement, mentioned quite matter-of-factly only once that the project had been awarded to Megha Engineering and that the agreement was signed on 11 March, 2021. Otherwise, the euphemism used by everyone is 'agency'. Scribes recalled that this was the same 'agency' that Revanth Reddy used to curse while he was in the Opposition. Now, even BRS, despite having described itself as 'a responsible opposition party', has not named the agency. For newbies who want to connect the dots, the contracting agency gave funds to all the three parties via electoral bonds as per revelations in official data. Going by Harry Potter terminology, the agency is akin to 'Lord Voldemort -- he who shall not be named'.

MLA Naini Rajender. In sachmuch remarkable speed, the Telangana government has signed an MoU for Rs 1,000 crore investment deal with the Swachh Bio Company established less than a month ago by CM's brother Anumula Jagadeeshwar Reddy. Some sections of the media may be shy to go into it. But, BRS working president KT Rama Rama Rao, during a chat with reporters, pointed out that this would be 'office of profit' when it comes to Revanth and that as the Chief Minister, he cannot shy away. Citing the example set by the Congress high command, he recalled that nearly 12 years ago, Sonia Gandhi announced her resignation from the Lok Sabha and from the National

brazen it out when they seek additional positions even if there are many other deserving contenders. The update is that 10 youth leaders are in the race for the Youth Congress Telangana unit president post. However, National Students Union of India state president and MLC Balmoori Venkat Narsimha Rao, TPCC delegate and LB Nagar Congress unit in-charge Jakkidi Prabhakar Reddy's son Jakkidi Sai Charan Reddy and the Congress candidate who contested from Gajwel Tumkunta, Narsa Reddy's daughter Aanksha Reddy, are the frontrunners, as per Gandhi Bhavan sources. Throwing spanner in the works, Congress MLA from Ramagundam Makkhan Singh Thakur has called upon Youth Congress activists not to cast their vote for Balmoori Venkat Narsimha Rao. He hopes that the chance would be given to "a Youth Congress common activist".

REPORTERS' DIARY

Advisory Council following a raging controversy over office-of-profit.

Expats irked by Hyderabad traffic

Hyderabad traffic has gone to the dogs literally. A few foreign nationals who frequent the city pointed to the stark difference between the traffic scene now and the situation a year ago. An expat shared that he used to think Bengaluru was worse, but corrected himself after finding that Hyderabad is of late giving tough competition to it. The expat pointed out that this wasn't the case a year ago. He is irritated because all his meetings are getting delayed because of traffic snarls, despite sketching plans to reach the venue in advance. With the city hoping to host the global AI summit, one hopes the government fixes local traffic issues using available pointers. Samples of foreign nationals' opinions must be more than enough, unless the government wants bulk censure by foreign delegates!

Copious rains wash away delusive claims of Oppn

In the tinsel town, the term 'iron leg' is often used to describe an actor who is believed to bring bad luck to a film, negatively impacting its commercial success. Although Nature's course is unpredictable, the copious rains this season in Andhra Pradesh have apparently silenced the Opposition. For, the Opposition, extending the iron leg analogy, had claimed that "rains eluded the State during Chandrababu Naidu's (previous) tenure". So, naturally, with the Prakasam Barrage now brimming and with all 70 crest gates of the barrage lifted, the other day Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, en route his residence at Undavalli, made an unscheduled stop to observe the heavy outflow of floodwaters from the barrage. Despite the Chief Minister's positive remarks subsequently, the Opposition has decried that lakhs of cusecs of water is going waste into the sea.

'One man, one post' is just theory

'One man, one post' may be good to discuss as a concept. In reality, people

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanateand, K Venkateshwarlu, Pradeep Kumar)

IF CM FAILS TO JAIL KTR BJP will declare war against govt : Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that he was confident that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would jail former BRS Minister KT Rama Rao as everybody knows about his corrupt deals, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said the BJP will declare war against the Congress government if the CM fails to jail KTR.

Sanjay said the BJP's offence will be such that even if the Congress and the BRS join hands they will not be able to resist it.

During a chat with journalists at the BJP state office here on Saturday, Sanjay said that no one would forget KTR's attacks against BJP activists including him. Sanjay said that no one would forget the way KTR jailed him (Sanjay) and the way he hounded BJP activists.

Sanjay described the BRS as an outdated party and asked



Sanjay described the BRS as an outdated party and asked whether there is any connection between BRS MLC Kavitha's bail and the BJP. "Is there any connection between the BJP and Sisodia getting bail? It is not proper to link court issues with the BJP," he said.

whether there is any connection between BRS MLC Kavitha's bail and the BJP. "Is there any connection between the BJP and Sisodia getting bail? It is not proper to link court issues with the BJP," he said.

Sanjay said the Congress government did not give key posts to sincere IAS officers. The Congress government is giving postings only to IAS officers who had supported the BRS admin, he added.

There is no difference between the Congress and the BRS governments, he said and added that the Congress is the party that drew flak from the

public shortly after assuming power.

Sanjay said that local body elections would be a contest between the Congress and the BJP.

"The government is not in a position to fund panchayats. Panchayats are running with Central funds. The BJP's brand ambassadors are former Sarpanches, MPTCs and ZPTCs. The people should keep their hands on their hearts and think which party is likely to help panchayats. It is good that BRS MLA T. Harish Rao is saying at least now that the Centre is funding panchayats," he said.

Deputy NSA Kapoor holds talks with Ukrainian President's top aide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Deputy National Security Advisor Pavan Kapoor has held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's top aide, Andriy Yermak, in Kyiv and the focus of the meeting was learnt to be Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned trip to the eastern European country this month. A readout issued by Kyiv on Saturday said Yermak emphasised the importance of restoring "just peace" for Ukraine and "India's participation in this process".

It said he expressed the hope that Modi would be able to join in this effort. "The Head of the Office of the President, Andriy Yermak, met with the Deputy National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India, Pavan Kapoor," the readout said.

"Andriy Yermak described the situation on the frontline and the shelling of civilian infrastructure, in particular, the Russian attack on Kostyantynivka," it added. People familiar with the development said both sides also discussed Modi's planned trip to Kyiv later this month.

1.29 cr women get Rs 250 each for Rakhi festival in MP

PNS ■ SHEOPUR

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Saturday transferred an additional Rs 250 for the Rakhi festival along with the monthly Rs 1,250 assistance in bank accounts of 1.29 crore women beneficiaries of Ladli Behna Yojana, totalling Rs 1,897 crore.

Addressing a function at Vijaypur in Sheopur district, Yadav said women deserve respect and hailed Rakshabandan (to be celebrated on August 19) as a sacred festival.

The previous MP government led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, now Union Agriculture Minister, had launched the Ladli Behna scheme months before the 2023 assembly polls.

Addressing a function in Tikamgarh district, Yadav said Madhya Pradesh will leave behind Punjab and Haryana in terms of development, especially in agriculture.

Kerala not alone: PM Says Centre will spare no effort to help

PNS ■ WAYANAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday visited the landslides-hit Wayanad district and assured that the Central government will "spare no effort" in helping Kerala in the relief and rehabilitation while describing the tragedy as "nature displaying its furious form".

Modi, who arrived in the hill district by helicopter from Kannur airport, conducted an aerial survey, walked through the disaster-stricken Chooralmala to get a firsthand view of the destruction caused by the July 30 landslides, visited one of the relief camps and interacted with survivors, including two children who lost their loved ones in the tragedy.

He spoke to survivors, heard their concerns and needs, and tried to comfort them. Modi placed his hands on the heads and shoulders of the victims as they broke into



tears while recounting their ordeal.

Ayyappan, a survivor of the devastating landslides that swept through Mundakkai hamlet in Wayanad and one of the few who got to interact with Modi, said that the "PM assured all help". The landslides killed 229 people, while over 130 are still missing.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed

Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during his visit to the ravaged parts. "I would like to assure the survivors and victims that they are not alone in this time of distress. The nation, the Centre, the state, everyone, is with them."

While we cannot replace the lives that have been lost, we should all try to ensure the future and dreams of those who survived are not shattered.

Govt to construct houses in KCR's village Chintamadaka, says Minister Ponguleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government would construct houses for the people in former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's village Chintamadaka, Revenue, Housing and I & PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

He directed officials to visit Chintamadaka village and said the government would finish the construction of houses in Chintamadaka. He recalled that the BRS government had announced that

it would construct double-bedroom houses for everyone in Chintamadaka. Believing KCR's words, the people handed over their houses and huts to the government and the govern-

ment destroyed them. Officials sanctioned 1,909 houses after identifying beneficiaries after KCR's statement. However, the contractors agreed that they would construct only 1,215 houses. Only 1,103 houses were constructed in the last four years and 148 houses are under construction.

'New railway line should not serve Gujarat's interests alone'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former MP B. Vinod Kumar said that the newly approved Pandurangapuram-Malkangiri railway line should not be used merely to benefit Gujarat at the expense of Telangana.

Speaking at a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, he emphasised the need for the railway line to support the state's industrial growth, particularly the establishment of a steel plant at Bayyaram.

"We cannot allow the new



Pandurangapuram-Malkangiri railway line to be used solely for transporting our minerals to Gujarat. This line must serve Telangana's interests first," Vinod said.

He reiterated that the Bayyaram Steel Plant is crucial for the state and should be a

priority for the Centre if it intends to boost per capita steel consumption by 2030.

He highlighted the strategic location of the Bayyaram Steel Plant which is closer to Bailadila in Chhattisgarh than Visakhapatnam and said that the steel plant would create thousands of jobs.

He urged the Prime Minister to take immediate action to ensure that the railway line helps Telangana's industrial development, rather than facilitating resource transfer to other states.

'Clear encroachments in Musi River before launching dev project'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that the Musi River Development Project is good, the BJP's Chevella MP, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, said the priority is wrong.

Konda Vishweshwar Reddy said the Congress government should clear the encroachments on the Musi River before taking up the project. He said that there is a need for a comprehensive study of the Musi River Development Project.

The Chevella MP made it clear that the Centre will extend help if the State government does Musi cleansing properly.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office on Saturday, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy said there is corruption in the Waqf Board and it is getting less revenue. Revenue will increase if the Waqf Board

Amendment Bill comes into force, Konda said, hoping that the Waqf Board Bill would be passed in the next Parliament session.

He said that he would meet Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy after he returns from the US and request him to amend GO No: 111 for sustainable development.



TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Saptami: Aug 11 05:45 AM to Aug 12 07:55 AM

Nakshatram: Swati: Aug 11 05:48 AM to Aug 12 08:33 AM

Rahukalam: 5:05 PM to 6:40 PM

Yamagandam: 12:21 PM to 1:56 PM

Varjyam: 12:03 PM to 01:50 PM

Gulika: 3:30 PM to 5:05 PM

Amritakalam: 10:45 PM to 12:31 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:46 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy
Temp: 31°C
Humidity: 70%
Sunrise: 5:58 AM
Sunset: 6:44 PM

Updated: August 10, 2024 5:00 PM

CJI advocates strengthening infra in courts to deal with pendency in cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday emphasised on strengthening infrastructure in the courts to deal with pendency in cases even as he said different mediums like the Lok Adalats were being adopted to reduce the number of court cases.

He said modern technology like Artificial Intelligence was being used to translate the court verdicts in regional languages for the convenience of people.

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) was speaking to reporters on the sideline of the 37th convocation of the Postgraduate Institute of



Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) here.

Replying to a question on pendency of cases, CJI Chandrachud said like in hospitals, people have faith in the courts which is also one of the reasons for the increase in number of cases.

"If you see in a hospital, the number of patients go up and similarly in courts, the num-

ber (of cases) rises. What is the reason behind it? People have 'aastha' (faith) in hospitals that is why the number of patients increases. People have 'aastha' and trust in courts and that is why number increases," the CJI said.

"For this, we have to increase infrastructure. Like infrastructure in the hospitals has to be increased and similarly, infrastructure in the courts has to be increased," he added.

And we also have to adopt new mediums, the CJI stressed as he said that a special Lok Adalat was held last week in which around 1,000 cases were decided in five days.

India has talent to find a replacement for me: Sreejesh

PNS ■ PARIS

PR Sreejesh, who stood like a wall defending the goal for nearly two decades before bowing out on a high with a second Olympic hockey bronze here, believes India has talent aplenty to find a suitable replacement for him.

Sreejesh, 36, stood rock solid in India's campaign at the Olympics and played a key role in their hard-fought 2-1 victory against Spain in the bronze-medal match.

"There won't be a vacuum. Someone will come in my place, for sure. All the sports are like that.

Sisodia calls upon people to fight against 'dictatorship' in country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Saturday called upon party workers and people to fight against "tyranny" in the country and said if all opposition parties stand united against "dictatorship", Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will come out of prison within 24 hours.

Addressing AAP workers at the party headquarters here a day after his release from Tihar jail on bail, he said party workers need to start working hard immediately to ensure the BJP loses the Assembly polls in Haryana, Delhi and elsewhere.



The former Delhi deputy chief minister urged the new allies of the BJP-led NDA as well as the opposition INDIA bloc parties to unite against "dictatorship", not just to save their leaders from being imprisoned but most importantly in the interest of the country. The Aam Aadmi Party is part of the INDIA bloc. In

the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the AAP and another INDIA bloc constituent Congress fought the elections together.

"If the whole opposition gives a call (against dictatorship) with full force, Arvind Kejriwal will come out of jail within 24 hours," Sisodia said. The Delhi chief minister is in Tihar Jail in connection with an excise policy scam case.

He is the "symbol of honesty" in the country, Sisodia said and termed the entire case against the chief minister a "web of conspiracies" spun by the ED and CBI to "tarnish" his image.



Digital Art Digital Culture

Date: August 11

Place: Alliance Francaise Hyderabad Librery

Times: 11 am to 4.30 pm

Ram Miryala Live

Date: August 11

Time: 8 pm onwards

Venue: Heart Cup Coffee, Gachibowli

Pottery Workshop

Date: August 11

Time: 2 pm to 5 pm

Venue: House of Gourmet, Jubilee Hills

Consumer Forum imposes penalty on Reliance Retail, LG Electronics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Nalgonda District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, consisting of Mamidi Christopher, S Sandhya Rani, K Venkateshwarlu ordered Reliance Retail Limited and The LG Electronics to pay Rs.20,000 for replacing damaged LG washing machine with new one and Rs 5,000 for mental agony of the consumer.

The complainant Kudthala Jyothi bought a LG Washing Machine for Rs 37,938 with a valid warranty card on July 1, 2022. She said that on January 28, 2023 when Jyothi loaded the clothes and put on the machine while it was running, suddenly some smoke came out and subsequently fire flared up. She further said incident was reported to the personnel of the Reliance.

They came to the house and took photographs of the damaged washing machine and informed her that they would replace it with a new piece since the warranty period is in force. But they did not. Later she issued a legal notice but they did not reply to it. Reliance told the court that they never received any legal notice.

Their role ended after delivering the product. The warranty is also issued by LG Electronics.

Court noted that the LG Electronics failed to file a written version to answer the queries of the complainant.

City Pioneer

'Govt indifferent to dog menace'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A shocking 343 dog bite incidents occurred in the last eight months, but the government is inactive, BRS MLA Harish Rao said.

"Despite the rising number of attacks by dogs, the government has done nothing to address the issue," he said.

On Friday, a tragic incident took place at the Warangal MGM Hospital where stray dogs devoured the body of an infant.

Another heartbreaking case involved a differently-abled child being attacked by dogs in the Narsingi municipality on the outskirts of Hyderabad, while a four-year-old child succumbed to injuries from a dog attack at Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy district. "It's inhumane that the government remains indifferent to such heart-wrenching events," Harish said.

He criticised the government's approach stating, "If adequate preventive measures had been taken many lives could have been

saved and these 343 dog attacks could have been prevented."

The government recently reported to the High Court that there are 3,79,156 stray dogs in the state, but many believe the actual number is much higher.

After the Congress government came to power, sanitation in both villages and towns has worsened, with the suspension of the 'Palle Pragathi' and 'Pattana Pragathi' programmes contributing to the growing menace of stray dogs.

The municipal administration's failure has led to a lack of control over stray dogs and inadequate funding has hampered sterilization operations, leading to a surge in the dog population. Despite multiple warnings from the High Court, the government's response remains inadequate. Harish called for immediate action to curb dog attacks, stressing, "The government must be held accountable for these incidents and must provide

compensation to the victims."

He also called for anti-rabies vaccines to be made readily available in all primary health centres and hospitals and emphasised the need to implement a comprehensive plan to control the stray dog population.

Hyderabad: 120	Kamareddy: 30
Jogulamba: 40	Karimnagar: 25
	Peddapalli: 20



Compensate families of those attacked by dogs: Niranjan

CC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan appealed to the state government to launch a special drive across the state to check the menace of stray dogs.

He said that even though stray dogs are attacking people daily and children are getting injured and lives are being lost, the authorities are not taking any steps to check the menace. It was heartbreaking to see a baby being eaten by dogs on the premises of the MGM Hospital in Hanamkonda on Friday, Niranjan said. "Was the baby a boy or a girl? The tender body was eaten and dismembered beyond recognition. How did the dogs get



into the hospital premises? What are the officers, staff and security personnel doing? We appeal to

Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha to take strong action against the concerned officials," he said. Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Niranjan said that although the High Court also gave orders on August 2 regarding this, the authorities did not do anything. Local admin bodies should take up the responsibility of controlling stray dogs and should pay a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the families of those killed in dog attacks. Compensation ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh should be paid to the families of the injured, he added.

Govt committed to eradicating Lymphatic Filariasis: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government is committed to eradicating Lymphatic Filariasis in the state, Health Minister Raja Narasimha

said on Saturday.

He was participating in a virtual programme conducted by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav on Lymphatic

Filariasis. The Union Minister launched the second phase of the bi-annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination.

Death of student sparks protests at Malla Reddy varsity

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After a student Arun Kumar (19) died at Malla Reddy University on Thursday, hundreds of students of the campus, supported by the NSUI and ABVP leaders, staged a protest at campus on Saturday. The students alleged that Arun died due to the negligence of the management.

A National Students' Union of India (NSUI) leader named Raghavender Reddy said that two days back, BSC (Agriculture) 1st year student Arun collapsed in Malla Reddy university. After knowing this he was shifted to a hospital. There is no ambulance in the vicinity of the campus, due to which it took 10 to 20 minutes to reach the

campus. A student said that there is no room in the hostel to provide medical aid to student who took ill. The management is not providing quality food to the children though they are charging Rs 90,000 from every student.

ABVP state joint secretary Srinath said that the management of the campus should suspend those responsible for the death of Arun, who are Ahok, Jaya Sri, and Lokesh. "ABVP demanding the university to take stringent action against them," he said.

Pet Basheerbad police said that the management had spoken with the agitators, then the agitation was called off around 12.30 pm

TGCSB arrests cybercriminal in Vizag

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) arrested a cyber fraudster named SK Khaleel (39) for allegedly cheating a 51-year-old headmaster from Khammam district of Rs 3.5 lakhs in May by claiming as the Mumbai cyber crime police. He was arrested on August 8 in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

On Saturday the TGCSB, in a press statement, said that the cyber fraudster is involved in multiple cybercrimes across various states, including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Bihar.

During the arrest, mobile phones, bank cheque books, and relevant documents were seized by the Khammam Cyber Crime Police Station (CCPS). The accused was produced before the Magistrate in Khammam for judicial remand.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the accused's bank accounts are linked to 33 cybercrimes across India, including Telangana. The accused will be taken into police custody for further investigation to uncover additional crimes and criminal connections.

Seethakka urges Centre to sanction new Anganwadis

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Women and Child Welfare Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka appealed to the Central government to sanction new Anganwadi Centres in agency areas and urged the State government to increase financial support for better services. During a video conference with Union Women and Child Welfare Minister Annapurna Devi, Seethakka highlighted the special welfare schemes implemented in Telangana and requested additional resources, such as tablets for Anganwadi teachers, to replace the mobile phones currently in use.

Seethakka emphasised that 14,83,940 children and 3,45,458 pregnant and nursing women are served across 35,700 Anganwadi centers in the state. Additionally, 3,989 Mini Anganwadi Centers have been upgraded to Main Centers. She also mentioned plans to introduce nursery classes, distribute colorful uniforms, and provide essen-

tial facilities like book racks, play mats, and theme-based paintings at the centers.

The Minister pointed out that Anganwadi teachers receive an honorarium of Rs 13,650, and Ayahs receive Rs 7,800, with the state government covering 67 percent of their salaries. Seethakka requested the Center to increase its contribution.

The Union Minister responded positively to Seethakka's proposals, assuring that a decision on sanctioning new Anganwadi Centers would be made soon.



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Model United Nations conference held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

THE 6TH EDITION OF SUCHITRA ACADEMY'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) CONFERENCE CONCLUDED ON SATURDAY, EMPOWERING YOUTH IN THE CITY. THE CONFERENCE IS HELD FROM AUGUST 9 TO 10, THEMED 'VOICES R.I.S.E. SOLUTIONS SOAR', BROUGHT TOGETHER OVER 290 DELEGATES FROM VARIOUS REGIONS TO ADDRESS IMPORTANT GLOBAL ISSUES, CREATING A SENSE OF GLOBAL UNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. DELEGATES DEBATED IN MULTIPLE COMMITTEES, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC), UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC), JOINT CRISIS

COMMITTEE (JCC), ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC), HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLFP), ALL INDIA POLITICAL PARTIES MEET (AIPPM), AND THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS (IP). A STANDOUT FEATURE WAS COMMITTEE X, THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, WHICH CHALLENGED DELEGATES ADAPTABILITY AND QUICK THINKING. SUCHITRA ACADEMY PRINCIPAL DEEPA KAPOOR COMMENDED THE EVENT, SAYING, "SUCHITRA MUN 6.0 WAS MORE THAN JUST A CONFERENCE; IT WAS A PLATFORM WHERE YOUNG LEADERS DEVELOPED THEIR DIPLOMATIC SKILLS, MADE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS, AND WORKED TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD. THE PERSONAL GROWTH AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES WERE TRULY INSPIRING ALONG WITH DEBATES AND COLLABORATION INSPIRES FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BE VOICES THAT RISE AND SOLUTIONS THAT SOAR"

Food Safety officials flag fungal infestation at bakery, sweet shop



Food safety officials were seen inspecting a bakery at Dilshuknagar on Saturday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Food Safety Commission conducted inspections in Dilshuknagar and Malakpet and found several violations.

The Task Force conducted inspection at Topsy Topsy Bakers in Dilshuknagar and found cauliflower in the refrigerator infested with fungus, which was immediately discarded.

An expired Jeera Biscuit packet was also disposed of. Rose Cookies and a vinegar bottle were found without manufacturing or expiry dates and they were similarly discarded. The premises had

open, overflowing dustbins, and there were no medical fitness certificates for food handlers or pest control records. Food handlers lacked hair caps and gloves, and only one copy of the FSSAI license was displayed.

Later on, the Task Force inspected Sahadeva Reddy Pure Ghee Sweets, food items like namkeen, mixture, and pickles were not labeled with preparation or expiry dates. Packed chana dal (50 kg) also lacked these details, leading to the seizure of the stock. The establishment lacked medical fitness certificates and pest control records, and the doors and windows were

not properly secured to prevent pests. The only positive observation was that food handlers wore hair caps and gloves.

The task force also inspected Moon Bean Restaurant and Bar in Malakpet and found that the FBO was operating without a valid FSSAI license.

The kitchen and storeroom had a cockroach infestation, and expired food items were found. Synthetic food colors were being used in non-veg dishes, and many stored items were uncovered and unlabeled. Medical fitness certificates, pest control records, and proper hygiene.

ANOTHER FEATHER IN POET AFSAR'S CAP

Sorrow, suffering, hopes and disappointments of a wounded soul, all find poetic justice in the effective poetry of Afsar (Mohammad Mahboob Ali), who has risen to become a global poet, at ease in both English and Telugu.

He will be receiving the coveted Inraganti Srikanta Sarma Puraskar at Ravindra Bharati on August 14, instituted by the Inraganti family in memory of the illustrious Srikanta Sarma.

Afsar is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning scholar, working on Hindu-Muslim interactions in India. With focus on Muslim writing and Telugu studies, he teaches at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Hailing from a small village in Telangana, Afsar has travelled across continents, is a trendsetting poet and a literary critic for post-1980s Telugu literature.

He has penned five volumes of poetry, one collection of short stories and two volumes of literary theory essays.



As a reputed scholar of Indian studies, he has published extensively with various international presses, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Initially, he started off dabbling in English verses and later, goaded by his friends, he also took to writing in Telugu.

THE SOURCE OF HIS INSPIRATION

Hailing from a rural background, with many shrines around his house, Sufism had appealed to him right from childhood. The cultural ethos of this environment

is found in his work The Festival of Pirs: Popular Islam and shared Devotion in South India, published by the Oxford University Press in 2013. It has got to do about everyday life than a being a doctrine. His first collection of poems in Telugu was an instant success.

His earlier experience as a journal-

ist lent him the desired ammunition to start a web magazine called Saranga through which his thoughts found expression, making Indian texts available to the contemporary generation in the USA. He says it was a rewarding experience which was backed by writers and poets from other Indian languages. This effort has borne fruit in bringing out translations. His mother was instrumental in his gaining insights into the architectonics of a poem by making him learn Arabic and Farsi and this made it easier for him to migrate from one language to the other. Having travelled wide, his perception has grown to make him a borderless human being.

VENKOB R BALANTRAPU
Senior Journalist
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Techie nabbed for sourcing narcotics via dark web

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

A techie, who allegedly bought narcotics through dark web was arrested in Khammam in Telangana State on Saturday.

The Khammam police arrested the software engineer based on a tip-off. The sleuths of Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau tracked the software engineer placing order for narcotics through dark web, according to police.

The techie, who was not identified by the police, allegedly placed an order on dark web on July 31 and paid using crypto currency.

On the input provided by the Technical Wing of Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB), the sleuths of Regional Narcotics Control Centre (RNCC) in Khammam with the assistance of Khammam II Town Police nabbed the Software Engineer in Khammam town. He had placed an order through dark web on July 31 and paid for it using crypto currency. The vendor of the said dark web delivered the

drug to techie from Silpukhuri of Assam state through Speed Post and shared the Consignment number to the said person.

The sleuths of RNCC Khammam kept track of the consignment and were successful in nabbing techie red-handedly when he received the consignment at his residence on August 8 through Speed post. The drug was concealed under brown tape on the newspaper. Further, the sleuths of RNCC sleuths, during the investigation, according to police, found that the software engineer was addicted to drugs.

Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau officials appealed to youth and students not to fall prey to drugs. The officials urged parents to keep a watch on the activities of their children and feel free to approach police or pass information to police on phone 8712671111 Or 1908 to curtail such anti-social activities and strive for Drug free city.

Email: tsnabho-hyd@tspolice.gov.in

Masked men gain entry into temple, decamp with hundis



PNS ■ MEDAK

Exposing the flaws in security, two masked men entered the temple of Goddess Vana Durga Bhavani at Nagsanpally under Papannapeta mandal in the district late on Friday night and decamped with two temple hundis. They stole cash and jewellery in the hundis.

The hundi counting had taken place only on July 30. Therefore, the hundis have offerings made to the deity by the devotees for a period of 10 days only.

The culprits wearing masks entered the temple mantap by forcibly removing the grill and looted the temple hundis. There are



An emptied hundi left behind by culprits who looted hundis from Vana Durga Bhavani temple Nagsanpally in Medak district on Friday night

seven hundis in the temple, of them two were stolen. Two more hundis were located in the sanctum-sanctorum of the Goddess.

Frequent thefts taking place at the temple.

There was an instance of culprits entering the sanctum-sanctorum of Goddess Vanadurga temple and decamped with precious jewellery and cash. However, then

the police acted swiftly and caught the culprits within 24 hours.

However, there are allegations that the temple authorities have been paying no attention to strengthen the security of the temple. They are accused of adopting lackadaisical approach. The temple authorities apparently washed of their hands appointing a watchman to guard the temple at night and they fixed substandard quality of CCTV cameras. As a result, frequent thefts are taking place at the temple, it is said.

Even as the temple staff reported the theft to the temple executive officer, who has been appointed in-charge DC saddling him with additional responsibilities, did not visit the temple. The devotees alleged that the temple staff have been discharging their duties according to their whims and fancies, leading to frequent thefts taking place in the temple.

Papannapeta sub inspector Srinivas Goud visited the crime scene and started investigation. The police examined footage of CCTV cameras, two masked men committed the crime. The culprits were seen carrying away with the temple hundis. The police said that they would intensify the investigation and catch the culprits soon.

Jagadish Reddy calls Congress government irresponsible

PNS ■ SURYAPETA

Former Minister G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday accused the Congress government of not launching its administration in Telangana fully and criticized the Congress leaders of being irresponsible and lacking understanding on how to run the state administration.

Talking to media here, Jagadish Reddy observed that the Congress leaders have been indulged in celebrations and appears to have forgotten to develop the state.

Nowhere else in world, he



came across constitution of such a committee. He was wondered at the

Congress government appointing a Cabinet Sub-committee on water stored in irrigation projects. The protocol of the irrigation projects will be predetermined.

Constitution of a Cabinet sub-committee to fix eligibility to issue ration cards is a mindless decision, he criticized.

The Congress has been trying to avoid implementing the poll promises, he alleged.

Further, he lamented that the Congress government has adopted tactics to divert public attention on core issues.

Court duty officials urged to help increase conviction rate

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

City Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt has directed the court duty police officials to ensure that the accused in all cases get conviction.

He addressing the court duty officers of the police department at a one-day training programme for them held at the city police commissioner's office here on Saturday.

He suggested to them to gather proper evidence, statements of witnesses, technical and medical evidence in proper form and submit the same to court to ensure that the

accused are convicted by the court. They should strive to get CC Numbers from time to time and ensure that the witnesses and the accused present at the court.

Further, he asked them to work with coordination to ensure that the accused in all cases which have been charge-sheeted receive punishment. By doing so, they should inject a sense of fear among the accused that resorting to committing crimes would make them undergo punishment.

He asked them to follow the action plan with regard to court duties and ensure that

the witnesses, the accused, the defendants are present at the court on time.

He reviewed the progress of the pending cases in court, court calendars, warrants and summons issued and other aspects. As part of the prosecution, the non-bailable warrants issued from time to time should be enforced without fail and take steps to prove the accused guilty in court.

He enquired from court constables about the pending cases and made suggestions to them on the progress of the cases. CCRB Circle Inspector Swamy was also present.

Trial run of 2nd, 3rd pump houses of Sitarama Project today

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy will participate in the trial run of the second and third pump houses of Sitarama project at Pusugudem and Kamalapuram in Mulakapalli mandal of Khammam district at 10.30 am on Sunday along with Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, a release from revenue minister's camp office said on Saturday.

Around 1 pm, the minis-

ter would visit Wyrā and inspect the venue of the public meeting to be addressed by Cm A Revanth Reddy there on August 15. He is scheduled to address a media conference at 4 pm to explain the arrangements to media, the release added.

Further, he would take part in a review meeting with government schools head masters and government college principals at his camp office in Kusumanchi.

Afterwards, he is scheduled to take part in several private programmes in Kusumanchi and Khammam, the release said.

Harish accuses govt of going back on its promises

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Former Minister T Harish Rao on Saturday accused the Congress of failing to fulfil the promises made by it to the people. The Congress party duped the people after using them as its vote bank.

Addressing a gathering after distributing the Chief Minister Relief Fund cheques to beneficiaries at his camp office here, he alleged that the Congress party ahead of elections, to grab power from the BRS, made several promises to the people. Later, upon coming to power it went back, he alleged.

The Congress government threw electoral promises made by it to the winds, he said. He charged the Congress with misleading the people. The Congress failed to implement Asara pensions, Rythu Bandhu scheme, Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, Rythu Bharosa and so on. He was quick to point out that the Congress promised to give Rs 1 lakh and one tola of



Former minister T Harish Rao distributing Chief Minister Relief Fund cheques to beneficiaries in Siddipet on Saturday

gold to the beneficiaries of Kalyana Lakshmi.

Moreover, there were allegations that the government failed to ensure that all farmers secured loan waiver benefit.

Further, he charged the Congress government with not paying the Asara pensions, paid by the previous BRS regime. The Kalyana Lakshmi cheques were not being dis-

bursed for the past eight months, he said. The Rythu Bandhu scheme's name was changed to that of Rythu Bharosa but it did not disburse a single paisa to the farmers, he said.

In the first phase, only some farmers were given the benefit of Rythu Bandhu.

With the input subsidy not coming from government, the area of cultivation under var-

ious crops shrunk to a large extent, he observed.

The mid-day meals workers and workers employed in SC, ST, BC residential schools are going without salaries for the past eight months, he said.

Sanitation was at its worst in villages and garbage piled up in streets and became breeding grounds for flies and mosquitoes, posing the problem of outbreak of dengue and other seasonal diseases, he said.

The CMRF will be useful for the poor when they faced with serious health complications, he said exhorting the people to make use of it.

He demanded the state government to immediately release CMRF cheques to the needy without playing with the lives of the poor.

Municipal Chairman Rajnars, former market committee chairman Bala Sairam, councillors Ravinder, Kanakaraju and others were present.



HYDR officials, with heavy police security, launching demolition drive at Rajendranagar in Hyderabad on Saturday

Demolition of illegal structure at Rajendranagar begins

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A large-scale demolition operation targeting illegal structures in Rajendranagar commenced at dawn on Saturday.

The operation, carried out under the supervision of HYDR (Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority), focused on unauthorised constructions around the Shivrampally pond, which had been illegally occupied and converted into small plots for joint constructions.

The demolition drive follows the Chief Minister's serious directive to reclaim the pond area, which had been encroached upon by individuals constructing illegal buildings. HYDR officials, supported by a significant police presence, began demolishing these structures early in the morning. The operation was conducted amid tight security, with police officers preventing anyone from approaching the demolition site.

Police told to remain vigilant, ensure peace

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Rachakonda Commissioner Sudhir Babu has urged police personnel in troubled areas under the Rachakonda Commissionerate to remain vigilant at all times. During his visit to Ibrahimpatnam police station on Saturday as part of a broader inspection of various stations within the Commissionerate, the Commissioner emphasised the importance of maintaining law and order.

The Police Commissioner engaged in discussions with ACP KP V Raju and Circle Inspector Bollam Satyanarayana regarding the station's performance and the services provided to the public. He conducted

a thorough inspection of the police station, reviewing records and assessing the effectiveness of various departments, including reception, patrolling staff, and the maintenance of CCTV systems.

During his visit, Sudhir Babu highlighted the need for stringent measures to ensure peace and security within the jurisdiction. He underscored that women's safety should be treated as a top priority, with regular reviews to assess the effectiveness of ongoing measures. He also noted that the friendly policing approach adopted by the Rachakonda Commissionerate has contributed to the swift resolution of cases, thereby enhancing peace and security in the region.

Rabid dog bites five people, including 3 children

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A rabid dog triggered panic at Yacharam on Saturday as it bit five people, including three children. The dog went on the rampage, attacking residents in the Ellama Gudi Colony.

The victims, include three children, Lokesh, Angelina, and Laddu, suffered severe injuries on their arms and legs after being bitten by the dog. In another attack, Narasimhachari, a disabled man from Medipalli village, was seriously injured when the rabid dog chased and bit him. Swati, a housewife was also attacked in front of her house.

Local residents managed to chase the dog away. The injured children and two other victims were rushed to the



A child bitten by dog

government hospital for treatment. The community is now on high alert, worried about the possibility of more incidents as the rabid dog remains at large.

Nag Aswin builds four additional classrooms at his native village

PNS ■ NAGARKARNOOL

District Collector Badawat Sanotsh and MLA Rajesh Reddy appreciated Tollywood director Nag Aswin of Kalki fame, who spent Rs 66 lakh to build additional classrooms to the Government High School in his native Aithole village under Tadurumandal of the district, for his gesture.

The Collector and the MLA said that an individual how taller he might grow in his life but should not forget his native place and mother as native place is compared to biological mother.

The four additional classrooms were inaugurated by Badawat Sanotsh and Rajesh Reddy on Saturday.

The Collector thanked Nag Aswin for extending the financial assistance to his high school in his native village. The Collector appealed to the teachers to work with dedication to groom the students in such a way they occupy top position in society.

Toilets and other basic amenities needed by the school would be provided with the help of the philanthropic public.

Nagarkarnool MLA Dr



Nag Aswin

Rajesh Reddy said, "We should all feel proud for the world-renowned director at a rela-

tively young age Nag Aswin happened to be the son of Nagarkarnool district soil."

Building additional classrooms to his school, not forgetting the native place, by Nag Aswin is indeed laudable, he said and appealed to those who have been occupying higher positions should strive to develop the government schools and hospitals.

Nag Aswin, in his address, said that he extended his bit of cooperation to solve the school's problem in the village on the request of his parents. He assured the gathering that he would develop the school and temple in the village into model ones. He appealed to the students to work hard and

become directors, actors, doctors and lawyers. He assured the students that he would provide all amenities to the school by next year and groom it into a model school. He appealed to the villagers to send their wards to the government school in the village.

Nag Aswin's mother Jayanti Reddy, father Jayaram Reddy, former sarpanch Indumati, family members Krishna Reddy, Ram Reddy, Narasimha Reddy, DEO Govindarajulu, Mandal Education Officer Bhaskar Reddy, teachers, students and others were present.

ACROSS THE STATES



'Committed to resolve Mizoram-Assam border row'

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Saturday said his government was committed to resolve the state's border dispute with neighbouring Assam and ensure peace along the boundary. During a brief meeting with an Assam delegation, leaders of both states must work together with a heartfelt desire for peace and to resolve the border dispute between the two northeastern states, an official statement said. His government is "desirous of resolving the inter-state boundary dispute during the current term", Lalduhoma said in the statement. Led by state Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora, the Assam delegation paid a courtesy call on Lalduhoma at his official residence in Aizawl on Saturday. Lalduhoma said that several meetings were held between the two states in the past and the "decisions were mainly adhering to status quo, which was not the right step towards establishing lasting peace but delaying the peace process and resolving the border dispute amicably".



Woman found after 18 yrs; tells she left husband because of brutality

A 50-year-old woman, "missing" for 18 years, was produced earlier this week before the Madhya Pradesh High Court which imposed a cost on her husband for filing a petition knowing fully well that she had left him because of his ill-treatment. She was forced to leave the matrimonial home along with her two sons in 2006 to save their lives, the woman told the court on Wednesday. Nandkishore Rahangdale, her husband, had moved the court last month seeking a direction to police to find her, said his lawyer S D Gupta. The petition claimed that the woman and her two sons, then aged 13 and 4, vanished from Kharpadia village in Balaghat district on April 18, 2006. Rahangdale lodged a complaint with police a month later, but their whereabouts remained a mystery, it said. After he filed a petition, the high court on July 28 ordered Balaghat Police to find the woman and children.



Influx from Bangladesh cause for concern: Manipur CM

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Saturday said the influx of people from Bangladesh in the wake of unrest in the neighbouring country is a cause for concern, and his government has imposed night curfew in some districts to check infiltration. "I am in touch with the external affairs ministry. As for our security, we have imposed night curfew in Pherzawl and Jiribam districts to check the influx," Singh told reporters here. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on Monday, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July. The chief minister was speaking at a function to mark the Centre's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative. "I appeal to all legislators to organise lunch at different relief camps across Manipur on Independence Day, as well as interact with the inmates to address their problems and grievances," Singh said.



EAM JAISHANKAR MEETS MALDIVES PRESIDENT MUIZZU

Emphasises deeper ties for regional prosperity

PNS ■ MALE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu here on Saturday and emphasised New Delhi's commitment to deepen India-Maldives ties for the benefit of the people in the two countries and the region.

Jaishankar is on a three-day official visit to Maldives to reset the bilateral relationship, the first high-level trip from India after the archipelago nation's pro-China president Muizzu assumed office last year. "Privileged to call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu. Conveyed greetings of PM @NarendraModi. Committed to deepening India-Maldives ties for the benefit of our people and the region," Jaishankar posted on X along with a photograph of the meeting.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Muizzu said it was a pleasure to meet Jaishankar and join him in the official handover of water and sewerage projects in 28 islands of the Maldives. "I thank the Government of India,

especially Prime Minister @narendramodi for always supporting the Maldives. Our enduring partnership continues to strengthen, bringing our nations closer through cooperation in

security, development, and cultural exchange. Together, we build a brighter, more prosperous future for the region," he said, sharing some photographs of his meeting with Jaishankar.

India to introduce UPI payment service in Maldives

India and Maldives have signed an agreement to introduce the Unified Payments Interface in the archipelago nation, which will have a "very positive" impact on its tourism sector, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Friday during Jaishankar's three-day official visit to the Maldives.

"Witnessed signing of MoU between (the) National Payments Corporation of India and (the)



Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Maldives on (the) introduction of (a) digital payment system in the Maldives," he said in a post on X.

'Will terminate highway projects if law and order situation does not improve'

Union Minister Gadkari warns Punjab govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned NHA will have no other option but to cancel/terminate highway projects in Punjab with total length of 293 km costing Rs 14,288 crore, if the law and order situation does not improve, Union minister Nitin Gadkari wrote to Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann.

Gadkari said that he had been informed about two incidents which occurred recently on the Delhi-Katra Expressway projects. "In one incident in Jalandhar district, the engineer of the contractor

was brutally assaulted. Although FIR has been registered in this regard, strong action is required to be taken against the perpetrators," Gadkari wrote in his letter dated August 9.

The minister pointed out another incident in Ludhiana district, where the project camp of the contractor of Delhi-Katra Expressway was attacked by miscreants and also engineers were threatened of burning the project camp and their staff alive.

However, FIR has still not been filed and miscreants have not been arrested despite written requests by NHA officials, he said.



India to open embassy in Timor-Leste

President Murmu lauds contribution of diaspora

PNS ■ DILI (TIMOR-LESTE)

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday lauded the "very small but active" Indian community in Timor-Leste as a 'living bridge' for its role in improving bilateral relations and announced that India will soon open its embassy here. President Murmu, who arrived earlier in the day, on the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste, was speaking at an interaction event with the Indian diaspora in this archipelagic Southeast Asian nation.

Before this event, Murmu received the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest honour from her counterpart José Ramos-Horta for her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and women empowerment. "The Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste bestowed upon me is a symbol of manifestation of the warmth and special friendship between the two countries," she said at the outset as she thanked President Ramos-Horta and the country for hosting her and the Indian delegation.

Testament to TG's sound...

Continued from page 1

Keith Sarbaugh, Chief Information Officer at Zoetis, highlighted the advantages of having Hyderabad as a location for the company's expansion.

"Hyderabad is the ideal location for our Zoetis India Capability Centre as it offers a wealth of talent and an incredible Life Sciences innovation ecosystem. Our decision to expand here underscores our commitment to investing in the future of animal health and tech innovation. We are happy to continue our partnership with the TG Government and contribute to its development," Sarbaugh stated.

During their US tour, the Telangana delegation led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met senior representatives of the Stanford Byers Centre for Biodesign at Stanford University. The meeting focused on exploring potential collaborations in healthcare innovation, education and skill development and revolved around partnerships in establishing the upcoming Young India Skills University and the new Life

Sciences University in Telangana.

During the discussions, the team from the Stanford Byers Center for Biodesign, led by Dr Anurag Mairal and Dr Josh Makower, presented a letter to the Chief Minister expressing keen interest in collaborating with the Government of Telangana.

In his letter, Dr Makower praised the Telangana government's focus on developing a large medical device industry that provides high-value employment opportunities to the people of Telangana.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy described his vision by stating, "Telangana is in the forefront of innovation and industry in India. By partnering with global leaders like Stanford Biodesign, we aim to equip our youth with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the rapidly evolving healthcare sector. This collaboration will not only benefit our state but also contribute to the global community by developing innovative healthcare solutions."

The CM visited the Google headquarters in California and met its leaders to talk about tech,

AI and skilling and how that can help Telangana.

The CM also had the opportunity to meet Professor Ram Charan, a world-renowned business consultant, author and speaker.

Professor Ram, who has extensive experience working with top global MNCs, was enthusiastic about Telangana's plans and offered several insights to enhance the state's business environment.

Monarch Tractors discussed plans to expand its R&D centre, creating more high-tech jobs in the region. The Monarch team announced that they would set up an autonomous tractor testing facility in Hyderabad to complement the R&D work they do here. "We are focused on attracting high-tech, environmentally-friendly companies and we welcome Monarch Tractors to our State," said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

"We are positioning Telangana as a leader in autonomous and electric vehicle technology. Monarch Tractors is aligned with that vision, and we hope to see them grow in our state," he said.

TG govt proposes income...

Continued from page 1

Uttam emphasised the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the process. "We are committed to ensuring that no one who is below the poverty line is left out of this opportunity," he stated.

He added, "The sub-committee will seek input from all political representatives, irrespective of their party affiliations, to ensure that the implementation of this policy is effective and fair."

The sub-committee decided to reach out to all Members of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Letters will be sent to these representatives, inviting them to provide their suggestions and inputs.

"We want to make sure that every viewpoint is considered in this critical decision-making process," said Reddy. In addition, the sub-committee discussed the guidelines set by the Saxena Committee, which was chaired by Dr NC Saxena with Harsh Mander serving as a special commissioner of the Supreme Court. These guidelines will be considered as a reference in the formulation of the new white ration card policy. A significant issue raised during the meeting was the situation of individuals who possess white ration cards in both Telangana and other states. The sub-committee proposed that such individuals should be given the option to choose between the two states.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

remarked, "We must address this issue fairly, allowing individuals the choice of where they want to avail the benefits." Currently, the state has 89.96 lakh ration cards. With the government's decision to open applications for new white ration cards, over 10 lakh applications have already been submitted. The ministers emphasized the need for a thorough review to ensure that only eligible individuals benefit from this scheme.

"We are conducting a deep analysis to make sure that the process is both fair and efficient," concluded Uttam Kumar Reddy. "Our goal is to support those who are genuinely in need and to implement a system that works for everyone," he said.

Israeli airstrike..

Continued from page 1

There have been reports of increasing Israeli attacks on Gaza's schools, which have become shelters for people who have been forced to flee their homes by the war.

Video from the scene showed walls blown out on the ground level of a large building. Concrete chunks and twisted metal lay atop the blood-soaked floor, along with clothing, toppled furniture and other debris. A blackened car with the windows blown out was covered in rubble.

Fadel Naeem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that the facility received 70 bodies of those killed in the strike and the body parts of at least 10 others. The Health Ministry said another 47 people were wounded.

Shortage of pharmacists...

Continued from page 1

A woman we hired recently went on maternity leave. The recruitment of pharmacists depends on each government hospital. In Gandhi Hospital we are facing a huge load with less staff and we have been requesting officials to notify recruitment for a long time now."

Another pharmacist seeking anonymity said that each government hospital in the twin cities needs at least 10 pharmacists. The process of recruitment has been outsourced and they are also preparing to

protest as they want a hike in salaries or make them permanent. The current pharmacist is also thinking of leaving the outsourcing contract and joining the private sector. Pharmacy expert Sanjay Reddy, the President of the Telangana Pharmacy Association said, "If the Pharmacy and Drugs and Cosmetic Acts are amended to allow freelancing in the pharmacy profession, it will allow registered pharmacy professionals to avail freelancing pharmacy licenses and work as pharmacists after their duty time."

Action plan to strengthen...

Continued from page 1

He said they will launch a membership drive within 15 days. The TDP will give top priority to youth and BCs aiming to bring the party to

power in Telangana, he said. He said that he would appoint a new president for the TDP after the membership drive and that the party could not contest elections due to some problems.

SC to hear ...

Continued from page 1

It had rejected her plea for relief on the grounds of being a woman, saying as a well-educated person and a former MP, she cannot be equated to a vulnerable female, and the court cannot lose sight of the "serious allegations" against her.

This "court is of the opinion that K Kavitha was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy hatched in relation to formulation and implementation of Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22," the high court had said.

It had noted the material collected by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has pointed out that Kavitha was one of the chief conspirators in the entire conspiracy relating to the formulation and implementation of the policy.

In the high court, Kavitha had challenged the May 6 order of a trial court which had dismissed her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the ED's money-laundering case.

The case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and implementation of the policy.

Amara Raja can't..

Continued from page 1

It is not about the intent (of the government). Do they have the funds? Do they have the resources to honour those commitments?" he wondered.

He was replying to a query on the plant capacity expansion beyond 16 GWh and if the company has any doubts about the present government on honouring the commitments given by the previous BRS regime.

Galla, however, said there are no issues with the government as of now.

"We are not expecting trouble, but you know how things go in India. When the government changes generally commitments are not necessarily always kept. We are hopeful and we are waiting and watching. As long as the experience is positive, we would not necessarily have to look elsewhere (for expansion beyond 16 gwh)..." he added. He also said the Amara Raja Group may become a USD 5 billion entity in the next five years if everything goes as planned and with favourable EV market dynamics.

Ensure 17 days of..

Continued from page 1

He reminded the staff that working in the power department means continuously serving the public, as it is an essential service which operates 24/7.

He stressed the importance of the department's role in bringing light to society and encouraged the staff to perform their duties with a service-oriented mind. He assured them that he would be available 24 hours a day to

address any problems. Bhatti highlighted the importance of timely decision-making, recalling past technical problems and losses in hydroelectric projects like Srisailem and Jurala due to delays.

He instructed officials to avoid repeating mistakes and to send him weekly reports on the status of power plants. Any problems should be immediately brought to the attention of the Principal Secretary of the Power Department, Bhatti said.



CHARMING COONOOR PROMISES A TRANQUIL RETREAT!

Inhaling the scents of fresh blooms, sipping freshly brewed tea, I witnessed sunrise magic from the folds of Nilgiris, sitting in the garden of the charming villa, The Xanadu in Coonoor. Here I sealed every moment as the celebration of Nature

BY SHARMILA CHAND

Tucked at the edge of a cliff, the villa is my home for three days with a magnificent view of the rolling Nilgiri hills, tea plantations and the plains below. I tell my friend, Aparna Bharathan, the humble owner of this pretty home, that I have 'checked in and breathing out'. She bursts into laughter as that exactly is the tagline she has chosen for her Xanadu chain of premium, fully serviced vacation rental villas.

For me, a trip to Coonoor is essentially to relish slow travel without ticking off 'must do' list. Hence, a game of Jenga or Monopoly in the plush living room while watching the pitter patter of raindrops, is luxury. There is a whiff of pleasant aroma in the room, I can't resist and peep into the kitchen where Ganga Ram is busy making rasam and lemon rice. He is little more generous in using curry leaves in tadka, and that makes me impatient to have the meal. By now, Ganga has spoilt me thoroughly with several glasses of cutting chai and delicious food.

MAGICAL NIGHT

I wait for the spectacular night view when the sky is full of pretty stars in coherence with the lights of the



plains shimmering below. This is luxury for me. The weather throughout the day plays its own hide and seek, the clouds enveloping the hills in a stroke of misty white and next moment letting the hills magically appear in the famous 'Nilgiri' blue haze.

NILGIRIS ENDOWED WITH UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY

The Nilgiri mountains stretch over the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, connecting Western Ghats with the Eastern Ghats. Located at the convergence of both Ghats, lends Nilgiris vibrant flora and fauna. From Evergreen forests

and lowland Savannas to lush Shola grassland, enchanting flora encompasses the region. Various endangered species including Nilgiri Langur thrive here. What I love is the heady fragrance of cypress, eucalyptus and pine. The soft purple haze of my favourite jacaranda trees keeps my eyes longing for more. I can't get over seeing magnificent trees of Pont Setia, the same festive plant with bold red leaves we have in small pots during Christmas time. And then the lush mosanda in white and pink, another favourite of mine that seems to be calling me back soon!

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY - THE TODAS

It is said that Toda community settled here around 3500 years ago, thus the oldest inhabitants of the region. Known for their pastoral way of life and vegetarian lifestyle, the Todas have a distinct identity. Every aspect of their life, including their artistic skills, are inspired by nature. The traditions they follow further prove how nature is significant in their lifestyle. I was told by locals that during an infant's naming ceremony, the grandfather uncovers the child's face out in the open air for the first time, showing various elements of nature - the rising sun, the birds, the cows, buffaloes etc. I visited one Toda

village and saw women busy at their art work. Their embroidery represents an ancient art form and has been granted a GI patent by The Government.

A CUP THAT CHEERS!

Visiting Nilgiris and not taking a trip to a tea plantation, is unfair. Though you see the sweeping vistas of carpets of tea all around, blooming on the slopes as far as eye can see, but experiencing a walk through the plantation and completing it with tea tasting, is a beautiful outstanding experience. And who can do this better than Sandeep Subramani, a fourth generation tea planter and founder of Tranquiletea which runs a chain of experiential boutique holidays in the Nilgiris and conducts a highly acclaimed gourmet tea tasting experience in their estate in Coonoor called the 'Cups That Cheer'.

Sandeep takes one and half hour glorious session on tea which is full of stories, facts and secrets. One secret he tells with great pride and a smile - "The Nilgiris has the world's highest tea estates. At around 8000 feet there is simply no other place on earth that grows tea as a plantation crop as high as in the Nilgiris. Darjeeling, the region that makes the other famous Indian tea has its highest tea estates at just over

6000 feet. Let me explain why tea doesn't grow at such heights anywhere else. The weather is generally too cold for tea to grow at these elevations. However, the geographical location of the Nilgiris provides the perfect temperature band through the winter months, for tea to grow even at these heights. Talking about temperature, tea thrives between 13° C and 30° C and we are always within that range. Though night-time temperatures in winter can drop below 13° C, day temperatures are always within the optimum range. This results in a tea that is intensely flavourful and typically floral in nature," he concludes.

INTERESTING ATTRACTIONS TO VISIT

Though I am contented to luxuriate in the comfort of home Xanadu, but for those discerning travelers who might like to have a sightseeing plan, here are few top things to do in Coonoor.

- Dolphin's Nose Point** — Located at an altitude of 1,500, it is set amidst the rolling hills, the tip of the peak of the enormous rock resembles the nose of a dolphin hence the name Dolphin's Nose. Gigantic ravines are on both sides of the place offering a view of inspiring Catherine Falls.
- Lamb's Rock** - enjoy fascinating



views of the valley at this vantage point with jagged rock that drops down several hundred feet to bury itself in the luxuriant jungle below. The place got its name after Captain Lamb who attempted to open a path to this place.

Droog Fort — The historical Droog Fort at an altitude of about 6000 feet above the lush plains, is said to be used by Tipu Sultan as an outpost. To reach this place, one has to go up to Nonsuch Estate and trek down for about 4 kms. According to locals' tales, the fort is linked with the legend of a local demon, Bakasura. Due to this, it is also called Bakasura Malai by the natives.

Sim's Park — Spend sometime in the park which was developed around the natural contours of the land by JD Sims and Major Murray in the year of 1874. Spread over 30 acres of land, the park was started as a pleasure resort for the residents and visitors, and later developed into garden. It has wonderful landscaped gardens & walkways lined up with beautiful flowers spread across, also a lake inside the park that offers boating facility as well.

KETTI VALLEY

Embark on the toy train to enjoy this beautiful valley. It is also famous for bird watching and trekking. You can also visit the famous Shiva Lingam temple here.

GOURMET CHEESE

Coonoor is now also famous for selling gourmet cheese. You can take a tour of cheese farms or simply visit a popular old store Nilgiris Store' or 'Baker's Junction' just 100 m from Bedford circle.

SHOPPING

Shopping in Coonoor is pretty good. From pretty embroidered shawls, apparels, Toda jewellery and handicrafts items to natural oils, fruit jams, homemade chocolates and of course, the huge variety of tea, shopping here is really good. Spend at least a week, soak in fresh crisp mountain air and come back rejuvenated till you return to the spectacular queen of hills.

Sharmila Chand is an author and journalist who writes on Travel, Food, Culture and Lifestyle.



EXPLORING PARADISE

A journey through the pristine beauty of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Nestled in the azure waters of the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a tropical haven that offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, vibrant marine life, and rich cultural heritage, writes **SANTANU GANGULY**

Every Indian should visit the Andaman Islands at least once in their lifetime to complete their journey. The Andaman Islands offer an incredible blend of natural beauty, historical significance, wildlife, and adventure sports. The Andaman Islands are well-connected by regular flights from Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata, and one can also reach them by ship from Kolkata, Chennai, and Visakhapatnam. However, traveling by flight is recommended to witness breathtaking aerial views that resemble slices of heaven. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprise a total of 836 islands, of which only 31 are inhabited. Visitors are not allowed on all the islands, and even the non-tribal Andamanese people cannot visit the restricted islands.

Only government officials from departments such as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Forest Department, and Police are permitted to access these islands for official purposes. As a general tourist, the only chance to see some of these islands is from the sky before landing or after takeoff at Veer Savarkar Airport in Port Blair, the capital of the union territory. While the Andaman Islands are open to tourists year-round, the best time to visit is from October to May. Monsoon tourism runs from June to October. There are numerous hotels and guest houses available for online booking, and package tours are also offered to suit various budgets. The local businesses are known for their honesty, adhering to strict rules and regulations throughout the islands. For



example, if the local authority sets the price of coconut water at forty rupees, the rate will be consistent everywhere. In Port Blair, the major attractions include the Cellular Jail, Chatham Saw Mill, Forest Museum, Samudrika Naval Marine

Anthropological Museum, Fisheries Aquarium, Science Center, and Corbyn's Cove. The historic Cellular Jail will not only enrich your knowledge of history but also evoke a deep emotional connection as you learn about the struggles of lesser-known

freedom fighters and the inhumane torture they endured under British rule. To reach Shaheed Dweep (formerly known as Neil Island) and Swaraj Dweep (formerly known as Havelock Island) from Port Blair, you must travel by small ships,

following a process similar to airport check-in. Plan to stay at least one night on each of these islands to explore them fully. Must-visit beaches on Shaheed Dweep include Bharatpur, Lakshmanpur, and Sitapur, while Elephant and Radhanagar beaches on Swaraj

Dweep are not to be missed. Scuba diving at Shaheed Dweep offers an unforgettable experience. Other popular attractions include Hudi Tikri, Red, Bird and Bat islands, Amkunj Beach near Rangat; Dhaninallah Mangroves and Karmatang Beach near Mayabunder; limestone caves and mud volcanoes near Diglipur; Craggy Island; Ross & Smith Islands, and various national parks and protected sanctuaries. The indigenous tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are divided into two groups: the Onge, Sentinelese, Jarawa, and Andamanese of Negroid descent living in the Andaman Islands, and the Shompen and Nicobarese of Mongoloid descent living in the Nicobar Islands. It is strictly prohibited by law to enter tribal reserves,

meet, or photograph these tribes. Respect their peaceful haven and adhere to the law. During my visits to the Andaman Islands, I was fortunate enough to encounter the Jarwa people. However, last year, I had an incredible experience while traveling by local public bus from Diglipur to Port Blair. As we entered the Jarwa forest after crossing a river, four Jarwa boys waved at our bus driver for a lift. The bus stopped, and they quickly got on board. One of them sat beside me, admiring my bracelet made of beads, which they seem to have a fascination for. Though I wanted to give it to him, I had to refuse due to the law prohibiting the exchange of items with the tribes. Their innocent laughter, however, was priceless.

Photos: Santanu Ganguly

As a dedicated disciple of Padma Bhushan Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy, Adiva Agarwal have beautifully embodied the spirit of Kuchipudi. Her recent performance was a heartfelt expression of her growth and the profound influence of her esteemed gurus, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

A DANCE OF DREAMS EXPLORING THE BEAUTY OF KUCHIPUDI



In the vibrant world of classical dance, few traditions are as richly expressive and historically significant as Kuchipudi. Originating from the Andhra Pradesh region of India, this classical dance form is renowned for its intricate footwork, elaborate gestures and profound storytelling. It embodies a fusion of dance, drama and music, bringing ancient narratives to life with remarkable grace.

Adiva Agarwal's recent Kuchipudi performance, marking her Rangapravesham, was a stunning demonstration of this art form's enduring allure. From the moment she stepped onto the stage, it was clear that her recital was more than just a display of technical skill; it was a heartfelt journey into the essence of Kuchipudi. Under the guidance of her esteemed guru, Padma Bhushan Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy, Adiva has honed her craft with dedication and precision, resulting in a performance that both honoured tradition and showcased her personal artistry.

The evening commenced with "Ganapati Vandana," a customary invocation to Lord Ganesha, setting a tone of reverence and anticipation. This opening act seamlessly transitioned into "Dashavatara," where Adiva's portrayal of Lord Vishnu's ten avatars was nothing short of mesmerising. Each avatar was brought to life with a delicate balance of intricate footwork and expressive storytelling, demonstrating

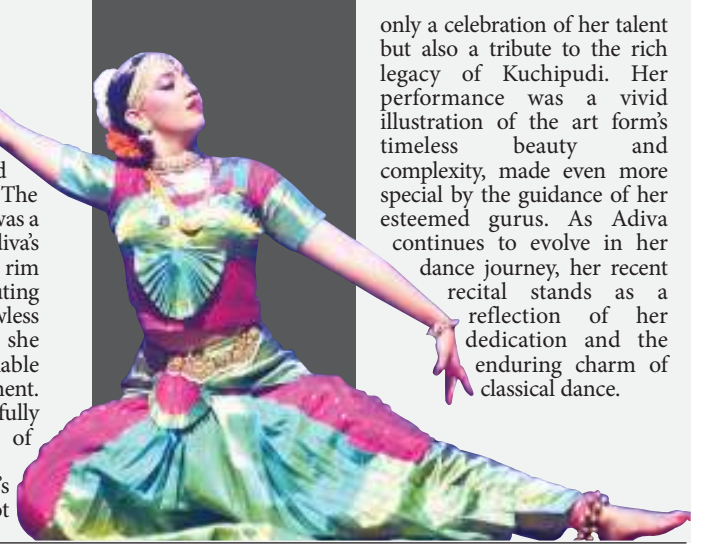


Photos: Pankaj Kumar

Adiva's deep understanding of the form and its narratives. The highlight of the performance was the "Tillana," a vibrant piece characterised by its rhythmic complexity and energetic movements. Adiva's ability to navigate the intricate patterns and maintain dynamic engagement with the audience was a showcase of her exceptional skill and stage presence. Her performance was a beautiful embodiment of Kuchipudi's essence, blending technical brilliance with artistic flair.

Adding emotional depth to the evening was "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni," a devotional poem by Amir Khusro. Adiva's

interpretation of this piece was imbued with spiritual reverence, showcasing her ability to convey profound emotions through dance. The grand finale, "Tarangam," was a breathtaking display of Adiva's virtuosity. Dancing on the rim of a brass plate while executing intricate footwork with flawless synchronisation, she demonstrated a remarkable level of skill and commitment. This climactic piece beautifully capped off an evening of exceptional performances. Adiva Agarwal's Rangapravesham was not



only a celebration of her talent but also a tribute to the rich legacy of Kuchipudi. Her performance was a vivid illustration of the art form's timeless beauty and complexity, made even more special by the guidance of her esteemed gurus. As Adiva continues to evolve in her dance journey, her recent recital stands as a reflection of her dedication and the enduring charm of classical dance.

Discovering Absence Through Visual Expression

Antra Srivastava's latest exhibition challenges us to delve into the unseen, revealing the hidden depths of absence in our lives, says **TEAM AGENDA**



The allure of absence is a peculiar paradox; it quietly demands attention, shaping our perceptions and provoking our thoughts. Artist Antra Srivastava's exhibition, *The Inescapable Presence of Absence*, invites viewers on a profound journey of reflection. This solo exhibition captivates audiences with its surreal yet deeply philosophical exploration of what lies beyond the visible.

Antra Srivastava, a Dehradun-based artist, her experiences as an avid traveler deeply influence her work, resulting in paintings that capture the vibrancy and diversity of the world. Through her art, she blends surrealism with poetic expression, drawing inspiration from the vitality of nature and the profound energy that flows through her creative process. She describes herself as both a participant and a witness in this artistic journey, immersing herself in the boundless realm of creative energy.

The theme of *The Inescapable Presence of Absence* delves into the paradox where absence becomes a palpable presence. This theme challenges viewers to rethink their perceptions, urging them to reflect on the significant impact of what is not present. It invites an exploration of the unseen and the unheard, asking profound



questions about the nature of existence. Srivastava's artistic journey is profoundly influenced by ancient Indian scriptures and the wisdom of sages, providing a foundation for her introspective quest. Her collection is a philosophical interpretation of the 18 chapters of the Gita, reflections on Sant Kabir's dohe and saakhees and a portrayal of six elements: air, water, earth, fire, space and consciousness. This unique

perspective allows her to seamlessly blend multiple layers of colours, creating harmony and rhythm, blurring the lines between abstraction and realism and evoking a surreal effect. In the Kabir series, Srivastava resonates with Kabir's ability to express complex ideas with simplicity. She emphasises that life's intricacies are self-created and that true knowledge emerges from inner silence rather than

external teachings. This series, inspired by Kabir's dohe and saakhees, underscores the experiential aspect of wisdom, offering a fresh perspective on life's fundamental truths. Srivastava's art invites a profound connection with the self, urging us to explore the deeper implications of absence alongside presence. Her work is a reflection of our existence, challenging us to look beyond what is visible and consider the unseen forces that shape our lives.

The exhibition's title itself, *The Inescapable Presence of Absence* suggests a haunting elegance. It forces us to contemplate the spaces in between, the silence between words and the pauses in conversation that often carry more weight than the spoken. In these gaps, Srivastava finds beauty and complexity, offering her audience a mirror to their inner worlds. This exhibition stands as an attestation to art's power to transcend the ordinary, provoke thought and inspire change. Her exploration of absence is not merely an artistic endeavor; it is a call to acknowledge and embrace the unseen, the unheard and the unmet aspects of our existence. Through her work, Srivastava offers a profound reminder that art is not just a reflection of the world but a gateway to understanding the intricacies of our inner selves. By the time visitors exit,

A CANVAS OF WONDERS

Experience the magic of watercolor through a captivating exhibition that celebrates the beauty of nature, architecture and human expression, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

At the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, a captivating solo exhibition showcases the evocative power of watercolor art. The exhibition "This Beautiful World," featuring the watercolor works of Dr. Sushma Mahajan and curated by Dr. Alka Pande, offers a captivating glimpse into the world through the eyes of a talented and passionate artist. The collection of 35 watercolor paintings is a vivid celebration of beauty, nature and the intricate details of everyday life.

The exhibition successfully highlights Mahajan's extraordinary skill with watercolors, showcasing her ability to create vibrant and realistic images that evoke emotion and wonder. Her unique perspective as both an artist and a medical professional adds depth to her work, and it is evident that she views the world with a keen sense of appreciation for its many facets.

One of the standout pieces is *Spotted Charm*, a painting of a leopard that captures the animal's grace and mystery with stunning accuracy. The richness of the colors and the attention to detail make this piece particularly memorable. Similarly, *Magic of Night Glow* is a beautiful depiction of vintage cars on cobblestone streets, bathed in soft, atmospheric light. This piece resonates with a sense of nostalgia and transports viewers to a timeless scene that feels both familiar and enchanting.

The Sun Chariot is a fascinating work that pays homage to the Nalanga temple art. Artist meticulous rendering of the astronomical sundial, with its eight spokes representing the "prahars" of the day, is both educational and visually captivating. The painting serves as a reminder of the rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels that continue to inspire artists today. Her ability to capture both natural and architectural beauty with precision invites



viewers to appreciate the power of art and the beauty that surrounds us. In *Anchored in Serenity* the artist depicts a tranquil boat scene that encourages reflection and peace. The painting's serene composition invites viewers to pause and consider the importance of finding calm amid the chaos of modern life. *The Bridge* similarly highlights the significance of connections and relationships, celebrating the beauty of bridges as symbols of unity and continuity. *The Power of Music*, celebrates music as a universal language of the spirit, while *Sunflowers*, presents a spiritual perspective on these bright blooms. These

artworks reflect the artist's thoughtful approach and emotional depth, conveyed through vibrant colors and delicate detail. The curation of the exhibition by Dr. Alka Pande further enhances the experience, providing context and insight into the themes and techniques that define Mahajan's work. Pande's expertise in Indian arts and

aesthetics brings an added layer of understanding, making the exhibition not only visually engaging but also intellectually stimulating. *This Beautiful World* is an exhibition that beautifully captures the essence of the world around us. Mahajan's paintings are a tribute to her talent and dedication and the exhibition as a whole serves as a reminder of the power of art to inspire, uplift and connect us to the world. The blend of nature, culture and emotion in her work offers a refreshing perspective and an opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary beauty that exists in the ordinary moments of life.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

IN BRIEF



Coffee Day: NCLT orders insolvency proceedings

Corporate dispute tribunal NCLT has ordered initiating insolvency proceedings against Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL), the parent company of Coffee Day Group which operates Cafe Coffee Day chain of coffee houses. The Bengaluru bench of the NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) on August 8 admitted the plea filed by IDBI Trusteeship Services Ltd (IDBITSL) claiming a default of Rs 228.45 crore and appointed an interim resolution professional to take care of the operation of the debt-ridden company. CDEL, which also owns and operates a resort, renders consultancy services and is engaged in the sale and purchase of coffee beans, had defaulted in the payment of coupon payments of redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs). The financial creditor had subscribed 1,000 NCDs through private placement and paid Rs 100 crore towards the subscription in March 2019.



Rupee rises 2 paise to close at 83.95 against US dollar

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 2 paise at 83.95 against US dollar on Friday, supported by gains in the domestic markets. Forex traders said the rupee edged up slightly on gains in the domestic markets. However, a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains for the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.95 and touched an intraday low of 83.96 and a high of 83.88 against the dollar during the session. It finally settled at 83.95 against the American currency, higher by 2 paise from its previous close. The local unit had slumped 37 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.09 against the US dollar on Monday. On Thursday, the rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 2 paise at 83.97 against US dollar.



VA Tech WABAG Ltd secures repeat order from CMWSSB

Water treatment player VA Tech WABAG Ltd has secured a repeat order of Rs 415 crore from the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, the company said on Saturday. The order is towards the Operation and Maintenance of 110 million litres per day Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Desalination Plant at Nemmeli in Chennai for a period of 7 years, city-based VA Tech WABAG Ltd said. VA Tech WABAG had bagged an Operation and Maintenance contract from the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) and it was completed in 2021. In a BSE filing today, the company said, "CMWSSB floated a public tender for the Operation and Maintenance of the plant and WABAG secured this repeat order for Operating and Maintaining the plant for another 7 years."

Banks should focus on their core business: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday exhorted banks to focus on their core business and explore new ways to attract deposits, as household savings are increasingly shifting towards alternate investment products.

"Both RBI and the government have been asking banks to focus on their business activity... they should be aggressive in deposit mobilisation and then lend. That is the core activity of banks," she said.

Interacting with the media after her customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), she said there is mismatch between credit and deposit growth presently.

Stressing that banks should give emphasis on collecting deposits, she said, "RBI has given them some liberty in managing the interest rates. Using that liberty, they should make deposits attractive... bring innovative products and mobilise deposits."

She also urged bankers to shun lazy banking and focus on small savers rather than big or bulk deposits.

"Trickles (small savings) are going to be your bread and butter, money to bank on... that trickle which was the emphasis long back, which kept nothing for the other side (big deposits).



Now we've (banks) gone to the other side completely. Now they are chasing bulk deposits to meet their targets," she said.

But the requisite small deposit mobilisation is one of the very critical jobs of a bank, she said, adding "it might be grinding monotony, but that's where your bread and butter lies." Echoing a similar view, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said "we have been witnessing about 300 to 400 basis points gap between deposits and credit growth, deposits are lower."

"So at the moment, our effort is to highlight this point. It is kind of a proactive caution for the banks' management that going forward, this may create structural issues with regard to

RBI has given them some liberty in managing the interest rates. Using that liberty, they should make deposits attractive... bring innovative products and mobilise deposits

liquidity management. As it stands today, we don't see a crisis. But it has to be attended to."

Banks should leverage their vast branch network to mobilise deposits through innovative means and products, he emphasised.

He further said interest rates are deregulated and often banks raise deposit rates to attract funds. Asked if any policy intervention is required to bolster deposit growth, Das said, "India has deregulated interest

rates and if you back on regulating deposit and credit rate, it can be retrograde and distort the market."

RBI Governor while unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy earlier in the week, also had expressed concern of deposit-lending mismatch in the banking sector.

He had said that banks were taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit

'Garment sector facing uncertainty due to Bangladesh crisis'

The Indian garment and knitted fabric sector is witnessing a bit of uncertainty due to the Bangladesh crisis, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday, expressing hope that the interim government there will settle things "sooner rather than later." Interacting with the media on the sidelines of customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India, she said efforts are being taken to ensure that borders with the neighbouring country are safe. With regard to Indian investments, she said, the textile industry particularly from Tamil Nadu has made investments there in good faith and they have done well having gone there. "The exports from Bangladesh also increased because of the duty and quota liberal approach that we have towards low-income countries. They (Indian garment industry based in Bangladesh) could even export to India." Particularly, she said, the garment and knitted fabric sector is seeing a bit of uncertainty because of the crisis in the neighbouring country. "I hope that

the investments are all safe... it's too early for me to see what kind of an impact this situation in Bangladesh will have on our economy. I hope that the interim government will settle things sooner rather than later so that both the people of Bangladesh and India can get back to normalcy," she said. Earlier this week, Bangladesh plunged into a political crisis when Sheikh Hasina resigned as the Prime Minister and fled the country. Soon after Parliament was dissolved leading to the creation of an interim government. The 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus on Thursday took oath as the head of an interim government, replacing Sheikh Hasina who abruptly resigned and fled to India leaving the country in turmoil following deadly protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs. On Friday, Bangladesh's interim leader Yunus announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors and named a former top diplomat to head the foreign ministry.

demand. This, he had warned, "may potentially expose the banking system to structural liquidity issues. Banks may, therefore, focus more on mobil-

isation of household financial savings through innovative products and service offerings and by leveraging fully on their vast branch network."



CELL MANUFACTURING PLANT IN TG

Amara Raja group holds groundbreaking ceremony

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amara Raja Group on Saturday held a groundbreaking ceremony of their Customer Qualification Plant (CQP) for cell manufacturing at Divitipally, in Mahabubnagar district in the state.

Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies (ARACT), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Amara Raja Energy & Mobility

Limited (ARE&M), one of India's leading industrial and automotive battery majors, held the grand ceremony.

The battery maker's Phase 1 of the battery pack plant was also inaugurated with a current capacity of 1.5 GWh, a press release from the company said.

The plant makes Li-ion battery packs specifically suited for Indian conditions and will be supplying to major EV OEMs along with being used

for stationary energy storage requirements.

The CQP, which is all set to be operational by Q1 of the next financial year, can produce various cell types for customer testing and validation.

The project recently received a fillip after ARE&M's collaboration with Gotion Inobat (GIB) for technology, manufacturing and customized solutions, it said.

Mobile phones priced Rs 10k, 20k dominate Indian market: Infinix

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mobile phones priced in the range of Rs 10,000-20,000 dominate the country's smartphone industry, constituting over 40 per cent of the total market size, according to Infinix India CEO Anish Kapoor.

Kapoor said the demand for 5G-enabled handset has increased in the recent past and devices

priced between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 see higher demand as compared to those priced below Rs 10,000 that used to dominate the market earlier.

The stagnancy, which was in the market for the past two years, has changed, and the market has once again started to grow back, said Kapoor who was in Lucknow on Thursday for the launch of the



company's latest smartphone Note 40X 5G.

"...earlier the phones which were priced under Rs 10,000 used to dominate the market in India, and it was around 35 per cent to 40 per cent. Now, the major market has gone to the mobile phones priced in the range Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 now, which is close to 43 per cent," Kapoor said.

He attributed the new trend to users' preference towards upgraded features and the latest technology.

"We are also seeing that after the advent of the 5G tech-

nology, everybody wants a 5G phone. The demand for 5G technology has gone up. Right now 5G phones start at Rs 10,000 to Rs 11,000," Kapoor said.

About his company's performance in the local market, the Infinix India CEO said, "Uttar Pradesh is one of the biggest markets for us both online and offline, and the response has been phenomenal for us as a brand."

He said the company has been trying to create "break-through products and premium features at more affordable segments, and that's what we are known as a brand."

Explore alternatives to sugercane: Shah

URGES SUGAR MILLS TO DIVERSIFY ETHANOL PRODUCTION

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday called on sugar mills to explore alternatives to sugarcane for ethanol production, pushing for a multi-dimensional approach to biofuel manufacturing.

Speaking at an event organized by the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCFSF), Shah said India would achieve

its 20 per cent ethanol blending target by 2025-26, ahead of the original 2030 deadline.

The minister highlighted that the government's ethanol blending programme has helped reduce the country's crude oil import bill and address environmental concerns.

"You need to be futuristic and look at opportunities and expand. Ethanol can be made from multiple sources," Shah



said, urging cooperative sugar mills to shed their "orthodox"

approach and explore alternative feedstocks such as maize and bamboo.

Shah said about 1,000 crores of ethanol is required for blending, and the necessary infrastructure to achieve this target is in place.

He emphasised the need for sugar mills to modernise and adopt new technologies, citing potential export opportunities once the Global Biofuels Alliance is established.

'Tourism sector could resolve 50% of employment challenges'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The tourism sector has the potential to resolve 50 per cent of the country's employment challenges with the right government support, Lemon Tree Hotels Chairman and Managing Director Patanjali Govind Keswani said on Saturday.

Delivering his address at the first National Conclave on India 2047, organised by IIM Calcutta, he said India's tourism sector is on the verge of hitting the inflexion point.

Keswani pointed out that

several countries have seen that the tourism sector contributes as much as 15-20 per cent to their GDP and account for 25 per cent of employment.

Expressing disappointment over the government's approach towards the tourism sector, he said, "In India, tourism contributes only 6.5 per cent to GDP and a similar share in employment. This sector holds enormous potential for creating jobs." "If the government can leverage this opportunity effectively, it could address up to 50 per cent of our employment challenges," he said.

Domestic food market expected to touch US\$ 1,274 bn

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic food market is expected to grow by over 47 per cent to reach US\$ 1,274 billion by 2027, a report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry and supported by Danfoss India said.

India's food processing industry sees innovative startups emerging with cutting-edge technology, the report titled 'Food Processing Sector in India - Potential for Southern States', and released by CII, CII FACE (Confederation of Indian Industry -- Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence) and Danfoss India, said.

Danfoss India is a leader in heating, ventilation and air-



conditioning and is the subsidiary of Denmark-headquartered engineering major Danfoss.

Some of the key highlights of the report, which was released at the CII-FoodPro 2024 include the potential that southern states hold for food

processing industry. "Tamil Nadu leads India's export of processing fruits, juices and nuts, with a 33 per cent share by quantity and 27 per cent by value, exporting 2,08,370 metric tonnes worth US\$ 220.81 million in 2023-24," the report said.

The food processing industry in India sees innovative startups emerging with cutting-edge technology, the report said.

The study carries insights on emerging trends, technologies and export opportunities enabling businesses to make informed decisions and tap into the sector's potential.

South India's food processing sector is on the cusp of a revolution, with innovative segments like millets, ready-to-eat and plant-based dairy alternatives unlocking a treasure trove of economic opportunities for farmers. The newly launched report reveals, technology holds the key to supercharging this growth, ensuring the highest standards of safety and quality and propelling

India's exports onto the global stage," CII National Council for Cold Chain and Agri Logistics Chairman Ravichandran Purushothaman said.

"At Danfoss India, we are excited to be a part of this transformative journey, driving sustainable food processing solutions that will shape the future of Indian agriculture and food sector," he said in a statement on Saturday.

During the event, Danfoss Optyma Pack Condensing Unit, a reliable and energy-efficient solution for Bulk Milk Cooling and Cold Room applications was launched.

"The Optyma Pack Condensing Unit is a game changer for India's dairy industry and cold room applications.

Sovereign green bonds trading at IFSC to commence soon: RBI Guv

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday said trading of sovereign green bonds can commence at the International Financial Services Centre in Gujarat during the second half of the current fiscal.

"We are in discussion with the IFSC, it will be operationalised very soon. I think in the second half (of the current financial year), it will be possible," Das said.

In April, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced that it will issue a framework to enable the trading of sovereign green bonds in GIFT City.



The government has been raising funds through green bonds since 2022-23 and has raised a total of Rs 36,000 crore in the last two years.

So far in the current financial year, the government has raised only Rs 1,697 crore out of the stipulated Rs 12,000 crore scheduled to be raised in the first half ending in September through green

bonds as it did not find favourable bids.

Asked about the tepid response from investors to such bond issuance, Das said, "as the debt manager of the government, we are watchful of what exactly is happening and if something needs to be done we will interact with the government and deal with it."

He further said, one major announcement in this year's budget about developing a climate taxonomy.

"I think that will have a significant long-term impact on mobilisation of funds for the green sector, not only through green bonds but also overall financing of the green sector," he said.

"There are so many roads you can take that will lead you the wrong way, that nobody will hear your name"
- Maria Sharapova



DELHI-DEHRADUN EXPRESSWAY DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH DAMAGE?

The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project, nearing completion, is expected to be an example for the world with the longest wildlife corridor in Asia. It will cut the travel time between the two cities to 2.5 hours but apprehensions remain about its impact, writes **PARITOSH KIMOTHI**

Uttarakhand has for long been a popular destination for pilgrims and tourists. While Haridwar is a major pilgrimage centre in the plains, the provisional State capital Dehradun hosts a number of prominent national-level institutions including the Survey of India and Indian Military Academy along with famous educational institutions, apart from being the gateway to the popular hill station of Mussoorie and other tourism activities especially in the mountainous regions of Garhwal in the State. Apart from long weekends and special occasions, the summer months frequently witness a large number of people arriving here especially from Delhi-NCR. Similarly, snowfall in the nearby hills also attracts a number of tourists from neighbouring regions. At present, people travel between Delhi and Dehradun/Haridwar by road, train or by air. The time taken to travel between Doon and the national Capital by road ranges from five to seven hours depending on the time when one travels and the location one is going to. Similarly, it takes about five to six hours by train and though the flight takes 40 minutes to one hour, one may spend more than an additional hour to get to the destination from the airport. This scenario is expected to be changed drastically in the near future with the completion of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project of the National Highways Authority of India. The completion of this 212-kilometre six-lane access controlled expressway with a project cost of Rs 14,000 crore, which is in its final stage of construction, will drastically cut down the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun/Haridwar to 2.5 hours. This expressway is also expected to be an example for the world as it also features a 13.8 kilometre elevated road, making it Asia's longest wildlife corridor. The authorities involved in the project state that the

“THE DEHRADUN-BASED WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA (WII) SET UP 80 CAMERA TRAPS ON THIS STRETCH AND STUDIED WILDLIFE MOVEMENT HERE FOR THREE MONTHS. THE MOVEMENT OF ABOUT 40 TO 50 DIFFERENT WILDLIFE SPECIES RANGING FROM DEER AND WILD BOAR TO LEOPARDS AND ELEPHANTS WAS ASCERTAINED HERE IN THIS DURATION. AS PART OF THE EXPRESSWAY PROJECT, THE AUTHORITIES WILL ALSO WORK ON AN ECO-RESTORATION PLAN.”



stretch where the elevated road has been built has Rajaji National Park on the one side and the Shivalik Wildlife Reserve on the other. An average of 35,000 vehicles pass daily through this stretch. Widening the existing stretch of the highway between Ganeshpur in the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh and Asharodi in Dehradun would have been cheaper but might have ended causing more environmental damage and exacerbating human-wildlife conflict. Widening the existing highway would have entailed the cutting of about 1.5 lakh trees while about 11,000 trees had to be cut for building the elevated road. The Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) set up 80 camera traps on this stretch and studied wildlife movement here for three months. The movement of about 40 to 50 different wildlife species ranging from deer and wild boar to leopards and elephants was ascertained here in this duration. As part of the expressway project, the authorities will also work on an eco-restoration plan. Further, budget

has been allocated for the WII to place cameras on the 550 pillars to study wildlife movement on this corridor for a period of five years. Similarly, the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun will undertake a three-year Sal tree regeneration project in this area to enhance the environment. According to officials involved in the project, the elevated stretch is expected to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and also prove beneficial for the wildlife and environment. At present, the longest such wildlife corridor in India is about eight kilometres long and is located in Pench, connecting Madhya Pradesh with Maharashtra. While this project promises to bring about drastic changes not just in Dehradun and Haridwar but also in Delhi, there are many who have apprehensions about the impacts of this major development. Dehradun-based anthropologist and heritage expert Lokesh Ohri says that the project will certainly have benefits but questioned whether Dehradun and Mussoorie are prepared for what is to come. "The opening of

this expressway will practically turn Dehradun into a part of the NCR like Ghaziabad or Faridabad. The flood of visitors has already converted Rishikesh into a trap for the locals who struggle to move around the city through traffic congestion resulting from the rush of tourists, who in turn also face the problem. The pressure on the forest wealth of this region and real estate will also increase after the expressway becomes functional. Though such projects do benefit all, the focus should also have been on ensuring that the locals benefit more. Apart from this, the authorities here do not seem to have taken any measures to prevent the negative impacts the project will have on Dehradun and Mussoorie," he said. Human rights lawyer Reenu Paul who had also challenged the Ganeshpur-Asharodi stretch of the project in the Uttarakhand High Court for conservation of the Shivalik ecosystem, opined that damage to the Shivalik range will cause considerable damage to the

environment and climate of the Doon Valley. She points out, "The Shivaliks play a vital role in insulating the Doon Valley against high winds, heat, dust and pollutants from the plains on the south western side of the valley. In the Gazetteers of Dehradun published in 1910, HG Walton had remarked that the climate of Dehradun differs from the plains owing to its elevation, while the wooded range of the Shivalik partly suppress and partly moisten the scorching winds that blow during the hot weather in the plains. Apart from this, the project doesn't appear to be sustainable as the hillocks of the Shivalik are highly eroding. The tributaries of the Ganga river including Mohan Rao, Sukh Rao, Saloni and Chilla Rao have also been disturbed and obstructed, disturbing the hydrology of the area. The wildlife corridor has also been fragmented," she opined. The authorities are confident that the opening of the Delhi-Dehradun expressway will not only enhance public convenience by drastically cutting down the travel time, but also boost economic activities further in the region. Infrastructural development is a major focus of the Union government and is a vital requirement for achieving the desired level of economic progress and public welfare. On the other hand, many in Dehradun remain sceptical about the impacts this project will have. The once green and serene Doon Valley has witnessed a considerable drop in greenery and rise in congestion and pollution in recent years. The city's existing infrastructure struggles to meet the requirements of the locals and visitors as factors like congestion and inadequate parking space have impacted the very character of Doon and life here. Expected to be completed in the next couple of months, the opening of the expressway for traffic is sure to bring about drastic changes. However, only time will tell the real cost of this major development.

Glittering affair: Nothing short of fashion fantasia!

AARTI SREENATH

In Hyderabad, fashion isn't merely about following trends; it's a deep dive into personal expression, where every garment and every accessory is chosen with care and thought. This passion for fashion came alive in a spectacular display at the AISPI and Nykaa Beauty Vault's exclusive trunk show, held at the opulent Almai.

This was no ordinary event—it was an experience designed for those who live and breathe fashion. The trunk show was a curated journey through the finest in both Indian and international fashion, a celebration of luxurious fabrics, featuring an exquisite curation of over 35+ renowned global brands from Italy, United Kingdom, France, Turkey, Germany, Denmark, Japan and others. It was an invitation to indulge in the art of dressing, to explore new trends and to push the boundaries of personal style.

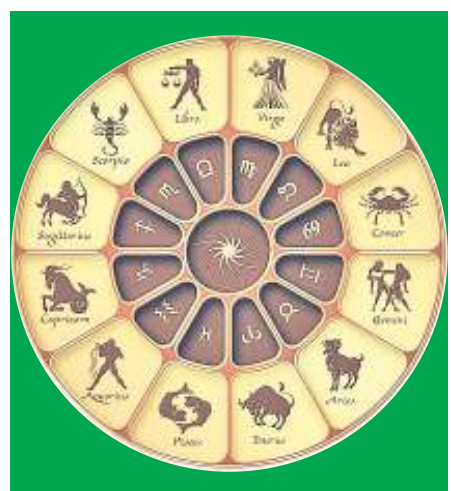
As the venue was filled with Hyderabad's fashion-forward crowd, the air buzzed with excitement. Every detail of the event was crafted to appeal to the city's sophisticated palate. The trunk show was not just about what was on the racks; it was about the stories behind the designs, the inspiration that fuelled their creation and the creative minds that brought them to life.

Prepared to marvel at Rosantica's expertly-crafted handbags, straight from the runway, exploring whimsical designs by Lalangi favoured by celebrities like Jennifer Lopez and Cardi B, and got dazzled by Gedebe's never-before-seen sparkling bags. Organised by AISPI, the event was a showcase of ITRH by Ridhi Bansal's latest collection, drawing in the city's fashion elite, influencers and trendsetters who live and breathe fashion.

A special highlight of the event was the exclusive opportunity for attendees to pre-order the renowned pill bags from Marzook, carried by celebrities like Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Beyonce. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as Hyderabad's glitterati mingled, their eyes catching the shimmer of mirror work and the glint of rich, luxurious fabrics. It was a feast for the senses—elegance at every turn, with every corner of the space

echoing the grandeur of Indian craftsmanship infused with contemporary flair. ITRH's collection was the crown jewel of the event, a series of designs that spoke volumes about the creative genius of Ridhi Bansal! Ridhi Bansal, in her candid conversation, revealed the intricate dance of creativity and uncertainty that goes into each collection. "Designing is like painting a canvas, where you never know the final picture until it's complete. Our clients often surprise us, preferring something entirely different from what we expect. It's challenging, but it keeps us on our toes," she mused. Her design process is a journey—from sketching initial ideas inspired by art and architecture to experimenting with colours and fabrics and finally, crafting pieces that are both timeless and trendsetting. The vision was to bring the best of both worlds—Western and Indian fashion—to Hyderabad, a city known for its sartorial elegance. The synergy between these global beauty giants and ITRH's regal designs created a unique shopping experience that was as immersive as it was exclusive. Nykaa's Megha Chakravarthy was all smiles as she discussed the collaboration. "Our goal is to bring luxury closer to home and Hyderabad's response has been fantastic. We want our customers to

explore, experiment and find what truly resonates with them," she shared. The trunk show wasn't just about selling products; it was about creating a space where beauty and fashion lovers could discover new ways to express themselves. Deepika Tikkavarapu, the force behind Almai and a well-known fashion commentator, added her own flair to the event. Her vision was clear: to make shopping an experience rather than just a transaction. "Hyderabad is discerning and its people know what they want. You can't just bring anything to this city; it has to be special; it has to be desirable," she explained. Her personal style—structured, high-quality pieces with a play on texture and print—was reflected in the carefully curated selection available at the trunk show. As the event progressed, guests were treated to more than just fashion. There was an air of indulgence—luxury cheeses were served and conversations flowed as freely as the champagne. Attendees were invited to try on the latest designs, consult with stylists and walk out with complete looks that were ready for any occasion. The mix of Indian and Western styles, along with the array of accessories and beauty products, ensured that every guest left with something unique and personal.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE AUGUST 4 - 10



ARIES

Embrace unexpected connections and harmony. Your innovative nature and deep relationships will bring joy. Stay confident. Don't let others' insecurities affect you.

TAURUS

Your hard work will soon pay off, allowing you to relax. Be patient with siblings. Nurture relationships carefully. Use your strong personality to overcome challenges.

GEMINI

You're seeking adventure. Patience and communication will avoid disputes. Support from friends will help win goals. Embrace new ventures. Use your energy wisely.

CANCER

Your hard work will soon pay off, but remember to rest. Self-improvement and confidence will guide you. Think hard before committing. Stay logical in your deals.

LEO

Your experimental nature will invite attention. Persist in love, but delay major job changes. Be emotionally firm, and enjoy support from unexpected financial sources.

VIRGO

Your attraction to beauty and harmony will relax you. Stay confident and manage your emotions wisely. Embrace your artistic talent. Keep a practical mind.

LIBRA

Your experimental nature will earn appreciation. Stay calm under pressure, focus on personal growth, and embrace upcoming changes. Manage expenses wisely.

SCORPIO

Focus on self-improvement with support from loved ones. Manage financial stress, pursue personal growth, and stay confident. Unexpected challenges may arise.

SAGITTARIUS

Address suspicions with siblings early. Balance personal growth with obligations. Embrace relationships and creativity. Be wary of emotions affecting your health.

CAPRICORN

New project ideas will emerge, and your experimental nature will help you choose wisely. Focus on self-care, manage emotions calmly, and embrace opportunities.

AQUARIUS

Proceed with your plans as signs are favourable. Seek advice if facing issues with superiors or children. New ventures and project approvals look promising.

PISCES

Your hard work will soon pay off. Be gentle with loved ones despite the pressure. Your energy and leadership will get support. Use your stamina wisely. Stay humble.

WHAT'S NEW

INDULGE IN LUXURY PERFUME

Unleash your X factor with this exclusive gift set of 4 distinguished perfumes, Euphoria, Conquer and Harmony & Discoverer, perfect for the corporate man. The Park Avenue Luxury Perfume Gift Set for Men is crafted by global perfumers. Euphoria EDP features exotic mix of citrus blend with amber and musk, while Harmony EDP offers tangy



INTRODUCING B-YOND

The ultimate gaming headset by Swiss Military that elevates your audio experience beyond the ordinary. Enjoy exceptional sound quality with deep bass and a wide frequency response range, bringing every game to life with stunning clarity. Boasting an impressive playtime of up to 15 hours and an astounding standby time of up to 500 hours, B-YOND ensures uninterrupted gaming and music sessions.



EXPLORE FA HOME'S PLAYFUL CUSHION AND THROW SETS

Make your gift-giving truly special with FA Home's exquisite cushion and throw sets! FA Home has crafted a collection that combines practicality with playfulness, ensuring your present is both heartfelt and memorable. Imagine wrapping your loved ones in comfort and joy with their premium and breathable cotton jacquard fabrics, perfect for cosying up every day. Their sets are designed to be as useful as they are beautiful, making them a perfect choice for this festive occasion.



BONKERS CORNER'S EXCITING APPAREL COLLECTION



NEWEST CRUNCHY CORN FLAVOURS

Crunchy Corn by 4700BC is a burst of flavours and textures in every bite. Experience the perfect combination of newest Crunchy Corn flavours: Sour Cream & Onion, Himalayan Salt and Hawaiian BBQ. Each piece of corn is expertly seasoned and roasted to crunchy perfection, creating a delightful snack that satisfies your taste buds.



The Hello Kitty apparel collection by Bonkers Corner blends Hello Kitty's iconic Kawaii charm with Bonkers Corner's trademark creativity. The collection includes skirts, oversized t-shirts, crop tops, bottoms and caps, ensuring there is something for every Hello Kitty enthusiast. The Hello Kitty Collection offers a range of affordable options, priced from 299 to 1099, catering to fans of all ages.

Eye gummies for enhanced vision

Venturing into the nutraceutical segment, Jagat Pharma, has announced the launch of Isotine Eye Gummies. These gummies are specially formulated for kids and adults to nourish the eyes and promote optimal vision development.



Effortless cooking, anywhere!

TTK Prestige introduces Infrared Cooktop PIRC 1.0. The infrared cooktop redefines cooking experience, seamlessly blending functionality, safety and efficiency. It boasts its exceptional features like its durable stainless-steel body and a sleek design that ensures a long-lasting and stylish addition to any kitchen. Its portability adds unparalleled convenience, making it a versatile choice for various cooking needs.



DI AI DESIGNS ENTERS US MARKET

DI Ai Designs, a leading Indian brand that offers sustainable lab grown diamond jewellery, announces their US website launch.



This monsoon, savour hot & healthy recipes!

'FORK'-LORE



As the monsoon rains usher in refreshing coolness, there's nothing better than indulging in warm, comforting dishes during this season. Godrej Appliances presents some simple yet delicious and easy-to-make monsoon recipes that you can prepare in a microwave oven. From crispy bajra tikki, some savoury millet pyaaz pakoda and delightful vegetable dumplings, these recipes are perfect to relish on a rainy day. Let's dive into these mouth-watering treats and make the most of this beautiful season.

BAJRA TIKKI

Ingredients:
Bajra (Millet) Flour 2 cups
Jaggery powder 1 cup
Til Sesame Seeds ½ cup
Oil For Brushing 4 tsp
Water as required

Method of preparation:

Step 1: Add jaggery in water and cook for 2 minutes in Micro mode till the jaggery melts.
Step 2: Take a mixing bowl, in it sieve the millet flour, and add 2 tablespoons oil. Knead

this mixture well with jaggery syrup that was just prepared. Ensure the dough is not too hard or too soft.

Step 3: Now take the dough little by little and make small size tikkis.

Step 4: Arrange all the tikki on a crispy plate, brush some oil on it and place the crispy plate on the grill mesh rack in the oven. Select Convection mode, set the temperature at 200°C and bake for 12 minutes.

Step 2: After the beep, remove the crispy plate out of the oven, turn all the tikki upside down, brush some oil on it and bake again in convection mode for another 12 minutes. Serve hot once its ready.



MILLET PYAAZ PAKODA

Ingredients:
Kodo Millet Soaked 1½ cup
Moong Dal Soaked 1 cup
Onion Chopped 1 cup
Grated Gajar ½ cup

Green Peas ¼ cup
Sweet Corn Kernels ½ cup
Red Chili Powder 1 tsp
Garam Masala 1 tsp
Coriander Powder 1 tsp
Green Chili Chopped 2 tsp
Grated Ginger 1 tsp
Coriander Chopped ¼ cup

Oil for Brushing

Method of preparation:

Step 1: In a mixer jar, add soaked kodo millet & soaked moong dal (it should be soaked for more than 7 hours), mix well and make a paste of it.

Step 2: Collect this paste in a bowl, add all remaining ingredients to it and mix everything well without water- this is the pakoda batter.

Step 3: Now take a crispy plate or a baking dish, grease it with a brush of oil. With the help of a spoon, place small sized portions of the pakoda batter on the plate. Arrange this crispy plate on the grill mesh rack in the oven. Select Convection mode at 200 °C temperature, set timer of 12 minutes and press start.

Step 4: After the beep, remove the crispy plate and turn all the pakoda upside down, and again set a timer of 10 mins to fry it well. Serve Hot.

For dumpling dough:

All-purpose flour 1½ cup
Warm Water as required
Corn/Rice flour for Dusting

Method of preparation:

Step 1: To make the dough, put the flour in a large mixing bowl. Gradually add water to the flour and knead into a smooth dough. Cover with a damp cloth and let the dough rest for 1 hour.

Step 2: Now to prepare the filling, take a microwave oven safe bowl, add oil, onion, garlic, ginger, spring onion, mix well and select micro mode on high power (P-100), set time for 3 minutes and press start to cook all the ingredients.

Step 3: After the beep, remove the bowl and add all remaining ingredients, mix well and cook again for 5 minutes. The dumpling filling is ready.

Step 4: Now take the dough that was resting aside and cut the dough into small pieces.

Step 5: Take a small piece of dough, dust it with some flour and roll it, this is your dumpling wrapper. Hold one dumpling wrapper in the palm of your hand. Take 1 tsp of filling and place in the centre of your wrapper. Wet the top half edge with water; fold the wrapper in half and pinch in the centre. Use your

thumbs to pleat from the centre all the way to the edge of one side and seal. Repeat on the other side – pleat from the centre to the end. The dumpling should now be sealed end to end.

Step 6: Arrange all the dumplings in a lightly greased crispy plate and place it on the grill stand in the oven. Select Convection mode at 200 °C temperature and set time for 12 minutes, then press start.

Step 7: After the beep, remove the plate and apply oil with brush to all the dumplings, turn the dumplings upside down and again arrange in the oven. Once again select convection mode, 200 °C temperature and set time for 12 minutes, press start.

Serve hot with Sauce.

VEGETABLE DUMPLINGS

Ingredients :
Dumpling Wrappers 12
Chopped Mushroom ¾ cup
Chopped Onion ½ cup
Grated Gajar ¾ cup
Chopped Spring Onion ½ cup
Soya Sauce 2 tsp
Chopped Garlic Cloves few
Grated Ginger 1 ½ tsp
Sugar 1 tsp
Pepper Powder ½ tsp
Salt to taste
Oil as required





CHAT-O-CINO

LAUGHTER IS A CRIME, KENNY'S THE KINGPIN

Kenny Sebastian, the man with many talents, gets onboard for an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, as he takes us through his magnetic personality and explores his comedy prowess.

AARTI SREENATH

In a parallel universe where laughter is outlawed and joy is a black-market commodity, a lone figure stands against the tyranny of seriousness. This isn't the plot of a dystopian novel, but the whimsical imagination of Kenny Sebastian, the maverick comedian who would hide in alleys, selling illicit giggles to those brave enough to defy the law. His story is not just about laughter; it's a narrative of resilience, self-discovery and the pursuit of genuine human connection. And as he continues to weave his comedic magic, one thing is clear: in a world where laughter might one day be illegal, Kenny will always be there, hiding in the alleys, ready to make us laugh, no matter the cost. His journey from a shy, introspective artist to a beloved comedian is a testament to the transformative power of humour and the enduring spirit of those who dare to make the world a happier place, one joke at a time.

Well, we have the gagster onboard today for our special Celeb Talk segment and as we begin, "I'd charge a hefty fee," he chuckles, "as long as you're not a cop, of course."

Kenny's journey into the realm of comedy is not just about making people laugh; it's a profound exploration of human connection. "We all crave to find out that we are not that different from the rest," he muses. "But at the same time, we want to feel a little bit special." This philosophy has shaped his approach to humour, transforming his stand-up routines from light-hearted anecdotes into deep, introspective performances. Reflecting on his evolution, he notes, "In my 20s, any connection with the audience was satisfying. Now, a deeper connection seems like the only connection worth having."

If Kenny were to pen his life story, he would title it *Why the Hell Not?*—an apt reflection of his fearless approach to life and comedy. This attitude extends to his hypothetical stand-up routine for none other than Sir Isaac Newton. "I'd love to see Newton admit, 'I don't understand calculus either!'" he imagines, picturing the legendary scientist's faux pas. The idea of making a historical genius like Newton laugh underscores Kenny's belief in the universality of humour—a tool to bridge even the widest gaps.

Despite his confident stage presence, Kenny reveals a lesser-known side: off-stage, he is surprisingly calm and shy. This juxtaposition between his public persona and private self adds another layer to his comedy, often touching on personal anxieties and vulnerabilities. "Making jokes about a subject doesn't make us worse than the subject," he explains, highlighting the therapeutic nature of his work. This candid admission makes his comedy more relatable, as he often draws on his own life experiences and struggles, weaving them into his performances.

Even amidst the cheers and laughter, he admits that dealing with trolls and negative comments is still challenging. "It hurts a lot, especially because my goal is to make people happy. When those same people say mean things, it's tragic," he confesses. This vulnerability reveals the dual nature of being in the public eye, where the drive to entertain is sometimes met with harsh criticism.

Beyond comedy, he has a passion for painting, sketching and motorbikes. With a degree in painting and a love for his Kawasaki Ninja 650 and Triumph Bonneville 900, he leads a life filled with diverse interests. His creative pursuits extend beyond the stage, as he finds solace and expression in the visual arts. He's also obsessed with animals, especially dogs and enjoys

cooking, working out, gaming and travelling with his wife. These hobbies paint a picture of a well-rounded individual who finds joy and inspiration in various aspects of life.

In a rapid-fire round, he reveals a few fun facts: he's a night owl, loves chicken curry and rice, prefers tea over coffee and can't resist a good dumb joke. His go-to karaoke song? Any John Mayer hit. But beyond these playful tidbits, Kenny hopes his comedy leaves a lasting impact. "Expecting entertainers to inspire social change is infantilising the capabilities of the general public," he says. "Everyday individuals are the ones who create social change. My impact, hopefully, leaves people feeling like life is slightly more hopeful."

For aspiring comedians, his advice is simple yet profound: "Always do stand-up comedy for the right reasons—trying to make people laugh and being the funniest person you can be. Any other reason won't help you persevere in this career for decades." His creative process is a blend of respect for every idea and a keen observation of the world around him. "I never let my inner voice die," he shares. "If my brain gives me an idea, I treat it with the utmost respect." This approach speaks to his dedication and passion for his craft, where every thought is a potential spark for the next great joke.

As for what's next, he promises "creative, silly and uplifting jokes," with a hint of music in his upcoming special. If his routines had superpowers, they would instill a deep appreciation for people, nature and animals. He reflects on the struggles of his early career—financial instability, doubt, negativity from peers, and sleepless nights—but remains proud of the person he has become. This journey of perseverance and growth underscores his belief in the power of comedy to connect, heal, and inspire.

TRENDING

VINESH PHOGAT

PERSON



Vinesh was disqualified for being 100 grams over the 50-kilogram weight limit. Lopez won silver, Sarah won gold and Vinesh dashed hopes.

NEWSPRINT WORTH OVER RS 3 MILLION SET ON FIRE

VIDEO

Newsprint valued at more than Rs 3 million was purportedly burned on fire by highway extortionists.



DOUBLE ISMART

MOVIE



In order to fit the part of iSmart Shankar, Ram dropped eighteen kilograms. *Double iSmart*, the result of his second partnership with Puri Jagannadh, is scheduled for release on August 15.

CHUTTAMALLE

SONG



Many people have applauded the upbeat song *Chuttamalle*. However, other Reddit users were not thrilled, claiming that there was "no chemistry between Janhvi and Jr NTR" in the song. A few others also mentioned their 14-year age difference.

PICTURE



The change in Switzerland's Rhone Glacier over 15 years was recently captured, which further highlighted the need for immediate action.

We hear you, Mumma!

TEJAL SINHA

Despite being a natural way to nourish and bond with an infant, breastfeeding is frequently frowned upon. This leads to the mother feeling overwhelmed with guilt and shame. In order to prevent this scenario, it is important to empower the mother who is breastfeeding to nourish her child in both private and public settings. To curb this, every year we celebrate World Breastfeeding Week. 2024 also saw us celebrate the normalisation of breastfeeding with the theme Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All. Breastfeeding certainly provides a wide range of advantages for both the mother and child. Improved nutrition, optimised protection against diseases, avoiding infections, mental and emotional growth, improved digestion health and decreased chances of developing diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular illnesses are some of the benefits that are recognised for the infant.

BREASTFEEDING AND MATERNAL NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH

Breastfeeding helps mothers in faster postnatal recovery, weight loss, reducing the risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes, and lowering the risk of breast and ovarian cancers. Apart from these benefits, there is a growing recognition of the connection between breastfeeding and maternal neurological health. Dr. Lekha Viswanath, Professor and Lactation Expert at Amrita Hospital, shares, "Oxytocin, popularly known as the love hormone, released during breastfeeding fosters a sense of connection between the mother and the baby. It promotes emotional bonding and maternal-fetal attachment. The combined effects of oxytocin and prolactin help to reduce anxiety, promote relaxation and mood stability and reduce stress. Breastfeeding enhances cognitive wellbeing and emotional resilience among postnatal mothers, probably due to the positive effect on mood and stress levels. The act of breastfeeding helps to reduce weight, reduce the risk of obesity and regulate glucose and lipid metabolism, which are known risk factors for neurodegenerative diseases." Preparation for childbirth and breastfeeding can help the mother promote neurological and mental health during pregnancy. Awareness about the childbirth process has been shown to reduce the stress and anxiety associated with childbirth. Planning for breastfeeding during pregnancy and learning the correct techniques of breastfeeding will help the mothers establish a successful feeding pattern and reduce the problems related to breastfeeding. Support from family and health care providers, adequate rest and sleep, and nutrition are also important in promoting neurologic and mental health. It also helps the mother to develop breastfeeding self-efficacy or confidence and to have a positive

breastfeeding experience.

MYTHS ABOUT BREASTFEEDING

Dr. G Suma Reddy, lactation counsellor and gynecologist, further dismisses a few misconceptions around breastfeeding:

Myth: Nursing is a simple process

Numerous mothers require hands-on assistance in positioning their baby for breastfeeding and ensuring proper attachment to the breast. Breastfeeding requires patience and skill from both mothers and babies. Breastfeeding is also demanding on time; therefore, mothers require both space and support at home and in the workplace.

Myth: Pain is a common part of breastfeeding

Numerous mothers feel uneasy during the initial days postpartum while adjusting to breastfeeding. By receiving proper assistance in positioning their baby for breastfeeding and ensuring their baby is properly latched onto the breast, mothers can prevent sore nipples.

Myth: You must consume plain foods exclusively when nursing your baby

Similar to everyone else, nursing mothers must consume a well-rounded diet. Overall, it is unnecessary to alter eating patterns. Infants are influenced by their mothers' dietary choices even before they are born.

Myth: Working out can alter the flavour of your breast milk

Physical activity is beneficial for breastfeeding moms as well. There is no proof that it alters the flavour of your milk.

CRUCIAL ROLE OF FATHERS

A father's

THE GREATEST BATTLE OF CULTURE - A Story of Harappans, penned by Fishers, Indiana-based Panigrahi Bethi and published through Notionpress, is a fast-paced, interesting narrative which has been positioned as historical fiction, but in which one can find some truths germane to the commingling and evolution of diverse cultures and faiths in the Indian subcontinent. Although the author's note identifies it as "a work of fiction, inspired by ancient history and genome study of the Indus Valley people that was published by various scientists", some of the characters in the work do have

HEALTH TALK

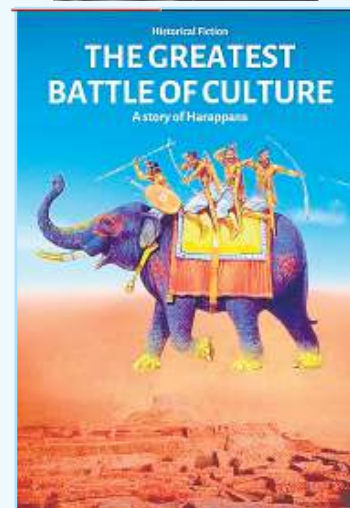
support in breastfeeding is paramount, extending beyond a mother's domain. It profoundly impacts the success of breastfeeding and the overall well-being of the family. Fathers who actively participate in this journey contribute to their partner's emotional well-being, reducing stress and the risk of postpartum depression. Their understanding and encouragement become pillars of strength for mothers navigating the challenges of breastfeeding. Furthermore, Dr. Sai Kiran D, Consultant and Lead Neonatologist, Fernandez Hospital, shares, "Fathers who embrace breastfeeding foster a deeper bond with their babies from the very beginning. By sharing responsibilities like nighttime feedings and diaper changes, fathers actively participate in their child's care. This not only lightens the mother's load but also allows fathers to experience the joys and challenges of parenthood firsthand. Creating a supportive environment is key. Fathers can ensure their partners have a comfortable space to breastfeed and shield them from negativity. Sharing household responsibilities is equally important, as it helps to alleviate the mother's burden, allowing her more time to rest and recover."



splintering of the Aryan Kingdom due to internal

discussions. Historically speaking, the Indus civilisation, earliest known urban culture of the Indian subcontinent, has been dated to about 2,500-1,700 BCE, though some of its southern sites may have lasted later into the 2nd millennium BCE. It is among the world's three earliest civilisations, along with those of Mesopotamia and Egypt and, more importantly, the most extensive. The two major sites of the civilisation, Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, are in Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh provinces respectively. Apart from the two large cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, the civilization comprised more than 100 towns and villages. Some scholars believe that Harappa succeeded Mohenjo-daro, which is known to have been devastated more than once by exceptional floods. Curiously, following recent changes brought by India's National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the Harappan society will henceforth be designated as 'Sindhu-Saraswati civilisation' in NCERT's new Social Science textbooks, starting Class VI. That apart, the word 'Aryan' has widely differing connotations, depending on antiquity and as-yet unverified historical factors. Basically, Aryan was the name originally given to a people who were said to speak an archaic Indo-European language and who were thought to have settled in prehistoric times in ancient Iran and the northern Indian subcontinent. There is also the theory of an 'Aryan race' that appeared in the mid-19th century and remained prevalent until the mid-20th century. It has been postulated that perhaps light-skinned Aryans were the group who invaded and conquered ancient India from the north and whose literature, religion, and modes of social organisation subsequently shaped the course of Indian culture, particularly the Vedic religion that informed and was eventually superseded by Hinduism. Since the late 20th century, several scholars have rejected both the Aryan invasion hypothesis and the use of the term 'Aryan' as a racial designation, suggesting that the Sanskrit term *arya* (meaning 'noble' or 'distinguished') was a social rather than an ethnic epithet. On the whole, the book, as a work of fiction with relatable aspects of major faiths, stands out as a valuable addition to bookshelves.

BOOKFLIX



Kalinga, the enforcement of Varna system by Aryans that created a social hierarchy of Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras - a concept that was entirely alien to the Harappans, the exodus of Harappans to their new homeland called Dravida so much so that they came to be known as Dravidians and the eventual decline of the Indus Valley civilisation amid prolonged drought, rise of Buddhism, the emergence of the Bhagavad Gita as a sacred text to counter Buddhism, and the fanning out of the Buddhist ambassadors post

Relatable tapestry of evolution of an enduring faith



Panigrahi Bethi

Picture yourself entering a realm where the aroma of spices and the essence of traditional delicacies whisk you away to the luxurious time of royal kitchens. This is what you can expect at Khassa, a culinary paradise created with homely touch by chef Shahnoor Jehan. Coming from a royal background, Shahnoor has been carrying forward a long-standing culinary tradition inherited from her ancestors. Her grandmother late Muzaffar Unissa Begum and her mother late Faiq Jehan, who are both of royal lineage, exposed her to priceless collection of ancient recipes and authentic Hyderabad cooking traditions.

Having delved into the vast array of Hyderabad cuisine, Shahnoor Jehan today presents recipes that are over a century old. Her unique gourmet creations translate to food prepared in traditional Hyderabad style. A true-blue Hyderabad, she holds her mother's ancestry in high esteem, but remains grounded in her connection to the city due to her father Shaikat Ali Khan's relatively humble background as an IAS officer.

Her delicacies demonstrate that Hyderabad cuisine goes beyond just biryani. She started her culinary exploration early in life. Thanks to the influence of her grandmother and mother, she adheres with fidelity to traditional cooking techniques, even if they require long hours in the kitchen. Every dish is carefully made to preserve its original cultural essence.

Shahnoor is pleased to have successfully learned her grandmother's cooking methods, which reflect the early Mukalla (formerly Yemen) cuisine. She looks back on her days at Shah Manzil, which is now the Raj Bhavan. It was previously owned by her great grandfather late Shahzore Jung. Additionally, Shahnoor has learned some special secrets from her mother-in-law Shaheda Begum's kitchen. *The Pioneer's* Tejal Sinha got an opportunity to connect with the 'Nawab Shahabzadi' to learn the finer aspects of her growing years, royal lineage and her passion to perpetuate 'Asal Hyderabad' cuisine.



Kissa Khassa Ka

Nurturing royal cuisine at home

TEJAL SINHA

CALM AND STUDIOUS NAWABZAADI

I was a calm kid, just like I am even today. There has not been any significant transformation in me. I was barely two years old when I lost my father. My mother was everything to me. All attention, care and emotions were focussed on her. In a way, she spoiled me a great deal. I was the smallest among siblings. When I was ready for schooling, I was enrolled at St. Anns High School, Secunderabad. I have always had a liking for books. I loved spending time in the library, reading various types of books like comics and storybooks. My passion for studying and reading remained strong even as I grew up. That is how I spent a major portion of my youth. I used to be a typical student, spending most of my time focussed on studying and was not interested in movies or anything else.

L'IL MASTERCHEF'S BEST MEMORY

Whether it was during vacations or after I finished classes, I liked being with my mother in the kitchen. My mother loved to cook, especially for our family. I would stand with her and she would ask me to identify the ingredients and use them in appropriate measurements, such as which dal or masala was used, even though I had no prior knowledge. From the beginning, I learned everything from her. I used to say, 'Mum, you tell me how to do it and I'll do it.' I would support her and educate myself in those areas. I'd grab a recipe book and begin jotting down the recipes with her. She would lead me every step of the way. I also developed a strong liking for cooking. I used to return home from school, study and then sit down with her to write the recipes. There was seldom a time when I would go out and play. I have always been by my mother's side and even now, when I look back, I feel emotional because I spent most of my time with her (she breaks down).

THE MEMORY SHE CHERISHES...

I still have that book with me, though it's in bits and pieces. I remember even if I used to suffer a little bit of burns as a child, or if I used to burn the food a little, mummy used to be like *Nahi nahi kuch nahi hota*. She never compromised on any of the spices. If some of them were not there at home, she would rather not cook. She always used to make sure that all of the ingredients were there before beginning to cook. That's how I actually enjoyed cooking with her. I remember when I used to tell her 'Maa bass, I think you should switch off the flame' she used to be like 'no, it has to get cooked more'. Even if I used to make a small dish, she used to appreciate me and be like *bahut acha bana hai bass yeh thoda daal do aur badhiya banega*. She used to always motivate me about whatever I had made. Till her last days, she used to be like I made the best food. That was the encouragement that I always got from her. *Motivation hamesha rehta tha*.

HOUSE AT AMEERPET

My grandfather's name was Ghulam Gouz Khan, but he was given the title of 'Housseur Jung'. My father was the only son and he had five sisters. He was an IAS officer, of course, born and brought up in Hyderabad. I was just two years old when I lost him; so, I hardly have any memories and hardly remember his face. All that I can say is that I see him in his photos -- IAS officer, as you know, he was a government officer. Back then, I remember my mother telling us, he used to move to various places, depending on his posting. In Hyderabad, we used to live in Khyaban in Ameerpet. That was the house in which my mother and the entire family used to live. We were a joint family.

YOUNGEST OF FOUR SIBLINGS

One of my siblings is married and settled in America, while the rest of us are staying here. A lot of the time, my mother, my elder sister



and I would spend most of our time together. The other two got married first; so, my early years revolved around my mother and my sister. Even though my mother is no longer here with us, my elder sister is present. Even now, whenever I need to share or inquire about something, it is always her. I still recall how my sisters would sew clothes for me.

TRYING TIMES

Post Independence, bereft of royal status, my mother, along with her parents, resided in Shah Manzil. My grandfather, Shahzore Baig, was actually known as Ahmed Baig. He was the grandson of Shahzore Jung. All of them resided at the Shah Manzil, which is now the Raj Bhavan. Thankfully they had additional assets to prevent any hardship during the period following Independence.



PERPETUATING NANI'S LEGACY

My mother's cooking style was similar to that of my grandmother. During that time, every dish was prepared with saffron and pure clarified butter. They enjoyed cooking and hosting dinner parties. Their way of cooking was very similar and I always make sure to replicate it. The flavour in these dishes came from the original ingredients used. Currently, contaminated elements enhance the flavour but lack the genuine essence in the dish.

BEGINNING OF



'LAZEEZDAAR KHASSA'

I never actually had to cook in my in-law's house.

However, every time I cooked, my mother-in-law and husband would always praise me. Even now, my husband is so accustomed to my cooking that wherever he goes, he always insists on having home-cooked food, which is how I began cooking. Later on, my son and husband enjoyed inviting people over for parties and I would cook for them. When they received praise, my family suggested expanding and taking orders. I thought it would be a great way to pass the time now that there are no books and schools. I decided to follow my passion and fortunately I started the business. The name was bestowed in 2019. I got married during my last year of graduation and finished my degree post-marriage. My spouse and indeed both of my kids were my support system. I was at a point in my life where I craved to stay busy. And they truly helped me all the way. My daughter continually encouraged me, while my son preferred me to relax at home. However, my daughter insisted that I shouldn't waste time sitting idle at home. When I inquired about my husband's thoughts on the idea, he enthusiastically responded that it was fantastic and encouraged me to give it a try. I was not very young and being at home would make me feel almost dead. I desired to be active and now, it is hard for me to stay inactive. Despite the presence of others who could work, I still find myself obligated to be in the kitchen working. Since I am receiving orders, I am busy the entire week.

NOT LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE AT SHAH MANZIL

Regrettably, my time at Shah Manzil (now Raj Bhavan) was

AUTHENTIC HYDERABADI KHANA

To be honest, I didn't encounter any difficulties because I was sure that the cuisine handed down to me would be completely genuine --- from the cooking process and ingredients to the methods used. I am happy to announce that I am the one who created the 'authentic Hyderabad cuisine'. Some say they make traditional dishes, citing their heritage, while others may be right in their own way. However, I trust in my own recipes. Some claim to

bring the authentic flavour, but those who have lived in Hyderabad for a long time truly understand its genuine taste. Shortcuts are not available. The cooking methods, cooking style and utensils are all crafted using traditional techniques. The top-selling dishes are *Mutton Roast, Dum Ka Murgh and Haleem*.



RAPID FIRE

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Loving, humble and simple

ARE YOU A FOODIE:

Like to cook but not a heavy eater

YOUR DRIVING FORCE: My daughter

YOUR IDOL: My mom

ARE YOU RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL: Religious

limited. Shah Manzil was named after my grandfather Shah Nawab. Shah Manzil was its new name as a result of his influence. Although my mother resided there, we were not lucky enough to also live there. We have solely listened to anecdotes. During that period, Hyderabad was under the rule of Nawabs. My grandfather was followed by his father Nawab Shahzore Jung. Despite our lack of luck, there are individuals who recount tales of Shah Manzil from the past and the presence of my grandparents and mother there. It still feels good to hear those stories today. As for my father's side, since he was a humble IAS officer, his legacy is still widely discussed by people even today. Elders on my paternal side had good educational backgrounds

RANI INDIRA DEVI'S BLESSINGS

Rani Indira Devi is a close family friend and dear to me because she and my mother were classmates and friends during their school days. She regards me like her own child. My grandmother, grandfather and her parents were as close as if they were family. Whenever I send her a dish or when she visits, she always reminisces about the taste of old times. She would remember the times when they would have dinners at the Shah Manzil. Her residence is at the Gyan Bagh Palace.

CARRYING FORWARD TRADITIONS OF HYDERABADI CUISINE

When I began, several of my mom's friends called to congratulate me on carrying forward the tradition of Hyderabad cuisine, after sampling the traditional meals. Those words used to really surprise me. There were poignant moments when tears welled up in my eyes as I looked at pictures of my mom, realising the love she had received and how she is still remembered by many.



AGE DOESN'T STOP ME..

I am getting older, but I don't consider myself to be very old. Sometimes I feel exhausted, but then I remember that admitting I'm tired means I'm giving up. I continue to be active and my

husband reminds me, "Did you forget how old you are?" I'm like no, I have to. I believe my family has provided a lot of support. It all came up because of the always preferred *Ghar ka Khana*.