

# sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

**Let's work unitedly to confront pressing challenges: Modi**



**Open to increase INDIA'S collaboration with IMF: FM**



**From jingles to JAI HO and beyond**



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer

AI could add great value to any social media campaign by getting better insights into voter behaviour, optimising content delivery and personalising interaction with the electorate. AI tools can analyse vast amounts of data to understand trending issues, get an idea of the public pulse, and create more palatable content for particular demographic groups. The Congress will be able to design much more effective messages and ensure that the right content reaches the right audience at the right time.

- Uttam Kumar Reddy, Irrigation Minister

**DON'T MISS...**

### Zero-tolerance policy towards...

The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) organised an awareness programme on drug abuse and anti-ragging on Saturday at Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University. Dr Jitender, Director General of Police, said that the government has zero-tolerance policy towards drug abuse and ragging. He explained the provisions of the Anti-Ragging Act and highlighted the severe penalties for those found guilty. "The government is committed to creating a...

-PAGE: 3

### Genetic links between...

A new study has uncovered genes that could be related to heart conditions and Alzheimer's disease, suggesting that the two could have similar origins. Researchers said that evidence increasingly links people having the heart condition with a quicker cognitive decline and a 26 per cent increased risk of dementia, affecting one's memory and thinking, and interfering with daily activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia...

-PAGE: 5

### 'Majority blue-collar jobs pay less than...

Majority of blue-collar jobs in India pay within the salary range of Rs 20,000 or less per month, suggesting that a substantial portion of the workforce is grappling with financial strain, struggling to meet essential needs such as housing, healthcare, and education, a report has said. Over 57.63 per cent of blue-collar jobs fall within the salary range of Rs 20,000 or less per month, indicating that many workers earn close to the minimum wage, tech-enabled blue collar recruitment platform WorkIndia said in a report. In addition, the report revealed that about 29.34 per cent of blue-collar...

-PAGE: 8

### From South hits to vogue success!...

The movie Maharaj, which starred Shalini Pandey with Jaideep Ahlawat, Junaid Khan and Sharvari (in a special appearance), received great acclaim. Making it a worldwide, not just in India, must-watch! Thus, how could we have overlooked the interview featuring the prominent actress from the same movie? Our very own South fame from Arjun Reddy is still being praised for her delicate handling of Netflix's Maharaj narrative. Her portrayal undoubtedly brought up significant issues, leaving us wondering where it all started. "I worked on this movie about 2.5 years ago. The power it offered was what spurred me on to..."

-PAGE: 11

### OBTUSE ANGLE



CM Revanth Reddy with officials Korea National Sport University during his recent visit to South Korea

## KNSU to establish Sports University: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant development, Revanth Reddy, who has been actively working on the concept of a 'Young India Sports University', announced a major partnership with the Korea National Sports University (KNSU).

During a recent visit to South Korea, Revanth engaged in detailed discussions with KNSU's President, Moon Won-Jae, which led to an agreement in principle to establish the university in Hyderabad.

"I also had this deep angst about the gap between potential and performance for a long while now. Along with the Young India Skills University (YISU), I have been working on the concept of a 'Young India Sports University' for

Telangana for a while. On my recent trip to South Korea, I met a top delegation of the KNSU (Korea National Sports University), including its president Moon Won-Jae. We had detailed discussions for a partnership between KNSU and the proposed YISU, and they have agreed in principle to partner with us in establishing it in Hyderabad," Revanth said.

He also revealed that a 200-acre campus has been secured in Hakimpet, and existing facilities, including the Gachibowli stadium, will be upgraded to Olympics-grade specifications. This move aims to bridge the gap between potential and performance among Indian youth in sports.

5

## TG will honour all MoUs: Min

### Only 30% of BRS investments grounded Rs 3K crore subsidy due: Sridhar Babu

Sridhar Babu also reaffirmed the current government's commitment to honouring all Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed during BRS rule, urging investors not to be influenced by negative campaigns about Telangana's financial situation.

- New MSME policy, set to be introduced within weeks, would provide support to all affected entrepreneurs
- Amara Raja Energy and Mobility will continue its projects in Telangana
- BRS harming TG's prospects through false propaganda regarding the admin's finances, industrial policies

IT Minister Sridhar Babu, IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and officials address press conference



policy, set to be introduced within weeks, would address these issues and provide much-needed support to the affected entrepreneurs. He said that a new industrial policy will be created.

On the controversy over Swachh Bio, Telangana Industries Minister said, though Swachh Bio has been recently incorporated, its international partner Sugant Biorenewables, has developed a patented and viable technology in producing biofuels and biochemicals from biomass and cellulose which would add to the Telangana government's efforts towards a sustainable and eco-friendly growth of the State.

5

### AIRPORT TO FUTURE CITY

## CM reviews plans for road & Metro link

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy convened a meeting of key officials at his residence in Jubilee Hills to discuss the comprehensive development plans of the Future City, with particular focus on road and metro connectivity from Shamshabad RGI Airport to the Future City. The meeting marked a significant step towards enhancing the infrastructure and urban connectivity in the region. During the meeting, officials presented a detailed route map of the proposed road connectivity from RGI Airport to Future City.



Continued on Page 5

### MUDA SITE ALLOTMENT 'SCAM'

## Jolt to k'taka Cong govt

- Govt accords sanction for CM's prosecution
- Won't quit, asserts Siddaramaiah

PNS ■ Bengaluru

Karnataka Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot on Saturday accorded sanction for prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam', giving a major jolt to the nearly 15 month old Congress government.

Hours later, the Karnataka Cabinet, at a specially convened meeting this evening under the leadership of Siddaramaiah, condemned the Governor's decision, termed it as "politically motivated", and vowed to wage a legal fight.

Following the backing of the cabinet and the party, the Chief Minister questioned as to why he should resign, and said the Governor has to quit, because he acted like a "puppet" in the hands of the Government of India.

The Governor accorded sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions of activists Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna.



5

## Use social media to highlight Cong, counter BRS propaganda: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy underlined the need to strategically use social media to highlight the Congress government's achievements in Telangana and expose the failures of the BRS and the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre.

Addressing the Congress party social media activists of



Huzurnagar and Kodad Assembly constituencies on Saturday, Uttam explained the key role social media plays in today's politics.

He underlined that social media could be an effective platform for disseminating the Congress government's landmark achievements

**Uttam underlined that social media could be an effective platform for disseminating the Congress government's landmark achievements before the public, particularly the implementation of the Six Guarantees.**

5

## CM side-tracking loan waiver scheme: Alleti



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is side-tracking the farm loan waiver scheme by launching false campaigns about the 'BRS merging with the BJP'.

Making it clear that the BJP will do only in a democratic manner whatever it does, Maheshwar said the Chief Minister resorted to this campaign only to make gains in local body elections.

The CM's comments are an example of 'divert politics.' He asked the Chief Minister why the BJP would agree to the merger of the BRS into the BJP.

## BRS, BJP leaders among farm loan waiver beneficiaries

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Opposition leaders from both the BRS and the BJP have also become beneficiaries of the Congress government's farm loan waiver scheme. Notable among them are BJP MLA Payal Shankar, BRS leaders Gampa Govardhan, Jogu Ramana, Bigala Ganesh Gupta, Harsha Patel Putta and Durgam Ashok as well as Bodige Galana, the late husband of BRS leader Bodige Shobha.

Sources said that Gampa Govardhan has an outstanding loan of Rs 1.51 lakh, which was reportedly waived during phase three of the

loan waiver scheme. Durgam Ashok, who had a loan of Rs 81,479, has also had his loan waived. However, many leaders are still waiting for the money to get their loans waived as verification is going on. It is reported that the government is verifying the family members of these leaders before proceeding with disbursements.

Jogu Ramana, a former MLA, has a loan of Rs 1.06 lakh, but disbursement is pending as his family details are being verified.

Payal Shankar, who has two loans exceeding Rs 2 lakh each, is also being scrutinised by the authorities who are verifying details of her family.

## Revanth sure to join BJP with his team soon, declares KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao made some explosive comments about Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, revealing the real reason behind Revanth's fear of Prime Minister Modi.

Recently, Revanth had reportedly told his close associates that his next political move would be towards the BJP. KTR said that Revanth Reddy is sure to join the BJP with his team soon.



5

## BJP appointed governors creating trouble in non-BJP states: Kharage



### RAILWAYS HINTS AT SABOTAGE

## 20 coaches of Sabarmati Express derail



PNS ■ KANPUR

Twenty coaches of the Ahmedabad-bound Sabarmati Express passenger train derailed near Govindpuri station in Kanpur early Saturday after the engine hit an "object placed on the track". Agencies are investigating the possible involvement of anti-social elements in the incident, railway officials said.

There were no casualties in the derailment that occurred between Kanpur and Bhimsen railway stations at around 2.35 am, disrupting traffic on the route. According to the Railways, seven trains were cancelled and three were diverted due to the derailment.

Continued on Page 5

### KOLKATA RAPE-MURDER

## IMA's 24-hour strike cripples OPDs nation-wide

### Govt to form panel to propose safety measures

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday said a committee will be formed to propose safety measures for healthcare professionals even as OPD services were hit across the country as doctors joined the 24-hour nationwide strike called by the IMA to protest the alleged rape and murder of a trainee medic in Kolkata.

Resident doctors at government hospitals in different parts of the country, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Haryana among others, have been protesting since Monday.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) had given a nationwide call



for the withdrawal of non-emergency services for 24 hours from 6 am on Saturday to protest the grie-

some rape and murder at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata and the subsequent vandal-

ism at the facility. The IMA also sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in realising their five demands, including a central law to check violence against healthcare personnel and declaring hospitals safe zones with mandatory security entitlements. On Saturday, the Union health ministry said representatives of all stakeholders, including the state governments, will be invited to share their suggestions with the committee as it urged the doctors to resume their duties in the larger public interest and in view of the rising number of dengue and malaria cases.

5



# KCR's 'chit chat' with scribes: An elusive affair?

These days, it's almost a given that after a press meet, there's a quick 'chit chat' session. Even the CM joins in on this trend. Recently, after a press conference, Congress leader Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy turned to the room full of reporters and asked, "So, has anyone here ever had a casual chat with KCR?" The room was silent — apparently, none of the seasoned reporters had. Ponguleti went on to share that KCR's meetings are marathons, lasting up to 15 hours, with him doing most of the talking. He joked that if someone else dares to speak for even 30 minutes, KCR gets a bit irritated. The reporters sighed, thinking, "First let him finish the press meet, then maybe we can look forward to a casual chat!"

KTR's quick comebacks are his way of firing back, but it's not a new tactic. The BJP kicked off this trend a couple of years ago, dubbing him Twitter Tillu. While Twitter Tillu was a social media hit, it didn't exactly keep the momentum going.

**Seasoned politico Sridhar Babu in 'no hater' zone**  
Industries Minister Sridhar Babu seems to be in a 'no hater' zone. It's rare to see him trolled or targeted by the

somewhere other than Golconda Fort. But Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has chosen to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, by selecting Golconda Fort as the venue. On August 15, 2024, Revanth Reddy hoisted the National Flag at this historic site.

It's worth noting that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had previously pledged to erase all traces of KCR's administration. He's even considering changing the State emblem, claiming it reflects a royal insignia. Revanth Reddy has been keen to brand his government as the 'People's Government' with 'People's Rule'. Yet, he opted for Golconda Fort — a symbol of royal heritage, built between the 14th and 17th centuries by the Bahamani Sultans and later the Qutub Shahi Dynasty, who made it their capital — to mark the Independence Day celebrations.

One journalist, bemused by Revanth Reddy's decision to mirror KCR's choice, quipped that whether in power or not, many seem to fancy themselves as 'Kings', regardless of the era — monarchic or democratic. Some may even try to give the impression that they are democrats at heart.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate & K Venkateshwarlu)

## REPORTERS' DIARY

Opposition. Among the ministers, he's got quite the reputation. Even during his US trip, despite handling some clean-up work, he managed to stay out of controversy. Rumour has it that Sridhar Babu might be in the running for TPCC chief, given his seasoned political background. His recent travels to the US and Delhi have only fuelled this speculation.

**Flag-hoisting: Revanth follows in KCR's footsteps**  
There were plenty of folks who thought the 78th Independence Day celebrations might take place at the Parade Grounds or, at the very least,

### From minister to 'Pappu' in Oppn's playbook

The Opposition seems to be on a mission to paint KTR as a "Pappu." What's amusing is that KTR is in on the joke and mentioned in a recent chit chat that he's proven his mettle as a minister. He joked that they were trying to make him look like a dimwit. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy keeps saying, "Don't take KTR seriously — he's not exactly a brainy chap, more like management quota material."

# All loans of farmers less than Rs 2 lakh waived: Tummala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The government will take steps to extend the scheme to waive farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh to those who deposit the loan amount exceeding Rs 2 lakh in banks as per government orders, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Tummala said that all loans of farmers less than Rs 2 lakh across the state have been waived. So far the government has released Rs 17,933.19 crore to 22,37,848 bank accounts of farmers.

He said the details of farmers are being collected and instructions have been given to agriculture officials to upload on the portal if any loan less than Rs 2 lakh has not been waived.

The Minister said the gov-



ernment spent Rs 26,140.13 crore for the welfare of farmers in the first harvest season after the Congress came to power. "We have paid Rythu Bandhu arrears, drip irrigation subsidies to oil palm farmers and companies and green seed subsidy arrears. Ours is a government of deeds," he said.

He said the details of crop loans taken from December 12, 2018, to December 9, 2023, from 3292 branches and 909 PACS of 35 banks in the state

have been provided. The number of accounts that have a passbook and have not received loans is 42 lakhs (all details are correct except accounts where Aadhaar number is wrongly entered, and accounts where interest is higher than the original amount in crop loan).

He said GO Rt. No: 567 was released during the first harvest season when the government came to power containing procedures and guidelines of the

loan waiver 2024 scheme. Rs 6098.93 crore were released to 11,50,193 farmers whose loans were less than Rs 1 lakh on July 18, 2024, just three days after the government orders were issued.

In the second phase, the government released Rs 6190.01 crore to 6,40,823 farmers whose loans ranged from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh and made them debt-free.

In the third release, that is, on August 15, 2024, the government released Rs 5644.24 crore to 4,46,832 accounts of farmers whose loans were less than Rs 2 lakh against the guarantees given by the government.

Funds of Rs 17933.19 crore were released to 22,37,848 accounts in three instalments and all farmers with loans up to Rs 2 lakh were cleared by August 15.

# T-Cong plans protest against Adani Group on Aug 22

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Despite allowing investments in the state, the Telangana Congress will protest against the Adani group.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has called for nationwide protests on August 22 following the allegations of Hindenburg Research, a US-based firm, accusing the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and her husband of being involved with offshore funds connected to

the Adani Group's illegal financial deals.

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has announced plans to hold demonstrations in the state, demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into these allegations.

Industries Minister Sridhar Babu confirmed that the Congress would organise protests. However, there is uncertainty regarding the participation of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy who is also the

TPCC President in these protests.

"Adani is doing their groundwork. I got an invitation to inaugurate Adani products. Our government is focussed on inviting whoever wants to partner with the state as we have to create jobs and need investment. When it comes to ideological issues of the Congress, we will definitely be aligning with our party and also see what is in the interests of our state. We will also check whether Adani or some other big business group's

# Phenom leads effort to restore Bakshikunta lake



MLA of Serilingampally Areakapudi Gandhii inaugurating the environmental effort to rejuvenate Bakshikunta lake in Ameerpet, Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Phenom, a leader in Intelligent Talent Experiences, leads major environmental effort to restore Bakshikunta lake in Ameerpet, Hyderabad. This project is a key part of Phenom's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts and makes it the first lake rejuvenation by a company in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Phenom collaborated with Anand Malligavadi, known as the 'Lake Man of India, to transform the lake into a thriving ecosystem.

The inaugural event was attended by MLA of Serilingampally, Areakapudi Gandhii, who commended the initiative as a strong example of how government, industry and community can work together to achieve environmental progress. Phenom's co-founders, Mahe and Hari Bayireddi, emphasised their commitment to sustainability and the importance of projects like this in improving community life.

# BJP appointed governors creating trouble in non-BJP states: Kharge

PNS ■ BENGALURU

In the wake of Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot granting permission to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the MUDA compensatory site allotment scam, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the BJP appointed governors are creating trouble for the non-BJP ruled states.

He, however, maintained that he had to see why Gehlot granted permission to prosecute the Karnataka CM.

"I have neither seen it nor know the details of what the notice is about. I have also not seen the reasons cited for permission. I cannot say now whether the notice is right or wrong," Kharge told reporters here in Bengaluru.

The Congress president said, "One more thing is that everywhere the BJP appointed governors, be it in West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu or wherever there is a non-BJP government (in the states), they are creating more trouble."

He said he would prefer to



react after getting details of the case and consulting with the lawyers.

In the Mysuru Urban Development Authority

(MUDA) site allotment 'scam', it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the MUDA.

The opposition cried foul and three activists lodged a complaint with Gehlot, accusing the CM of 'misusing' his position.

## Congress' legacy of corruption continues, says Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president J P Nadda on Saturday attacked the Congress over the alleged MUDA scam, saying it was yet another instance of the party's "hypocrisy and family-centric politics." The "scam" pertains to alleged allotment of compensatory sites to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's

wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which was "acquired" by MUDA. In a post on X, Nadda said, "Congress Party's

Legacy of Corruption Continues! From National Herald to MUDA Scam Karnataka, Congress Party's history with corruption is well-documented."

## PHONE-TAPPING CASE

### Nampally court grants bail to Bhujanga Rao

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Nampally court granted an interim bail for 15 days to one of the accused of phone-tapping case N Bhujanga Rao on Saturday. The court ordered the accused to deposit Rs 25,000 with two sureties in the court.

While furnishing the sureties, the accused asked to submit his passport to the court. The court said that he should not leave the limits of the GHMC during the bail period. The accused should not interact, make any attempt to induce, threaten or make any promise to any of the witnesses. Previously Bhujanga Rao suffered a heart attack twice and he underwent surgery on August 9, 2023 in a private hospital, where in one stunt was inserted. After inserting the stunt, the doctors advised him to come for a second stint in February 2024. But after completion of Thallium scan and on reviewing his health condition on February 5, 2024, the doctors advised him to come again on May 5, 2024 for further check up.

# Sudan's paramilitary fighters kill 85 people in an attack on a central village

PNS ■ CAIRO

Fighters from Sudan's paramilitary group rampaged through a central village, looting and burning and killing at least 85 people, including women and children, authorities and residents said Saturday, the latest atrocity in the country's 18-month devastating conflict.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces began attacking Galgani in the central province of Sennar late in July and last week RSF fighters "indiscriminately opened fire on the village's unarmed residents" after they resisted attempts to abduct and sexually assault women and girls, Sudan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

# Congress suspends its two MLAs in Meghalaya

PNS ■ SHILLONG

The opposition Congress in Meghalaya suspended its MLAs Gabriel Wahlang and Charles Marngar following allegations that they were "hobnobbing" with the ruling National People's Party.

The Congress had four MLAs in the 60-member House. In a communique, state Congress general secretary Wansuk Syiem



said the MLAs were suspended for "anti-party activities". "The party's decision came based on recent reports from

# SU to launch courses from Dasara: Shanti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari announced that the Young India Skill University, conceptualised by the state's Chief Minister, will commence courses starting from Dasara.

She disclosed that around 20 courses have been identified to be offered by the university of Kailas, with six courses set to begin during the Dasara festival.

A high-level review meeting was held today to discuss

the establishment of the university, its operational policies and the commencement of the courses.

The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretaries Ramakrishna Rao, Jayesh Ranjan, Education Department Chief Secretary Burra Venkatesham, CMO Chief Secretary Sheshadri, TGIIC MD Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, State Higher Education Council Vice Chairman Prof. Venkata Ramana, Srinji Raju, and VVLS Subbarao.

## Seamless electricity bill payments in TG, AP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat BillPay has made it easier to pay electricity bills in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) has added Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL), Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL), and Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGNPDCL) to its Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) platform.

## SEBI chairperson must resign, JPC probe into Adani 'scam' essential

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday cited a media report which flagged alleged conflicts of interest against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch and said her continuance as the head of the capital markets regulator is "untenable". The opposition party said Buch must resign and a full Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation must be conducted into the Adani "mega

scam". Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jai Ram Ramesh cited an article by The Morning Context which raises issues of Buch's alleged conflicts of interest. The media report raises questions such as has Buch recused herself from all matters involving companies that private equity firm Blackstone has a stake in and how many Blackstone companies find a place on that recusal list.

**TODAY ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Chaturdashi: Aug 18 05:51 AM to Aug 19 03:05 AM  
Purnima: Aug 19 03:05 AM to Aug 19 11:55 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
Uttara Ashadha: Aug 17 11:48 AM to Aug 18 10:14 AM  
Shravana: Aug 18 10:14 AM to Aug 19 08:10 AM  
Rahukalam: 5:02 PM to 6:36 PM  
Yamagandam: 12:19 PM to 1:53 PM  
Varjyam: 01:54 PM to 03:21 PM  
Gulika: 3:28 PM to 5:02 PM  
Amritakalam: 10:40 PM to 12:08 AM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:54 AM to 12:45 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms  
Temp: 32°C  
Humidity: 74%  
Sunrise: 6:00 AM  
Sunset: 6:40 PM  
Updated: August 17, 2024 5:00 PM

# LOAN WAIVER PROMISES Harish challenges Revanth again

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao sharply criticised the Congress government for misleading the people by partially implementing the farm loan waiver scheme and pretending to have fulfilled all commitments. "You choose the place, date, and time, and let's go to any district, constituency, or village, that is, your constituency or mine," said Harish challenging the Congress for a debate.

He emphasised that unlike Revanth Reddy, he does not break promises and reminded everyone of his commitment to the people of Telangana, stating that he had resigned for the cause of Telangana without caring

about posts, while Revanth held on to Chandrababu's coattails and even became Chief Minister after losing in Kodangal by switching parties. Harish also criticised Revanth for calling on him to resign, despite Revanth's own failure to keep promises.

He recalled how Revanth, during the election campaign, promised in the name of gods and goddesses, including Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy of Yadagirigutta, the Shiva at Ramappa Temple and the Samakka Sarakka goddesses.

## Harish's Siddipet camp office attacked

Some unidentified persons vandalised the office of BRS legislator and former Telangana Minister, T. Harish Rao, in Siddipet town in the early hours of Saturday.

The BRS blamed the ruling Congress for the attack. Tension gripped the town on Friday night after some Congress workers displayed a flexi banner, demanding MLA Harish Rao's resignation as the Telangana government waived crop loans as promised during Assembly elections.

## Class X girl dies, driver hurt as lorry hits auto

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Class X student Ranga Saathivaka, 16, died and the auto driver was injured in a road accident on Saturday morning at Habsiguda. The girl was studying in Gowtham Model School at Tarnaka.

While she was travelling in auto-rickshaw from her residence to her school at around 7.30 am, the driver stopped behind an TGSRTC bus as the traffic signal turned red. Hit by a lorry the auto overturned. After taking them out from the auto, Saathivaka and the auto driver were shifted to a private hospital at Nacharam. Doctors pronounced that the girl was brought dead while auto driver Yellaiah sustained severe injuries.

# Health ministry reviews mpxo situation, risk of large outbreak currently low for India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There are currently no reported cases of Monkeypox in India even though cautionary measures will be put in place to prevent and control the spread of the disease, the Union health ministry said on Saturday.

At a review meeting held during the day, although the possibility of a few imported cases being detected in the coming weeks was not entirely ruled out, it was assessed that the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is low for India at present.

Since WHO first declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern in 2022, a total of 30 cases were detected in India



with the last case being reported this March, the health ministry said in a statement.

There are no reported cases of Monkeypox in India as of now, it said.

The situation is being monitored closely by the ministry, the statement said. In view of the World Health Organization (WHO) again declaring Monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern on August 14, a detailed review of the situa-

tion and the preparedness was taken by Union Health Minister J P Nadda at the meeting with the senior officials of his ministry.

It was decided that as a matter of abundant caution, certain measures such as sensitizing the health units at all airports, seaports and ground crossings; readying the testing laboratories (32); gearing up health facilities for detecting, isolating and managing any case are put in place.



**Sri Vidya Awasa Vidyalayam**

Foundation-laying ceremony

Venue

Chokkaram Nagar, Rampur village, Mancherla, August 19, 10.30 am

**DIGITAL ART DIGITAL CULTURE**

"Fantasy" showcases some of Bakkali's masterpieces through print, augmented reality and immersive art

Venue

Alliance Francaise library, Hyderabad Till August 31 11 am to 4.30 pm (Tue- Fri)

**Birth anniversary**

374 birth anniversary of Sardar Sarvai Pappanna Goud. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to participate.

Venue

Ravindra Bharathi August 18, 6 pm

**AHHA backs protesting junior docs in TG**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Association of Health & Hospital Administrators (AHHA) has condemned the heinous crime committed against Dr Moumita Deb Nath, a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata. The brutal rape and murder of this dedicated medical professional is a tragic loss, not only for her family and friends but also for the entire medical community. Such barbaric acts against those who dedicate their lives to saving others are utterly unacceptable and demand swift justice, the AHHA said.

"We fully support the agitation by the NIMS Resident Doctors Association (RDA), Telangana Medical Association (IMA), and all medical staff in both government and private healthcare sectors," said

Dr Martha Ramesh, President of AHHA. He has called for the prioritisation of healthcare professionals' safety and well-being to prevent such tragedies in the future. AHHA demands that the government implement comprehensive safety measures, including secure working environments, enhanced security in hospitals and the establishment of protocols to protect medical professionals from violence.

Dr Ramesh emphasised the need for strict implementation and monitoring of Internal Complaints Committees in all healthcare organisations.

# City Pioneer

sunday pioneer

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | AUGUST 18, 2024

03

## Zero-tolerance policy towards drug abuse and ragging: DGP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) organised an awareness programme on drug abuse and anti-ragging on Saturday at Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University.

Dr Jitender, Director General of Police, said that the government has zero-tolerance policy towards drug abuse and ragging. He explained the provisions of the Anti-Ragging Act and highlighted the severe penalties for those found guilty.

"The government is committed to creating a safe and secure environment for students. I urge students not to hesitate in report-

ing any instances of drug abuse or ragging around their colleges. Your identity will be protected and prompt action will be taken."

Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary, Education Department, highlighted the importance of sending a strong message to students, stressing that education is not just about academics, but also about character-building and responsible behavior.

Prof R Limbadri, Chairman, TGCHE, explained the vision of Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy to sensitise students in different institutions and universities by working together to make Telangana a drug-free society.

"In line with our Chief Minister's vision, we must work

**Education is not just about academics, but also about character-building and responsible behavior**  
**Students should work together to make Telangana a drug-free society**

collectively to create awareness and prevent drug abuse among students," he added.

The TGCHE is also planning to create a toll-free number for drug and ragging related cases to be reported which will be forwarded to the police department.

**Government committed to creating a safe and secure environment for students**

**Students should not hesitate in reporting instances of drug abuse or ragging around their colleges**

## Peer influence must change, says TGANB chief

DEEPIKA PASHAM  
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com  
■ HYDERABAD

The rise in drug-related cases in Telangana is unpredictable. Despite the relentless efforts of officers working round-the-clock, cases and seizures continue to increase.

The real control lies with peer groups; if a child decides not to engage in harmful activities or promptly reports to the police, the number of cases could decrease, said Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) Director Sandeep Shandilya to The Pioneer.

"We have not detected new drugs entering into India but we have been cautious on the spread of any new varieties as we seized a new Meow Meow in the recent past. Few of the Rehabilitation centres are doing very well. The centres equipped with peer intervention techniques such as identifying a child who has just started and not become an addict are coming with positive results."

The cop explained that both the genders, male and female, are

consuming drugs and there is nothing restricted to one gender in particular. The spread of drugs has reached villages and the consumers are small children including minors in de-addiction centres.

"It is also awareness and this is the stage that anybody should work real hard. For example, OG Weed case at Symbiosis College, over 25 students were caught consuming the cigarette and it is the expensive Rs 3,500 for one. The question here is how are parents giving children this much money," said the cop.

Nigerians are most of the accused responsible for transporting OG weed by hiding the quantity in bulk parcels such as DTDC, FedEx.

When asked how the accused, who already have cases against them, manage to secure bail and continue supplying drugs, Sandeep explained, "Many foreigners are keen to avoid deportation. For instance, in one case a woman filed an alleged rape case in the country so that she can stay in India, which would make it easier for her to continue her involvement in the drug trade."



Officials releasing a poster on creating awareness on drug abuse and anti-ragging

## 1,250 representations received for new buses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Roads Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) received 1,250 representations from Members of Parliament and MLAs to provide buses in their respective constituencies.

A source said that after the Mahalakshmi scheme was launched, representatives of various constituencies requested the TGSRTC to provide buses for certain villages and routes in their constituencies. In this financial year, 1,230



buses would go for scrap having worked for 15 years. The TGSRTC is planning to buy new buses to fill the gap.

A source said, "After consolidating the requests from the leaders, the TGSRTC estimated the number of buses needed in the State. The corporation is planning to procure the new buses for which Rs 900 crore is needed."

A few days back, Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy met Transport Minister Ponnambhakkar regarding buses in his constituency. He asked to run RTC buses connecting many villages on 21 new routes in Munugode constituency.

## Docs call for awareness on animal-borne infections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising that the risk of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is as serious as global warming, doctors warned of the need for public awareness. They said that animal-borne infections are on the rise, and not all antibiotics will work for treatment.

The increasing spread of infections transmitted through animals is a major concern. The doctors also pointed out that more medicines are becoming ineffective because bacteria is developing resistance.

The Clinical Infectious Diseases Society's (CIDS) 14th Annual Conference, CIDSCON 2024, commenced on Friday at the HICC Novotel in the city.

This conference is conducted for discussing the latest developments and challenges in managing infectious diseases, with a focus on India. The doctors announced that this year's

conference highlights two major public health threats in India: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Emerging Infections. Antimicrobial Resistance: A Silent Pandemic.

An 8-member team of expert doctors from across the country explained that AMR continues to be a silent pandemic with serious consequences, which has one of the highest rates of drug-resistant infections (DRIs). Currently, about 1 million AMR-related deaths occur in India each year, contributing to an estimated 5 million deaths globally.

Projections suggest that by 2050, AMR could cause 10 million deaths annually, crossing the deaths caused by cancer.

Infectious Diseases Specialist, Apollo Hyderabad, Dr.Suneetha Nagireddy said the rise of AMR is caused by the misuse and overuse of antibiotics which is also making many medical treatments ineffective.



Doctors attending the CIDSCON 2024 at the HICC Novotel in city

## First convocation for online biz management graduates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The first convocation ceremony for online business management graduates was held in the city. Hyderabad-based Nelson Business School organised the event at Hotel Taj Deccan on Saturday. Special Chief Secretary of Industries & Commerce and Information Technology Jayesh Ranjan awarded graduation certificates to 75 students.

The graduates included both local and students from



Jayesh Rajan presenting certificates to the graduates of online business management at Taj Deccan on Saturday

Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Djibouti. A highlight was

when K Pranathi and K Saideep, a couple who completed their PG Diploma in Management, received their certificates.

They both work as Operations Managers in a major IT company and attended the event with their three-year-old daughter, Aathira.

Jayesh Ranjan highlighted Telangana's role as a hub for global companies and stressed the importance of a skilled workforce in achieving the State's economic goals. He also mentioned that Telangana

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy envisions making Telangana a \$ 1 trillion economy in the next 10 years. "To realise these dreams, we all need to contribute, especially the private sector, and your newly acquired management skills will be instrumental in finding strategies for the economic progress of our nation," he added.

Regional Head of Nelson Business School, Divya Jayaraman, emphasised the convenience of weekend online classes.

## CREDAI TG STATCON24 to be held on Aug 20 in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI) Telangana announced its 3rd STATCON24 event with the theme "Telangana Going Global," to be held on August 20 at HICC Novotel in the city. The event will be inaugurated by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and IT Minister D Sridhar Babu.

More than 900 builders from 15 CREDAI Chapters across the State are expected to attend. The conference will highlight



CREDAI office-bearers unveiling the STATCON24 brochure on Saturday

important shifts in the real estate sector, focusing on sustainable practices like green buildings and advanced eco-friendly technologies. During a press meet on Saturday,

CREDAI Telangana president E Prem Sagar Reddy emphasised that the event aims to educate members through sessions and debates while involving ministers to discuss policy-making.

## MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO A DOYEN OF LIGHT MUSIC

Chittaranjan Mahabhashyam is a doyen of Telugu light music who strode the musical firmament for over six decades with his litting voice and as a well-known composer in both the Telugu states. He enthralled connoisseurs of music with Bhakti Ranjani, Annamayya kritis and scores of songs over All India Radio and Doordarshan and went on to win many awards, including the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrut Award. Having authored several books on music, he codified the course material for Diploma in Light Music which has been introduced by the Telugu University.

His daughter Amruthavalli, who also is a good singer and a composer, has decided to present 85 songs composed by the great master on the

YouTube channel in his name on his 86th birth anniversary to be observed on August 25th, right from the oldest of his compositions to the latest songs, rendered by vidwans of all ages.

In a statement to mark Varalakshmi Vratam on August 16, she stated that it was God's grace that she herself set the background score to her father's songs and is now presenting them as a tribute on his birth anniversary.

## WHATSAPP GROUP, A BOON TO LIGHT MUSIC LOVERS

It was in November 2019 that a WhatsApp group called Lalitha Geethala Nidhulu was started by music lover Kari Balaji, with the sole aim of preserving and fostering Telugu light music, by collecting all

the songs of great lyricists and composers of yore and the present generation of composers. This got a boost during the Covid times when all the stations of Akashvani broadcast light music every day. These



recordings were preserved by Balaji with the able help of newscaster Bhamidipati Sarat Jyotsna. More admins have since joined the group to make it a success over the past five years. Lyricist and music composer of repute Kalaga Krishna Mohan had added to the repertoire.

A rule set by the group is to present only audios so that enhanced space requirements of videos could



Transport Minister Ponnambhakkar speaking to Commissioner of Police K Srinivas Reddy on the arrangements to be made for Ganesh festival

## Minister Ponnambhakkar asks people to coordinate for Ganesh immersion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnambhakkar asked people to coordinate for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi.

A meeting was held on the arrangements between various departments at Integrated Command Control Centre on Saturday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Transport Minister said, "Department-wise arrangements are being reviewed for Ganesh festival. The immersion would be held from September 7 to September 17. Public representatives will arrange a meeting with Ganesh festival committees at Marri Chennareddy Human Resource Development (MCHRD) centre within a week."

"We will ensure that there are no problems in the routes from the idol-making area to the idols going to the districts. With the cooperation of the people, the brand image of Hyderabad must be preserved. As usual, permissions must be taken online from police officers concerned for conducting Ganesh immersion."

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) will issue permission and see that the Ganesh idols are made within court orders avoiding Plaster of Paris (PoP). We are working with non-profit organisations and distributing clay idols, he added.

With regard to police fastening the immersion process, the Minister responded, "We need to expedite the process and with this speed only we will take 48 hours."

That is our only concern and if people are ready not to complain on traffic issues, the police will also not force anybody to move faster."

Commissioner of Police K Srinivas Reddy, Additional Commissioner Vikram Singh Man, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed and District Collector Anudeep Durishetti were among those present.



## ISB, TG govt sign MoU on public healthcare

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian School of Business (ISB) and the Telangana government have signed an MoU to improve public healthcare leadership and innovation.

With the collaboration, a new Healthcare Management Programme designed for senior leaders in the State's Health, Medical, and Family Welfare Department was launched on Saturday.

This one-year programme, developed by ISB's Max Institute of Healthcare Management, aims to strengthen leadership and management skills in public health. The course includes nine sessions at ISB's Hyderabad campus.

The programme was launched at ISB Campus in Hyderabad in the presence of RV Karnan, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare and Mission Director, National Health Mission.

Karnan highlighted the State's commitment to improving healthcare and appreciated the partnership with ISB. Professor Sarang Deo from the ISB emphasised the importance of adapting private sector management practices to public health.

Participants will engage in study treks on healthcare technology and action learning projects to apply their knowledge effectively.

The programme is intended to help improve public health services across Telangana. The programme aims to empower healthcare leaders with the skills needed to make a positive impact in their fields.

be avoided. The group also perpetuates the anniversaries and birthdays of great light music lyricists and composers by presenting their numbers. Renowned singers Vedavathi Prabhakar Rao, Dwaram Lakshmi

and many others have enriched the group by becoming its members. Lalitha Geethala Nidhulu is a blessing in disguise to the lovers of light music from the two Telugu states.

VENKOB R BALANTRAPU  
Senior Journalist  
(The writer can be reached at venkobr@gmail.com and 9297204401)





## Jagadish appeals to farmers to unite

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Former minister G Jagadish Reddy has condemned the Congress activists attacking former minister and BRS MLA T Harish Rao's camp office in Siddipet on Friday midnight. He described the incidents as despicable and suspected it to be the handiwork of the Congress goons. He appealed to the farmers in villages to come together and protest against the Congress government.

Addressing a media conference here on Saturday, he said that the BRS leaders cannot be cowed down by such threats and quoted the instances of driving away many demons.

He alleged that the Congress completely duped the farmers on waiving crop loans. To divert public attention from the issue, the Congress could have engineered the attacks on Harish Rao's camp office, he said. The Congress cheated the farmers on the issue, he said. First the Congress quoted that Rs 40,000 crore needed to implement the loan waiver, but the subsequent Cabinet



Former minister G Jagadish Reddy speaking at a media conference in Nalgonda on Saturday

meeting put the total quantum of the loans to be waived at Rs 31,000 crore. Subsequently, the government corrected the figure to be Rs 27,000 crore and it could waive up to Rs 17,000 crore only.

He alleged that some farmers did not get loan waiver benefit. As farmers' protests intensified, the Congress leaders have been using diversionary tactics. He described Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's

remarks on BRS merger with the BJP was part of the diversionary tactics. In fact, Revanth Reddy has a secret understanding with the BJP.

Revanth Reddy was trying to provoke violence in Telangana, he apprehended.

The Congress government has duped the farmers as far as loan waiver is concerned. He appealed to the farmers to open

The loan waiver effected by

the Congress amounts to completely duping the farmers, he said, exhorting the farmers to open their eyes to the injustice meted out to them.

He assured the farmers that the BRS would fight on behalf of them and pledged the party support to them. He demanded that the Congress government implement Rytu Bharosa for all and implement the loan waiver.

## Dengue claims life of 10-year-old boy in RR district

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Dengue fever, which has set off alarm bells in Telangana, has claimed the life of a 10-year-old boy at Tangutoor in Rangareddy district. A pall of gloom has descended on the family following the death of the boy.

The deceased was identified as Gautam Sai, 10, who was diagnosed as suffering from dengue fever four days ago. His parents rushed him to a private hospital in Hyderabad, but they could not save his life. The boy died while undergoing treatment, plunging the family into sadness.

Across the State, so far 3000 have tested positive for dengue. In Hyderabad alone, more than 1,000 cases have been detected. People were seen making a beeline to Osmania, Gandhi and Nallakunta fever hospitals.

Children and aged are susceptible to dengue. Therefore, the doctors have been advising them, especially the children to be careful to prevent the outbreak of the disease. Tiger mosquito causes dengue. It stings only during day time. The parents should exercise care about their school-going children.



## MGM doctors told to take steps to combat dengue



Additional Director of Medical and Health Amar Singh inspecting MGM Hospital in Warangal on Saturday

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Additional director of Medical and Health (Malaria and Filaria) Dr Amar Singh on Saturday visited MGM Hospital in Warangal and PHC at Rayaparti and issued several directions to medical officers on how to prevent deaths due to dengue.

Addressing the hospital medical officers at MGM Hospital in the Superintendent's chambers, he asked the doctors to coordinate with the staff of the PHCs and ensure that there are no deaths due to dengue.

He went round all wards in the hospital and also asked the hospital authorities to maintain sufficient stocks of blood in the hospital's blood bank and platelets.

Later, he proceeded to Rayaparti to inspect the Primary Health Centres there. He visited the dengue patient's houses in the village and issues several instructions to them.

Addressing the medical officers of the PHCs through Zoom application, he first sought status

of the extent of the spread of dengue and malaria in the district and later issued several instructions on how to treat them.

He advised the medical officers to keep enough stocks of anti-larval mosquito spray with the hospitals. He suggested implementing dry days in villages on Fridays.

Further, he wanted them to undertake door-to-door fever survey and provide them emergency medical services. Further, he asked the medical officers to run medical camps in affected areas. He called for people maintaining personal hygiene and take precautions to keep the seasonal diseases at bay. He called upon Warangal Collector Satya Sarada Devi and submitted a report to her on seasonal diseases.

DMHO Dr Kazipet Venkataramana, MGM hospital superintendent Dr Murali, deputy DMHO Dr Gopal Rao, ZMO Dr Sunil, assistant director health Nagaiah, medical officer Dr Vanaja and others participated.

## Hanamkonda man dies in US

Family requests government for help in bringing back body

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

A 32-year-old man from Hanamkonda district of Telangana has died in the US, his family members said on Saturday and requested the Central and Telangana governments to help in bringing his body back home.

A Rajesh, from Atmakur mandal died in Mississippi, US, and some of his friends staying in the US informed the family about his death on Thursday saying he died on August 14, even as the family awaits clarity on his death.

Rajesh's mother and other family members were inconsolable after coming to know about his death.

"We got a call informing about the death and to collect his body. We request the Central and state governments to help in bringing back Rajesh's body," the family members told the media.



Rajesh's uncle Bikshapathi said Rajesh's family is financially poor and they are not in a position to go to the US and he also requested the help of the Centre and the state government to bring his body to his native place.

The family members also said the exact details about how Rajesh

died were still not known to them, though it was said he had a "high" sugar level and died of stroke. Rajesh's father had passed away last year, but at that time he could not attend the funeral, the family members said, adding he was planning to come to his native place but suddenly he has died.

"Though Rajesh had told the family members that he would return for the first year anniversary rituals, but, we suddenly got this shocking (about his death) news," his uncle said.

After completing his M Pharma from Hanamkonda, Rajesh went to the US in 2016 for pursuing higher studies. He did his MS and was also employed there but later lost his job during the COVID pandemic and it seems now he was doing some part-time jobs, his uncle added.

## Shadnagar doctors take out protest march

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In response to the horrific rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, doctors in Shadnagar, under the auspices of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), staged a massive protest. The doctors expressed their outrage and deep sorrow over the inhumane act, condemning it as a stark violation of the values that India stands for.

In Shadnagar, doctors took to the streets in a rally from the railway station to the MPDO

office, demanding justice for the victim and stringent punishment for the perpetrators. The IMA announced a 24-hour suspension of outpatient (OP) services in solidarity with the protests, with only emergency services remaining operational.

The protesters highlighted the growing threats faced by doctors in India, pointing out that healthcare providers, once revered as 'Vaidya Narayan' or healers akin to God, are now at risk of violent attacks. They also criticised the authorities for initially attempting to portray the attack as a suicide, calling for an immediate and transparent investigation.



Doctors staging a protest in Shadnagar on Saturday



Doctors taking a protest march in Khammam on Saturday

## KOLKATA MEDICO'S RAPE-MURDER

## Private hospital doctors join protest

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Doctors including private medical practitioners took part in protests here on Saturday as part of the nationwide protest call given by the Indian Medical Association against the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata.

As part of the protests, doctors in government and private hospitals topped outpatient services and elective surgeries. During the protests, a rally was taken out.

They raised slogans "we want justice", "No safety no duty" and demanded justice to the deceased doctor in Kolkata and implementation of a 'Central Protection Act' to ensure the safety of all healthcare personnel, including doctors and paramedical staff. They held placards that read "No mercy to rapist", "hang the

criminals", "stop violence against doctors" among others.

The protestors alleged that the Mamata Benerjee government in West Bengal failed to ensure safety of doctors and women.

Children from school joined the protest march and displayed placards and raised slogans condemning the murder of the trainee doctors. Doctors staged a protest at Kothagudem also.

The IMA has called for a 24-hour nationwide withdrawal of non-emergency and OPD services by all the modern medicine doctors of the country irrespective of the sector and place of work, while emergencies and the casualties would function, IMA sources here said.

The withdrawal of services commenced at 6 am on Saturday and ends at 6 am on Sunday, they said.

## Minister directs officials to frame guidelines for distribution of podu lands

PNS ■ ASIFABAD

Minister for Forests, Environment and Endowments Konda Surekha has said that policy guidelines will be prepared to create rights to the tribals cultivating podu lands.

Addressing district collectors and additional collectors, district officials and elected people's representatives along with Minister for Rural Development Dhanasari Anasuya alias Sitakka from Hyderabad on Saturday through video conference, she appealed to them to prepare the guidelines to create title for the tribals cultivating podu



lands. Among the pending applications received earlier seeking conferment of title of Podu lands, she wanted the officials to find out any eligible tribals left out. In case of any disputes over Podu lands, they should be settled at the field level.

Collector Venkatesh Dhotre, Asifabad MLA Kova Lakshmi, Asifabad and Kagaznagar DOs Lokeshwar Rao and K Suresh took part.

The collector told the minister that he would take decision to find a lasting solution to the Podu problems in the

district as per the government rule. If there are any eligible persons left out last time, he said that he would verify the applications with the coordination of officials and probe into it comprehensive and resolve the problems through various committees. If any ineligible person has got RoFRpatta, action would be taken against such individual as per the government directions, he said.

The forest and tribal welfare departments jointly take action to render justice to the eligible. As per the Government orders, road development would be taken only after securing approval of the forest department.

## Medical professionals stage protest in Mancherial

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

Doctors in response to the all given by Indian Medical Association Macherial unit, on Saturday boycotted the outpatient services and elective surgeries in protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata. The doctors, joined by people in the town, took out a procession from IB Cowk to Bellampalli centre. They carried placards criticising the rape and murder of the trainee doctor. They raised slogans against the West Bengal government. They blocked the traffic for sometime.

IMA Mancherial district president Dr Ramana and GMC medical superintendent Dr Harishchandra Reddy demanded that the government take severe action against the perpetrators of the heinous crime.

The doctors later submitted a memorandum District Collector Kumar Deepak, demanding that a severe action be taken against those indulging in heinous crimes. Similar protests were staged in Bellampalli, Luxettipet, Chennur and others.

## Three arrested for duping youth promising jobs

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Warangal Police arrested three persons on charge of duping unemployed youth by promising jobs in government medical college and general hospital at Narasampet.

According to police, the three men used to claim that they were representatives of an agency authorised to receive application for jobs in the government medical college.

In order to make a fast buck, the trio Daravat Saratchandra from Ippalbanda, Porandha Shiva from Parkal and Kavitalu from Desaipet in Warangal came together and started collecting money from people. They promised jobs to the youth/

They allegedly collected Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs.3 lakh from people. The agency the trio claimed to have represented came to know of the activities of them and reported it to the police. The police have registered a case and arrested three men.

## CEO calls for summary revision of voters' list

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

State Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy has directed collectors to take steps to prepare the voters' list comprehensively enrolling youth who would turn 18 years as on Jan 1, 2025 as voters.

He along with additional Chief Electoral Officer Lokesh Kumar reviewed on Saturday on the summary revision of the voters' list-2025 through video conference conducted from his office in Hyderabad. The CEO said that the revision of the voters' list-2025 should be conducted and the final list of voters should be published on Jan 6, 2025.

An all-party meeting should be conducted in the district on the registration of voters. The pre-revision should be conducted from August 20 to 28. The draft voters' list should be released on October 29.



Khammam Collector Muzammil Khan at a video conference with State Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy in Khammam on Saturday

Objections, if any, to the draft voters' list should be invited till November 28 and the objections and claims should be resolved by December 24. The final list of voters should be readied by Jan 6. The

booth-level poll officials should undertake door to door visit in their respective areas from Aug 20 to October 18 and names of voters in the list should be confirmed and old photos of voters should be removed and new photos should be added.

Names of youth who would be 18 by Jan 1, 2025 should figure in the list of voters. Draft voters list including the names of voters who would be 18 by Jan 1, 2025 should be prepared. The logical errors, demographical errors should be rectified in the draft list comprehensively. Names of the deceased voters and those of migrated persons on a permanent basis should be removed using Form-7. The polling booths having the number of voters 1500 and more should be rationalized. If necessary, proposals should be submitted to start new polling booths. Duplication of names in the list of voters should be removed.

The pending applications of over 79,822 applications, under form-8, should be resolved immediately.

The registration of voters should be carried out by implementing special programmes in each Assembly constituency.

Collector Muzammil Khan told the CEO that the revision of the voters list would be accomplished as per the schedule. Measures would be initiated to confer the right to vote on those who turned 18 years by Jan 1, 2025.

The collector asked the officials to submit proposals to the CEO on the vacancies of local bodies additional collector/Wyra revenue officer, Nelakondapalli Tahsildear/ERO to make alternative arrangements. The applications from mandal wide should be pushed online for the field inspection by BLO. He asked the officials to submit him daily progress to him.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
E-Procurement Short Tender Notice  
NIT No. 01/Ee/SWM/GHMC/2024-25, Dated: 17-08-2024  
Name of the Works/Products: "Selection of agency for providing Project Implementation Unit to implement initiatives under SBM guidelines & SWM Rules for Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Hyderabad City" Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Bid Document Download Start date: 19-08-2024 @ 12:00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids online: 24-08-2024 @ 04:00 PM. Name & Address of Officer: Cell No.: 010: E.E. (SWM), IV floor, GC Complex, GHMC HO, Tank bund Road, Hyderabad, Cell #81-9000114682. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Superintending Engineer DIPR.No. 3000-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25 (SWM), GHMC

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
E-COLLECTOR BID NOTICE  
Ecol cum Bid Notice NIT.No.02/EE/Ce-03/GHMC/2024-25, D: 17-08-2024, publishing of (1) work of "Engaging consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report including designs, drawings and estimates for 'Consultancy services for submission of estimates and drawings for Construction of Multi level parking complex at open space near B. N. Reddy Nagar signal in B. N. Reddy Nagar ward-14 of Health Nagar Circle-3 GHMC." The details of events is detailed below:  
S.No. Event Description Particulars  
1. Submission of Proposals online 19-08-2024 from 11:00 AM onwards  
2. Bid Due date/ Bid Submission date 22-08-2024 at 3:00 PM  
3. Address for communication & 010, the Executive Engineer, Health Nagar Circle-3, # 11-6-1, Near MFD Office, Venkateshwar Colony, Saranagar, Hyderabad.  
4. Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid (Eligibility & Qualification Criteria) 23-08-2024 from 12:30 PM  
5. Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid 23-08-2024 from 03:30 PM  
6. Bid Security (Refundable) Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) in the form of demand draft drawn in favor of the Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation payable at Hyderabad and stored on any scheduled bank.  
Address of Concerned Officer: Sd/ Ramesh Babu/K Executive Engineer, Health Nagar Circle-3, GHMC, Hyderabad. DIPR.No. 2878-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Health Nagar Circle-3, GHMC.



ACROSS THE STATES



J&K Apni party leader meets Shah; likely to join BJP

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party vice president Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali met Union Home Minister Amit Shah here amidst speculation that he might join the BJP ahead of next month's assembly elections in the Union Territory. Ali, who is an advocate, won from the Darhal assembly constituency of Rajouri district in the 2008 and 2014 assembly elections on the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ticket. He served as a cabinet minister in the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP coalition government from 2015 to 2018. The coalition government collapsed in June 2018 after the national party pulled out of the government. Many PDP leaders led by former minister Altaf Bukhari subsequently founded Apni party in 2020 and Ali was one of its founding members. A BJP leader said Ali met the home minister in Delhi and discussed with him several issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir including the assembly elections.



Women SHGs to send 1cr rakhis to Maha CM Shinde

Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will send one crore rakhis to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to "express gratitude" for implementing various welfare schemes, a statement from Shinde's office said on Saturday. The rakhis will be delivered to the chief minister on August 19, the day of Raksha Bandhan festival, it said. The Shinde-led government announced the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme in this year's budget, ahead of assembly elections, and money under the scheme was recently deposited in the bank accounts of lakhs of women. More than 2.5 crore women in the state would be getting Rs 1,500 every month in their bank accounts under the scheme, the CMO statement informed. Besides, three gas cylinders are provided to women free of cost under the Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana, it said, listing other schemes for women.

20 coaches of Sabarmati..

Continued from page 1

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Intelligence Bureau and Uttar Pradesh police were looking into the incident and arrangements were being made for the onward journey of passengers. In a post on X, Vaishnaw said, "The engine of Sabarmati Express (Varanasi to Amdavad) hit an object on the track and derailed near Kanpur at 02:35 am today. Sharp hit marks are observed. Evidence is protected. IB and UP police are also working on it. No injuries to passengers or staff. Train arranged for passengers for onward journey to Amdavad." Asked about the incident, Police Commissioner, Kanpur, Akhil Kumar told PTI that it "is premature to reach a conclusion on whether it is an accident or an act of mischief, but it could be anything". "The loco pilot told the police that he had seen some-

thing on the tracks from a distance and he immediately applied the emergency brakes that resulted in the derailment, but he failed to elaborate on what he saw," he said. Kumar said that no FIR had been lodged in this connection till Saturday evening as the police had not received a written complaint from the railways so far. Railway Board officials said the involvement of miscreants or anti-social elements is being looked into as prima facie it appears that the engine hit an object "placed on the track". "We found a foreign material near the 16th coach of the train. Looking at the size of the damaged portion of the cattle guard of the engine, it seems that the engine hit this foreign object and derailed," an official said. "The loco pilot said that some boulder hit the cattle guard (front portion) of the engine which got badly damaged and bent," another official said.

CM reviews plans for..

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister provided critical inputs, emphasising the importance of integrating this route with existing infrastructure to ensure seamless connectivity from the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to the Regional Ring Road (RRR). Revanth stressed that the development of these roads should align with long-term urban expansion plans, facilitating smooth traffic flow and accessibility. The Chief Minister underscored the need to plan radial roads inside the Future City to support internal transportation needs. He urged officials to develop a robust plan that would cater to both current and future requirements, ensuring that Future City becomes a model for sustainable urban development. A key point of the meeting was the discussion on metro connectivity from the new High Court to Future City via RGI Airport. The Chief Minister directed officials to prioritize this metro route, highlighting its significance as a crucial public transportation link that connects major city landmarks and provides easy access for commuters.



Let's work unitedly to confront pressing challenges: Modi

Prime Minister urges Global South

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called on the countries of the Global South to work unitedly in dealing with food and energy security crises and challenges of terrorism as he flagged concerns over consequences of "uncertainties" around the world. In his opening address at the third edition of the Voice of Global South Summit hosted by India virtually, Modi said India will make an initial contribution of USD 25 million to the 'Social Impact Fund' that aims to develop digital public infrastructure (DPI) in the Global South. The prime minister reaffirmed India's commitment to sharing its capabilities with the Global South or the develop-

ing countries to promote mutual trade, and inclusive development, and to achieve sustainable development goals. Modi said there has been an "atmosphere of uncertainty" around the world and it has

"We are already facing the challenges of climate change, and now there are also concerns about health security, food security, and energy security," he said. "Terrorism, extremism and

also emerging," the prime minister said. He said the global governance and financial institutions formed in the last century have been unable to fight the challenges of this century. "It is the need of the hour that the countries of the Global South unite, stand together in one voice and become each other's strength. Let us learn from each other's experiences." "Let us share our capabilities. Let us together take our resolutions to fruition. Let us together get recognition for two-thirds of humanity," Modi said. In the last few years, India has been positioning itself as a leading voice, flagging concerns, challenges and aspirations of the Global South or the developing nations, especially the African continent.

The prime minister reaffirmed India's commitment to sharing its capabilities with the Global South or the developing countries to promote mutual trade, and inclusive development, and to achieve sustainable development goals

not yet fully come out of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, adding new challenges to development are being faced due to wars.

separatism remain serious threats to our societies. Technology divide and new economic and social challenges related to technology are

record their testimonials, and share those stories in their social media accounts. This way, the Congress could ensure that its governance has a real impact on people's lives. He exhorted the activists to pool the views of commoners and impress upon them how the Congress government is more effective and responsive to the people's needs than the BRS. He argued that only such a grassroots outreach would help build a powerful narrative that will strike a chord with voters. Uttam emphasised that every Congress worker should look out for false propaganda by the BRS. He underlined the need to refute misinformation

CM side-tracking loan waiver scheme..

Continued from page 1

Why do the BJP need that, he asked. Maheshwar demanded the Congress government to reveal the formula they had applied in implementing the loan waiver scheme with Rs 17,000 crore. He demanded the state government to release the list of beneficiaries of the Loan Waiver Scheme. Addressing the media at the Assembly Media Hall on Saturday, Maheshwar challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy saying that he is ready to take political sanyas if the CM proves that the loan waiver was implemented comprehensively. He said the true colour of the Congress came out after the implementation of the Rs 2 lakh loan waiver scheme. He said the Congress

deceived farmers assuring that it would waive loans up Rs 2 lakh. He said the government needs Rs 49,000 crore to implement the loan waiver scheme fully as the state has 60 lakh farmers. The CM should reveal on which day the Congress is conducting the Warangal Meeting as the meeting will be filled with farmers who did not get their loans waived. Alleging that the government diverted Rythu Bharosa funds to waive loans, Maheshwar demanded the government to tell when it will implement the Kharif season Rythu Bharosa. He said the CM is resorting to attacks on the offices of opposition MLAs as the Congress government failed to implement the loan waiver scheme fully.

Continued from page 1

Sridhar Babu also reaffirmed the current government's commitment to honouring all Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed during BRS rule, urging investors not to be influenced by negative campaigns about Telangana's financial situation. He highlighted that despite minor concerns, Amara Raja Energy and Mobility would continue its projects in Telangana, emphasizing that the company has substantial plans to establish multiple units in the state. The Minister dismissed claims that the government had offered special incentives or land, stating that the signed MoUs were generic and did not involve any extraordinary concessions.

TG will honour all MoUs: Min

In his address, Sridhar Babu extended an open invitation to the siblings of BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, encouraging them to partner with the government in its development initiatives. He also accused the BRS of harming the state's prospects through false propaganda regarding finances and industrial policies. The press conference on Sridhar Babu's recent foreign tour, which spanned from August 4 to 13, covering visits to the United States and South Korea. During the tour, the Minister successfully secured 19 investment deals amounting to Rs. 31,500 crore in the US,

Use social media to highlight..

Continued from page 1

tion with facts and figures so that the party's narrative remains strong and credible. Congress workers must monitor social media for any misleading information and respond promptly to correct the record to ensure that no wrong information spreads. He emphasised the need for regular engagement with official party channels on social media and urged all Congress workers to check the official X and Facebook accounts of Rahul Gandhi, the Congress, and other top leaders at least three times a day. By liking and sharing all the posts from these accounts, party workers can ensure that the Congress' message reaches a larger audience. In addition to highlighting

the party's achievements and countering opposition propaganda, Uttam emphasised the role of personal narratives in humanising leaders and making them more relatable to the public. He encouraged Telangana's leaders and social media activists to share stories that connect emotionally with voters, thereby strengthening the bond between the party and the electorate. He also reiterated the need for real-time engagement through live streaming of rallies, roadshows, and other events to reach voters directly. Uttam emphasised that the digital strategies of the Congress party worked in the 2023 Assembly election and

the Lok Sabha elections of 2024, proving that social media has the potential to frame political outcomes. He has also highlighted how technology is changing political campaigns, especially the integration of Artificial Intelligence into social media strategies. Uttam said that AI could add value to any social media campaign by getting better insights into voter behaviour, optimising content delivery and personalising interaction with the electorate. He added that AI tools can analyse vast amounts of data to understand trending issues, get an idea of the public pulse and create more palatable content for particular demographic groups.

KNSU to establish Sports..

Continued from page 1

He was responding to a question of Anand Mahindra on what is it that prevents us from finding world-beating talent in Olympic sports. The CM extended an invitation to Anand Mahindra to collaborate in building the infrastructure needed to enhance India's performance in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. He expressed his commitment to not only promoting Telangana's youth but also contributing to India's success on the global stage.

collaborate in building the infrastructure needed to enhance India's performance in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. He expressed his commitment to not only promoting Telangana's youth but also contributing to India's success on the global stage.

Revanth sure to join BJP with..

Continued from page 1

"I was born in the BJP and will end my political journey in the BJP. This is what Revanth promised Prime Minister Modi and Amit Shah," KTR said. "Revanth told Modi that he started his political journey with the ABVP and will end it under the same saffron flag. Revanth must clarify this," KTR demanded. He criticised the government's failure to effectively implement the farm loan waiver scheme. The SLBC (State Level Bankers' Committee) said that 47 lakh people should receive loan waivers and Revanth had said that Rs 40,000 crore would be required for this. However, the Cabinet approved only Rs 31,000 crore and the budget allocated just Rs 27,000 crore. In the end, they gave Rs 17,000 crore for waiving farm loans benefiting only 22 lakh people, KTR pointed out. KTR declared that the entire loan waiver process is a sham. The BRS will gather detailed information on loan waivers at the village level which will then be submitted to collectors and subsequently to the state government. If the government fails to address farmers' concerns state-wide protests

will commence in two days, he warned. e vowed to pressure the government to ensure that the loans of all farmers are waived. The BRS will start collecting data from the Chief Minister's constituency and then from all other constituencies. If justice is not served, the party will launch direct action, he said. The BRS call centre has received approximately 1.2 lakh complaints regarding loan waiver. He said that a pro forma will be prepared to collect information, with local MLAs, former MLAs and senior leaders overseeing the process. BRS activists will visit all rural households to collect data directly, he said. KTR said that loan waiver has not reached at least 40% of farmers who are now in deep distress. He accused the Congress of engaging in attention-diversion tactics to deflect public attention from the failure of the loan waiver scheme. While the Chief Minister claims that 100% of loans have been waived, the government's move to establish special counters for those who did not get their loans waived exposes the administration's doublespeak.

IMA's 24-hour strike cripples..

Continued from page 1

Representatives of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA), IMA and resident doctors' associations of government medical colleges and hospitals of Delhi met the Union health minister in the wake of the Kolkata incident. Reacting to the development, the IMA said it is studying the statement released by the health ministry assuring doctors of all possible efforts to ensure their safety and offering to form a committee to suggest measures for the same. The IMA said it will respond to it after careful consideration of all aspects and consultations with its state branches. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said everyone was concerned about the rape and murder of the

doctor in Kolkata and not just the healthcare fraternity. Rijiju was speaking to reporters at the Bhubaneswar airport in Odisha. In West Bengal, the epicentre of the protest, the former principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital Dr Sandip Ghosh appeared before the CBI for questioning for the second consecutive day on Saturday in connection with the horrific incident. Ghosh reached the CBI office for the second time a little before 10.30 am. During his first round of questioning on Friday, the former principal was asked about his first reaction after getting the news of the doctor's death whom he instructed to inform the family and how and who contacted the police. Meanwhile, doctors in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West

Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Mizoram, and Nagaland among other states joined the 24-hour strike called by the IMA. In the national capital, major private hospitals shut down their OPDs, elective surgeries and IPD services. Resident doctors in the capital have been on an indefinite strike since Monday. As the strike entered its sixth day on Saturday, private hospitals also joined the protest alongside government hospitals. Hospitals like Sir Ganga Ram, Fortis and Apollo have halted their OPD, elective surgeries and IPD services. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren condemned the alleged rape and murder and appealed to the protesting medics to return to work for the sake of the patients.

Jolt to k'taka Cong govt

Continued from page 1

The Governor's sanction is expected to pave the way for investigating agencies to initiate a probe into the allegations against the Chief Minister. In the MUDA 'scam', it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the MUDA. The MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where MUDA developed a residential layout. Under the controversial scheme, MUDA allotted 50 per cent of developed land to the land losers in lieu of undeveloped land acquired from them for forming residential layouts. Opposition and some activists have also claimed that Parvathi had no legal title over 3.16 acres of land. BJP leaders have claimed that the MUDA 'scam' is of the magnitude of Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 5,000 crore. Shivakumar slammed the Governor's move as 'unconstitutional' and 'undemocratic', and asserted that the entire party and the government solidly stood behind Siddaramaiah as he categorically dismissed BJP's demand for Chief Minister's resignation.



# NOE - WHERE GLOBAL FLAVOURS MEET RARE INGREDIENTS!

Nestled in the heart of Lutyens Delhi in the iconic Diplomat Hotel, the recently launched 'NOE' is set to redefine the dining culture in the city, bringing a vibrant social atmosphere and an innovative culinary experience

By SHARMILA CHAND

I wanted an elevated comfort food zone to take guests through a culinary journey blending global flavors with local influences to craft a unique experience," says Sandeep Bishnoi, the Founder who has been associated with creative brands such as Perch Wine & Coffee Bar and Hoots. Here innovative culinary experience is the key with Chef Dhruv Nijhawan, at the helm of affairs. An alumnus of Le Cordon Bleu, India, Chef Dhruv's passion for ingenious cooking techniques and for reviving rare, authentic ingredients, is well known. At NOE, he brings forth his passion as is evident in the distinctive menu that celebrates the art of 'elevating comfort food'. Evoking nostalgia and inspiring innovation, the kitchen at NOE re-invents handpicked traditional comfort dishes from world cuisines using lesser-known ingredient pairings and creative cooking techniques. From high-quality produce to regional and international cuisines, each dish encapsulates a rich tapestry of flavours and the ingredients' culinary heritage.

Speaking about the cooking methods, chef Dhruv tells me, "Every dish tells a story of a unique ingredient and a different cooking method. Reinventing modern classic dishes in a flavour forward method lies at the heart of our cooking. NOE incorporates culinary techniques from around the world using star ingredients to create an innovative dining experience." Hence, Potato & Chilli Orange sits nicely looking pretty in front of me. Swedish Hasselback potatoes in smoked brown butter with savoury cheena, bajji chili, orange zest, Korean chilli oil and pea shoot cress, is one perfect example of Dhruv's philosophy. And so is 'Tofu & Garum' - an umami flavoured silken tofu with vegan mushroom garum, soy, leek circles, porcini mushrooms & nori powder. For mutton lovers, what better than 'Kanda & Picante'? "Kaffir lime and coriander mutton kanda with broccoli picante puree finished with chermoula crumble," explains chef. He also recommends 'John Dory & Mazavaroo' - pan-seared John Dory with cauliflower crème, smoked Mazavaroo, tossed almond flakes served with cashew duqqa. The menu is extensive with a lot more stars like 'Lamb & Molé' - medium-rare cooked lamb chop with curry leaf, thyme, black molé sauce, togarashi tossed snap peas, sumac onions with seasonal cress. For crab lovers, 'Crab & Wasabi' is strongly recommended. Crab meat with avocado, wasabi, lime puree, water chestnuts, asparagus, compressed cucumbers and seasonal cress.

From large plate section, Pumpkin & Pomegranate turned out to be my favourite. Braised pumpkin with pomegranate sauce reduced with all spice and tahini, served with a sumac cress salad. 'Potato & Capers' is another one I lapped up. You will love layered potato slices with lemon zest cream, asparagus and olive. The relish of smoked onion added to the flavor



brilliantly accompanied by a side salad in orange dressing. 'Onigiri & Rasam' is a brilliant take on innovative experimentation. Jasmine rice onigiri with a light rasam sauce finished with celery dust, furikake peashoot, you would have never relished rasam in this medium. The dessert section looks pretty impressive, each dish comes with a lavish dose of drama to oomph things up. For me, Biscoff & Chai was the perfect way to wind up the meal. A vanilla cardamom sponge cake with Biscoff mousse and masala chai whipped cream cheese, with a spiced ginger sable & Biscoff gelato, simply bowled me over. Complementing culinary experience is the creative highball cocktail program served at NOE's bar. Managed by Hoots - recently awarded as one of Asia's Top 50 Bars, the highball bar concept emphasises refreshing, perfectly balanced cocktails created with premium spirits and house-made mixers, showcasing creativity and craftsmanship. Inspired by its prestigious address



flows effortlessly into a trendy bar and a plush rustic outdoor deck as well as an intimate courtyard," tells Amit Chhabra, of studio LDC, the team behind the design architects of NOE. With diverse settings, NOE offers layers of sensory experiences for all moods and occasions where guests can enjoy different spaces in a single visit or each separately over multiple ones. Whether it's a casual gathering over food and drinks, a rendezvous with a friend, a special celebration, solo culinary adventures, a romantic date, or even small events, NOE promises for a memorable time. Featuring an extensive breakfast spread, an all-day dining menu, delectable Sunday brunches, and a creative drinks menu along with rotating seasonal menus and pop-up surprises, NOE welcomes you to a world of elevated comfort food, exquisite cocktails, and unforgettable dining experiences. Overall, the vibe at NOE is elegant and chic. Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel, Food and Lifestyle



# A NOSTALGIC CULINARY FARE AT INDIAN REPUBLIC CANTEEN

By SHARMILA CHAND

Ever heard of Waffle Imarti, Mac n Cheese Pakora, Waffle Bread Pakora, Samosa Cannelloni? If no, head to Indian Republic Canteen in the heart of capital's popular Connaught Place and you will get to taste innovative dishes with a flair for fun. Why the name Indian Republic, I asked the team. "The concept is inspired by the diversity of the Indian Republic, aiming to create a welcoming and accessible environment to a familiar canteen setting, where all patrons can feel comfortable and engaged," is the answer. Alok Aggarwal Co-Founder- Indian Republic Canteen further explains, "Our establishment is founded on the concept of nostalgia, aiming to evoke cherished memories of simple, beloved foods such as noodles, samosas, and bread pakoras from one's college days. We are devoted to celebrating these dishes and encouraging patrons to savor

them without reservation. The interior design of our space is a contemporary fusion of modernity and nostalgia. It reflects both cutting-edge trends and traditional influences, presenting a vision of India that is globally stylish yet deeply rooted in Indian sensibilities."

## BREAKFAST SOIREEs

If not in a mood to rustle up breakfast at home, then just hop in here. They have introduced a new breakfast menu, serving a delightful array of morning treats that promise to start your day on a flavorful note. Imagine the perfect morning with a spread of traditional and contemporary breakfast dishes, curated to suit every palate. From 8 AM to 11 AM, you can indulge in a hearty and wholesome breakfast experience that blends the best of regional flavors with popular morning staples. The highlight of my breakfast was the comforting taste of Nagori Halwa, a classic dish that combines the rich flavors of semolina and sugar, bringing a touch of nostalgia to your breakfast. How could I miss the delicious Bedmi Sabzi, just perfect for my taste. For a flavour of traditional regional classic, Indori Poha, garnished with fresh



coriander, sev, and a squeeze of lemon, captures the essence of Indore's street food culture so beautifully. If you prefer something nutritious and savory, the Besan Chilla with Chutney

provides a protein-packed option, featuring a gram flour pancake served with a side of tangy chutney. The Bombay Sandwich offers a taste of Mumbai with layers of fresh vegetables and

tangy chutneys sandwiched between slices of soft bread. Health-conscious diners need not worry as they have option of Masala Oats, Banana Muesli Bowl, a refreshing mix of

muesli, fresh bananas, and yogurt, offering a perfect balance of taste and nutrition. For the ubiquitous South Indian flavors, the menu includes crispy and golden Dosa, served with traditional sambar and chutneys, transporting you to the streets of Southern India. Complement your meal with a selection of fresh juices, made from seasonal fruits, to add a refreshing touch to your breakfast. Or go for signature drinks like The IRC Shichanji, a longstanding favorite, alongside the Imli Fritz. Each drink is crafted to be unique and memorable, aligning with the overall concept of the place.

## TO CONCLUDE

Whether you are looking for a quick bite or a leisurely breakfast, Indian Republic Canteen's thoughtful and exciting menu is well curated to cater to all your hunger cravings.

## CHECK IT OUT

**Time:** 08:00am to 11:00am  
**Location:** H-26, Connaught Circle, Block H, Connaught Place, New Delhi





# FOREST RIGHTS ACT: A BEACON OF HOPE OR A VICTIM OF EXPLOITATION?



BKP SINHA



DR ARVIND K JHA

The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 was heralded as a transformative piece of legislation designed to recognise and empower forest dwelling communities while promoting sustainable forest management. However, the implementation of FRA has faced significant hurdles, including mismanagement, exploitation, and inadequate scrutiny write **BKP SINHA** and **ARVIND KUMAR JHA**

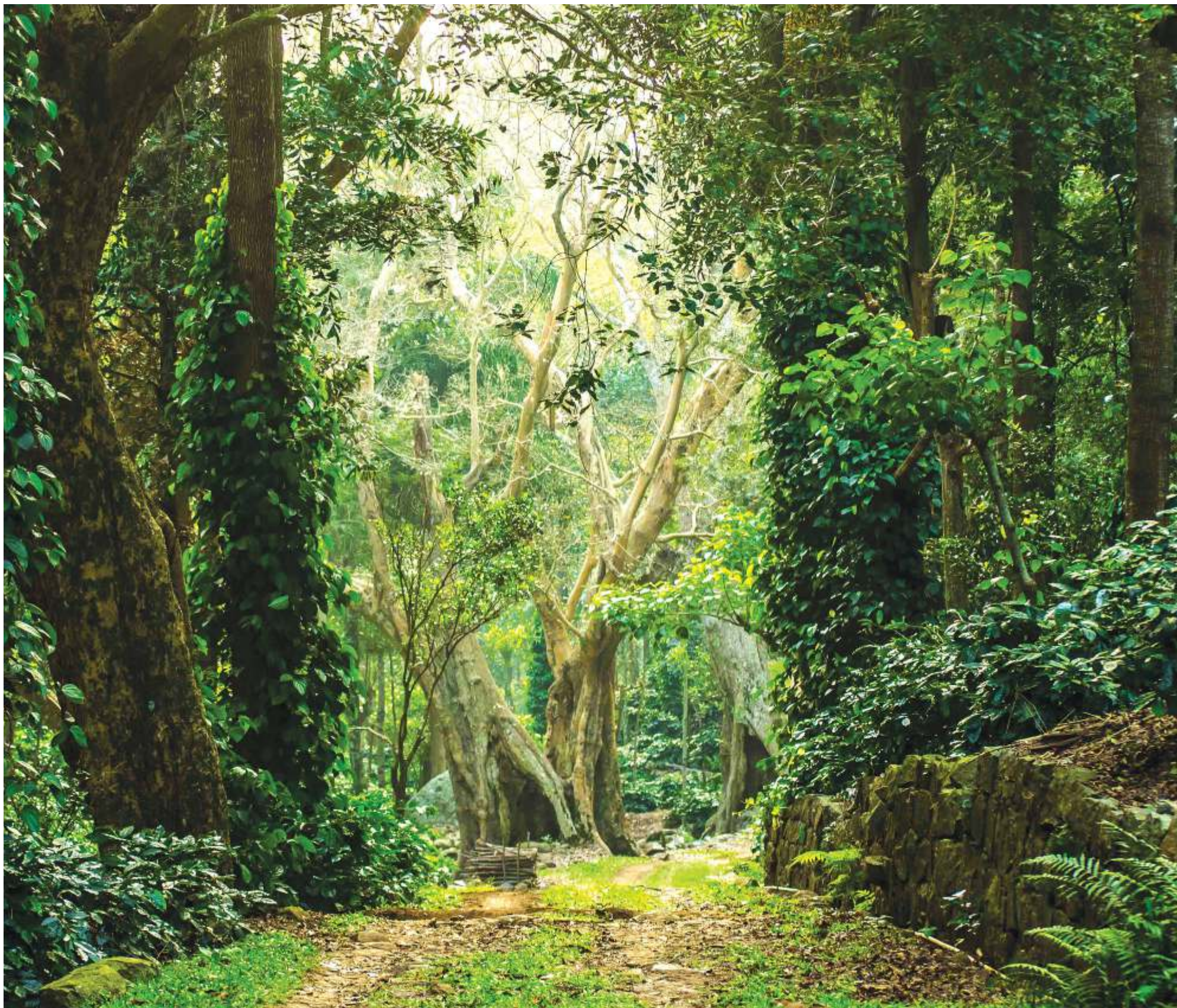
The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006, a landmark legislation in India, was introduced to recognise forest rights (FRs) of the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) and empower them aiming at strengthening the conservation regime of forests. It was seen as a beacon of hope ushering in an era of community-led sustainable use of forest resources, conservation of biodiversity, and maintenance of ecological balance, which are essential for the sustenance of FRs. The Act however has faced serious implementation challenges and is overly involved in debates about the fulfilment of this vision indicated in the preamble.

The FRA outlines fourteen distinct FRs for its target group but its initial implementation focused primarily on just two viz. habitation and self-cultivation. This emphasis led to large-scale encroachments by people claiming that they occupied the forest land before the mandated cutoff date of December 13, 2005. Not very surprisingly, the high volume of cases and the pressure to decide them quickly resulted in many ineligible claims getting recognized as valid. This, in turn, encouraged even more people to make similar claims, hoping that theirs would also be approved. During this time, the claims related to Community Forest Rights (CFRs) were given low priority, except for those involving traditionally collected minor forest produce.

In 2012, significant amendments to the FRA Rules were made and new guidelines issued thereafter. Although these amendments purportedly aimed to streamline implementation, they resulted in unintended consequences. Some of these amendments, allegedly extending beyond the Act's original scope, relaxed the eligibility criteria for claimants, allowing non-deserving individuals and communities to exploit the system. The amended Rule introduces a new right, known as the "Title" to Community Forest Resources.

It enabled communities with only a few members from the FDST and OTFD to make such claims thus allowing the rural elite and powerful individuals to take advantage of the system marginalizing the genuine target group of FRA. Additionally, the evidentiary value of satellite imagery was lowered, making it more challenging to distinguish between legitimate and fabricated claims. No system was established to scrutinize the approved claims while the Tribal Ministry, GOI repeatedly issued directives to review just the rejected ones. In the existing atmosphere, it was "practical" to approve claims rather than reject them even when the evidence was weak and essential criteria were not met. At times hundreds of cases were cleared in just one meeting which often lacked adequate representation of non-officials and women members, and objections by foresters, even when based on ground reality, were generally labelled as anti-tribal and anti-FRA.

The protection-related duties of forest right holders, gram sabhas, and village-level institutions mentioned under Section 5 of the FRA still await alignment with existing Acts and Rules given the purport of Section 13. Some state tribal departments, as nodal agencies for implementation, have excluded the forest department from village-level management plan committees constituted for community forest resources. Such exclusion precludes inputs from trained foresters and consideration of a landscape-based forest management approach, which is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity, survival of wide-ranging wildlife, and the provision of eco-services that extend beyond village boundaries. Village-centric



management systems, influenced by electoral politics, may undermine long-term conservation efforts and harm ecological balance. Instances of clear felling and over-exploitation in bamboo coupes, in violation of sustainability principles, have already been observed in some villages. Encroachments and land-use alteration near watercourses and on slopes pose significant risks. In 1992, the Forest Department attempted to remove encroachments in Mundakai, Wayanad but faced violent resistance resulting in assaults, injuries, and the torching of six vehicles by locals. Over time, emboldened encroachers and developers constructed large resorts on slopes increasing landslide susceptibility. This risk was tragically realized with the recent landslide in Mundakai in July 2024.

Under FRA also, recognition of claims by ignoring the terrain is an extremely serious issue. In Maharashtra, a 2014 satellite-based study on FRA implementation revealed that out of randomly selected 56,029 claims for cultivation and habitation in Gadchiroli, Gondia, Nandurbar, and Dhule districts; 8,472 and 11,988 sites respectively were within 50 and 100 meters of water bodies or watercourses. Similar claims were found in different districts on slopes exceeding 20 degrees, pockmarked with a total area of

485 acres, many of which could potentially become the epicentre of additional encroachments and imminent disasters.

To date, 5.18 million acres of forest land scattered over 2.37 million sites have been recognized in the country as individual FRs of cultivation and habitation and the process is still on. The absence of a cut-off date for claim submission, however, makes misuse of the Act easier with time since the verifiability of evidence about 2005 becomes increasingly difficult. It may allow the exploitation of the Act for political purposes too.

An analysis of cases cleared just before elections, for instance, 1,33,920 titles granted to podu cultivators reportedly based on village elders' statements; ramping up of claim clearances in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh; and current invitations for new claims in Jharkhand should be revealing. A worrying trend, however, has emerged in Madhya Pradesh, with encroachers from other villages and districts targeting forest land in Burhanpur district and nearby areas, often with local politician's support. These actions have sparked violent clashes between the encroachers, local villagers, and forest officials, who are struggling to protect the forests. An examination of randomly selected CFR cases in Maharashtra reveals that the 'nature' and 'extent' of FRs are often missing from title documents. The issue reportedly

“THE PROTECTION-RELATED DUTIES OF FOREST RIGHT HOLDERS, GRAM SABHAS, AND VILLAGE-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS MENTIONED UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE FRA STILL AWAIT ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING ACTS AND RULES GIVEN THE PURPORT OF SECTION 13. SOME STATE TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS, AS NODAL AGENCIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION, HAVE EXCLUDED THE FOREST DEPARTMENT FROM VILLAGE-LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED FOR COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCES”

exists in other states as well. Understanding the quantity of forest produce (as a forest right) is crucial for the sustainable management of community forest resources and the long-term continuance of the exercise of forest rights. Accurate quantification can prevent issues such as the dwindling supply of medicinal plants for the Ayurvedic industry, which has led to the use of substandard materials and tarnished the reputation of Ayurveda. Unregulated removals could lead to future disputes over forest produce among neighbouring villages which would simply be disastrous.

The process adopted for recognizing Rights over Community Forest Resources (RCFR) raises significant concerns. According to Section 3(1)(i), RCFR of management is admissible only for communities of FDSTs and OTFDs who have traditionally protected and conserved these resources for sustainable use. Further, section 4(3) of the Act mandates that these communities must have occupied the forest land before the cutoff date of December 13, 2005. However, in practice, management rights under Section 3(1)(i) have been liberally granted, ignoring the mandated criteria, on more than 13.5 million acres out of the country's total recorded forest area of 191.5 million acres. The trend continues unabated also

due to the absence of a deadline for claim submission. Surprisingly, RCFRs for management have been granted on thousands of acres in the core areas of Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas in Achanakmar, Udanti Sitanadi, Dhamtari, Navegaon Nagzira, and Tansa without fulfilling the required criteria. Apart from the illegalities involved in RCFR cases, the overall situation indicates that the concerned District Level Committees have unauthorizedly transferred the State's responsibility mentioned in Article 51A of the Constitution.

In the past, forests were vast and tribal populations were small and cohesive with minimal influence from market forces. They existed harmoniously. Today, we face a crisis of fractured village populations and fragmented forests. The traditional arrangements that once worked may no longer be effective. Any harm to forest conservation and management has far-reaching consequences and Nature responds to it in compounded ways, leading to unpredictable weather patterns, desertification, global warming, and ecological crises. These environmental changes exacerbate climate change, creating a vicious cycle that further threatens the sustainability and health of our forests and communities. It is crucial to set a deadline for claim

submissions, revisit the rules under the FRA, and swiftly correct its implementation to benefit genuine beneficiaries. Cancelling irregularly granted rights, removing encroachments, and relocating FR holders from high-risk areas will establish confidence in the administration among the voiceless target group of the FRA.

The Supreme Court must prioritize the hearing of writ petition 109/2008, duly because their earlier order to evict encroachers was stayed on February 28, 2019, due to the Tribal Affairs Ministry's submission that due processes were not followed in implementing the FRA. The ministry had also highlighted that the process of settling the claims and rights of the applicants left much to be desired.

At this critical juncture, the choices we make will shape the destiny of India's forests, its people including forest-dependent communities, and its ecology and economy. The question remains: Will the FRA fulfil its promise of empowering legitimate forest right holders while safeguarding India's ecological wealth, or will it succumb to exploitation and misuse? Only time, and our commitment to a sustainability-oriented implementation of the Act, will tell.

(The writer are former PCCFs, UP and Maharashtra; views expressed are personal)



IN BRIEF



Raj Govt receives investment proposals of Rs 5.21 lakh cr

The Rajasthan government has received investment proposals worth over Rs 5.21 lakh crore (over USD 62 billion) within two weeks of the announcement of dates for the 'Rising Rajasthan' Investment Summit 2024. According to an official statement, the Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP), which is the nodal department for the investment summit, has received proposals from some of the biggest names in the Indian and global corporate sector. These projects have the potential to generate about 1.55 lakh direct employment opportunities. The received investment proposals (worth Rs 5.21 lakh crore) amount to over 33 per cent of Rajasthan's present economy (GSDP) which is estimated to be INR 15.28 lakh crore (at current prices) in 2023-24.



CBIC to GST: Consult board on law interpretation

The CBIC has asked GST officers conducting audit to refer to the board those cases where they face issues of conflicting interpretation of provisions of the tax law. In an instruction to field offices, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said during the process of audit, a CGST Audit Principal Commissioner may come across a scenario where a taxpayer has followed a prevalent trade practice based on particular interpretation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) law and more than one such interpretation of the law could result in litigation. "In such cases, it is desirable that the zonal (Pr.) Chief Commissioner make a self-contained reference to the relevant policy wing of the Board i.e. the GST Policy or TRU (Tax research Unit)," the CBIC said, adding that the Commissioner would make the reference before conclusion of the audit and before issuing show cause notice to promote uniformity and avoid litigation.



Maruti to raise deferred tax liability provision by Rs 850 cr

Maruti Suzuki India on Saturday said it would need to increase provision for deferred tax liability by around Rs 850 crore due to the withdrawal of indexation benefit while calculating long-term capital gains on debt mutual funds. The company was making accounting provisions for deferred tax liability on fair value gains on these investments, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. A one-time impact on profit after tax will be felt in the second quarter of the ongoing fiscal, it added. In the Finance (No.2) Act 2024, the indexation benefit has been withdrawn while calculating long term capital gains on debt mutual funds which were purchased prior to April 1, 2023, it added. "Due to withdrawal of indexation benefit and change in rate of tax from 20 per cent plus surcharge and cess (with indexation) to 12.5 per cent plus surcharge and cess (without indexation), accounting provision for deferred tax liability so created needs to be restated," the automaker said.

Open to increase India's collaboration with IMF: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is open to exploring more ways to increase its collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said during a meeting with IMF's First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath on Saturday.

During the meeting, Gopinath congratulated the Finance Minister on policy continuity in the fiscal consolidation path being followed by the Government of India.

"FM Smt. @nsitharaman stated that India deeply values its relationship and continuous engagement with IMF; and looking ahead, the Government of India is open to exploring more ways to increase India's collaboration with the IMF," the finance ministry said in a post on X.

Besides acknowledging the vibrancy of the Indian economy, Gopinath appreciated the strength of India's relationship with IMF - valuable to both India, IMF, and to the world at large.



'India needs to create 148 mn additional jobs'

India has been a laggard among G20 nations in terms of employment generation and the country needs to create an additional 148 million jobs by 2030 given the population growth, Gita Gopinath

said on Saturday.

India on an average grew at 6.6 per cent for the decade starting 2010 but the employment rate was under 2 per cent, she said at the Delhi School of Economics Diamond Jubilee event here.

So, India's employment rate is much less when compared

to other G20 nations, she said.

"If you look at India's projections in terms of population growth, India will have to create anywhere between 60 million to 148 million additional jobs cumulatively between now and 2030... we are already in 2024, so in a short period of time we have to create a lot of jobs," she said.

Given the scale of what is needed, it is going to require basic reforms including land reforms and implementation of labour codes.

To generate more jobs, she said, there is a need for an increase in private investment as it is not commensurate with 7 per cent growth in GDP. However, she said, public investment is going well but private investment has to improve.

She also said that India should revamp its education system so that it can improve the skill set of its workforce.

Besides, she said, there is a need to further ease of doing business, improve the regulatory environment and broaden the tax base.

Unilateral measures hamper equitable world trade: Commerce Secy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Saturday said that unilateral environmental measures such as the European Union's (EU) carbon tax do not reflect the principles of equity and hamper equitable world trade.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the Global South countries are facing challenges both in terms of developing climate and sustainable development strategies and responding to unilateral measures such as CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism).

"Unilateral environment measures do not reflect the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities; and hamper equitable world trade," he said in a virtual address at the third Voice of Global South Summit.

India has on different platforms raised its concerns over the EU's decision to impose carbon tax on certain sectors as it would hurt the country's exports. The country is in dis-

cussions with the EU on the subject.

The EU has decided to impose a CBAM, or carbon tax, which will come into effect from January 1, 2026. Initially, it would be imposed on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products.

According to the think tank GTRI, the EU-CBAM when fully implemented will result in a 20-35 per cent import tax on Indian firms and the domestic industry will have to share all plant and production details with the EU.

The Global South countries include both developing and least developed nations (LDCs).

The secretary also said that these countries need to increase cooperation in areas of food security and global value chains; address challenges faced by MSMEs and also the challenges posed by the current international trading system.

Technopark's software export revenue touches Rs 13,255 cr

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The revenue from software exports by the IT and IT enabled services companies of the Kerala government-owned Technopark has reached Rs 13,255 crore for the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, marking a 14 per cent growth compared to last year, the IT hub authorities said on Saturday.

The software export revenue of Technopark for the FY 2022-23 was Rs 11,630 crore. "The revenue from software exports by the IT/ITEs companies of Technopark has clocked Rs 13,255 crore for the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, marking a 14 per cent growth compared to last year," Technopark said in a release.

The premier IT hub of the country, which covers a total area of 768.63 acres with 12.72 million sqft built up space, houses as many as 490 companies, providing 75,000 direct jobs and two lakh plus indirect jobs.

Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd), CEO, Technopark, said the stellar performance tells a growth story of the vibrant IT ecosystem in Kerala and the business vision and professionalism of the in-house companies.

"The world-class infrastructure and skilled workforce at Technopark played a major role in hitting this high growth trajectory. The results will enhance confidence in the state, which is a model for the whole country," Nair said.

Sebi proposes expansion of sustainable fin framework

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has proposed expansion of the sustainable finance framework in the securities market by introducing a new category of financial instruments.

This category will include Social Bonds, Sustainable Bonds, and Sustainability-linked Bonds in addition to the current green debt securities. It aims to provide issuers with flexibility in raising funds for projects that align with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives.

In a consultation paper released on Friday, Sebi proposed that issuers, in addition to existing green debt securities, be allowed to raise funds through issuance of social bonds, sustainable bonds, and sustainability-linked bonds. These bonds will collectively be known as ESG Debt Securities.

This will enable issuers to raise money for more sustainable projects, assisting in closing the funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sebi said it received representations from market participants including the

SECURITIES MARKET

Confederation of Indian Industry to expand the scope of the regulatory framework pertaining to sustainable finance to include Social Bonds, in addition to existing Green Debt Securities as a mode of raising sustainable finance, in line with global practices.

As per the consultation paper, Sebi said, it "proposed to introduce the concept of Sustainable Securitised Debt Instruments for the purpose of providing originators of the underlying credit facilities which are within such international or domestic frameworks for sustainable finance, and thereby provide investors as well an opportunity to participate in the sustainable securitised debt instruments".

The consultation paper also addressed the initial and continuous disclosures for sustainable securitised debt instruments that would be based on international frameworks.

Initial disclosures could be made in the offer document for the securities, while continuous disclosures might be included in annual reports or other mandated formats.

The markets watchdog also suggested



This will enable issuers to raise money for more sustainable projects, assisting in closing the funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals.

that issuers of ESG debt securities and sustainable securitised debt instruments appoint an independent external reviewer or certifier, to facilitate transparency and credibility.

The review could take various forms including, second-party opinions, verification, certification, or scoring/ rating.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has invited comments and suggestions from the public on the consultation paper by September 6

India a global leader in breakthrough innovations, says Bill Gates

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

India is a global leader with breakthrough innovations, American businessman and Microsoft founder Bill Gates has said as he joined Indian Americans to celebrate the first ever India Independence Day celebrations of the newly-opened Indian Consulate in Seattle.

Bill Gates, chairman of the Gates Foundation, flagged off the first India Day celebrations in the Greater Seattle area as Consulate General of India as Seattle's Guest of Honor, on India's 78th Independence Day, a media release said.

Addressing the nearly 2,000 plus members of the Indian American community, he referred to India "as a global leader with breakthrough innovations in areas like technology, agriculture and healthcare".



Gates further said, "From manufacturing safe low-cost vaccines to the remarkable leadership shown by the Indian diaspora to India's Digital Public Infrastructure - India's ingenuity is helping not just Indians, but the whole world. Countries across the Global South are leveraging India's experience to build their DPI systems."

Other participants at the India Day celebrations included Congresswoman Suzan

Windfall tax on crude petroleum reduced to Rs 2,100/tonne

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to Rs 2,100 per tonne, from Rs 4,600 per tonne with effect from Saturday.

The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED).

The SAED on the export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'.

The new rates are effective from August 17, an official notification said.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks,

Govt to empanel AI infra providers under Rs 10,372-cr India AI mission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has invited bids for the empanelment of entities for providing artificial intelligence services on cloud under the Rs 10,372-crore India AI mission, which was approved by the cabinet in March this year.

The empaneled agencies, like data centers and cloud service providers, will have to provide access to high-speed computing AI infrastructure like graphics processing unit (GPUs), accelerators, Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), storage etc to academia, startups, researchers, government bodies among others at the lowest rate that will be discovered through the bidding process.

Under the IndiaAI Mission, supercomputing capacity, comprising over 10,000 GPUs, will be made available to various stakeholders for creating an AI ecosystem.

"With an objective to



empanel service providers for making this possible, IndiaAI - an IBD under Digital India Corporation, MeitY has issued a RFE (request for empanelment)," MeitY, Additional Secretary Abhishek Singh said in a social media post.

The rapid development of AI across the globe has led to an increase in demand for GPU-based servers, as they can process data at a higher speed compared to CPU-based servers.

'Majority blue-collar jobs pay less than Rs 20k per month'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Majority of blue-collar jobs in India pay within the salary range of Rs 20,000 or less per month, suggesting that a substantial portion of the workforce is grappling with financial strain, struggling to meet essential needs such as housing, healthcare, and education, a report has said.

Over 57.63 per cent of blue-collar jobs fall within the salary range of Rs 20,000 or less per month, indicating that many workers earn close to the minimum wage, tech-enabled blue collar recruitment platform WorkIndia said in a report.

revealed that about 29.34 per cent of blue-collar jobs are in the moderate earning bracket, with salaries ranging from Rs 20,000-40,000 per month.

Workers falling under this category, experience marginally improved financial security but are far from achieving a comfortable standard of living, it said.

The income in this range may cover necessities but it leaves little room for savings or investments, which highlights the economic vulnerability of a large segment of the

blue-collar workforce, it added. "The data reveals a significant concentration of low-wage jobs and limited opportunities

for higher earnings within the blue-collar sector. This disparity not only reflects the economic challenges faced by a large portion of the workforce but also has broader implications for social stability and economic growth," WorkIndia CEO and co-founder Nilsh Durgarwal told PTI.

Addressing these issues may require targeted interventions such as skill development, wage reforms, and the creation of more high-paying job opportunities, he added. The report further

revealed that a very small segment of the workforce, constituting only 10.71 per cent, get salaries over Rs 40,000-60,000 per month.

This higher earning bracket among the blue collar reflects the presence of specialised skills or experience among these workers, yet the restricted availability of such positions suggests that upward mobility within the segment remains challenging, it said.

Only 2.31 per cent of blue-collar jobs offer salaries exceeding Rs 60,000, which is an extremely small percentage that signifies the scarcity of well-paying opportunities in this sector, it stated.



'Identify high-value cash transactions at hotels'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rampant cash transactions in business sectors like hotels, luxury brand sales, hospitals and IVF clinics need to be checked in a "non-intrusive" manner, the CBDT has asked the I-T department.

The apex body for direct taxes administration in the country -- the Central Board of Direct Taxes -- has also asked the tax department to undertake "concerted efforts" to recover arrear demands which have been witnessing a "steep rise" since the last financial year.

**OSMANIA UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD - 500 007**

Tender Notice No. MR-20027(2008)Est/2024 Date: 14-08-2024

**TENDER NOTICE**

Osmania University is inviting the Tenders for engaging security personnel (Es-Service-men only) on outsourcing basis hired through Private Security Agencies. The interested Agencies holding license with updated registration and all statutory licenses may submit their sealed tenders on or before 28-08-2024 upto 2.00 pm at office of the Director (Infrastructure), Ground Floor, Administrative Building, Osmania University, Hyderabad - 500 007. The application forms and further details can be had from the University website [www.osmania.ac.in](http://www.osmania.ac.in).

Sd/-  
R.O. No. : 343-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 REGISTRAR, OSMANIA UNIVERSITY

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

NIT No. 17/DIV.13 (Old-7B)/GHMC/2024-25

Name of the Work : Civil Works (13 Nos). Estimate amount : Rs. 187.10 Lakhs.

Start date/Last date & Time for Receipt of bids : For works from S.No.1 to 5, Starts from 19.08.2024 from 2.30 PM To 22.08.2024 upto 2.30 PM. Name & Address of Officer Cell No: Executive Engineer, Division No.13 (Old-7B) (K2), GHMC, Kharasabad, Hyderabad. 9154980552. For further details can be seen at [www.Tender.eprocurement.gov.in](http://www.Tender.eprocurement.gov.in)

DIPR.No. 2596-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No.13 (Old-7B), GHMC



"Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up"  
- Gareth Thomas



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

# RAKSHA BANDHAN

## CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF PURE BONDS

In the heart of Delhi, with monsoon clouds overhead, the streets burst into life for Raksha Bandhan. Amidst the lively chaos and bright colours, the festival unfolds as a touching celebration of sibling love. Each stall, filled with colourful rakhis, tells a story of pure bonds and heartfelt traditions, turning everyday moments into cherished memories, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

As the festive season arrives, bringing with it a time of warmth, togetherness and cherished traditions, one celebration stands out for its profound significance — the bond between brothers and sisters. Raksha Bandhan, a festival that embodies untold love and silent care, is not just a ritual but a celebration of a "PURE BOND." Amidst this atmosphere, the vibrant marketplaces come alive with the spirit of Raksha Bandhan and nowhere is this evident than in Delhi's iconic Sadar Bazar. The festival's essence is captured not just through rituals but through the bustling, colourful preparations that fill the market, making it a focal point of the celebration.

### THE ENCHANTING FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE

Sadar Bazar, one of Delhi's oldest and busiest markets, undergoes a remarkable transformation as Raksha Bandhan approaches. The market, typically known for its wide range of goods, turns into a hub of colour and excitement, with rakhis and festive decorations taking center stage. Every shop and vendor gears up for the big day, filling the air with a lively sense of excitement. The narrow lanes of Sadar Bazar, usually crowded with shoppers, become even more packed as people move from stall to stall, searching for the perfect rakhi. The market itself seems to join in the celebration, with every corner reflecting the spirit of Raksha Bandhan. Despite the unpredictable weather during the monsoon season, with sudden bursts of rain and heat, enthusiastic shoppers continue to pour into Sadar Bazar. The market remains crowded, even in the rain, as people carry umbrellas or brave the elements to get what they need. There is a shared determination among the shoppers, a sense that no amount of rain or heat can dampen the joy of preparing for Raksha Bandhan.

### A MARKET FULL OF CHOICES

One of the most striking features of Sadar Bazar during Raksha Bandhan is the sheer variety of rakhis on display. The market caters to all tastes and budgets, ensuring

“ONE OF THE MOST HEARTWARMING SIGHTS IN THE MARKET IS THE SELECTION OF CHILDREN'S RAKHIS, OFTEN FEATURING POPULAR CHARACTERS. A YOUNG GIRL, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS OVERHEARD ASKING A VENDOR, "BHAIIYA, DO YOU HAVE A SPIDER-MAN RAKHI?" THIS SMALL MOMENT BEAUTIFULLY ENCAPSULATES THE SIBLING BOND, A SISTER KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT WILL MAKE HER YOUNGER BROTHER SMILE

that everyone can find something special. From simple, traditional rakhis costing as little as ₹ 10 for a dozen to more elaborate designs priced at ₹ 70 or ₹ 100 per dozen, the market offers something for everyone. Rakhis come in every imaginable style, from classic designs featuring beads and threads to more modern versions adorned with glitter and stones. Children's rakhis, often featuring popular cartoon characters and superheroes, are among the most popular items. Little girls excitedly pick out rakhis for their brothers, carefully choosing ones that they know will bring a smile to their siblings' faces. A young girl, for example, was overheard asking a vendor, "Bhaiya, do you have a Spider-Man rakhi?" This small moment beautifully encapsulates the sibling bond, a sister knowing exactly what will make her younger brother smile, a small moment that perfectly captures the thoughtfulness and love that define Raksha Bandhan. The girl knew exactly what her brother would love and she was determined to find it for him.

### THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE FESTIVAL

The vendors and artisans are integral to the Raksha Bandhan experience. Their work begins long before the festival, with many starting preparations at least a month in advance. Crafting each rakhi requires skill, patience and a deep understanding of what the festival means to people. For these artisans, Raksha Bandhan is more than just another business opportunity; it's a chance to contribute to a tradition that has been passed down through generations. A shopkeeper in Sadar Bazar explained how much effort goes into preparing for Raksha Bandhan. "We start getting ready about a month before," he said. "There's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it when you see the market come alive like this. Even in the rain, people come. It's something we love." His words highlighted the dedication that goes into making the festival special for everyone. Despite the long hours and sometimes challenging conditions, the vendors take pride in being part of something bigger than just selling rakhis. They are part of a tradition that brings people together, year after year. The artisans also take great care in crafting each rakhi. They understand that these simple threads carry significant emotional weight. For them, it's important that every rakhi reflects the love and care that

siblings have for each other. They often work late into the night, ensuring that their creations are perfect. It's not just about making something that looks good, it's about creating something that will be cherished.

### A FESTIVAL OF EMOTIONS

Raksha Bandhan is a time of joy and celebration, but it can also bring about feelings of longing, especially for those who are separated from their loved ones. Not everyone is fortunate enough to be with their siblings on this special day, and for them, the festival carries a bittersweet note. A woman in Sadar Bazar, carefully choosing rakhis to send to her brother who lives far away, shared her plans to send them by post. Despite modern courier services offering faster delivery, she preferred the traditional method, finding something special in the anticipation that comes with receiving a package by postman.

Her story is just one of many that highlight the emotional depth of Raksha Bandhan. The festival is not just about the physical act of tying a rakhi, it's about the connection that siblings share, a connection that goes beyond time and distance. Even when miles apart, the bond remains strong and the act of sending a rakhi is a way of maintaining that bond. It serves as a reminder that, no matter where life takes people, the relationships that matter most are always worth celebrating.

### THE ESSENCE OF TRADITION

As Raksha Bandhan draws near, the market becomes a living embodiment of tradition. With its rich history and vibrant atmosphere, it reflects the enduring values of family and togetherness. In a world that often moves too fast, these moments offer a chance to slow down and appreciate what truly matters. The festival is a time to reconnect with loved ones and honour the bonds that have shaped lives. During this time, the market becomes more than just a place to buy rakhis, it transforms into a space where memories are made. Every purchase, conversation and shared smile contributes to the festive atmosphere. The streets serve as a symbol of the festival,

where tradition is not just remembered but actively experienced, blending the past and present in a heartfelt celebration of love and family.

### THE MEANING BEHIND THE RAKHI

At the heart of Raksha Bandhan is the rakhi itself - a simple thread that carries profound meaning. It's more than just a decorative piece, it's a symbol of a sister's love, gratitude and appreciation for her brother. Tying a rakhi is an act of trust, a way of saying, "Thank you for always being there." This small thread binds not just wrists but hearts, reinforcing a bond that is as old as time. For many, the rakhi is also a reminder of the shared history that siblings have, the moments of joy and support and the times when they've stood by each other. It's a token of the relationship that has shaped who they are. Though it may be simple in appearance, the rakhi holds a depth of meaning that goes beyond words. It's a symbol of a bond that is pure, unbreakable, and everlasting.

### A CELEBRATION OF LOVE

Raksha Bandhan is more than just a date on the calendar, it's a celebration of the relationships that connect people, the memories that hold them together, and the love that sustains them through life's challenges. In today's fast-paced world, festivals like Raksha Bandhan remind everyone of the importance of family and the connections that define them. In Sadar Bazar, the spirit of Raksha Bandhan is alive and well. The market, with its history and vibrancy, captures the essence of the festival. It's a place where love is expressed through simple gestures and where the bonds between siblings are honored in all their beauty. As brothers and sisters across the country prepare to tie the rakhi this year, they are reminded of what the festival truly stands for. It's not just about the rituals, it's about the love, care and unbreakable bond that siblings share. In the end, that's what makes Raksha Bandhan so special - a celebration of love that goes beyond time, distance and the challenges of life.





# BURMESE BITES: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF BURMA

**FOOD**  
Tar La Baw, Sarbuthi, Sar Hype

**DECOR**  
The vibrant and inviting array of colours was enhanced by the hand-painted stone floor, the woven wicker walls and the hand-painted table tops

**PRICE**  
₹1800 approx for two

**VERDICT**  
★★★★★



TEJAL SINHA

In honour of its 10th anniversary, Burma Burma launched "The Ten-Year Trail" and introduced a special dine-in menu that will be offered until September 30, 2024. So to celebrate this milestone, we were invited to the Burma Burma outlet in Hyderabad. Once I was seated, two different soups were served: *Tar La Baw* and *Sarbuthi*. Talking of *Tar La Baw*, it is a fermented and sun-dried bamboo broth infused with pounded ginger and basil served with red pumpkin and rice vermicelli noodles from the Karen tribe in Kachin, further elevated with a slow-roasted tomato confit. While corn and mushrooms are not a new dish to try, having pumpkins and bamboo broth was certainly a novel experience. But again, being a mushroom person, I couldn't resist but immerse myself in the flavoursome ingredients of *sarbuthi*. Then I was served the *Shman Thoke*, a refreshing salad of chickpea tofu and raw papaya with a sour and spicy dressing from Shan. For someone who enjoys spicy food beyond anything else, this seemed a little blunt as I took my first bite. However, the next bite turned out to be a surprise, with the different flavours assuring my tastebuds with their fried crisps. Heading to the next was the *Sar-Hype*. Wok-tossed rice noodles, seared mock meat and tofu with tamarind and sawtooth coriander sauce reflecting a complete home-style communal meal that celebrated the flavours of Kachin. This stood as the standout dish for me, beyond a doubt. So basically, the Burma Burma team explained to us how this sauce is used to separate the sticky rice noodles. As I took the first chew, the taste simply bombarded my mouth with its piquancy. Then comes the Highway Meal Parcel, which is a popular food with commuters to Yangon with steamed rice. This was, for a second, an improvised version of the South Indian Thali with a Burmese twist! The concept, as it is named, is that you can pack yourself and just head your way. Inspired

by the sustainable practices of the monasteries of Bago, the Monk's Meal, or *Kho Poong* with *Pebok Chet*, featuring bamboo shoot and roselle curry with a spicy fermented soybean relish and rice, were local delicacies that found their place on this celebratory menu. The Burma Burma team, while serving, shared how, just like the monks enjoy their meals being plain and healthy, without much mirch-masala, the dish tasted the same. And finally, in the main course, comes the Split Gill Mushroom Rice from Kachin, which included foraged split gill mushrooms with rice, flavoured with roasted mushroom extract, garlic and soy, and topped with Burmese-pounded tomato. This did not seem to meet my expectations. Coming to the beverages, we were served *Mont Let Saung*, inspired by the traditional Burmese cooler from the town of Inle, with palm jaggery, coconut milk and toasted coconut shavings, while the *Kan Lan Yay* combines fresh sugarcane juice with raspberry purée, lime and nori salt. While all three had its own unique flavours depending on their ingredients, *Kan Lan Yay*, according to me, is a must try and trust me, you'll not be regretful in any way. A meal without a dessert. Well never! The menu had Burmese Milk Tea Cheesecake, infused with Burmese tea and topped with brown butter streusel, stewed roasted apple confit, cinnamon ice cream topped with cinnamon caramel and spiced tea tuile.



'FORK'LORE

# ONE NIGHT IN TOKI-O

AARTI SREENATH

Quorum, a longstanding gem amidst the hustle of Hitech City, invited us into a world where tradition meets modernity with its latest experience: "One Night in Tokyo by Santory." As you step into the warm, dimly lit lobby, you're greeted with a red-ribbon tag setting the tone for an evening that promises to transport you to the heart of Japan. This event beautifully captured the essence of old Japan, infused with a contemporary twist—the concept of "One Night in Tokyo" by Santory brought together the rich traditions of Japan with a modern spin, creating an immersive experience that resonates with both the past and the present. Santory, a brand synonymous with Japanese whiskey, has long been a pioneer in preserving and evolving Japanese culture. So, the event showcased this blend of tradition and innovation in various forms, from the Hanko stamp studio—where guests could create their own personalised stamps, a nod to the stamps once used in legal documents—to the Vinyl listening sessions that filled the air with nostalgic tunes. The culinary offerings at were just as thoughtfully crafted. At the event, the essence of Japan came alive, transporting attendees into the heart of Japanese culture. It began with an intimate mixology workshop by Shibani Surkund, Portfolio Advocate, West, Santory Global Spirits, delving into its rich heritage and its cultural integration. Beyond merely demonstrating the artistry of mixology, the session shed light on the revered *Japanese Highball* tradition; a drink deeply entrenched in Japanese culture, celebrated for its simplicity and nuanced palate. The *Toki Highball*, a signature drink, was the highlight. Made with Toki whiskey, soda and a twist of peach, it was the perfect embodiment of how tradition can be both honoured and reinvented. The food, inspired by the vibrant street food culture of Japan, was equally impressive. I had the opportunity to try the *Seasonal Vegetable Baozi*, a vegan delight stuffed with finely minced vegetables and the *Katsu Chicken Sando* with pickled cucumber and coriander. *Chicken Yakitori* made its entrance with tender, smoky skewers, each bite enhanced by the subtle zing of a green onion sauce. The flavours were deep, rich and yet so effortlessly satisfying. Then came the *Vegetable Kakiage*, a crunchy, golden medley of tempura vegetables, perfectly paired with the delicate sweetness of *kaeshi* sauce. It was a dish that felt both familiar and surprising, with layers of texture and flavour that kept you reaching for more. But the true star of the night, at least for me, was the *vegetable harumaki*. These spring rolls were a revelation, crispy on the outside with a symphony of fresh, vibrant vegetables inside. The dipping sauce was like a final brushstroke on a masterpiece, elevating the



dish from mere comfort food to an artful delight. And then, just when you thought it couldn't get better, the *baby potato teriyaki* arrived. Each bite was a melt-in-your-mouth experience, with the sweet, sticky teriyaki glaze hugging the tender potatoes, leaving behind lingering warmth. The evening also brought a playful twist with the *Japanese Purin*, where the airy, crisp purin were filled with a delicate egg mixture that added a rich, velvety contrast to the lightness of the dish. To round off the meal, the *Mini Matcha Swiss Roll* was a perfect finale. Eggless and utterly divine, the roll was soft and spongy, with the earthy matcha providing a subtle, yet profound depth of flavour—a sweet echo of Japan's tea rituals. As the food delighted our palates, the cocktails were no less a spectacle. The *Toki Highball* opened the show with a crisp and refreshing blend of Toki Santory whiskey, soda water and grapefruit, each sipping as invigorating as the first breeze of spring. Then came the daring *Toki-O Wasabi Sour*, where the bold, fiery kick of wasabi danced with the citrusy notes of lemon, all held together by the smooth embrace of Toki Santory whiskey. The Toki and Tea cocktail was like a whispered secret from a Japanese garden, with the smoky essence of Toki whiskey mingling with the fragrant Earl Grey tea, citrus and ginger ale—a drink that unfolded in layers, each more intriguing than the last. The *Toki-O Harudesu* sparkled like a Tokyo night, with peach and lime weaving through the effervescent fizz, creating a drink that was both lighthearted and sophisticated. And finally, the *Toki-O Matcha Haiboru* brought the evening to a soothing close, with the creamy notes of matcha and vanilla wrapping around the whiskey like a warm blanket on a cool evening. The ambiance at Quorum elevated the entire experience. The indoor space, with its refined and royal interiors, was complemented by an outdoor area that featured creative mood lighting and a small pool-like setting. The atmosphere was both serene and sophisticated, making it the perfect backdrop for an evening of culinary exploration. The guests also enjoyed a vinyl listening session featuring Japanese music that immersed everyone in Japan's enchanting sounds. The event featured The Toki Art Studio, an interactive screen printing and Hanko stamp workshop, along with curated culinary delights inspired by the streets of Japan. The festivities culminated in a mesmerising musical performance, leaving guests with lasting memories of a night infused with the magic of music and art. Overall, "One Night in Tokyo by Santory" was an evening that seamlessly blended old-world charm with new-age innovation. It was an experience that not only paid homage to the deep-rooted traditions of Japan but also celebrated the creativity and evolution that continue to define Japanese culture today.



# WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

AUGUST 18 - 24



## ARIES

You'll receive unexpected financial help. Avoid delays and excessive worry. Exciting experiences will refresh you. Meeting important people benefits your growth.

## TAURUS

Stay confident and support others, but avoid too much involvement. Define goals, be cautious with trust and embrace new tasks. Don't let setbacks dishearten you.

## GEMINI

Embrace joy, introspection and creativity. Support your family, balance commitment with personal growth and carefully check new opportunities. Be open to change.

## CANCER

Stay focused and patient. Proceed with long-held plans, manage your impulses and do not be too loyal. Your humour and enthusiasm will prove to be beneficial.

## LEO

Be gentle with yourself and your loved ones. Balance work with family time. Stay lively and enthusiastic. Use your energy wisely. Don't let criticism create distance.

## VIRGO

Take cautious steps in both personal and professional life. Seek support, manage stress and embrace change. Prioritise your well-being over entertaining others.

## LIBRA

Embrace new project ideas, but be mindful of others' feelings and seek security guidance. Balance thrill with practicality. Expect unexpected financial support.

## SCORPIO

Stay patient and calm under pressure. Support from friends will help you achieve your goals. Embrace new career opportunities but at the cost of some pastimes.

## SAGITTARIUS

Your talent and charisma will lead you to success. Be cautious of new attractions. Stay committed in your relationships and remain focused on personal goals.

## CAPRICORN

Your creativity and innovation will attract attention and bring success. Stay calm amidst chaos, clear doubts in relationships and expect unexpected financial support.

## AQUARIUS

Reap the rewards of your hard work. Stay emotionally composed and engaged with family. Be confident and navigate challenges with humility and resilience.

## PISCES

Proceed with your plans as conditions are favourable. Communicate openly to ease relationship tensions. Stay cautious with your finances during travels.

## WHAT'S NEW

### SUNRISE KURTA SET

Featuring an all over aari embroidery kurta set that consists of chanderi kurta and chudidar.



### PEAR CATHEDRAL MOISSANITE DIAMOND RING

A stunning pear-shaped moissanite centerpiece set in a cathedral-style ring, complemented by lab-grown diamonds for added brilliance.



### FESTIVE MEETS FLAVOUR

This Rakhi, festive meets flavour with this specially curated gift box packed with MasterChow's bestsellers that is perfect for those brothers and sisters who love their spice. Indulge in the fiery goodness of Sichuan Chili Oil, add a crunchiness to your meals with Garlic Chili Crisp and savour the authentic taste of Schezwan Chutney. To satisfy those sudden hunger pangs, there's our newly launched Sweet and Spicy Cup Noodles to the rescue! **Price: Rs. 699**



### WHERE EVERY SISTER SHINES

Praush Beauty's Feeling Festive Gift Box, elegantly presented in a beautiful and sturdy pink box, is sure to capture everyone's heart. It is the ultimate gift to express your love and make this Rakhi unforgettable. **Price: MRP 2950**



### CELEBRATE BOND OF LOVE WITH KICKY AND PERKY

This Raksha Bandhan, celebrate the eternal bond between siblings with Kicky and Perky's exquisite Floral Jali Pattern Silver Rakhi. Crafted from 925 sterling silver, this versatile piece embodies the essence of love and protection. The intricate floral jali design symbolises the delicate beauty of your relationship, while a sparkling moissanite stone adds brilliance and depth of meaning.



## Rakshabandhan special

### OF FRISCHSCHOGGI, PRALINE & TRUFFLES

Enhance your Rakhi celebrations with the Läderach rakhi handle gift box, thoughtfully designed to capture the essence of togetherness and tradition. With its elegant, rakhi-inspired patterns, this luxurious gift is sure to make your festive moments memorable. The hamper includes a beautifully crafted scroll for your personal message, adding a heartfelt touch that transforms the gift into a cherished keepsake celebrating your special bond. **MRP: Rs. 6,300**



### CELEBRATE RAKHI IN STYLE

As the joyous festival of Rakhi approaches, it's time to celebrate the special bond between siblings with love, laughter and style. At Yavi, they have curated a stunning collection of printed outfits that perfectly embody ease, chic elegance and modern sophistication—just what you need to make this Rakhi truly memorable.



### RAKSHA BANDHAN GIFTING BUNDLE FROM INTO

This duo from INTO is a no-brainer gifting option for your sibling. It consists of a cleanser, clean slate is a well-balanced, refreshing daily cleanser formulated with a blend of hydrating ingredients like glycerin, squalane, niacinamide and the right percentage of exfoliating ingredients along with doubling down nourishing rinse-off cleansing balm to accompany the cleanser. **Offer price : Orders above INR 1000/-, will get an additional 10% off + free headband. Valid from: 12th - 20th August**

**Offer price : Orders above INR 1000/-, will get an additional 10% off + free headband. Valid from: 12th - 20th August**

### JUNGLY DELIGHTS X NAINA GIFT SET

Give the gift of light and health this festive season with our exclusive Jungly Delights x Naina gift box. Each beautifully packaged set includes a Naina candle in your choice of uplifting mandarin lime or calming frangipani, and an assortment box of five superfood bars by Jungly Delights. It's the perfect present for your loved ones. **Price: INR 1600/-**

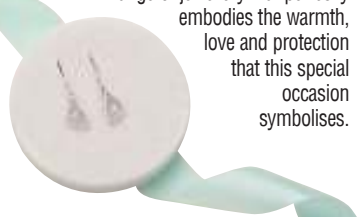


### GEM THERAPY

Gem Therapy, specialising in gemstone therapy and healing, offers unique jewellery pieces that not only look stunning but also bring positive energy and wellness to the wearer. The Abundance & Prosperity Bracelet is a 100% natural gemstone bracelet designed to attract abundance and prosperity.

### CELEBRATE BOND OF LOVE WITH SOLIS COLLECTION

ORRA presents its latest sub-brand Solis—a minimalist jewellery for every day of the week. This radiant Rakshabandhan celebration as we hold in high the bond between siblings, Solis is an ideal present to be gifted to your sister. Crafted to enhance the natural beauty of diamonds, it features an exquisite range of jewellery that perfectly embodies the warmth, love and protection that this special occasion symbolises.





CHAT-O-CINO

FYI

# FROM South hits TO vogue success!

**We go into actress Shalini Pandey's transformative journey to becoming a key figure in Bollywood in this exclusive interview. Shalini, who is praised for her nuanced but impactful performances, has captivated fans all over the world with her portrayal in the highly anticipated Netflix movie *Maharaj*. Shalini Pandey shares details about her changing career, including her insights into the character Kishori and the difficulties of working on a historical narrative**

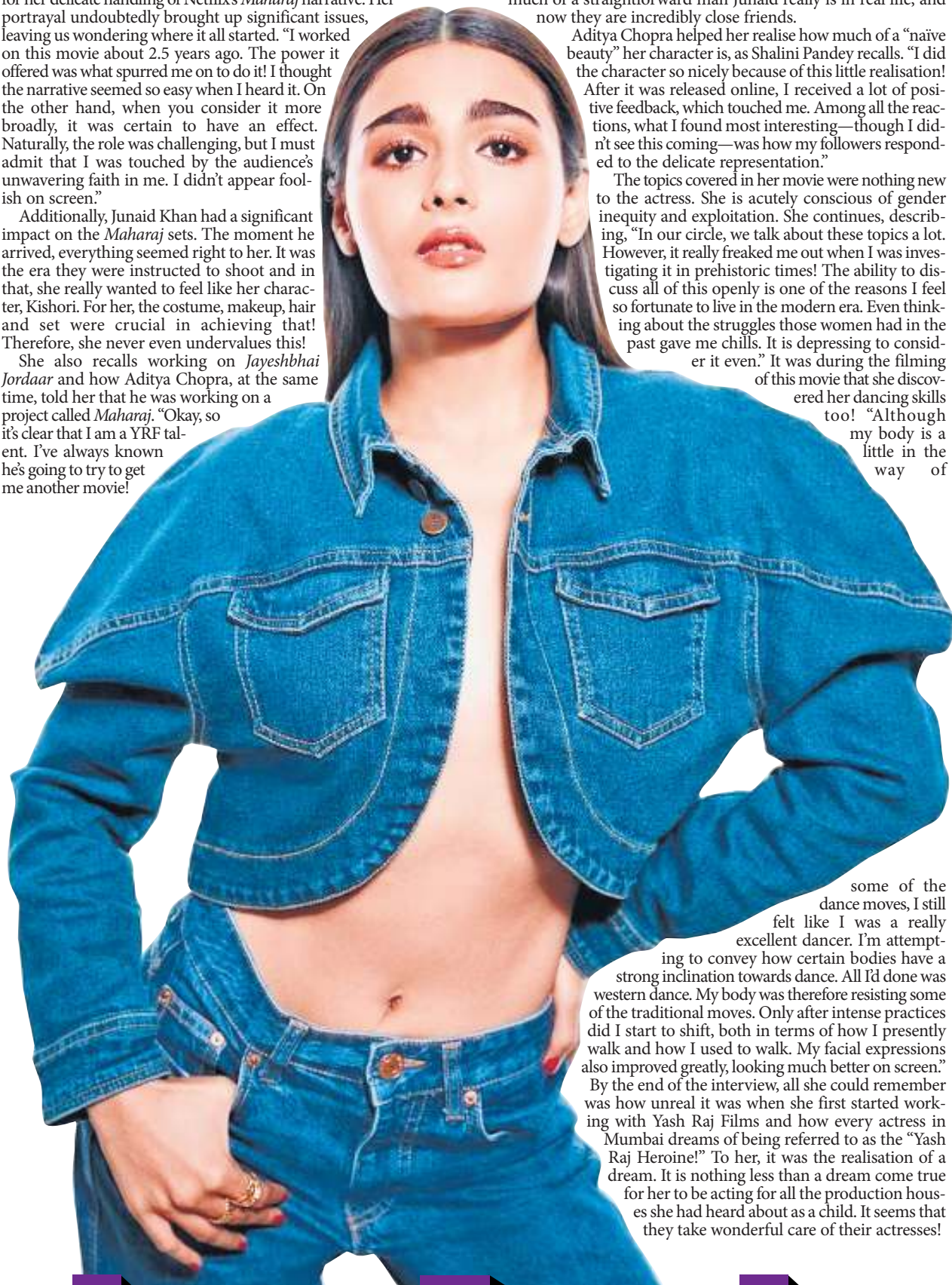
SHIKHA DUGGAL

The movie *Maharaj*, which starred Shalini Pandey with Jaideep Ahlawat, Junaid Khan and Sharvari (in a special appearance), received great acclaim. Making it a worldwide, not just in India, must-watch! Thus, how could we have overlooked the interview featuring the prominent actress from the same movie?

Our very own South fame from *Arjun Reddy* is still being praised for her delicate handling of Netflix's *Maharaj* narrative. Her portrayal undoubtedly brought up significant issues, leaving us wondering where it all started. "I worked on this movie about 2.5 years ago. The power it offered was what spurred me on to do it! I thought the narrative seemed so easy when I heard it. On the other hand, when you consider it more broadly, it was certain to have an effect. Naturally, the role was challenging, but I must admit that I was touched by the audience's unwavering faith in me. I didn't appear foolish on screen."

Additionally, Junaid Khan had a significant impact on the *Maharaj* sets. The moment he arrived, everything seemed right to her. It was the era they were instructed to shoot and in that, she really wanted to feel like her character, Kishori. For her, the costume, makeup, hair and set were crucial in achieving that! Therefore, she never even undervalues this!

She also recalls working on *Jayeshbhai Jordaar* and how Aditya Chopra, at the same time, told her that he was working on a project called *Maharaj*. "Okay, so it's clear that I am a YRF talent. I've always known he's going to try to get me another movie!"



But, for that reason, I felt really empowered as soon as I heard the script. Being an YRF talent didn't matter as much as how much I wanted to join the team of *Maharaj* personally since I genuinely wanted to share this narrative with my fan base. I had never danced on film before!" acknowledges *Mahanati* fame!

She even showed *Maharaj* that big stars are not necessary for a movie to succeed and she did a great job in the part! "The set was very comfortable, but when I finished one of the significant scenes, it had a troubling impact on me," says NTR *Kathanayakudu* actor. "For a while, I felt traumatised! As I carried out that scene, I was able to comprehend the impact it had on me. In fact, I found myself rooting for the character even more. I did feel for a little while that the situation had turned a little unsettling."

Further in the interview, the actress admits that, more than challenging, the scenes should feel exciting to her! Apparently, she always goes with a blank slate on the sets to know what could happen to them. She genuinely doesn't believe in over-preparing until and unless she has been told to do action scenes. That's Shalini Pandey for you! "Most of the moments I had in *Maharaj* were enjoyable to perform. The script had the line "drag her out," but when I acted it out with the actor who was meant to be my on-screen sister, it had such a powerful effect! My feelings were very apparent and the entire atmosphere was buzzing with activity. The term "dramatic" is appropriate for it!" You will realise how different Shalini is from her real-life character, Kishori, if you know her or have met her. Without making fun of her, she had to have faith in that persona! The actress said that Jaideep and Junaid were quite helpful on the sets. She had a lot of strange parts to perform and the concept was rather uncomfortable, but her other actors were really helpful. She discovered how much of a straightforward man Junaid really is in real life, and now they are incredibly close friends.

Aditya Chopra helped her realise how much of a "naïve beauty" her character is, as Shalini Pandey recalls. "I did the character so nicely because of this little realisation! After it was released online, I received a lot of positive feedback, which touched me. Among all the reactions, what I found most interesting—though I didn't see this coming—was how my followers responded to the delicate representation."

The topics covered in her movie were nothing new to the actress. She is acutely conscious of gender inequality and exploitation. She continues, describing, "In our circle, we talk about these topics a lot. However, it really freaked me out when I was investigating it in prehistoric times! The ability to discuss all of this openly is one of the reasons I feel so fortunate to live in the modern era. Even thinking about the struggles those women had in the past gave me chills. It is depressing to consider it even." It was during the filming of this movie that she discovered her dancing skills too! "Although my body is a little in the way of

some of the dance moves, I still felt like I was a really excellent dancer. I'm attempting to convey how certain bodies have a strong inclination towards dance. All I'd done was western dance. My body was therefore resisting some of the traditional moves. Only after intense practices did I start to shift, both in terms of how I presently walk and how I used to walk. My facial expressions also improved greatly, looking much better on screen." By the end of the interview, all she could remember was how unreal it was when she first started working with Yash Raj Films and how every actress in Mumbai dreams of being referred to as the "Yash Raj Heroine!" To her, it was the realisation of a dream. It is nothing less than a dream come true for her to be acting for all the production houses she had heard about as a child. It seems that they take wonderful care of their actresses!



World photography

day special

## AMID SHADOWS AND SPOTLIGHT

AARTI SREENATH

In a world flooded with fleeting images, there are few photographers who capture the essence of life with the depth and intimacy that transforms moments into timeless stories. For this photographer, the camera is not just a tool; it is a bridge to unseen worlds, a voice for the voiceless and a means to illuminate the profound beauty in everyday struggles.

Rana Pandey emerges as a visual poet, weaving narratives that go beyond the surface. A documentary and travel photographer of remarkable depth, his portfolio reveals the multifaceted layers of socio-economic realities and the often-overlooked aspects of human life, all captured through a lens that seeks intimacy and truth.

His journey as a photographer is one of relentless curiosity to unearth stories buried beneath the hustle of daily life. His work doesn't just capture images; it captures the essence of lives lived on the margins, often forgotten by the mainstream. Whether it's the resilient spirit of female carpet weavers in Mirzapur or the quiet dignity of widows in Vrindavan, his photographs tell stories that resonate with raw emotion and a deep sense of empathy.

Rana's work earned global recognition at *PhotoFest*, a prestigious National Geographic-curated festival held in the enchanting town of Mexico. Out of a staggering 13,000 entries from over 195 countries, his photograph stood among the top 25 to his ability to find beauty in the mundane and meaning in the overlooked. The same year, his artistry was celebrated at the *Kolkata International Photography Festival*, further solidifying his place among the most evocative visual storytellers of his generation.

With a passion ignited by the socio-economic realities often overlooked by society, this visual storyteller dives deep into the shadows where life's most poignant tales reside. "As a visual storyteller, I believe it is my responsibility to shed light on stories that remain hidden in the shadows," he shares.

The journey to these stories, however, is never straightforward. "Approaching subjects can be tricky, especially when covering sensitive issues," he admits. Trust, he believes, is the key. "Spending time with the people before I start shooting is essential. I listen to their stories, share moments of their lives and only then do I bring out the camera."

One such photograph, which earned him recognition at *PhotoFest* in Mexico, stands out among the thousands of images that crossed his path. "This photograph is special to me," he reflects, recounting the serendipitous moment on his first trip to Kashmir. "We encountered a unique traffic jam, hundreds of goats and sheep being herded by nomadic shepherds. One shepherd stood out, carrying a newborn goat on his back. I knew I had to capture that moment." That image, now celebrated globally, symbolises not just human compassion but the unexpected beauty found in the rhythms of daily life.

His project *How India Prays*, released at the House of Lords by Cherie Blair, further cements his reputation as a master of bridging the gap between literature and photography. The book captures the spiritual essence of India in a way that transcends mere documentation, offering a glimpse into the soul of a nation.

But perhaps it was his work on the women carpet weavers of Mirzapur that truly transformed him. "Documenting the lives of the women carpet weavers in Mirzapur was a powerful and transformative experience," he recalls. "Amid the blistering heat of May, with temperatures soaring to 40 degrees Celsius, he navigated from one weaving center to another, capturing the essence of each woman's story. "The resilience and dedication of these women were profoundly inspiring," he says. The project revealed to him the transformative power of traditional crafts, not just as a means of livelihood but as a source of independence and pride for the women who weave their destinies thread by thread.

His current project, *Torn between the Tiger and the Tide*, delves into the sensitive issue of human-wildlife conflict in the Sundarbans. Balancing the authenticity of the story with its impact is a challenge he approaches with the same reverence and commitment that has defined his career.

His recent exhibition spotlighted the unseen lives of Vrindavan's widows, a project close to his heart. "The project *LEST WE FORGET: A SISTERHOOD CALLED WHITE* delves into the poignant narratives of widows in Vrindavan," he explains. Living among them, he documented their stories, forming bonds that transcended the lens. A simple gesture from one of the widows, gifting him a shawl for his mother, left a lasting impression on him. "This moment profoundly moved me," he says, "teaching me what living with pride and dignity truly looks like."

Recognition, in the form of awards from the Istanbul Photo Awards and the Russian Press Photo Award, has come as both an honour and a responsibility. "Such recognition motivates me more than it adds pressure," he confesses.

Documentary photography often requires patience, a quality that has paid off in his work. "Patience and timing are



essential in photography," he notes, recalling a moment in Varanasi at the Blue Lassi shop, where he waited for half an hour before capturing a shot that aligned perfectly with his vision. The photograph, titled "Lost Identities," is a testament to the art of waiting for the right moment.

As he looks to the future, the road ahead is filled with possibilities. Themes of human-wildlife conflict and the interplay between humans and nature intrigue him, offering rich storytelling opportunities that align with his passion for capturing the complexities of life.

To aspiring photographers, his advice is simple yet profound: "Start local. Focus on photographing and documenting stories within your own community." Local stories, he believes, hold just as much significance as those from distant lands and provide invaluable insights and opportunities to hone one's craft.

If given the chance to photograph any historical figure, his choice would be Bruce Lee. "Capturing the essence of the man behind the legend would be a profound honour," he muses, reflecting his admiration for Lee's charisma, strength and groundbreaking contributions to martial arts and film. In the age of social media, his advice is clear: "Stop oversaturating your photographs."

There are many misconceptions about the life of a travel and documentary photographer, and one he is keen to debunk is the notion that they make money on every trip. "Often, the first trip is more about investing time and resources," he explains. The real income, he says, comes after extensive strategising, preparation and execution.

For this photographer, the world is a canvas of endless stories waiting to be told. And with every click of the shutter, he brings us closer to understanding the raw, unfiltered beauty of the human experience.

TRENDING	PERSON	VIDEO	MOVIE	SONG	PICTURE
	SHEIKH HASINA	78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY BEATING RETREAT CEREMONY	THANGALAN	NALLANCHU THELLACHEERA	MASSIVE NIGHT PROTESTS
	Sheikh Hasina, who recently resigned as Prime Minister and fled to India, faced a murder case on Tuesday. Her extended stay in India is reportedly straining relations between India and Bangladesh's interim government.	A video of the 78th Independence Day Beating Retreat ceremony has gained widespread attention, highlighting the military's synchronised formations and powerful performances.	Vikram's <i>Thangalaan</i> saw a respectable opening in India, even as it faced competition from multiple releases. Directed by Pa Ranjith, the film leveraged its Independence Day release to draw audiences despite receiving mixed reviews. The movie has garnered 12 crore net at the Indian box office.	On Monday, the producers of the film <i>Mr. Bachchan</i> dropped a new tune. Mickey J. Meyer is the composer of the song. The lively dance track has playback vocals by Sreerama Chandra and Sameera Bharadwaj, with Ramya Behara receiving credit for the chorus vocals.	Indian women led nighttime protests following the rape and murder of a doctor. Protests have erupted across the country, with doctors and citizens alike demanding justice for the heinous crime that took place in Kolkata.



# From jingles to *Jai Ho* and beyond



## A QUIET KID

As a kid, I was always calm and composed. I would often be playing with myself in the corner of a room and my family members would go searching for me. I used to be quite happy in my own little world, dreaming up about things (giggles). I am an extrovert now, though I still have preference for my silent zone. When I party, I party with my family or friends; I do party hard but again prefer my silence. My silence is longer than my hectic or I'd say a fun life, hehehe!

## TRADITIONAL FAMILY, BUT LIBERAL PARENTS

During my growing years, my parents were very lenient towards me. I come from a very orthodox south Indian family. My parents hailed from Chennai, but my dad had moved to Mumbai in pursuit of better job opportunities back in the 60s. Although my parents were orthodox in their outlook, they never placed restrictions on us on matters like cutting hair or wearing fashionable clothes.

## MOM ASPIRED TO MAKE IT BIG AS A SINGER

My sisters and I were considered gifted by our parents. My mother, who was grounded in Carnatic music, had aspired to make it big as a singer. But she had to give up her dream because of her family and the need to co-work in her own life. My mother was the one to initially sound my father about our being gifted as singers and to push us into pursuing musical training.



## ART ALWAYS APPRECIATED

Like in most south Indian homes, we were always motivated to take up any of the art forms, be it Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, or learning music. We were encouraged to learn any art form, but whether we were also allowed to make a career out of it is somewhat debatable, given the notion *nahi nahi bachchon ki shaadi nahi hogi, waghera waghera*. Still, my parents were very forward-thinking.

## 'YOUNGEST' SINGER OF IYER HOUSE

I was the youngest among four sisters; so, I was pampered a lot by all of them. I am close to all three of them. My elder sister (Kalpana Iyer) of course gained a lot more respect. I never called the others 'Akka' or 'Didi'. My parents were very comfortable with us calling one another by name. So, we are more like friends even today. We fight like crazy even now (laughs) but you know the bonds are strong. My sister Shobha, who is slightly older than me and I had the same group of friends while growing up; so, she knows my deepest and darkest secrets, haha!

## WINNING COMPETITION AT 10

There was a lot of music in the family and whenever anybody visited us; my mom would ask me to sing. They'd be like 'She must take up music, irrespective of what else they'd want to do! By the time I was 10, I was singing well. My sister Kalpana, she was like 'Now, let's give it a chance'. My second sister and I entered a competition and I won it, while she stood 6th. After that, the seed was kind of sown and the talent was so special to just let it go.



## WE DID NOT KNOW IF WE STOOD A CHANCE

My dad was insisting that academics should also be taken seriously and completed. I was a commerce student. We did not have any connections in the film industry or the music industry. In those days, with Lataji and Ashaji being at the top of their game, we did not know if we stood a chance. We had heard that it was very difficult for a young artiste to get a chance. So, we kept learning and 'kept hopes alive', as they say.

## ATTAINING HER B COM GOAL

During my days in college, I started getting some opportunities. A musician informed me that there was this person who does a lot of these advertising jingles and that he'd like to try my voice. I came back and told my parents about this conversation and they were like 'This is the break you are looking for and try'. I got an opportunity, grabbed it, and did a couple of jingles and slowly the word spread around. In due course, I finished my 3rd year B Com as well.

## DEBUT THAT TURNED INTO TRIBUTE

My playback debut involved doing two songs for *Dus*. The same week Rahman saab called me. I remember three of these people came up to me, and said 'Oh he (AR Rahman) has heard about you and he is keen to work with you', so, I was very excited and I kept waiting and finally he called and I went and he was like 'There are just 2-3 lines in the song'. I was like 'Never mind'; I was just dying for this opportunity to work with him. He was such a huge name even back then. So, I recorded the songs and unfortunately the director of *Dus* passed away. The album was released a year later as a tribute. A lot of footage was already shot and for the song we erected a 40-foot-high stage at Juhu Beach in Mumbai. We performed the song *Suno Gaur Se* to promote the album and the song. It was a wonderful debut.

## A R RAHMAN'S 2:00 AM CALL FOR OSCARS

We (AR Rahman and I) were on a show on a TV Channel where Rahman sir was the judge and the playback singers were given themes to sing and we had to create a new song. After the shoot, at about 2:00 am in the morning, he was like 'I'd want to record this song with you. Would you like to come now? I was like

'Yeah sure' and recorded this song at 4:00 in the morning and came back, slept for a few hours and went for the shoot. We recorded the song and apparently Danny Boyle came and absolutely loved it. However, he wanted a few changes, he wanted more male vocals. I had no idea that the song would go global! We don't get those kinds of briefs when going to record a film song. We just know that we are recording for this actor, actress, and what the film is going to be about. I was extremely happy over the fact that a song of mine is in an international film. The film was a huge hit and then the Grammy and the Oscar happened and it feels so surreal. Even today when I go on stage, this is the song that's always requested the most. In fact, the backdrop in all my shows has a huge *Jai Ho* written on the screen. It is the biggest feather in my cap.



**W**hat had started off as any teen's fascination for a musical career turned into a consuming passion for Mahalakshmi Iyer, thanks to her mother's vicarious pleasure in honing her singing abilities. Today, Mahalakshmi's voice adorns some of the biggest blockbuster hits to which we can never stop grooving. Well, it's not just in Hindi that she has made a mark. She has been an enduring sensation down south with her melodious numbers.

Born into a traditional south India family in which music occupied a pride of place; she had a congenial environment at home, with her mother, Vijaya, being a proficient Carnatic classical singer, and her father Krishnamurthy a veritable classical music aficionado. They say 'Music runs in the family'. And, to cap it all, Mahalakshmi, the youngest of four siblings, came to be the most pampered one with the family's encouragement of her singing career. Beginning with jingles during her college days, she rose steadily by dint of hard work, eventually working with stalwarts like AR Rahman, Pankaj Udhas, SP Balasubramanyam, Hariharan, Ilaiyaraaja and many more.

She reached the acme of her singing career with her voice behind the Academy- and Grammy award-winning song *Jai Ho* from the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*. Breaking language barriers, she went on to win hearts down south by working with Ilaiyaraaja, Hariharan, Mani Sharma and MM Keeravani and Nadeem-Shravan, among others. In her conversation with **Tejal Sinha** of *The Pioneer* for our special *Dil Se* segment, the chanteuse takes us through her growing years, her parents' support throughout her rise as a singer, working with virtuosos and more. Interestingly, she prefaced our chat with her soft corner for Hyderabadis, saying: "I have often performed in Hyderabad. The love the audience brings on there has been tremendous, makes me want to come back to the city again and again. It's always fun and I'm always ecstatic to perform for my Hyderabad audience in their city."



## RAPID FIRE

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Calm, giving and loyal

YOUR IDOL IN THE INDUSTRY: Lata Mangeshkar

DRIVING FORCE: My family

RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL: Spiritual

YOUR HIGH PHASE:

My debut as a playback singer, Oscar and Filmfare

YOUR LOW PHASE: Regrettably, my father's accident and his subsequent death

## RENDERING BACKGROUND VOCALS FOR PANKAJ UDHAS

When I was a beginner, I was waiting for opportunities to go and sing in a studio and learn about studio techniques, voice modulation and all. So I'd grab the opportunities that came my way. Slowly there was this word around that there is this young singer who is good and comfortable singing Indian classical, Indian ghazals or slightly light music or even slightly westernised music. Pankaji heard me calling and said 'I have this album that I am already doing. I had already recorded something for him in another song for a television serial title song so he knew my voice and knew what capability I had. He told me about his album and it was an 8-song album and he wanted the call of a beloved. All the songs in the album had a woman's voice midway going all through the ghazals. I was very happy, imagining eight songs and I had wonderful parts to sing. It was another test for me as a playback singer too.

## ENCOUNTER WITH SP BALASUBRAMANYAM

I had again gone and sung the song for Rahman saab and I did not know who the male counterpart would be. I came back to Mumbai and after a few months, I realised it was SPB sir who had sung the male part in *Velli Malarae*. I was whooping after I got to know about it. While I was on a US-Canada tour with Rahman saab, there was this man standing there, who was none other than THE SP Balasubramanyam himself. So humble, down-to-earth. As we met, he instantly said 'Hi Mahalakshmi, we finally meet'. I thought he wouldn't know who I was and here, he was addressing me with so much warmth. Then I watched him perform on stage, effortlessly singing a song. It was like he's just woken up from sleep and sang it like so apt and nothing here or there. It was just amazing. Watching SPB sir performing *Raja* in three different languages at the same time, because we had a crowd of over 40-45 thousand mix so he would intersperse the lines one in Tamil, one in Telugu and one in Hindi effortlessly without any hiccups, everything was so spot on. He was such a wonderful entertainer. I had my best experience with him.

## AR RAHMAN & SHANKAR-EHSAAN-LOY'S TREMENDOUS SUPPORT

Down south AR Rahman plays a very important role and in Mumbai, it is Shankar Ehsaan-Loy. Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy are my buddies. From the first few commercial jingles to the first song featured in a movie, they have had a significant impact on my

professional journey. I have never encountered music composers as prolific as them. I would call AR Rahman saab 'Mr Spontaneous'. He possesses a quick intellect and acts on impulse. He will say to you, "Here is the song, do as you please with it". He allows you total freedom as a singer and the liberty to interpret the song as you please. He is the most open-minded composer I have encountered. He is known as the most innovative composer because he has consistently challenged musical norms throughout his career.

## FLAIR OF MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

I've been fortunate and I keep saying this that I love languages and I have a flair for languages. Every language has its own beauty. I'm very fortunate that I've also worked with the stalwarts from the Marathi industry. In Hindi, I have worked with Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, Vishal-Shekhar, my first Tamil song which was with Hariharan sir was composed by Ilaiyaraaja sir. Talking of Tamil, my mother said you shouldn't sing in Tamil because I was born and brought up in Mumbai and our Tamil was not that perfect. At home, we speak English, Hindi and at times Marathi also. Tamil was the language of communication only when I spoke with my mom and dad. With them too, at times it was with a mix of other languages. She was very concerned about me singing in Tamil (giggles) and then I sang a lot for Rahman sir and all of them have been super-duper hits. It's difficult to say who played a major role but if you talk about recognition it is obviously because I sang for Rahman sir and in Mumbai for Shankar.

## TRANSITION FROM HINDUSTANI TO CARNATIC

I was initially apprehensive about singing down south. Generally, in those days they wondered if you had the proper diction but by then I had already started singing in the industry with jingles in various south Indian languages which further polished my south Indian diction. I have learnt Hindustani classical and not Carnatic. My exposure to music was initially Hindustani. For me to go down south and get the very typical Carnatic style was a big plus and made my mom very happy. It gave me challenges to work very hard and live up to expectations. I got an out-and-out Carnatic classical kind of song, *Meethaatha Oru Veenai*, as a playback singer. I was very warmly welcomed in the south with so many songs. I was taken under their wings and I've learnt so much from them. I really treasure these songs in Tamil and Telugu. My discography is so interesting because of all those hits. They include: *Vanna Poongavai*, *Kandukonden Kandukonden*, *Pengal Nenjai*, *Oru Pournami*, and *Ore Oru Vaanam*, among many in Tamil, while, *Nelluri Nerajana*, *Kala Anuko Kaladanuko*, *Ee Nagaram*, *Paajukunna Segalalona*, *Manasa Nuvvunde*, *Endamma* and *Naa Raja* in Telugu.