

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
 The pioneer  
 Talks between the Congress and the BRS are over and now BRS leaders are joining the Congress. So the phone tapping case, the Kaleshwaram scam, and the drug case have become silent. Land and sand scams buried. It is certain that the BRS will eventually merge with the Congress. These two parties would certainly merge or else the Congress government would have jailed KTR already  
 — Bandi Sanjay, Union MoS, Home Affairs

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

**FM urges banks to undertake special drive for deposits**

**ANGRY YOUNG MEN: SCRIPTING LEGACY WITH TIMELESS MAJESTIC SAGA**

**Three films deal with Bhagyashri BHORSE**

**DON'T MISS...**

**Focus on health services in TG...**

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has instructed officials to submit a report every 15 days on the facilities in hospitals under the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP). The State Medical, Health and Family Welfare Minister conducted a high-level review meeting focused on the State Department of Public Health and the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad. During the meeting, the Minister directed officials to enhance services such as security, sanitation, diet and laundry in hospitals under the...

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**'How brain 'resets' itself while...**

While sleep is known to help with forming and storing memories during the day, a new study has found answers to how this continues to happen over one's lifetime without running out of neurons or brain cells. Researchers found that at certain times during deep sleep, certain parts of the hippocampus — one of the brain regions involved in learning new things and forming memories — go silent, allowing those neurons to "reset". This mechanism could allow the brain to reuse the same...

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**Sebi comes out with modalities...**

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday outlined the process and conditions for Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) for migrating to the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) rules. The regulator, in July, permitted VCFs registered before the introduction of AIF regulations to transition to the current regulations by becoming migrated venture capital funds. In its circular, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that VCFs can now choose to migrate to AIF Regulations to handle unliquidated...

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**Deepthi shines as London Spirit...**

India all-rounder Deepthi Sharma played a crucial role with both bat and ball as London Spirit lifted their maiden Women's Hundred title, beating Welsh Fire by four wickets in the final at the Lord's here. Deepthi snapped a wicket giving away 23 runs and then smashed a run-a-ball 16, including the winning six off Hayley Matthews, as the Indian and England's Charlie Dean jumped into each other's arms in celebration. Two years ago, Deepthi had controversially dismissed Dean after running...

-SPORTS



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy participating in a discussion conducted on new ROR Act on Monday.

**Will protect revenue system, end Dharani problems: Ponguleti**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government has clarity about protecting the revenue system, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

"We will bring the revenue system to villages and also set up revenue courts. We will strengthen the revenue system. We will also deal positively to solve the problems of revenue department employees. We will arrange a meeting with revenue employee unions soon. This government cannot earn a good name if the Chief Minister and the Revenue

Minister work alone. It is possible only if all revenue department employees work collectively with commitment and accountability," Ponguleti said.

Participating in a discussion on the new ROR Act-2024 at the Tourism Plaza here on Monday, Ponguleti clarified that the problems of the people of Telangana due to the Dharani Portal introduced by KCR and a top official of the BRS government will end soon.

He said the Congress government is introducing an ideal new Revenue Act-2024 which will

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**Loan waiver incomplete, exercise will continue: Uttam**

- ◆ 1.2 lakh bank accounts have Aadhaar number issues
- ◆ 1.6 lakh bank accounts have different names in Aadhaar and loan accounts
- ◆ Bank details of 1.5 lakh accounts wrong
- ◆ 4.83 lakh bank accounts don't have ration cards
- ◆ 8 lakh people have taken more than Rs 2 lakh as loan

"loan waiver unprecedented in independent India"

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy hailed the farm loan waiver scheme implemented by the Telangana government.

Describing the move as unprecedented in the history of independent India, Uttam emphasised that the waiver sends a strong message across the nation.

He acknowledged that some farmers might not have had their loans waived due to minor issues like incomplete Aadhaar or ration card information or bank data errors.

"1.20 lakh bank accounts had problems with Aadhaar number. It should have 12 digits, while some had only 11 and some others had 13 digits. In about 1.61 lakh bank accounts the name in the Aadhaar card is different than in the loan account for which clarification has been sought. In 1.5 lakh bank accounts details given by the bank were wrong. 4.83 lakh accounts don't have a ration card. Around eight lakh people had taken more than Rs 2 lakh as loan," he said.

Addressing a press conference at the Jal Soudha

on Monday along with Minister Jupally Krishan Rao, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, and others Uttam highlighted the government's phased approach to waiving loans.

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**Panel moots revenue generating desilting of irrigation projects**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cabinet Sub-Committee chaired by Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy convened to discuss the desilting of irrigation projects, and discussed a wide range of critical issues and methodologies aimed at enhancing reservoir

capacities and generating revenue for the government.

Along with Tummala Nageshwar Rao and Jupally Krishna Rao, the sub-committee discussed the desilting processes and methodologies employed by other states, the quantification of silt using satellite images and bathymet-

ric surveys and the segregation of sand and silt.

The committee also reviewed the tender invitation process and advocated a 'Revenue Generation Model' ensuring safety and compliance with environmental laws during the disposal of silt and sand.

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**Make TG sports hub: CM**

- Asserts that Olympic medals are the ultimate goal
- Establish sports schools in all LS constituencies: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed his vision to make Telangana the sports hub of the country.

During a meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat on Monday, Revanth stressed the proposed Sports University, which is being established in the Fourth City.

He emphasised that all sports items should be given priority at the 'Young India' Sports University, which will aim to bring all kinds of sports and sports training institutions under one roof.

He advised officials to identify sports suitable for the geographical conditions and physical build of the people of Telangana and the country and to encourage individuals with a passion for sports to excel in them. He expressed his ambition to



transform Hyderabad, which has already hosted events like the Afro-Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, into an Olympics venue.

The Chief Minister stressed that Telangana athletes should win medals in every sport and that it is essential for athletes from the state's Sports University to be among the medallists.

Revanth suggested bringing all sports departments, government-run sports schools, academies and training institutions in the state under the purview of the Sports University.

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**Bhatti for collective bid for positive change**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu called for collective efforts to bring about a positive change in Telangana.

He stressed that the change should translate into better living standards, more purchasing power and a fair share of the state's wealth for all citizens.

Addressing officers and staff of the Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (SPDCL) who recently got promotions, Bhatti said that the real purpose of the struggle for a Telangana

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**Kaynes reaffirms commitment to TG**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kaynes Technology, a leading semiconductor manufacturing company, reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its relationship with Telangana.

Kaynes CEO Raghu Panicker announced the company's plans to partner with the state in its development initiatives.

Panicker met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and invited the CM to the inauguration of an advanced electronic unit at Kongara Kalan on August 23.

The upcoming OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) unit, being set



Kaynes CEO Raghu Panicker meets CM Revanth Reddy and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu

up by Kaynes, is currently under review by the Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

He emphasised that the OSAT unit would commence operations

as soon as necessary permissions from ISM are granted, marking another significant milestone in the company's collaboration with the state.

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**INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

**Speed up land acquisition: Bhatti**

Asks officials to coordinate with Collectors

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has asked Education Department officials to coordinate with Collectors to acquire land for integrated residential school buildings. The designs for the residential schools should also be readied, he said.

Everything necessary should be done to construct 120 residential school buildings in 30 places during this academic year, he said. The government has sanctioned Rs 5,000 crore for this, he said.

Bhatti along with BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar held a review with officials of SC, ST, BC, and Minority Residential Schools at



the Secretariat here on Monday.

The 'people's government' formed in 'Indiramma Rajyam' considers students as an asset of Telangana and the nation. That is why priority has

been given in the budget to develop the education sector and the government is developing the education system. The performance of the officers too should be in line with the government's objective, he said.

He directed officials to acquire 15 to 25 acres in rural areas and 10 to 15 acres in urban areas to establish Integrated Residential Schools. The government has asked officials to complete the construction of buildings in eight months.

Admissions in SC, ST, BC, and Minority Residential schools should be completed during this academic year, he said. The meeting decided to provide cots to all students of government hostels and residential schools.

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**On Rakhi day, KTR hopes his sister will get justice in SC**

P2

**Centre boosts security deployment at central hospitals**

P2

**Mpox scare: Centre tells international airports to be vigilant**

● ASKS ALL STATES TO IDENTIFY DESIGNATED HOSPITALS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has asked all airports as well as authorities at land ports on borders with Bangladesh and Pakistan to remain alert about incoming international passengers reporting Mpox symptoms, official sources said on Sunday.

The ministry has identified three Centre-run hospitals -- Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge -- as nodal centres in the national capital for isolation, management and treatment of any patient with Mpox.

All state governments have been asked to identify such designated hospitals under their jurisdiction, the sources said. P K Mishra, the prin-



cipal secretary to the prime minister, chaired a high-level meeting on Sunday to review the country's preparedness for Mpox amid enhanced surveillance for prompt detection. Officials said there is no report-

ed case of Mpox in the country as of now. As per the current assessment, the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is low, they said.

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**Preventive steps to be taken against Monkeypox: Health Minister**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Medical Health and Family Welfare Damodar Raja Narsimha held a high-level review meeting on preventive measures against Monkeypox on Monday.

During the meeting, officials informed Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha that 30 minor cases

(15 in Delhi and 15 in Kerala) have been reported in the country.

However, no cases have been registered in Telangana so far. In response, the Minister directed officials to ensure that hospitals across the State are well-prepared with necessary medical kits, medicines and special wards as part of the Monkeypox prevention strategy.

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**'An attack on TG's self-respect'**

KTR on Govt's move to install Rajiv's statue at Secretariat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao criticised the Congress government for installing a statue of Rajiv Gandhi in front of the Telangana Secretariat, stating that it is an attack on the self-respect of the people of Telangana.

Speaking to the media after participating in Rakhi celebrations, KTR expressed displeasure with the Congress move.

He questioned the logic behind placing Rajiv Gandhi's statue in the new Secretariat meant to symbolise Telangana's honour. He said the Congress is acting in a manner that insults the self-respect of

Telangana's people by placing the statue where the Telangana Tali's (Mother Telangana) should have been. He questioned the relevance of Rajiv Gandhi to Telangana and criticised the decision to honour a leader who according to him was responsible for the deaths of hundreds.

KTR asserted that even if the statue is installed now, the BRS would remove it if the party comes to power and replace it with a statue of Telangana Tali. He also threatened to rename institutions like the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport and the Outer Ring Road which are currently named after Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi if the Congress does not change its decision.



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## Lankan Minister meets KTR, discuss TG's development

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao (KTR), met with Sri Lankan Minister Sathasivam Viyalendiran in Hyderabad on Monday. The two leaders discussed Telangana's decade-long journey of development.

During his visit Minister Sathasivam praised Telangana's rapid progress and the remarkable transformation of Hyderabad into a hub of opportunities.

Expressing happiness in Telangana's achievements in the last 10 years, KTR highlighted the state's commitment to inclusive growth. He emphasized that the governance model in Telangana is driven by dedication and passion, focusing not only on wealth creation but also on the redistribution of resources through various welfare programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable sections.

## Cabinet panel discusses desilting strategies, proposes revenue model

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cabinet Sub-Committee chaired by Irrigation Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy convened on Monday to deliberate desilting strategies in the state's reservoirs.

The meeting attended by Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao and senior officials focused on a systematic revenue-generating approach to desilting.

Uttam emphasised the need to adopt the EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) method to ensure the timely completion of desilting.

He also suggested inviting international contractors through global tenders to



Uttam emphasised the need to adopt the EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) method to ensure the timely completion of desilting.

maintain transparency. The Mineral Development Corporation has been tasked with estimating the sand and soil deposits in the reservoirs with the revenue generated earmarked for reservoir maintenance. The committee discussed adopting a revenue generation model to ensure safety and compliance with green laws during the disposal of silt and sand.

This model is designed to increase reservoir capacity, generate income for the government and minimise the financial burden.

The committee also stressed the importance of inter-department coordination to speed up desilting in all reservoirs. The committee proposed forming two specialised committees, one a high-power committee with

external experts and representatives from various departments and a Technical Committee with experts from the I & CAD Department. These committees will focus on hydrology, dam safety and design.

The Sub-Committee directed officials to develop a robust monitoring system and take up desilting on a war footing. The meeting also addressed concerns about the Supreme Court's stay order on the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) orders regarding sand extraction in the Manair River, clarifying that environment clearance would not hinder desilting. The revenue generated from these projects is expected to be allocated for the maintenance of dams and reservoirs.

## Singhvi files nomination papers for RS by-poll from TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Abhishek Manu Singhvi filed his nomination papers as a Congress candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-poll from Telangana on Monday at the Telangana Legislative Assembly. Returning Officer Chada Upender Reddy received the nomination papers. Singhvi submitted four sets of papers.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Congress MLAs, MPs and Telangana Congress affairs in-charge Deepa Das Munshi attended the pro-

The election for 12 vacant seats in the Rajya Sabha from nine states will be held on September 3. The seats fall vacant due to the resignations of Rajya Sabha members Piyush Goel, Sarbananda Sonowal, Jyothiradithya Scindia, Kamakhya Prasad, Vivek Takur, Rajebhonsle, Biplav Kumar Deb (BJP), Misa Bharathi (RJD), Dependra Singh Hooda and KC Venugopal (Congress) who got elected to the Lok Sabha.

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Meanwhile, the BJD's Rajya Sabha MP Mamatha Mohantra from Odisha resigned from the party and his Rajya Sabha membership.

K. Keshava Rao who quit the BRS and joined the Congress also resigned his Rajya Sabha membership. The last date for filing nominations is August 21. The Congress high command announced Abhishek Manu Singhvi as its candidate from Telangana. Singhvi has been working for the party for a long time.

## BRS leaders have no patent on TG: Niranjan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that BRS leaders should give up the illusion that they have patent rights on Telangana, TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan said that although the people of Telangana defeated the BRS in the last two elections, KCR and KTR are still under the illusion that Telangana is their jagir.

Daydreaming that they will come back to power they are boasting that they will do this and that. Congress leaders know how to protect Telangana culture and honour, he said. Niranjan said the Congress strongly condemns the 'inappropriate' comments of BRS Working President KT Rama Rao about the late Rajiv Gandhi and added that KTR should apologise.

In a statement, Niranjan said that Rajiv Gandhi is a national leader who 'sacri-



ficed' his life for the nation. "As Prime Minister, he introduced revolutionary changes in the country. It is not appropriate to make narrow-minded comments about such a leader. Rajiv was not confined to any particular region. People still haven't forgotten his Sadbhavana Yatra in the twin cities in 1990. It is well known that in January 1991, when there were communal clashes in the city of Hyderabad, he went door to door to visit affected families and console them," he said.

## 'Telangana Thalli's statue will be installed inside Sectt'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas said that a statue of Telangana Thalli will be installed inside the Secretariat and that the statue of Telangana Thalli is being designed.

Speaking to the media on Monday at Jalasoudha, Srinivas said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is now shedding crocodile tears regarding former Chief Minister T. Anjaiah. He said the BRS has no chance to come to power as the people have stopped speaking about the BRS.

He said that KTR has no stature to even utter the name of Rajiv Gandhi and made it clear that Congress activists will thrash anyone who touches Rajiv Gandhi's statue.

## Centre boosts security deployment at central hospitals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry has allowed enhancement of security deployment by 25 per cent at all union government hospitals, official said, amid protests by resident doctors demanding a central law following the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a Kolkata hospital.

Officials said that apart from the standard security protocol, the deployment of marshals would also be approved based on individual demands by government hospitals after they conduct their security assessment. Official sources, howev-

er, said bringing a central law based on the RG Kar case "will not make any huge difference" as the alleged rape and murder of the junior doctor at the Kolkata facility was not a case of patient-doctor violence.

Crimes and rapes are already covered under existing laws, they said.

They further said that 26 states and Union Territories including West Bengal, Uttarakhanda, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka and Kerala have passed legislations to protect healthcare personnel. In all these states these offences are cognisable and non-bailable.

"So, bringing in an ordinance or even a Central law, that too based on the RG Kar case which was not a patient-doctor violence incident, will not make any huge difference," an official source said.

They said they have held meetings with some Residents Doctors' Associations and have explained these aspects to them too. More so, a committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to look into various aspects of security and facilities at hospitals for residents.

## Why is HYDRA ignoring encroachments by Cong leaders: BRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS has raised concerns over HYDRA's selective targeting and demanded that the agency should take action against encroachments made by Congress legislators too.

BRS spokesperson Krishank Manne listed several properties owned by Congress leaders and questioned HYDRA's failure to address these cases. Krishank pointed out specif-

ic instances and asked, "What about Congress MLA Vivek Venkatswamy's farmhouse constructed in a buffer zone right beside a water body? What about the private resort of Congress MLC Patnam near Himayat Sagar? And why is there no action on Ponguleti's residence in the buffer zone? I hope HYDRA hasn't forgotten about the farmhouse owned by Congress leader KVP in the buffer zone. What about the

farmhouse belonging to the Legislative Council Chairman?"

"The Andhra Pradesh CM's family trust institution is on FTL. Do you think Revanth will allow you to act against it," he said. The BRS's questions expose the double standards of HYDRA in tackling encroachments and called for a uniform approach that includes the properties of Congress figures.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TPCC Media and Communications wing Chairman, Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, on Monday strongly rejected the BRS allegations of not fulfilling the promise to waive farm loans.

Ram Mohan Reddy said the BRS is using its own cadres who masquerade as farmers to run a negative campaign against the farm loan waiver scheme. Addressing a press conference at the Gandhi Bhavan, Ram Mohan Reddy sought to know how many farmers actually gained from the BRS admin in the last 10 years. Pointing out that it is the Congress which waived off the loans of farmers up to Rs 2 lakh in one go, Ram Mohan Reddy said the Congress government achieved this feat by simultaneously implementing the six guarantees after just eight months in power.

Ridiculing the opposition BRS, he said that the previous BRS government prolonged the process of implementing agricultural loans worth

around Rs 16,000 crore. He said the earlier BRS government implemented the loan waiver in four phases over a period of five years and that a majority of loan waiver amounts credited in the farmers' accounts under the BRS regime were paid towards interest while the principal remained intact.

Reacting to the allegations of creating impediments to avail loan waiver, he rejected the allegations stating that in cases like above Rs 2 lakh loans, the farmers need to pay the remaining amounts to avail the loan waiver scheme.

He said that people have stopped trusting BRS, and is not paying heed to their propaganda over the loan waiver scheme. Coming down heavily against KT Rama Rao for his statements against Rajiv Gandhi, Ram Mohan Reddy said the former is speaking the language of BJP as he wants to be in the good books of the saffron party. He said the people will bury the BRS if it makes any statements against the Gandhi family.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Expressing sadness over his sister's absence during Rakhi, KTR said that he hoped Kavitha would get justice in the Supreme Court.

During the last 10 years, KTR has helped thousands of individuals both in his personal capacity and as a minister. He provided aid for education, medical treatment and more.

Today some of those who received his help visited KTR's residence on the occasion of Rakhi and tied Rakhis on him to express their love and gratitude.

The event took place at KTR's home at Nandi Nagar in Banjara Hills where these people met KTR and tied Rakhis on his wrist.

Rudra Rachana, an orphaned student from Jagityal, excelled in her studies and secured an engineering seat. However, she faced financial difficulties in paying her



fees and other necessities.

Coming to know about this, KTR paid her education expenses. Rudra Rachana completed her studies and is now employed at Cognizant.

Thanking KTR's support she donated three months of her salary last year to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to help orphaned students. This year, she once again expressed

her love by tying a Rakhi on KTR.

Five-year-old Zohan Khan from Borabanda in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, was born with a hearing impairment. KTR heard about this through social media and provided assistance to treat his hearing problem. After years of struggle, Zohan can now hear and speak like other children.

Zohan's family had invited KTR to their home to express their gratitude for securing their son's future.

Today, Zohan's mother visited KTR's residence to tie a Rakhi on KTR and express her gratitude.

Five-year-old Kruthika from Hyderabad was severely injured in a dog attack. KTR provided funds for her surgeries. Today, little Kruthika visited KTR's home and tied a Rakhi thanking him for his help. Kruthika's family also expressed their gratitude to KTR for the help he provided.

## Harish criticises Congress Govt over arrests of farmers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sharply criticising the Congress-led government, BRS MLA Harish Rao questioned the arrest of farmers protesting against the non-implementation of farm loan waiver in Telangana.

Describing the actions as undemocratic, Harish condemned the government's use of authoritarian tactics against peaceful protesters. He specif-

ically highlighted the incident at Thalamadugu in Adilabad district, where farmers expressing their discontent over the non-fulfilment of the promised loan waivers were arrested.

Harish said that invoking the Police Act (30 Act) to prevent demonstrations is a violation of fundamental rights. "Farmers across the state are being detained for staging peaceful protests. The BRS strongly condemns the unde-

mocratic stance of the government," Harish said.

He pointed out that farmers are growing increasingly frustrated with the government's failure to address their loan waiver concerns. As a result, they are resorting to protests, feeling helpless and cornered by the government's inaction.

"Instead of providing a solution, the government is suppressing those who dare to raise their voice.

## Will KCR join Cong as he started his career from it: Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Criticising BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's statement that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy started his career as an ABVP activist and Revanth would join again BJP, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar questioned KTR to tell whether former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will join Congress as he started his political career from the Congress

Speaking to the media on Monday, Sanjay described both the BRS and the Congress as corrupt, family parties. These two parties would certainly merge or else the Congress government would have jailed KTR already, he pointed out.

Sanjay said that talks were completed between the Congress and the BRS regarding a vehement and gave only BRS leaders joining the Congress left.

Bandi Sanjay said, "Hence the phone tapping case, Kaleshwaram scam, Drugs case become silent. Land and sand scams buried. The BRS will certainly merge with the Congress on some good day."

He reiterated that there is no need for the BJP to induct BRS MLAs into the BJP. The Congress has that need, he said. Sanjay said the BJP will announce an action plan on loan waiver scheme soon. He asked the Congress government to release a white paper on loan waiver schemes if they are confident that they did justice to the farmers.

## Centre defends law on triple talaq in SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending its 2019 law criminalising triple talaq, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that the practice is "fatal" for the social institution of marriage.

In an affidavit filed in response to petitions challenging the law, the Union of India said despite the top court setting aside the practice in 2017, it has "not worked as a sufficient deterrent in bringing down the number of divorces by this practice" among the members of the community.

"It is submitted that Parliament in its wisdom has enacted the impugned Act to protect the rights of married Muslim women who are being divorced by triple talaq.

"The impugned Act helps in ensuring the larger constitutional goals of gender justice and gender equality of married Muslim women."

## BRS, Congress lock horns over Rajiv statue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As a war of words goes on between the leaders of the Congress and the BRS regarding the implementation of the farm loan waiver scheme a new issue has suddenly surfaced. That is the installation of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Secretariat.

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao warned on Monday that if the BRS comes to power it will remove Rajiv Gandhi's statue if it is installed in front of the Secretariat and would also change the name of the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. The Congress reacted to KTR's statement by saying that it would not be good for the BRS if they touched the statue of Rajiv Gandhi.

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas said the Congress will not remain silent if anyone dares to touch Rajiv

Gandhi's statue.

"Rajiv Gandhi was a great leader. However, KTR is speaking about Rajiv as he likes. The BRS coming to power is only a dream. The BRS lost its connection with Telangana when it changed its name," he said.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao reacted angrily against KTR and said that first of all the BRS has to come to power for it to do something. Pointing out that Rajiv gave political alms to KCR he asked what's wrong if Rajiv Gandhi's statue is installed in front of the Secretariat and added that the BRS will not exist in future.

Coming down heavily on KT Rama Rao over his statements against Rajiv Gandhi, TPCC Media and Communications wing Chairman Sama Ram Mohan Reddy said that KTR is speaking the language of the BJP as he wants to be in its good books.



## CITY EVENTS

### Hyderabad Runners Society

The 13th edition of NMDC HYDERABAD MARATHON powered by IDFC FIRST BANK (The flagship event of Hyderabad Runners and the second-largest running event in the country) & Launch of the Official Race Medal and T-Shirt

#### Guests

Amitava Mukherjee  
Chairman-Cum-Managing Director (Addl In-charge), NMDC Limited  
Nirish Lalan  
Head Branch Banking South, IDFC FIRST Bank  
Nikhil Zareen  
Olympian, Two-time World Boxing Champion  
Rajesh Vetcha  
Race Director, NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2024

#### Venue

Meeting Room 1, Hyatt Place, Banjara Hills, Opposite GVK Mall, Hyd  
Date and Day: August 20, Tuesday  
Time: 12 noon

#### Website launch

Sayed Bin Mohammed Naqsh  
Www.sayedbinmohammed.com  
To be inaugurated by Prof. T Gangadhar, Principal, College of Fine Arts

#### Venue

Auditorium Hall, College of Fine Arts, Masab Tank, Hyderabad  
August 20, at 3.30 pm  
Pride of Hyderabad Awards

#### SDG Awards

Recognising outstanding individuals and organisations dedicated to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

#### Chief Guests

Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Minister of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce and Legislative Affairs - Govt of Telangana  
VC.Sajjanar  
Managing Director, TSRTC

#### Venue

T-Hub, Raidurgam, Knowledge City Rd  
Date: Tuesday, August 20  
Time: 2:15 pm

#### Sadbhavana Run

To mark the 80th birth anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, to be organised by former MP V Hanumantha Rao.

#### Venue

Rajiv Gandhi statue Somajiguda  
August 20, 9 am

#### Jewellery World Exhibition

#### Venue

Hotel Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, from August 23rd to 25th, for an unforgettable experience. 10 am to 8 pm daily

#### 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)

#### Raahat

Crisis centre for domestic violence and abuse. British Deputy High Commissioner to India, Christina Scott will be the chief guest for the inaugural event, while British Deputy High Commissioner to Telangana and AP, Gareth Wynn Owen will be the guest of honour.

#### Venue

Conference Hall, Dr LJJF Block, Adj. Fernandez Hospital, Bogulkunta, Hyderabad.  
11 am, Thursday, August 22.

# City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD TUESDAY | AUGUST 20, 2024

03

## JNTUH launches B Pharmacy courses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH), Pharmacy Department HoD Dr Yas Shobharani has announced the commencement of B Pharmacy courses for the academic year 2024-25 on Monday. Total 60 seats are available for this course. She said that courses in the Pharmacy department have also been sanctioned for the academic year 2024-25. In all, 15 seats are available in each department of Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical Analysis, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Pharmacognosy.

## Food safety officials find stale food in restaurants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Task Force teams of Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety conducted inspections at various restaurants and found violations in Gachibowli on Sunday.

In the inspections at Hoy Punjab eatery, the officials found veg biryani, which was prepared one day before, which was discarded on the spot.

The officials found other violations, which were medical fitness certificates of food handlers were not available at eatery.

Oil was found to be overused with a greasy appearance. Store room was found to be narrow and there was no proper ventilation. In all, 330 customised drinking water bottles supplied by Jalousie Industries were seized for

having very low total dissolved solids (TDS) levels (39 ppm).

In the Globe Grub eatery, the officials found that the food articles stored inside the refrigerator were not covered and not labelled. Medical fitness certificates for food handlers and water analysis reports for Reverse Osmosis (RO) water were not available.

Dustbins were found to be open without lids. Temperature records were not found for refrigerators.

In the Flechazo, the official found violations as food handlers were found without hair caps and gloves. Dustbins were found open without proper lids.

A few food articles stored in the refrigerator were not covered and not labelled. In all, 5 kgs of packaged chicken was found to be stored beyond best before dates.



Food safety officials conduct inspections in Hoy Punjab at Gachibowli on Sunday

## Focus on health services in TG

REPORT EVERY 15 DAYS ON HOSPITALS SOUGHT



Minister for Health and Family Welfare Damodar Raja Narasimha holding a review meeting on Monkeypox in Hyderabad on Monday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has instructed officials to submit a report every 15 days on the facilities in hospitals under the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP).

The State Medical, Health and Family Welfare Minister conducted a high-level review meeting focused on the State Department of Public Health and the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad.

During the meeting, the Minister

directed officials to enhance services such as security, sanitation, diet and laundry in hospitals under the jurisdiction of the TVVP and Public Health Department.

He also ordered the task force committee to conduct continuous inspections of the hospitals and submit a report every 15 days, assessing the condition of hospital buildings and staff attendance.

Furthermore, the Minister emphasised the importance of ensuring that hospital staff receive their salaries on time every month.

Medical, Health and Family Welfare Minister conducted a high-level review meeting focused on the State Department of Public Health and the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad

## Junior docs assured of safety measures

Health and Family Welfare Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has assured the Telangana Junior Doctors Association of safety measures for doctors, particularly women doctors, as well as nursing officers and hospital staff in government hospitals and medical colleges. In the light of the recent tragic incident involving the rape and murder of a lady doctor in Kolkata, a petition by the junior doctors urged the Minister to implement safety measures for women doctors and staff in teaching hospitals across the State. The petition specifically requested the

introduction of security arrangements with the State Police Force (SPF) in all government hospitals and medical colleges as stipulated in GO No. 103. Additionally, it called for the enforcement of the Prevention of Violence Against Health Care Professionals and Clinical Establishments Bill - 2022, issued by the Central government. The petition also highlighted the need for installing CCTV cameras, deploying trained security personnel and including junior doctors as members of the hospital committees responsible for security.

## Mother appeals to CM for daughter's treatment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A mother has appealed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for her daughter's treatment at Gandhi Government Hospital after being informed that her care was delayed due to ongoing junior doctors' protests in the city on Monday.

The appeal came after 22-year-old Jyoti, who fell from the fourth floor of a building where she was employed, was rushed to Gandhi Hospital on Saturday, but it received little attention.

K Venkat, a relative, told The Pioneer, "Our family member, who works as a watchman, went upstairs to check the water tank and accidentally fell.

We rushed her to Gandhi Hospital, but the doctors neglected her."

He also explained that despite possessing an Aarogya card, they were informed it couldn't be used because they are residents of Andhra Pradesh, not Telangana.

In desperation, the family wrote to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and approached the local MLA. Following their efforts, Jyoti is now receiving treatment.

Dr K Srinivas, Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, stated in a media briefing, "The woman was admitted with multiple injuries.

After resuscitation, she was found to have multiple pelvic fractures and a left leg fracture, with no solid organ damage.

A spinal cord injury is suspected, and further MRI/CT scans will guide the next steps in her treatment."

## ON TOP OF THE WORLD

## Preetham mounts Kilimanjaro

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Preetham Goli, a 16-year-old student of Delhi Public School, has made history as one of the youngest climbers from Hyderabad to successfully summit Mount Kilimanjaro. The ambitious young climber reached the summit on July 17, 2024, after an eight-day expedition that tested his physical endurance and mental resilience.

Preetham, who is currently in the 12th grade, embarked on his journey on July 12 with a group of four climbers, guided by experienced mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta. The group faced numerous challenges during the ascent, but Preetham's determination and per-

severance saw him through to the top.

Sharing his experience, he said, "One of the main reasons I wanted to summit Kilimanjaro was that after finishing Everest Base Camp, I was not satisfied. I wanted to

do more, climb more, achieve more." "While climbing Kilimanjaro, sometimes I felt lonely, but I learned to enjoy it. Being away from everyone and everything made me realise how

simple our life was. Sometimes I felt really peaceful, which I had never felt before," he added.

The summit day was particularly gruelling, starting at 3 am in freezing conditions.



While climbing Kilimanjaro, sometimes I felt lonely, but I learned to enjoy it. Being away from everyone and everything made me realise how simple our life was.

The feeling when I reached the summit was just magical - all the problems I had while climbing just disappeared. At the summit, Preetham proudly unfurled the Indian national flag, the NCC flag and his school flag, a moment that he describes as one of the best feelings in the world

## PRAJAVANI GHMC receives 59 public grievances

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has received 59 grievances during Prajavani programme on Monday.

The GHMC received 25 applications in the head office. Out of them, 11 applications are related to the Town Planning department, six are of the Revenue department, two applications are related to Administration department,



GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata receives public grievance applications at the GHMC headquarters on Monday

two are of the Lakes department and two are pertaining to the Engineering department.

A total of 30 applications were received in six zones under GHMC. Out of them, 12 grievances were received in Kukatpally zone, 10 in Secunderabad zone, four in LB Nagar zone, two in Charminar zone, one each in Khairatabad and Serilingampally zones.

After receiving the applications, GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered the officials to solve the problems immediately.

## AE suspended for manhandling senior

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Amrapali Kata has suspended Assistant Engineer (AE) R Ramesh because of his misbehavior with the Superintendent Officer (SE). Both of them work in the Serilingampally zone. AE Ramesh was working in the GHMC under deputation from the Telangana Housing Corporation Limited (TGHL).

As per the report submitted by the SE, the Commissioner noticed that Ramesh entered the chamber of the SE and argued loudly, manhandled and verbally abused him on August 3. On Sunday, the GHMC Commissioner issued an order, where it mentioned that as per the prima facie report of the SE (Serilingampally Zone), the Commissioner ordered AE R Ramesh to surrender to his parent department.

## TGSRTC hikes fares by 25% on Rakhi Pournami

CHITHALURI REVANTH ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has increased fares by 25 per cent in some bus depots on Raksha Bandhan on Monday. A TGSRTC official said that the corporation arranged 710 special buses in various depots in the State to meet the passenger rush during the festival.

Passengers from across the State are anguished over

the increased fares. They said that the TGSRTC has not even informed passengers about increasing the fares.

Passenger Potharaju Venkanna said that he did not know about increased charges. "A few days ago, I travelled from Uppal to Thirumalagiri and they charged Rs 240. Now on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, they collected Rs 290 from me. When I asked the bus conductor, he replied that these buses are special buses. But how could we dis-

tinguish between normal and special buses? If I would have known that this was a special bus I would not have boarded the bus."

Thorrur Depot Manager said that the TGSRTC is arranging special buses for passenger traffic. "We are collecting an extra 25 per cent charge on special buses only," he added.

A TGSRTC official said that the corporation has the right to increase the fares by 50 per cent. A few years back a Government Order (GO) issued by the government to that effect. On Monday, some depots have increased the fares of Express, Super Luxury and other luxury buses.

During last year's Rakhi Pournami, the TGSRTC earned Rs 22.65 crore record revenue. At that time, the TGSRTC said that even in the united Andhra Pradesh, they had not earned that much income in a day. Now, due to the Mahalakshmi scheme, the number of passengers also increased.



## Photos taken creatively make readers think: Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On the occasion of International Photography Day, a photography exhibition was organised in Hyderabad under the auspices of the Telangana State Information and Civil Relations Department on Monday. Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy inaugurated the photo exhibition.

The Minister said that he used to read daily newspapers every day. Even if he did not read all the news, he would see the photos on all the pages and understand the content of the news. "Here are the photo entries for the photography competition organised by the Telangana government under the Abhaya

Hashtam guarantees. Today's photography exhibition stands as a proof of the government's efforts for the implementation of development and welfare programmes for the last eight months for the implementation of Abhaya Hashtam in Telangana, which has brought about a change in Indiramma's rule. The government is working under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with two eyes on welfare and development.

Chairman of State Media Academy Srinivasa Reddy said that news with a photo would be perfect. Photographers work with many ups and downs and difficulties at the field level. In some cases they work harder than journalists.



Photos have the power to make people think, he added.

Hanumantha Rao, Special Commissioner of the State Information and Civil Relations Department, said, "In all, 101 people sent 990 photos in the International Photography Day competitions held in five categories - Mahalaxmi, Rythu Bharosa, Cheyutha, Gruha Jyothi and Best News Picture. Memento, Shawl and cash prizes will be given to the photographers who have taken the photos selected by the jury members in these categories." Judges who are experts in photography and journalism have selected photos for the first, second, third prizes and five consolation prizes in each category.





## Chicken prices come down to Rs 150 a kg

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The prices of chicken have started climbing down from the first week of August with the people across the state started performing special puja on account of the Telugu auspicious month of Shravanam. Last month, the chicken prices were beyond the reach of middle classes and lower middle classes. A kg of chicken was sold at Rs 280.

Shocked at the prices of chicken, the common man developed cold feet and refrained from consuming chicken. The common man consumed chicken only during festive occasions and get-togethers, other functions and if it was absolutely necessary.

Having ruled high for a period of 45 days, the prices have started tumbling down from the first week of August.

A kg of chicken was sold at Rs 150 on August 11, Sunday, as against Rs 180 on August 5. On August 17, there was a slight increase to Rs 158 a kg.

By virtue of performing special pujas during the auspicious month of Shravanam, women would not encourage their husbands to buy meat, leading to plummeting of the demand. With the demand coming down, the prices have come down.

## Anomalies in fogging machines purchase hampering operations

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The fogging machines acquired by various village panchayats three years ago for fogging in villages have been shelved because they are in need of repairs not providing the service for at least two years.

Moreover, mechanics are not reportedly available to repair them. Utter insanitary conditions prevailed in villages of the district following

accounts for 37 dengue and 175 viral fevers.

According to reports, irreg-

55,000 and Rs 60,000 each machine.

Because of this, the fogging

machines are in working order, but the employees are not keen to use them. In places where the machines are not in order, the panchayat sarpanch have been hiring these machines from those panchayats where the machines are in order.

Since these machines are not branded machines, they have been giving trouble as often as possible. The technicians repairing them are not available locally. They are being requisitioned



Viral diseases like dengue, malaria and typhoid broke out in Mahabubnagar, Narayanapeta districts from August 1. Over 280 cases registered so far. Mahabubnagar district alone accounts for 37 dengue and 175 viral fevers



The substandard equipment went out of order within one year of their procurement. The government officials have procured these machines below Rs 30,000 but placed bills for Rs 55,000 and Rs 60,000 each machine

recent heavy rains that lashed the district for nearly 20 days. But, the village panchayats are not able to undertake fogging operations as these machines went out of order.

Consequently, viral diseases like dengue, malaria and typhoid broke out in Mahabubnagar, Narayanapeta districts from August 1. Over 280 cases registered so far. Mahabubnagar district alone

ularities have taken place in acquiring fogging machines from Hyderabad through a contractor by village sarpanches and government officials who apparently formed into a syndicate.

The substandard equipment went out of order within one year of their procurement. The government officials have procured these machines below Rs 30,000 but placed bills for Rs

operations are not taking place in Maktal, Dhanwada, Maganuru, Addakula, Midgil, Chinachintakunta, Devarakadra, Nawabpeta, Balanagar, Moosapeta, Maganuru and Utkuru in Mahabubnagar and Narayanapeta districts.

Wherever the machines are in working order, the fogging operations are being undertaken. At some places, the

from Mahabubnagar and Narayanapeta to get them repaired. The machines have been responding for a while after the repair and soon getting switched off. The mechanics are not able to identify the fault. If the technicians are called again, they are not responding to the calls. Unable to do anything, some gram panchayats have been procuring new and better machines.

## Basara Police crack temple theft case

PNS ■ NIRMAL

In just three days, the Basara Police cracked the theft case at the Basara Gnana Saraswati Devasthanam.

Nirmal district SP Janaki Sharmila said in a press conference organised on Monday that the thief was caught within three days of the theft, as promised. On this occasion, they said that Saikumar (21) of Nandigao village, Navipet mandal, Nizamabad district, who was addicted to drinking and wanted to get easy money, broke into Basara Gnana Saraswati Devasthanam on Thursday night and stole Rs 14,200 in cash. She said that a special team formed for the purpose, first recognised the visuals of the thief using the new technology that was recorded on the CCTV and arrested him. When the same accused came to the temple again with the intention that more people would come to the temple on Sunday and could steal easily, the Basara Police caught him and noticed



District SP Janaki Sharmila disclosing the details of the case

that the person in the CC footage was the same as the criminal and he confessed to the crime.

She said that the accused used to stay in Armor until now and was staying at his wife's house after getting married two years ago. RealMe phone Rs 6,000 in cash and stone used to break the hundi were seized from the accused who confessed to the crime of theft. He was sent to remand.

The SP said that lapses should not be overlooked in terms of security in the famous

Basara Sri Saraswati temple. During a recent visit to the devasthanam, many defects were observed. There are no CCTVs around the devasthanam, and it was suggested to the temple authorities that there should be a video linking the CCTVs.

The District SP specially praised Assistant Superintendent of Police Avinash Kumar, Inspector Mallesh, SSI Ganesh and constable Mohan Singh who took special initiative in cracking cases.

## Tahsildar asked to take action against person harassing farmer

PRAJAVANI

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Additional Collector Madhusudhan Naik on Monday directed Chintakani mandal Tahsildar to take suitable action against the person harassing the Prajavani applicant Pasam Saidulu and registering the latter's land, listed under Survey No.277, under Survey No.278 and preventing Saidulu from entering his land.

Receiving representations from people on Monday as part of the weekly grievances redressal programme of Prajavani, the Additional Collector asked government officials to dispose of the representations received during Prajavani as early as possible.

A resident of Jammibanda Raod in Khammam highlighted his drainage problem. The additional collector referred it to Khammam Municipal Corporation for action.

A person who retired as office subordinate in animal husbandry department from 1997 to 2021 sought the district administration's support to get back his PRC arrears.

When the official's attention was drawn to anti-social activities taking place at the Buddhist stupa on the outskirts of Mujjigudem in Nelakondapalli revenue village, the district tourism official has been asked to enquire into the complaint and take suitable action.

When a private nurse Satunuri Sujata of Kallalpadu village, whose father died recently, of Penuballi mandal sought placement as an ANM in government hospital, the Additional Collector referred her case to the district employment officer for suitable action.

The Additional Collector referred the case of Rayala Rama Rao of Konijarla village to agriculture department directing it to extend the crop loan waiver benefit to him.

When painters who painted the government schools during the Assembly elections period sought the district administration's assistance to get their bills paid, the Additional Collector referred the case to the DEO. Later, he directed the government officials of various departments to take action on Prajavani representations by Friday.

## CM comes to aid of girl who conducted mother's funeral with donations

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday directed officials to take care of the education, medical and other needs of a 12-year-old girl Durga from Nirmal district who had to perform her mother's final rites with the help of donations from others.

After the girl's plight came to his notice, the Chief Minister asked Nirmal district Collector Abhilasha Abhinav to take care of the girl's needs, an official release said.

As per the CM's directive, Durga, who lost both her parents, would be admitted to a State-run social welfare residential school. She would be provided free education, medical treatment, if necessary, and other facilities, it said.

The girl's mother, a daily wage earner who was into drinking, allegedly took her life by hanging on Thursday night.



With no money to conduct the funeral, the bereaved girl sat outside her house helplessly. Residents and local police contributed money to meet the expenses.

The little girl then performed the funeral with the help of locals.

## Komatireddy takes orphaned girl under his wings

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy

Venkat Reddy on Monday assured the orphaned girl Durga of necessary support from his Prateek Reddy Foundation.

Moved by the plight of the girl, Durga, who was begging near the body of her mother who committed suicide, the minister spoke with the girl making a video call and asked her not to be disheartened by the death of her mother. He assured her to take good care of her till she gets married.

He sent Rs 1 lakh to the girl to meet her expenses through

Tahsildar Lingamurthy and MPDO Abdul Samad.

It may be recalled that Durga of Belaroda village of Nirmal district was rendered orphan following the death of her mother, who committed suicide. Several months ago, her father died of illness.

The Minister assured to take care of her education and arrange a house for her to stay. He offered to take her under his wings till she gets married. Further, he offered to send money to her every month to meet her expenses. He assured the girl to meet her soon.

## Tourism corridor development fails to take off in Nirmal

PNS ■ NIRMAL

In spite of having many natural resources, Nirmal district has been lagging behind in tourism development. The implementation of proposed tourism corridor has been lagging behind for want of release of funds by the then BRS regime. However, hopes being kindled on the revival of the project with the advent of Congress government in Telangana.

The tourism corridor development project involves bringing various renowned temples in the region under the tourism circuit besides visiting various irrigation projects, famous forts in Nirmal town, Kawwal tiger reserve and water falls in the region.

An action plan has been pre-



File Photo

pared by the BRS regime, but the tourism corridor did not progress beyond the action plan stage.

The then tourism commissioner visited various parts of the district and prepared an action plan

for the tourism corridor development project.

He even prepared a route map linking all places of tourist attractions. Right from Basara Gyana Saraswati temple to Kawwal water

The tourism corridor development project involves bringing various renowned temples in the region under the tourism circuit besides visiting various irrigation projects, famous forts in Nirmal town, Kawwal tiger reserve and water falls in the region

Accordingly, a master plan has been evolved to develop Basara temple at a cost of Rs 50 crore. It is linked to Kadili Papaharshwara temple, Kalva Lakshmi Venkateswara Swamy temple and Burugupalli Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple. Similarly, the Gandiramanna Saibaba temple and Mallannagutta Harihara pilgrimage centre have been included in the corridor.

The officials who prepared the master plan so that tourists will visit all these temples, included natural resources, forts and ramparts of various in the corridor project.

There were plans to develop ShyamGhad and BattisGhad forts in Nirmal town and some works have been implemented.

Community members joyously tying rakhis during the grand Raksha Bandhan celebrations in Rangareddy district on Monday

## Grand rakhi celebrations across Rangareddy dist

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The festival of Raksha Bandhan was celebrated with grandeur across Rangareddy district on Monday, bringing communities together in a vibrant display of culture and tradition. The festivities were especially notable in Chevella, Ibrahimpatnam, Shadnagar, Rajendranagar, Shamshabad and other parts of the district, where residents took part in the celebrations with enthusiasm and joy.

In Ibrahimpatnam, local MLA Malreddy Rangareddy, participated in the celebrations, with women from his constituency tying rakhis on his wrist as a symbol of the brother-sister bond that Raksha Bandhan tra-

ditionally honours. The MLA expressed his gratitude and highlighted the importance of such cultural practices in strengthening community ties.

Similarly, Shadnagar MLA Veerapalli Shankar celebrated the occasion with women from his constituency, who tied rakhis on his wrist in a ceremonious event. The MLA shared his appreciation for the tradition and encouraged the preservation of cultural values that bring communities together.

The celebrations across Rangareddy district were marked by a sense of unity and festivity, with people from all walks of life coming together to honour the spirit of Raksha Bandhan.

## Orientation programme for BTech first year students

PNS ■ WARANGAL

NIT Warangal organised an orientation programme for the first year BTech students on Monday morning in the auditorium.

In all, 1,100 students who joined the BTech first year have participated in the orientation programme.

Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director, NIT Warangal, interacted with the students.

He advised the students to

make the best use of their stay on the campus and he wished that every student should leave this campus with flying colours.

Later, Deans, Heads of the Departments and the chief warden interacted with the students and briefed the facilities.

The induction programme scheduled for five days, will continue every day evening from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm to familiarise students with the

facilities and procedures followed in the institute.

On August 22, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is organising the National Induction Day 5.0 where Ravi Shankar, Art of Living, will be addressing students online. On August 23, Art of Living, will be organising a session for the BTech students. The five-day induction programme will close on August 24.

## Officials told to implement LRS as per govt norms

PNS ■ ASIFABAD

Principal Secretary to the Municipal Administration Dana Kishore has asked additional collectors (civic bodies) to implement the layout regularisation scheme (LRS) of the state government as per the guidelines.

He also asked the officials to work with coordination to

implement the bank-linkage programmes meant for the self-help groups as early as possible. Under Mahila Sakti, he asked the officials to allocate the choicest self-employment projects in tune with the applicants' qualifications and encourage them, he said.

He addressed additional collectors of local bodies and municipal commissioners

through video conference from Hyderabad on Monday to review the implementation of programmes like LRS, bank-linkage programme for the SHGs, Mahila Sakti programme, cleanliness and greenery development programme and the street dog menace.

Sanitation should be implemented in all wards of municipalities. Roads and drainages

should be cleaned regularly and check breeding of mosquitoes. The people should be sensitized on planting of saplings and carefully nursing them. He directed the officials to get the street dogs sterilized.

Asifabad Additional Collector (local bodies) Deepak Tiwari, Asifabad and Kagaznagar Municipal Commissioners Bhujanga Rao

and Anjaiah attended the video conference at the media conference hall in integrated district offices/complex at Asifabad.

Deepak Tiwari told Dana Kishore that teams would be constituted with revenue, municipal and irrigation officials to conduct a survey of the house sites purchased in illegal real estate layouts.



ACROSS THE STATES



CDS holds talks with top Russian Navy commander

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on Monday held wide-ranging talks with Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy Admiral Aleksandr Moiseev with a focus on boosting maritime cooperation between the two sides. Admiral Moiseev is on a visit to India. The discussions underscored mutual commitment towards enhancing maritime security, deepening strategic cooperation and fostering a stronger defence partnership between the two nations, the headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff said. Indian Navy's frontline frigate INS Tabar visited St. Petersburg in Russia last month, in reflection of growing maritime security ties between the two sides. The ship participated in the 328th Russian Navy Day Parade celebrations. The visit by INS Tabar was aimed at strengthening the longstanding friendship and exploring newer avenues of bolstering maritime ties, the Indian Navy had said.



Goa woman gets rakhi gift of kidney from younger brother

The Raksha Bandhan festival became extra special for a 43-year-old woman from South Goa as her younger brother gifted her a new lease of life by donating one of his kidneys to her earlier this year. The woman, who suffered from polycystic kidney disease, received a kidney from her 35-year-old brother at a private hospital in April. While the names of the brother-sister duo have been kept under wraps on request from the family, they have become an inspiration for organ donors. "My wife was emotional when she tied rakhi to her brother. Right from childhood, they have been ideal siblings, the woman's husband said. A nephrologist at the private hospital said the woman suffered from polycystic kidney disease and was in the final stages, requiring an urgent transplant. The patient's younger brother, who is married, was ready to donate his kidney.



CRPF inspector killed in terror attack in J-K's Udhampur

In fresh bloodletting in the Jammu region, a CRPF inspector was killed when terrorists opened fire on a patrol party in Udhampur district on Monday. The personnel of CRPF and Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police were attacked by terrorists around 3:30 pm in the remote Dudu area of Basantgarh, officials said. They said inspector Kuldeep Kumar of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) belonging to the 187th battalion was hit by a bullet and later succumbed to injuries while being taken to hospital. A police spokesman said an exchange of fire took place between terrorists and joint parties of police and CRPF during the area domination patrol at Chill village of Dudu. "In the encounter, one inspector of CRPF suffered bullet injuries and has attained martyrdom. (The anti-terrorist) operation continues," he said. His mortal remains were being brought to district headquarters for postmortem.

Speed up land ...

Continued from page 1

A list should be submitted detailing the number of cots, beds and bed sheets available for students in all the 1,029 SC, ST, BC and Minority Residential Schools and proposals should be sent on how many more are required, he told officials. Funds would be released after examining the proposals, he said. Facilities like toilets, bathrooms, running water, electricity, doors, windows and mosquito meshes for windows should be provided. A checklist should be prepared including all these facilities and it should be displayed in every hostel. Rents due to the owners of residential school buildings would be released soon but the owners should provide all facilities for students as per norms, Bhatti said.

A checklist mentioning the requirements for providing facilities to students should be submitted by August 29, he said. Bhatti responded positively to the appeal of Minister Ponnambal Prabhakar about immediately releasing the second instalment of overseas scholarships to students studying abroad. He asked officials to give the list of pending overseas scholarships in the SC, ST, BC and Minority departments. It is the responsibility of officials to get overseas scholarships released within the stipulated period every year so that students studying abroad would not face hardships, he pointed out. During this academic year overseas scholarships will be sanctioned to 800 BC students, 500 students each from the SC, ST and Minority categories, he said.

India-Japan defence ties vital to ensure free, open Indo-Pacific: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa arrived here on Monday to hold the third India-Japan 2+2 dialogue that is expected to review the situation in the Indo-Pacific region and explore ways to expand bilateral strategic ties.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will hold the talks with their Japanese counterparts Kihara Minoru and Kamikawa on Tuesday. "Strengthened India-Japan defence partnership is vital for ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific in the prevailing global environment," India's defence ministry said.

The two sides are expected to delve



FM Kamikawa Yoko of Japan arrives in New Delhi for India-Japan 2+2 Foreign & Defence Ministers' meeting

into further expanding cooper-

ation in the Indo-Pacific in the face of China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region.

The first edition of the dialogue was held in India in 2019 while the second one took place in Japan in 2022. Besides the 2+2 dialogue, Singh and Jaishankar will also hold separate bilateral talks with Defence Minister Minoru and Foreign Minister Kamikawa on Tuesday. "During the bilateral talks and 2+2 meeting, the ministers will review the bilateral cooperation and explore new initiatives to further strengthen the engagements between the two countries," the defence ministry said in a statement. It said the ministers will also exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

"India and Japan share 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' based on the shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law," the ministry said.

India seen as reliable 'Vishwa Bandhu': Murmu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that India is engaging the world with renewed vigour to find solutions to global challenges, including climate change or taking a principled stand against international terrorism, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said the country is seen as a reliable 'Vishwa Bandhu' in a fast-changing and conflict-ridden world.

Addressing officer trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (2023 batch), who had called on the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, she asked them to always be there for fellow Indians abroad.

"In my recent visits abroad, I have seen for myself, the immense goodwill generated by our development partnership projects, in the field of infrastructure, education, health and agriculture; particularly in countries of the Global South," Murmu said.

There is also tremendous interest in Indian soft power, including films, Yoga, Ayurveda and Indian art, crafts, dance and music, she said.

"I have also sensed that our friends and partners abroad

now have very high expectations from us, which we must deliver on. This is where your role becomes crucial. You must engage constructively with a wide range of stakeholders in your host country, including the business and scientific community, cultural representatives and the media," the President said.

Equally importantly, "you have to carefully cultivate and promote the crucial role played by the vibrant Indian Diaspora", she said.

Murmu said, in her meetings with the Indian diaspora while travelling abroad, she has been impressed by their many achievements and their enthusiasm to connect and contribute to their motherland.

"Please remember that in times of distress, the Indian Mission is a second home for Indian nationals abroad and you are their only hope," the President said.

Vande Bharat Mission (COVID), Operation Ganga (Ukraine), Operation Kaveri (Sudan) and Operation Ajay (Israel), where "our diplomats brought millions of Indians back home safely", were exemplary efforts, she said.

INDIA bloc leaders 'political vultures': BJP

Demands Mamata to resign over medic's rape, murder

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday called West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee "shameless" and demanded her resignation, alleging that crucial evidence was destroyed at her behest to save the culprits in the rape and murder of a medic in Kolkata.

It also slammed leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc, including the Congress' Rahul Gandhi, and called them "political vultures", alleging that they "generalised" the trainee doctor's rape and murder by expressing a general concern over such cases reported in different parts of the country, including those in BJP-ruled states.

"Mamata Banerjee has become Mamata, the destroyer. By her misdeeds she destroyed the dignity of a woman, a doctor who was serving the society. Mamata Banerjee is the destroyer of the rule of law and the Constitution," BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said at a press conference at the



BJP headquarters here.

While the chief minister did not take concrete steps to ensure a swift probe into the "possibil-

'Break fingers of those blaming Mamata'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Senior TMC minister Udayan Guha has sparked controversy by claiming that fingers of those blaming Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and demanding her resignation over the



alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor would be broken. His threat was heard in a video clip that has gone viral. PTI, how-

ever, could not independently verify the authenticity of the video.

ence of the heinous crime destroyed, he charged.

Rift in TMC widens amid public outrage

The alleged rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, which sparked widespread outrage across West Bengal, exposed a rift within the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) over how to handle the issue and the ensuing protests.

"There are differences within the party on how the inci-

dent should have been tackled. Some feel the state's response has been slow, allowing the protests to escalate. Others believe that opposition parties have seized the opportunity to use the protests against the government," a senior TMC leader said on condition of anonymity.

The TMC leader said these differences of opinion among

leaders have created the impression that the party is not united on the issue.

"The fact that what the party's top leadership is saying on the issue has not been echoed by other leaders is a matter of concern. It is sending out a wrong message not only among the masses but also among the entire rank and file," he said.

Mpox scare: Centre tells ...

Continued from page 1

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

"The virus strain this time is different and is more virulent and infectious. But the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is low in the country as per the current assessment," an official source said.

The health ministry has directed officials to enhance surveillance and effective measures to be taken for prompt

detection of Mpox cases. It has stressed that the network of testing laboratories should be geared up for early diagnosis of the disease.

At present, 32 laboratories in the country are equipped for testing Mpox.

Mishra on Sunday said protocols for prevention and treatment of the disease should be disseminated on a large scale, stressing the importance of running an awareness campaign among healthcare providers about the signs and symptoms of the disease and the need for timely notification to the surveillance system.

An earlier statement from

WHO stated that 99,176 cases and 208 deaths had been reported due to Mpox from 116 countries globally since 2022.

Mpox cases have been steadily increasing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Last year, the number of reported cases around the world increased significantly. This year, the number of cases reported so far has already exceeded last year's total, with more than 15,600 cases and 537 deaths.

Since 2022, thirty Mpox cases were reported in India. The last case of Mpox was detected in March 2024.

Make TG sports ...

Continued from page 1

He recommended prioritizing sports like shooting, wrestling, boxing, archery, javelin throw and hockey where there is potential for Olympic success.

The Chief Minister advised teachers to identify sporting talents and interests in students from a young age. He proposed setting up a sports school in all Lok Sabha constituencies to provide specialised training for such students.

He asked officials to take all necessary steps to make the Hyderabad-based Sports University the focal point of the country's sports sector.

Hearing impaired kids...

Continued from page 1

can be solved through surgery.

Ever since he assumed the CM's office, Revanth has been extending the required help for the treatment of children suffering from hearing problems.

As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, the famous ENT hospital at Koti started performing Cochlear implant surgeries in large numbers. The Government is also supporting those who underwent expensive surgeries and

providing hearing aids through LOC and CMRF. The AVT (Auditions Verbal Therapy) is also being provided for one year along with free hearing aids after the treatment.

Accompanied by ENT Hospital Superintendent Anand Acharya and Dr DK Veena, children, who underwent surgeries, came to the Secretariat and thanked CM Revanth Reddy by tying Rakhi. The family members also expressed thanks to the Chief Minister for lending a helping hand to their children

Bhatti for collective bid...

Continued from page 1

state would be realised only when these goals are met.

"Otherwise, we would remain as those who could not do justice to the people," he said. Bhatti acknowledged the financial difficulties faced by the government but stressed that the decision to grant promotions was made to ensure a better working environment for employees.

He urged the newly promoted officers and staff to work with dedication, commitment and a sense of

belonging to the state and its people.

He emphasised that every decision and action taken by the employees should benefit the common man, highlighting the need for a humanitarian approach in their work.

"The government will continue to support its employees under all circumstances and in return the employees should show the same attitude towards the public," he said.

He assured the employees that the government would provide encouragement and emphasised the importance of team spirit.

Will protect revenue system ...

Continued from page 1

free farmers from land complications. Our aim is to make farmers prosperous under Indiramma Raj.

Ponguleti was speaking at a discussion organised by the Telangana Revenue Employees Services Association (TRESA) at

the Tourism Plaza on Monday on the draft new Revenue Act.

"The Revenue Act 2020 introduced by the BRS government is proof of what happens if rules are not drafted properly. We are introducing an Act to solve problems even if it is a day late to ensure that future generations do not face any problems.

Loan waiver ...

Continued from page 1

Loans up to Rs 1 lakh were waived on July 18, followed by loans up to Rs 1.5 lakh on July 30 and loans up to Rs 2 lakh by August 15, he said.

Reassuring farmers, Uttam said the Telangana government is committed to resolving all discrepancies and that issues like incorrect Aadhaar numbers, mismatched bank account names, and missing ration cards are being addressed.

Agriculture Officers have been tasked with collecting and updating the necessary details to ensure that all eligible farmers can get their loans waived, he said.

Uttam took the opportunity to criticise the BRS government for spreading misinformation about the loan waiver scheme. He pointed out that

the BRS government had made only negligible attempts to waive loans focusing primarily on covering interest payments rather than the principal amounts.

He contrasted this with the Congress government's action of waiving agricultural loans amounting to Rs 18,000 crore in just seven to eight months.

He also accused the BRS government of failing to provide crop insurance despite numerous instances of crop damage due to unseasonal rains. Uttam said the Congress government introduced a crop insurance scheme and will provide a Rs 500 bonus on fine paddy this season and compensate farmers for earlier crop damages. He said a grievance cell has been established to address all problems and that the loans of all farmers eligible would be waived.

Panel moots revenue...

Continued from page 1

The committee also recognised the benefits of desilting reservoirs, including increased capacity and revenue generation with no expenditure required from the government. The formation of two committees was proposed to advance these initiatives. One is a high-power committee with external experts from various departments, including the TGMDC, the Pollution

Control Board, and Fisheries, and the other is a technical committee comprising experts from the irrigation and CAD departments.

The committee emphasised the need for a robust monitoring system and urged officials to create a feasible proposal encouraging broad agency participation and the simultaneous execution of multiple projects. Desilting operations were directed to be undertaken on a war footing.

government will move in that direction," Ponguleti said.

He said that KCR abolished the VRO and VRA system suddenly without providing an alternative and rendered villages without revenue land administration. The farmers and the people distanced themselves from revenue services.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Women safety is non-negotiable

The apex court's suo moto cognisance of Kolkata rape case could lead to stronger security measures in workplaces

The Kolkata rape and murder case has shaken the nation, sparking widespread outrage and a call to end such horrific crimes. While similar cases in the past, like the Ranga Billa case in the 1970s and the Nirbhaya case in 2012, also provoked national anger, real change has been limited, with crimes against women continuing sporadically. The recent assault and murder of a resident doctor in Kolkata serve as a stark reminder of the ongoing vulnerability women face in the workplace. The Supreme Court of India has taken suo motu cognisance of the Kolkata doctor rape-murder incident. A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will hear the matter on August 20, 2024. Earlier, the Calcutta High Court expressed displeasure over the handling of the case by the State Government. The incident took place at R G Kar Medical College in Kolkata. The case has been transferred to the CBI. The Supreme Court's decision to take up this case underscores a growing concern about the safety of women in public spaces, including professional environments.



The matter, while primarily focusing on doctors' safety, also opens a window to address the broader context of women's safety across the country.

In a country where women's safety continues to be a major societal concern, the Supreme Court's intervention in the Kolkata case regarding the safety of doctors brings to light a parallel issue—the precarious conditions under which healthcare workers, especially women, operate. While India grapples with various cases of violence against women, the healthcare sector has seen its share of attacks on women professionals, prompting national attention and legal action.

India's struggle with women's safety is long-standing and complex. High-profile cases of sexual violence, harassment, and workplace discrimination have repeatedly sparked public outrage. Despite legal reforms and awareness campaigns, incidents of violence against women remain alarmingly high. Public spaces, including hospitals, which should be places of care, have become dangerous for many women, underscoring the systemic nature of the problem. The healthcare sector is particularly concerning because female doctors and nurses not only face violence from patients' families but also internal issues such as sexual harassment from colleagues and superiors. This dual threat makes their professional life increasingly challenging and unsafe. With the Supreme Court stepping in, it is hoped that this case will lead to more robust security protocols in hospitals and other public institutions. As the Supreme Court examines the Kolkata case, there is hope that this will lead to a more comprehensive approach to women's safety in India. The focus should not just be on doctors but also on broader societal reforms that ensure women can work, travel, and live without fear of violence or discrimination. If the court's ruling leads to enhanced safety measures for doctors, it could set a precedent for other professions as well, where women face similar threats.

### PICTALK



Women tie 'rakhi' on wrists of BSF personnel on the occasion of Rakshabandhan at Attari-Wagah Border, Amritsar PTI

## UK-India Free Trade Agreement set for a green shift under Labour leadership

As the UK pushes for greener economic practices, the FTA with India will need to balance trade facilitation with stringent environmental standards

With the Labour Party now leading the UK, international trade dynamics, particularly the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, are set for transformation. The Labour Party's emphasis on climate change and its advocacy for mechanisms like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will likely influence the future of this trade deal.



### Labour Party's Environmental Agenda

A key aspect of Labour's policy is its strong commitment to environmental sustainability. Under the leadership of Keir Starmer, the party has set ambitious goals to tackle the climate crisis, aiming to decarbonize the UK economy by 2030, significantly earlier than current targets. Labour plans to invest heavily in renewable energy and enforce stricter regulations on carbon emissions. The UK's Climate Change Act 2008 mandates that the UK achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and Labour's policies intend to accelerate this shift. The Labour Party's Green New Deal is a central component of this push, aligning

with the global urgency to meet and exceed Paris Agreement targets. As a result, the party's approach to trade, including the India-UK FTA, will likely reflect its commitment to green policies. Labour's aggressive stance on climate action will shape its trade policies, embedding sustainability into international agreements.

### Impact on the India-UK Free Trade Agreement

Labour's focus on environmental sustainability is expected to influence the ongoing FTA negotiations with India. Traditionally, FTAs emphasize reducing tariffs and trade barriers to facilitate commerce. However, under Labour, the India-UK FTA will likely include climate-related provisions. India, too, has made progress in renewable energy and carbon reduction efforts. However, its economy still

heavily depends on fossil fuels. This poses a challenge in aligning with Labour's stringent environmental requirements. The transition to greener energy will require significant investments, and India's economic growth might be affected by these demands. Balancing trade promotion and environmental sustainability will be a central issue in the FTA discussions.

### The Role of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Labour's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a policy designed to impose a carbon tax on imported goods based on their carbon content, leveling the playing field for domestic industries. This ensures that foreign producers face the same carbon pricing as local ones, preventing carbon leakage and promoting emission reductions globally. For India, CBAM poses a significant challenge, especially for industries like steel, aluminium, and cement, which have high carbon footprints. As the world's second-largest steel producer, India's exports to the UK would face higher

production costs under CBAM, potentially impacting competitiveness. To manage this, Indian industries would need to adopt cleaner technologies and low-carbon production methods. The Indian government might need to offer subsidies or incentives to ease this transition.

### Green Trade Opportunities

Despite challenges, the CBAM also presents opportunities for India and the UK to expand green trade. Labour's focus on renewable energy and green technologies could open doors for collaboration in sectors like solar energy, wind power, and electric mobility. India's growing renewable energy market positions it as an ideal partner for the UK in achieving mutual sustainability goals. By aligning trade policies with environmental objectives, both nations can ensure that economic progress is achieved responsibly. Labour's leadership brings a new era for the UK-India FTA, with climate change and the CBAM taking center stage. (The writer is founder and managing director, Earthhood)



KAVIRAJ SINGH

# Bangladesh questions Sheikh Mujib's legacy



SIDHARTH MISHRA

With institutions under siege and the legacy of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under attack, the parallels with the French Revolution become starkly apparent

We have had an uprising in the neighbouring country of Bangladesh.

Despite an interim government led by a Nobel laureate economist and entrepreneur Muhammad Yunus in place, the rule of the 'hoi polloi' continues. Mass power is forcing a 'purge' of the various institutions of the state of what are believed to be compradors of the ousted regime.

Even the judiciary has not been spared. It's unlikely that we would have stability returning to the nascent nation founded by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman following liberation from Pakistan in 1971. Mujibur Rahman's legacy, politically represented by his daughter Sheikh Hasina, the ousted Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is today under attack.

Though there are those in the revolution mass and leadership, who would want to distinguish Sheikh's legacy from Hasina's regime. But in the current situation of social turmoil, a manifestation of an ideological bent could be catastrophic. Public uprisings the world over, especially in the post-colonial democracies of the 20th and the 21st centuries, have drawn inspiration from the French Revolution of the 18th century.

The revolution which started with the symbolic fall of Bastille and the establishment of the Estates General of 1789, ended with the coup of 18 Brumaire in November 1799 and the formation of the French Consulate with the military under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte capturing power.

The French Revolution was driven by the ideas of the fundamental principles of liberal democracy. Its causes are generally agreed to be a combination of social, political, and economic factors, which the ruling establishment led by Emperor Louis XVI was unable to manage. What spurred the fall was a financial crisis and widespread social distress. The fall of Louis XVI saw radical reforms including the abolition of feudalism and a declaration of rights. But this did not bring an end to political instability.



The next decade was dominated by the struggle for political control, worsened by economic depression. To overcome the crisis the revolutionaries formed the Committee of Public Safety, which unleashed a reign of terror in which about 16,000 people were executed. Finally in 1799 following a military coup, Napoleon Bonaparte came to seize power marking the end of the revolution. The quick recall of the events of the French Revolution was to establish the fact that insurrection doesn't generally guarantee one thing, the stability of governance. This is best seen in the case of Bangladesh.

Ever since its birth, the country has witnessed numerous coups and uprisings with Sheikh Hasina's 15-year regime from 2009-2024 being an exception to the general rule. This period was, till the fall of the government, seen as a period of not only stable authority but also economic growth. Then what brought the fall? Conspiracy theorists are blaming the American Deep State and the Chinese interest but no uprising can happen without local discontent. After coming to power in 2009 through a free, fair, and credible election, Sheikh Hasina subsequently presided over largely non-participative



THE COUNTRY'S PER CAPITA INCOME TRIPLED IN A DECADE, AND THE WORLD BANK ESTIMATED THAT OVER 25 MILLION PEOPLE WERE LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

and controversial polls on three occasions — 2014, 2018, and 2024. She appeared to be near-invincible, but muzzling democracy was an increasing indication of her growing political frailty. There isn't a doubt that Hasina's rule saw noteworthy economic achievements. Under her Bangladesh transformed from one of the world's poorest nations into one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, even outperforming India.

The country's per capita income tripled in a decade, and the World Bank estimated that over 25 million people were lifted out of poverty in the last 20 years. But then why the downfall, such anger against a regime that was bringing prosperity to the nation? The answer probably lies in the fact that economic progress alone cannot sustain a leader's popularity in the face of eroding democratic values and civil liberties. Democracy, like the proverbial 'jinn', cannot be put back in the bottle once unleashed with whatever power at hand.

The Indian sub-continent, which the Americans decided to call South Asia, is the best example of the sins of democracy. Across the five nations of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, authoritarian leaders

have met nemesis. India is the only exception, where the change of power has always been through a democratic process and sans violence.

The Indian leadership of different political and ideological hues have maintained the delicate balance between socio-economic progress and democratic values. Political setbacks have happened when a government has been seen to be promoting crony capitalism, nepotism, high-handedness and corruption, in that order. Such perceptions have overshadowed acts of major social welfare and economic and development successes.

Muhammad Yunus becomes the second economist in the sub-continent to head a government after Dr Manmohan Singh. While Manmohan Singh has been credited with steering the country out of financial turmoil, expectations from Yunus is to take his nation out of a social and political tumult. The challenges for Yunus is equal in measure to what the Indian economist faced. Dr Manmohan Singh is largely seen to be successful in overcoming the challenge, would Yunus too succeed? History would judge.

(The writer is an author and president, the Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LIFE OF SPORTSPERSONS IS NOT EASY

Madam — It was heartwarming that the celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat received a rousing welcome at Delhi after her disappointing day at the Paris Olympics. It's not the bed of roses for anything in life and especially for the sportsmen and more to the sportswomen. I can quote a classic example of a great Indian cricketer G R Viswanath. Fondly addressed as Vishy by his fellow players, a selector then was against him by mentioning he was 'too short' and 'lean' to play cricket.

Finally when he got selected for the Karnataka State team he made an unbeaten double century on debut. When he was spotted by Tiger's eye the then Indian skipper Tiger Pataudi included him at the Kanpur test in 1969 against the mighty Australians. While scoring a 'duck' in the first innings the enraged fans hurled matkas at him. Vishy was so much disappointed by sitting in isolation and the pat came from Pataudi by his word of confidence 'Just relax boy, you will get a hundred'. Rest became history by Vishy scoring 137 at debut in the second innings with 25 fours to his credit.

In his career span of 14 years Vishy had scored 6080 runs in 91 tests with 14 hundreds to his credit. Barring his debut century which ended up in a draw, the remaining 13 matches in which Vishy scored a hundred were all won by India. Vishy's strong wrists in his heydays was a nightmare for world class bowlers and whenever he plays a square cut the art in him flourishes and ripples to the boundary line like a bullet. There can never be a better role model than him for all sportsmen to learn that failure alone can bring success to get into the history in any field.

AP Thirvadi | Chennai

### FAKE MEDICINES FOR SALE ONLINE

Madam — Lifestyle diseases are on the rise due to the increasing tendency of eating fast food. Obesity is one of those

## Ensure safer workplace for women



Among the nationwide protests, the Supreme Court (SC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the recent rape and murder case at R G Kar Medical college and Hospital in Kolkata. It is a small victory for the protesters across the country for the speedy justice against the crime and the Bengal government's failure to address the

issue properly, stand beside the victim's family, and provide efficient safety to the women in the state. After Kolkata Police's insignificant progress in the case, the high court intervened to hand over the case to the CBI, and now SC's intervention will definitely be crucial considering the many attempts to subdue this case.

The Indian Medical Association has also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding the fundamental right to life. It may be a doctor or any woman working at any place; there need to be strict rules in place for their safety, and the centre should look into the fact that incidents like these do not occur. Apart from that, there should also be strict punishment in our laws, like in the Middle East. It would be significant so that people having the slightest thoughts of such a crime should be terrified and show respect to the other gender.

Sumit Saha | New Delhi

### RETHINK THE FOREST ACT

Madam — The article about Forest Acts (18-8-24) presents fact that needs to be pondered over by one and all. In the present course of reforms what is predominant is that everything is a commodity - education, healthcare, relationship, forest, wind and water also. In the process forest also is allowed to be commercially exploited. Result is that the forest cover which is, supposed to be one third of the land mass is reduced to one fifth. This threatens the wild animals, environment, carbon sink and the natives of the forests. The amendment to the concerned act made last year poses further threats as forests can be used for sikar also. We must exert democratic pressure over the government to ensure protection to forests and the animals and natives. They have been at the receiving end and have suffered in silence for long.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

### SOOTHING A STRESSED MIND

Through spiritual practices and positive affirmations, one can find the peace



RAVI VALLURI

A student of archery, in all sincerity, asked his Guru how long it would take to master the craft. The Master ponders and with his prescience provides a measured reply. "It would take ten years." The student is stupefied. The Guru is promised by the student that he will strive hard to achieve proficiency by putting in extra hours of work. Thereby he would become an ace, an unrivalled archer.

The teacher paused and gravely replied that it would take twenty years to become an expert. So how do ten years become twenty? The simple answer is anxiety and increasing levels of stress. A stressful mind cannot scale the summit. The Guru knew the potential of the candidate in question and the time required to harness the skills. The anxiety, feverishness and desperation of the student can never compress the period of learning. Humans live in highly stressful and disharmonious conditions. Pressure is exerted on their minds, resulting in an unhealthy lifestyle. Stressful conditions are also created by our feverish attitude and desperation: A mental state when our expectations far exceed the actual requirement. Not living in the NOW and a covetous nature also contribute to mental disequilibrium. The memory of past events has a double whammy on the mind. A pleasant occurrence brings peace, but turbulent experiences make us stressed and fret. Unfortunately, the human mind gives more credence to negative experiences and that leads to the gathering of stress in the mind. A stressful mind can be smoothened only through a 3C policy, namely commitment, control, and challenge. The energy of the mind needs to be channelled productively and this can be done



through proper training and a firm commitment. Challenging situations and tasks endear the human mind: to try something new or different and think out of the box. Renowned psychologists Endler and Parker have enunciated a three-factor model to overcome stress or manage this ailment.

(a) Task-Oriented Strategy: The individual should ensure proper time management to complete the task at hand. Also, box out stressful conditions when through experience we are aware of negative possibilities and results.

(b) Emotion-Oriented Strategy: Create a space in the mind to vent anger and frustrations. Literally to let go of the emotions. Develop a belief and hope in a higher power through the power of surrender and sublimate all the muddles.

(c) Avoidance-oriented Strategy: Create a shield or envelop the mind with an aura of positive thoughts. This works like magic and it mitigates the seriousness of the situation and stressful situations get obliterated.

The model merely provides the framework. In reality, relaxation techniques, practising yoga, dwelling deep into meditation, engaging in visualisation (which incorporates features such as imagery and positive imagination), hearing breathing techniques like Vipassana and Sudarshan Kriya or even hitting the gym are some of the tools to implement the model.

All these strategies uplift the mood of the person and assist in combating stress. Stress can also be dealt with effectively by acquiring knowledge, taking up responsibility and inculcating a feeling of genuine compassion, love, and concern for humanity. The mind should become bigger than the problem or stress. This, only a true seeker or sadhakan achieve and that too by resolute practice or sadhana. Only positive thoughts, realistic ambitions and limited wants and desires can enable the mind to reduce the magnitude of stress. "In time of great stress or adversity, it's always best to keep busy, to plough your anger and your energy into something positive," says Lee Iacocca.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

# Why India needs a secular civil code



GOURAV VALLABH

As India approaches its 76th Republic Day, the question of whether laws should be shaped by religion or remain universally applicable becomes ever more urgent



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, dispelled all misconceptions and rumours about the stability and strength of his coalition and showed that he has complete control over the government. His address also revealed that his goals have remained the same. His speech was filled with energy and strong determination, as it always is. He stressed the implementation of the Secular Civil Code (SCC). He said the Supreme Court has repeatedly discussed and given orders on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) because a large section of the country feels, and it is correct, that the present civil code is a communal and discriminatory civil code. There is no place for them in modern society. The need of the hour is a Secular Civil Code (SCC). The Prime Minister's use of the phrase "Secular Civil Code" was interesting. A "Secular Civil Code" (SCC) was used instead of the possible "Uniform Civil Code" (UCC) so that opposition parties could support it appropriately. On November 23, 1948, Article 44 was introduced in the Constituent Assembly by Dr B R Ambedkar as draft Article 35 and was unanimously passed. "Uniform Civil Code for the citizens -



NEXT YEAR, ON JANUARY 26, 2025, WHEN WE CELEBRATE THE 76TH REPUBLIC DAY, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES: "DO WE WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN AN ERA WHERE LAWS ARE BASED ON RELIGION, GENDER, OR ANY OTHER CLASS OR COMMUNITY?"

The State shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India for the citizens." So states Article 44 of our Constitution. During the Constituent Assembly discussion, amendments were moved by Hussain Imam and some other members. "That any group, section or community or people shall not be obliged to give up its own personal law in case it has such a law, and, provided that the personal law of any community which is guaranteed by the statute shall not be changed except with the previous approval of the community." Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, in his reply to the discussion, stated that our country has a Uniform Code of Laws covering nearly every aspect of human relations. We have a uniform and comprehensive criminal code throughout the country, contained in the Penal and Criminal Procedure codes. We also have the law of transfer of property, which deals with property relations and applies throughout the country. Additionally, there is the Negotiable Instruments Act, among other acts,

which proves that this country has practically a civil code that is uniform and applicable throughout the country. Dr Ambedkar argued in the Constituent Assembly that the Uniform Civil Code should be viewed as a secular law applicable to all. In 1985, the former Chief Justice of India, YV Chandrachud, shared similar views during the 'Shah Bano' case. This case revolved around Shah Bano Begum, a Muslim woman who had sought maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure after her divorce. The initial judgment ruled in her favour. However, her husband, Mohammed Ahmed Khan, appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that Section 125 should not apply to Muslims as it contradicted Muslim Personal Law. The Supreme Court disagreed with this contention, asserting that Section 125 applies to all individuals, irrespective of religion or personal law, and dismissed the husband's petition. Eminent Muslim jurists like Chaudhary Haider Hussain and former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court M C

Chagla had also strongly upheld Article 44 (UCC). In the case of John Vallamattom vs Union of India in 2003, the Supreme Court once again expressed regret that Article 44 of the Constitution had not been implemented. The Supreme Court also asked the government if they were ready to implement the Uniform Civil Code. Next year, on January 26, 2025, when we celebrate the 76th Republic Day, we must ask ourselves: "Do we want to continue living in an era where laws are based on religion, gender, or any other class or community?" If the answer is NO, then the Secular Civil Code (SCC) must be implemented. Implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would be equivalent to fulfilling the vision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar because the codification of laws should be independent of any specific religion. The current times require a secular civil code, leading to freedom from religious discrimination. (The writer is Professor of Finance - XLRI Xavier School of Management and BJP Leader; views are personal)

## Safeguarding India's Future: The urgent need for a critical infrastructure protection act

This legislation is essential to fortifying India's vital systems against emerging challenges, ensuring both national security and sustained economic growth

India's critical infrastructure is increasingly vulnerable to attacks and sabotage, a threat amplified by regional instability, particularly in neighboring Bangladesh. Recently, radical groups in Bangladesh have targeted essential infrastructure, with the intention of causing widespread disruption. This trend of sabotage is concerning for India, where similar threats loom large. The need for a legislative framework, such as the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act (CIPA), is more pressing than ever. Such a law would establish a robust defense mechanism for safeguarding critical assets against both internal and external threats, addressing a significant gap in national security.



PADMALOCHAN DASH

**Geopolitical Necessities for CIPA:** India faces numerous challenges from both regional and internal security threats. The South Asian region, marked by political and social unrest, poses a direct threat to India's stability. Radical ideologies and terrorist groups in the region, often driven by external adversaries like Pakistan and China, aim to target India's infrastructure, aiming to disrupt its economy and

social harmony. These groups are adept at exploiting vulnerabilities in India's critical infrastructure, using methods like cyberattacks and hybrid warfare, which combine traditional and unconventional tactics. To effectively counter these evolving threats, India must urgently enact CIPA to protect its critical assets and systems.

**Safeguarding Economic Growth:** As India emerges as a global manufacturing and supply chain hub, protecting its infrastructure becomes vital. CIPA would not only shield key sectors but also ensure sustained economic growth. A well-defined legal framework would boost investor confidence by demonstrating that India is prepared to tackle both physical and cyber threats.

Additionally, CIPA would enable swift recovery from disruptions, helping India maintain its position as a global player.

**Evolving Threat Landscape:** India's critical infrastructure is vulnerable to various threats, including terrorism, cyberattacks, and geopolitical tensions. These risks are dynamic and rapidly evolving, necessitating a proactive legislative response. CIPA can provide the legal tools to assess and mitigate these risks effectively, shifting the country's security strategy from reactive to proactive. By implementing comprehensive protocols for sectors such as energy, transportation, and financial systems, CIPA would bolster national security and protect public safety.



**Coordinating Protection Efforts:** Protecting critical infrastructure requires coordination among multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector players, and security forces. CIPA would facilitate this collaboration by establishing a clear framework for joint efforts, ensuring efficient

responses and minimizing fragmented actions.

**Aligning with Global Standards:** Enacting CIPA would also bring India in line with global standards for infrastructure protection. By addressing emerging technologies like digital infrastructure and the Internet of Things (IoT), and integrating advanced cybersecurity measures, India can ensure its protection strategies remain up-to-date. The act should incorporate technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain to stay ahead of evolving threats.

**Securing Critical Sectors:** CIPA must prioritize the protection of essential sectors such as power, transportation, and manufacturing, which are vital to India's economy.

Ordnance factories, which produce military equipment, and water reservoirs, crucial for public health, must also be protected.

Furthermore, nuclear power plants, chemical factories, and airports require robust security measures. Social, political, and economic infrastructure—including government buildings, financial institutions, and public places—are critical to national stability and must be secured under CIPA.

**Learning from Global Examples:** Global responses to infrastructure threats highlight the importance of legislative frameworks. The United States passed the Homeland Security Act after 9/11 to protect vital systems from terrorism, while the United Kingdom enhanced measures

after the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017. Countries like Australia and Germany have created specialized agencies to address cyber threats and improve coordination.

To protect its critical infrastructure and maintain its trajectory as a global economic power, India must prioritize the enactment of CIPA. The government should take immediate steps to establish a centralized coordination authority responsible for overseeing protection measures. A comprehensive risk assessment framework must be developed, and public-private partnerships should be enhanced to ensure efficient responses to threats.

(The Author is affiliated with an Independent Think Tank; views are personal)



IN BRIEF



**BTL EPC secures Rs 413 cr contracts**

BTL EPC Ltd, a Kolkata-based EPC and engineering company, on Monday announced new contracts valued at Rs 413 crore inclusive of GST from public sector companies such as BHEL and SAIL. The company has secured a Rs 267 crore contract from BHEL for NTPC's Lara TPS Stage-II (2x800 MW) project. BTL EPC will provide turnkey solutions for conveyor systems and electromechanical equipment for handling coal, limestone, gypsum, and biomass at the power plant located at Pussore in Chhattisgarh, a company statement said. In addition, BTL EPC has bagged a Rs 96 crore contract from SAIL-Bhilai for the replacement of equipment in its By-Product Plant. This project is expected to be completed within 18 months. The company has also secured over Rs 50 crore worth of contracts for underground mining conveyor supply for several other public and private sector mines.



**India allows Nepal to export additional 251 MW of power**

India has allowed Nepal to export an additional 251 MW of electricity to the country, marking the first time the Himalayan nation will supply power to Bihar under a medium-term sales agreement, an official statement said on Monday. "India's Designated Authority for Cross-Border Trade has approved an additional 251 MW of power exports from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal," the Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a statement. With this, Nepal would be exporting 941 MW of hydropower from 28 projects. Earlier, Nepal was exporting 690 MW of electricity from 16 projects, it added. Even before this 251 MW approval, Nepal had already become a net exporter of electricity and net revenue generator in the last fiscal year, selling NPR 16.93 billion worth of electricity, the statement said. In October 2021, New Delhi approved 39 MW of electricity exports from Nepal to India for the first time, it said, adding that in less than three years, this figure has grown by more than 24 times.



**Airfares climb up to 25% for Diwali, Onam season**

Airfares are heading northwards for the festival season, with the average one-way ticket price on key domestic routes being 10-15 per cent more for Diwali and 20-25 per cent higher for certain flights to Kerala cities for Onam, according to an analysis. An analysis done by travel portal ixigo for PTI showed that the average one-way economy class fare for non-stop flight on Delhi-Chennai route during October 30-November 5 period is 25 per cent higher at Rs 7,618. This is in comparison to the fare during November 10-16 period last year. For the given comparison period, the ticket price is 21 per cent more at Rs 5,162 on Mumbai-Hyderabad route and 19 per cent higher at Rs 5,999 and at Rs 4,930 on Delhi-Goa and Delhi-Ahmedabad routes, respectively. On certain other routes, fares are higher in the range of 1-16 per cent, as per the analysis. ixigo's Group Co-CEO Rajnish Kumar said travel demand for Diwali is on the rise with airfares higher than last year.

NIRMALA MEETS HEADS OF PSBS

**FM urges banks to undertake special drive for deposits**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday held a performance review meeting with heads of public sector banks and asked them to make concerted efforts to garner deposits. Deposits have been growing 300-400 basis points lower than the credit growth in the last few months, creating an asset-liability mismatch for banks.

During deliberations on the deposit mobilisation, she said that while the credit growth has picked up, mobilisation of deposits could further be improved to fund the credit growth sustainably, and asked banks to make concerted efforts to garner deposits by conducting special drives.

Sitharaman also advised public sector banks (PSBs) to have better relationships with their customers for efficient customer service delivery, an official statement said.

She asked banks to ensure that employees reach out to connect with their customers, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

The minister also urged the PSBs to explore collaboration to leverage their respective strengths by sharing best practices in emerging areas and equip themselves to keep pace with changes in the banking sector.

While acknowledging the efforts made by the banks to improve the asset quality, the



minister suggested optimising the scope of resolution and recovery offered by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).

According to the statement, the issues related to digital payments and cyber security framework were also deliberated in the meeting.

Observing that the issues of cyber security should be seen from a systemic perspective, she emphasised the need for a collaborative approach between banks, the government, regulators and security agencies for mitigating cyber risks.

She urged that every aspect of the IT system should be reviewed periodically and thoroughly from the cyber security angle to ensure that the security of the bank systems is not breached or compromised.

**'Devise suitable products aligning with MSME clusters'**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to devise suitable products aligning with MSME clusters to increase banking penetration. During a review meeting with chairpersons of RRBs and CEOs of their sponsored bank, the finance minister emphasised active outreach by the RRB branches located in MSME clusters to ensure credit to small and micro enterprises in areas like textile, wooden furniture, leather, food processing, packing materials etc. that hold immense potential for increasing the loan portfolio. Sitharaman also asked sponsor banks and RRBs to recognise the challenges ahead and continue focusing on

maintaining asset quality, expanding digital services, and ensuring robust corporate governance. During the meeting, Sitharaman underlined that all RRBs must have their own up-to-date technology stack to stay relevant and noted that digital banking services like mobile banking will be a boon for regions with relatively challenging physical connectivity (like northeastern states and hilly regions). The sponsor banks have a significant role in these endeavours by providing technical assistance, sharing best practices, and ensuring that RRBs have access to the resources they need to succeed, an official statement issued after the meeting said.



**Sebi categories dues worth Rs 76,293 crore as 'difficult to recover'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has segregated dues to the tune of Rs 76,293 crore under "difficult to recover" category at the end of March 2024, marking an increase of 4 per cent from the preceding year.

Of this, a huge chunk is on account of cases pending before court-appointed committees.

Difficult to recover (DTR) dues are those that could not be recovered even after exhausting all modes of recovery.

"Segregation of such DTR dues is purely an administrative act and this will not preclude the recovery officers from recovering the amount so segregated as DTR as and when there is a change in any of the DTR parameters," Sebi said in its annual report for 2023-24.

As of March 31, 2024, Sebi identified 807 cases as DTR, with a total outstanding of Rs 76,293 crore, up from 692 cases amounting to Rs 73,287 crore the previous year, according to the report. Among these 807 cases, 36

are pending due to ongoing proceedings in State PID courts, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) involving Rs 12,199 crore.

Additionally, 60 cases are before court-appointed committees, with Rs 59,970 crore at stake.

These two categories together account for 95 per cent of the total amount yet to be recovered.

With regard to 140 DTR certificates falling under untraceable category, 131 relate to individuals and nine relate to companies amounting to Rs 13.3 crore and Rs 15.7 crore, respectively.

The Sebi has been disseminating data on the composition of difficult to recover cases from 2021-22 onwards through its annual report in order to enhance transparency of its enforcement proceedings. The markets regulator said a total of 6,781 recovery certificates were generated till March 31, 2024, of which 3,871 recovery certificates were pending as on March 31, 2024.

**Govt's ethanol blending goal will need more sugarcane: Report**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The government's aim to blend 20 per cent ethanol in petrol by Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025 will require more sugarcane utilisation, a report said on Monday.

This is also likely to improve sugar inventory level and cash flows of millers, it added.

An ESY runs from November to October.

India's aim to blend 20 per cent ethanol in petrol by ESY 2025 -- or 990 crore litres annually -- will require effective utilisation of both grain and sugarcane feedstock to increase its supply, Crisil Ratings said in a report.

The annual ethanol production from grains is expected to see a significant

increase to 600 crore litre by the next season (this season's production estimate is 380 crore litre), it stated.

The balance will have to be produced by processing ethanol from sugarcane, which is viable given the substantial capacity in place, it said. This, in turn, can help optimise the sugar inventory, particularly considering the high carry-over stock expected at the end of the current season owing to the government restriction on diversion for ethanol production and exports, Crisil Ratings said. Blending ethanol will help reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports. The ethanol blending rate has steadily risen 200-300 basis points each season since ESY 2021, said the report.

**LIC sells stake in Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 cr**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Monday said it has sold a 2.09 per cent stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 crore through an open market transaction.

The insurance behemoth has sold a total of 2,01,62,682 shares, or 2.085 per cent stake, in Hindustan Copper, according to a regulatory filing. The shares of Hindustan Copper were sold at an average cost of Rs 221.64 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 446.8 crore.

With this, LIC's stake in the state-owned company has reduced to 6.09 per cent from 8.17 per cent.

**RBI for periodic revision of deposit insurance coverage**

PNS ■ JAIPUR

A periodical upward revision of the deposit insurance coverage limit, currently at Rs 5 lakh, may be warranted considering multiple factors like growth in the value of deposits, inflation, and increase in income level, RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao has said.

Delivering the valedictory address at IADI Asia-Pacific Regional Committee International Conference 2024 hosted by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) here last week, the Deputy Governor said it is important to ensure adequacy of insurance coverage for customer deposits.



In India, he said, the number of fully protected accounts constitute 97.8 per cent as on March 31, 2024 of the total number of accounts in the banking system as against the international benchmark of 80 per cent. While the scope and coverage appear satisfac-

tory at this juncture, there are likely challenges going forward, Rao said.

"Today we count India to be amongst the fastest growing large global economies and this healthy growth rate is expected to continue in the near future.

LACKLUSTRE TRADE

**Sensex, Nifty settle almost flat**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note in a lacklustre trade on Monday, as investors preferred to remain on the sidelines awaiting further triggers.

Participants booked profits in select blue-chip stocks amid high valuation concerns, while selective buying in metals, oil & gas and IT shares supported the indices, according to experts.

In a range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 12.16 points or 0.02 per cent to



settle at 80,424.68. During the day, it hit a high of 80,724.40 and a low of 80,332.65. The NSE

Nifty edged up 31.50 points or 0.13 per cent to 24,572.65. "The Indian market failed to

catch up with the initial gains as there is a degree of profit booking witnessed in auto stocks due to a slowdown in demand.

"However, oil stocks gained momentum with the reduction in windfall tax on crude oil. The recent healthy US economic data diminished the likelihood of a US recession while a slide in the dollar index supported the hypothesis of a rate cut in the September FOMC meeting," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

**OVL secures contract extension for Vietnam oil blocks**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's flagship overseas oil firm ONGC Videsh Ltd has secured a 16-year contract extension for producing oil and gas in Vietnam, alongside getting three more years to explore a separate block in the contested waters of the South China Sea, officials said.

Vietnamese authorities have extended the production sharing contract (PSC) for the producing Block 06.1 in the offshore Nam Con Son basin till 2039. They have also granted an eighth extension for exploring for oil and gas in Block 128 in the South China Sea, according to officials. OVL, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), holds a 45 per cent stake in Block 06.1, an offshore block located in Vietnam's Nam Con Son Basin. Acquired in

1988, the block has Zarubezhneft EP BV as the operator with 35 per cent interest and PetroVietnam holding the remaining 20 per cent. The block, which produces about 1 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas, recently got a 16-year extension of the production sharing contract effective from May 19, 2023.

For Block 128, the seventh extension to explore for oil and gas was till June 15, 2023, and OVL had sought a three-year extension, officials said, adding that Vietnamese regulator PVN has extended the license till June 15, 2026.

The company has so far not found any commercially recoverable oil and gas reserves in the block for the last 18 years it has been exploring, but has continued presence there because of India's strategic interest in the South China Sea.

VENTURE CAPITAL FUND

**Sebi comes out with modalities to migrate to AIF**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday outlined the process and conditions for Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) for migrating to the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) rules.

The regulator, in July, permitted VCFs registered before the introduction of AIF regulations to transition to the current regulations by becoming migrated venture capital funds.

In its circular, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that VCFs can now choose to migrate to AIF Regulations to handle unliqui-

dated investments after their scheme tenure ends.

This option is available until July 19, 2025. A 'Migrated VCF' is a VCF that transitions to become a sub-category of VCF under Category I - Alternative Investment Fund as per the AIF norms.

On application requirements, Sebi said that VCFs wishing to migrate must submit their original registration certificate and specific information as outlined by the regulator.

With regards to the conditions for VCFs with active



schemes, Sebi said that if the liquidation period hasn't expired, they can migrate, with

the scheme's tenure continuing as originally disclosed or determined with investor approval.

If the liquidation period has expired, they must not have any unresolved investor complaints and will get an extra year (until July 19, 2025) to liquidate.

On post-migration considerations, Sebi said that after migration, existing investors, investments, and units will be transferred under the AIF Regulations without change.

With regards to VCFs not opting for migration, Sebi said that VCFs with active schemes will face stricter reporting requirements and VCFs with expired schemes may face regulatory action.

**Rupee rises 8 paise to close at 83.87 against US dollar**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee appreciated by 8 paise to close at 83.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a weak US dollar and a decline in crude oil prices.

Forex traders said fresh foreign fund inflows boosted investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.88 against the greenback, then gained ground and touched an intra-day high of 83.84, and a low of 83.93 against the American currency. The local currency finally settled for the day at 83.88 (provisional) against the American currency.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICES (1st & 2nd & 3rd call)**  
 Online tenders are invited for the NIT No 08/2024-25 To 42/2024-25) 1st Call, (43/2024-25 To 45/2024-25) 2nd Call and 46/2024-25 (3rd Call) from the eligible registered contractors for 46 works in Khammam district sanctioned under SDF, CDP & CBF Funds with an estimate cost of Rs. 255.79 Lakhs. Description of items ECV, EMD, availability of tender documents, important dates, tender conditions, eligibility of tender and all other details are available from 22/08/2024 onwards at <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Sd/- DISTRICT P.R. ENGINEER, P.U. KHAMMAM. E.O.No: 39/2024/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt: 19/08/2024

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
 NIT No. 15/EE/CIR-20/SLPZ/GHMC/1-2/2024-25 Date: 19.08.2024  
 Category of work: Civil & Other Works, Estimate Amount: Rs. 83.00 Lakhs, Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 21.08.2024 @ 1.30 PM / 24.08.2024 @ 1.30 PM. Name & Address, Officer Call No: EE, CIR-20, SLPZ, GHMC, 9849906796. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Circle-20, CHMC. E.O.No: 26/1/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt: 19/08/2024



## ADITI MANGALDAS ON 'THE EVOLUTION OF KATHAK'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

In the recent past, Aditi Mangaldas's live stage debut of *Lost... in the Forest* took place. A captivating dance spectacle created, choreographed, performed and recorded by her during the pandemic was shown in this presentation. Aditi Mangaldas's extraordinary ability to meld the ancient traditions of Kathak with modern themes was on display. But given that Mangaldas is regarded as one of the best Kathak dancers in the world, both in India and abroad, it was a signal for us to interview her. That is correct! "Yes, classical Kathak dance is the foundation of my dance path. Tradition is a river that never stops flowing, which is why I have always been inspired to push the limits of the traditional form and investigate modern manifestations. My family is diversified, with businessmen on one side and intellectuals with a background in philosophy and science on the other, unlike many Kathak practitioners who come from well-established dance traditions," shares Mangaldas, who received training from Pundit Birju Maharaj and Kumudini Lakhia. She was raised in an eclectic environment, which gave her a sense of freedom and an open mind to ideas and creativity. She does not believe that the traditional and the modern are incompatible. She approached Kathak with a "NOW!" mentality. The highly recognised Kathak dancer goes on, saying, "Kathak is a solid foundation from which I derive energy to develop and attempt to create new, varied and pertinent forms of expression. I build a future-oriented language using the rich legacy of the past as a starting point. Treat Kathak like a seed and nourish it with modern sensibilities; the resulting tree will have its roots in Kathak while reaching for the sky of the present. Respect and awareness of our rich history and geography are important, but don't let them consume you."

The original sources of inspiration for her recent live stage debut were many. The poet Kunwar Narayan's text, *Maav Mein Nadiya* (River in the Boat), was provided to her by Shubha Mudgal, who also created and performed the song. "The idea of *LOST... in the forest!* was impacted by these observations. The piece was composed of two parts, "The River in the Boat" and "Now Seen... Now Not," which examined themes of confusion, unpredictability and the quest for purpose in the face of the pandemic's turmoil. Due to the lockdown's creative restrictions, I was obliged to create symbolic narratives inside my own house, utilising found things like abandoned wooden frames. The process of change and adaptation at that time was a reflection of the human condition as a whole. The artwork served as both a window into my personal path and a celebration of the human spirit's inventiveness and resiliency in the face of extreme adversity. For the live performance, a third piece called *Walking Into The Sunbeam* was added, a fragment of the human spirit's resiliency and optimism."

She approaches her work from two different perspectives, by the way. Kathak is one and "contemporary work based on Kathak" is the other. As the only form she has ever learned,

One of the most renowned Kathak dancers in the world, Aditi Mangaldas, explores the core of her art form in an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*. Famous for her remarkable ability to blend modern themes with age-old Kathak customs, she enthralled audiences with her live stage premiere of *Lost... in the Forest* in her most new productions

been taught and is able to breathe, she believes in planting the seed of Kathak. But when modern sensibilities, imagery, poetry, textures and social concerns are added to this very seed, a tree with strong roots in Kathak but a contemporary resonance begins to bloom. The National Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winner continues, saying, "My greatest guru is life itself. My sources of inspiration include people, things we have done together and shared moments. This idea informs my choreography, as does the wisdom of my gurus and the conversations I have with students and peers. I like to give my pieces a lot of leeway so that listeners can add their own meanings and resonances. I think art should convey the same sense of flexibility and possibility as life itself. By doing this, I encourage the audience to actively engage with the artistic process and forge their own, personal connections with the performance."

Another deeply meaningful production, "Forbidden," also had a personal and reflective creative process. Her urge to inquire as to why female sexuality has always been regulated and approved in all civilisations was the catalyst for it. She felt driven to use dance as a means of expressing herself as an artist and a woman! Resolving the deeply embedded notions about female sexuality in classical dance itself was one of the primary obstacles. For example, although the *Chedd-Chadh* act in classical dance is frequently executed very well, it sends the erroneous message that 'no' equates to 'yes'. A big part of her artistic process was identifying and confronting these subtly prevalent concepts in our own art form. Additionally, "we conducted a thorough investigation and spoke with individuals from a range of backgrounds to comprehend different viewpoints on female sexuality. This influenced the piece's storyline and emotional tone. In addition, we worked with a Japanese designer to produce a skin-toned kurta and pajamas that represent a blossoming flower with delicate pink embellishments. The clothing had to communicate the notion of feminine sexuality while balancing the traditional and modern aspects of the choreography." Using dance to tackle such a delicate subject while striking a balance between impact and nuance

presented another difficulty. Each movement has to be expertly choreographed by her to be both potent and subtly explicit. She painted the 'forbidden' parts of female desire using modern, abstract language, layered over a rich base of Kathak vocabulary. Making a performance that was, in her words, "innocent and ferocious" was probably the most difficult task!

We continue this fascinating conversation with Aditi, an artistic director, who says, "In addition to technical skill, I look for dancers who have a genuine love for the art form and are willing to explore new things. I really appreciate skills like curiosity and a willingness to push limits because they are indicative of the innovative culture that I try to foster within my organisation that's Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company—The Dristhikon Dance Foundation. I urge these young dancers to get intimately involved with Kathak's traditional foundations in order to motivate them to create while honouring tradition. This starts with a strong base in Kathak terminology, which acts as a springboard for imaginative investigation. I stress how crucial it is to comprehend the form's cultural relevance and historical background without becoming overtaken by it in order to make it current and representative of the times."

She searches for those who are willing to participate in creative discovery and who have a strong passion for the art form when selecting colleagues. She put together an outstanding team of artists for the creation of *LOST... in the forest!* which included, among others, the talented sculptor Manish Kansara, the well-known vocalist and composer Shubha Mudgal and the sensitive light designer Govind Singh Yadav. She finds that working together allows her to draw on a variety of viewpoints, creative mediums and subject matter expertise, which is why it is so fulfilling for her. By combining dance, music, visual design and technical production, she weaves a beautiful tapestry of elements that enhances the performance in ways that would be impossible to achieve separately. She is motivated to think creatively and beyond her comfort zone by the conversations, exchanges and encounters.

"I make it a point to surround myself with as much as possible during rehearsal—movement possibilities, music, poetry, images, imagination and all that the natural world and human experience have to offer. I give myself over to the production, letting my body and mind become part of its ethos. These are not religious rituals; rather, they are ways for me to concentrate myself and express gratitude before a performance. From my perspective, they represent the "religion of humanity, the religion of life itself"—a means of paying tribute to the innumerable individuals and events that have influenced my development as a dancer and choreographer," says the dancer,

who has performed in *Festivals of India* in the US, UK, and USSR back in the day. Nonetheless, she is incredibly appreciative of the few priceless institutional settings that have continuously aided different artists and given Kathak the tools and creative freedom she needed to succeed. However, she believes that having these venues alone is insufficient and that they also require a new generation of artists who aren't afraid to take chances, push limits and rise to the challenges of the modern day. Aditi Mangaldas hopes to contribute to the development of these youthful, innovative voices in the future by giving them the skills, insight and social awareness necessary to advance Kathak in ways that are audacious and revolutionary.



## Why kids aged 4 to 10 years need their own skincare products!

In the modern world, skincare has grown to be an integral part of everyday routines for both adults and, increasingly, children. Children's skin experiences major changes throughout the important developmental stage between the ages of 4 and 10 years. During this time, children's skin is very delicate and vulnerable to a number of ailments that could negatively impact their general health and wellbeing. It is essential to supply them with skincare products that are tailored to their individual requirements as a result.

### Understanding a kid's skin:

**The skin of children is very different from that of adults in a number of ways:**

**Thinner epidermis:** Children's skin is more prone to irritation and the absorption of toxic substances since it has a thinner epidermis. Due to their skin's increased water content and more active sebaceous gland function, they may be more vulnerable to dryness and eczema.

The skin of children recovers more quickly than that of adults, but it is also more vulnerable to environmental harm from things like pollution and sun exposure.

**Developmental changes:** During the ages of 4 to 10, children experience significant skin development. This stage is crucial for establishing a healthy skin barrier, which protects against infections, allergens, and irritants. Providing the right skincare products helps support this development and ensure long-term skin health.

### Common skin issues in kids

**Eczema:** Children that suffer from eczema frequently have dry, itchy, and irritated skin. It can negatively affect a child's quality of life and cause them great suffering. By keeping skin hydrated and lowering inflammation, specialized skincare products can help control and prevent flare-ups of eczema.

**Dry skin:** Another common problem among kids is dry skin. Dryness can be caused by a variety of factors, including a hereditary tendency, exposure to severe weather, and regular hand washing. Gentle, moisturizing components found in children's skincare products can help relieve dryness and maintain soft, supple skin.

**Sensitivities and allergies:** Children's immune systems are still developing; therefore, they are more vulnerable to allergy responses and skin sensitivities. Children's skincare products are usually hypoallergenic and free of common allergens, which lowers the possibility of negative reactions.

**Sun sensitivity:** Children are more vulnerable to sunburns and long-term damage because their skin is more sensitive to UV light than adult skin. Applying sunscreen made especially for kids, which is frequently devoid of irritating ingredients and scents, can offer good protection without causing skin irritation.

**Benefits of skincare products for kids:** Gentle components that are less likely to irritate skin or trigger allergic responses are used in the formulation of kids' skincare products. These products don't include harsh chemicals, artificial perfumes, or dyes that could irritate sensitive skin.

Kid's moisturizers contain natural oils and glycerin, which help seal in moisture and stave off dryness. Young skin has to be shielded from the elements, including UV radiation, pollution, and bad weather. Antioxidants and sunscreens, among other additional protective compounds included in skincare products, can help protect their skin from these dangerous substances. Early skincare routine introduction to kids promotes the development of lifelong healthy habits. Instilling in children early on the value of skin care nurtures a feeling of accountability and self-care.

(The author, Prasanna Vasanadu, is a Parent Educator and Founder of Tikitoro.)

## ANGRY YOUNG MEN: SCRIPTING LEGACY WITH TIMELESS MAJESTIC SAGA

TEJAL SINHA

**A**ngry Young Men delves deeply into the legendary Bollywood careers of iconic writing duo Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar. The three-part series provides a touching and motivational look at the lives of Salim and Javed, who revolutionised Indian cinema in the 1970s with their innovative scripts. By bringing in the archetype of the 'angry young men', they changed Bollywood's emphasis from romance to adrenaline-fuelled drama, completely transforming the Indian film scene.

### PLOT

*Angry Young Men* shows rare archival clips, providing a nostalgic peek into their personal connections, teamwork and innovative talent, highlighting their famous characters and hit films like *Deewar*, *Don*, *Sholay*, *Trishul* and *Dostana*, among many others.

The duo of Salim-Javed, who collaborated on 24 movies, 22 of which were major successes, were the series' focus until their separation in 1982.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

The series to a fare-thee-well diverged into three parts, with each of them carrying its own significance into the legacy of the duo. The first part of the docu-series takes us through the legacy of THE Salim-Javed from scratch, which begins with a much-inspiring truism when the

interviewer asks Khan to wipe the sweat and he says, *Woh kya hai taqdeer hai, mit nahi jaaye. Taqdeer ghis gayi toh hum toh gaye. Thakur (from Sholay) toh gayo!* This pretty much sums up how their characters have created a mark, doesn't it? From the Galaxy Apartments to the Akhtar house, that brings us to the beautiful scenery and a candid-fun barter with Javed Akhtar. Following this, we hear the glorious *Sholay* dialogue: *Kitne aadmi the? Sardaar Do* and the legendary duo Salim-Javed's old picture pop in, which throws a light on the years of their partnership in a way. As the part progresses, Salman Khan, Farhan Akhtar, among others, speak of how they've created their own mark and been an inspiration and how their small dialogues have created a 'char-chaand' in the films that they worked on. Each line for that matter, felt so relatable with one another. To cite an example, a clipping of AR Rahman's speech from the Oscars was put in where he is heard saying



the famous dialogue *Mere Paas Maa Hai* from the film *Deewar*. Salim-Javed, who were known as "The Kings and 'The Brats' of those times, had created such a niche that while other writers would get a minimum pay, they, on the other hand, charged lakhs. The episode then takes us to the formative days, struggles and how Salim Khan married Salma Khan. As the episode progresses, we understand how they turned up and up things for writers and made them get their due credit.

Well, how? You need to head towards Prime Video to watch it, though! And there is a pretty shocking and fun backstory to it!

Then comes the second part, which begins with Arbaaz Khan saying how he and the Khan siblings looked like their father Salim Khan at one of their stages of life, but never wrote like him ever in their journey. The part further talks about two of their many blockbusters, *Sholay* and *Deewar*, which were both released in 1975. *Sholay*, which has to date been an iconic hit, then turned out to be a flop and on the other side, *Deewar* created waves at the Filmfare Awards with not one or two but six awards. The duo revealed that what really stood out was its on-screen narration. The episode

further takes us through the emotional times when Javed Akhtar speaks of missing his mom and how it would be difficult for his dad to meet Javed.

Subsequently, comes the final part! The part takes us through Khan-daan's kids and Akhtar's siblings' growing years together. As they say, 'nazar lag jaati hai, so did it with the duo, who announced their split in 1982, which eventually called for celebrations by many in the industry. The duo being together for over 18 hours of the 24 hours came to an end. Basically, it was the climax of the Salim-Javed era. But on the other hand, there were also stories of love, romance and splits on the personal front. While Salim spoke about the moment, he informed the kids about his being in love with Helen and then there was Javed Akhtar at one point in time, ending his marriage with Hony Irani.

What sets the docu-series apart? *Angry Young Men*, without sounding preachy over the learnings from the duo, makes it a docu-series that brings out what truly a legacy is about. There's emotion, humour, fun, love, romance and everything else that the duo has forever been known for. Every part brings a different aspect of the legacy, along with their own lives. They are excellent at being frank, clever and outspoken storytellers. Both profound insights and delightful anecdotes fill their narratives. It's a voyage into the grandiose world of 1970s cinema.

### THE DRAWBACKS

While every Bollywood freak would wish to stay hooked all throughout, the

sudden shifts from their professional lives to some personal moments of their respective lives would maybe faze, in a few parts here and there. But again, in Bollywood, you can always expect unexpected turns.

### TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The visual narrative is incredibly skillful. The music remains prominent throughout, and believe me, the rap in a particular scene (sorry, no spoilers) will absolutely amaze you!

### VERDICT

*Angry Young Men* is a notable homage to the writer pair Salim-Javed. The documentary series provides a remarkable experience that is deep and reflective. This docu-series is essential viewing for fans of Hindi cinema, particularly from the golden era and classic Indian cinema, where storytelling and realistic characters mirror the complexities. If turned into a proper film, it would have been a sensational hit.

Directed by: Namrata Rao

Produced by: Salman Khan Films, Excel Media & Entertainment and Tiger Baby

Executive produced by: Salma Khan, Salman Khan, Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar, Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti

Rating: 3.5/5



# what's brewing?

**Shivani**

**Puji and Anna**

The Jewellery World Exhibition, which will take place from August 23 to 25, 2024, at the prestigious Hotel Taj Krishna in Hyderabad is set to be one of the most glamorous events of the year. It is a much-anticipated celebration of jewellery craftsmanship, luxury and innovation.

**Ishika Roy**

**Regina Cassandra and Chaityanya msk**

The Rural Women's Leadership Program is the first major project that Democratic Sangha has launched to encourage women to participate in democracy and development. Members of the Karimnagar District Mahila Sangha attended the program's debut.

**Meghana**

In the presence of Dr. M. Yuvaraju, CMD of MyRon Homes, Tollywood film producer Aswani Dutt, actor and film producer Murali Mohan, and film producer K.S. Rama Rao inaugurated the Myron Homes TVC at a Madhapur hotel.

**Deepthi and Divya**

**Udaya**

**Vindya**

**Priya**

**Bina Mehta**

A nine-day Dsons Patola art exhibition was formally opened by socialite Bina Mehta at Labels Pop-up location, located on Road No. 1, opposite Taj Krishna, in Banjara Hills. The collection features Rajkota saris, silk tissue patola, patola dupatta, patola shawls, single patan saris, single patola duppata, and patan patola saris and dupatta.

**Mansi**

The Japan Karate Association of India (JKAI) is pleased to announce that Hyderabad, Telangana, India will play home to the Invitational International Karate Tournament in 2025. Hyderabad's Gachibowli Indoor Stadium will host the competition from January 18-22, 2025. There will be about 3000 competitors from all over the world in the same.

Significant changes are taking place in Amaravati, the developing capital of Andhra Pradesh, as BBG (Building Blocks Group) unveils Vilasam Estates, its most recent project. This project has already attracted notice before to its formal launch; its exciting design and strategic vision won it the prestigious Outlook Business Spotlight Realty Award.

## FUN

### ARCHIE

I BROUGHT THAT PUP TENT YOU ASKED FOR, LEROY!  
GREAT!

WHERE'S HE GOING ANYWAY?  
NOWHERE! I TOLD YOU, LEROY, YOU MIGHT AS WELL UNPACK!

HE WANTS TO CAMP IN FRONT OF THE BOOKSTORE TILL THE NEXT HARRY POTTER BOOK GOES ON SALE!  
HENRY SANDWELL'S SCALES BOLDMAN

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

GOSH, LOOK AT ALL THE DINOSAUR BONES WE DISCOVERED.  
LET'S GLUE THEM TOGETHER SO WE CAN SEE HOW THEY FIT. THEN YOU CAN DRAW A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ACTUAL DINOSAUR.

AFTER THAT, WE'LL WRITE UP OUR FINDINGS, AND GET THEM PUBLISHED IN A SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL.  
THEN WE'LL WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE, GET RICH, AND GO ON TALK SHOWS.  
WHAT ABOUT BABES? WHEN DO WE GET THOSE?

### GARFIELD

LAZINESS IS CONTAGIOUS

RIGHT, JIM?

JIM?...  
RIGHT! JIM DAVIS 5-5

### REALITY CHECK

yelp review ★★  
Only gave it two stars as the food is tired and dry... always the same every day... The owners have a bit of an attitude... Also, I found a hair in my food

### SPEED BUMP

YOUR PORTRAITS ARE SO REALISTIC.

### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	
5				6
7			8	
9			10	
			11	
12	13		14	15
			16	
17			18	
			19	

### NANCY

AS YOUR NEW TEACHER, I'D LIKE TO ESTABLISH SOME GROUND RULES

FIRST, NO PHONES IN MY CLASSROOM

SECOND: NO PHONES TWO FEET OUTSIDE MY CLASSROOM

### SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

### ACROSS

- 1 Keep live fish in this
- 7 An archer fires this
- 8 Very mean and unkind
- 9 Sad because you are on your own
- 10 Scheme
- 12 A red gemstone
- 14 Defeated
- 17 Wearing nothing
- 18 Stage dramas
- 19 These are pushed around a supermarket

### DOWN

- 1 Wear this over clothes to keep them clean
- 2 Sick
- 3 Eat this grain cooked
- 4 Normal
- 5 A graceful dancer
- 6 Loss of eyesight
- 11 Humans
- 13 A maker of bread
- 15 Shed these when crying
- 16 A worshipped statue

SOLUTION

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



# Rao Ramesh steps into the limelight in *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*

Rao Ramesh has long been hailed as the epitome of a character actor in Telugu films, leaving a lasting impression with his unforgettable characters and dialogues. Ramesh is all set to take up on a new role as the main man in Lakshman Karya's *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*. This is a significant divergence from his typical supporting parts, giving him an opportunity to show off his skills in a pivotal role that plays out over the whole movie.

SURESH KAVIRAYANI  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Rao Ramesh is one of the best character actors in Telugu cinema, who is known for his roles and dialogues, well-liked by the audience. Irrespective of the film's fate, Rao Ramesh's character has always been a highlight in the film. Now, with Lakshman Karya-helmed *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*, he will be seen playing the lead role.

In the last fifteen years, he has played different kinds of character roles, but for the first time, he puts himself in the shoes of a lead.

When asked about it, he said he was very happy. "Till now, I have played character roles in different films, where I used to spend only a few days on the sets. There were times, I wasn't aware about the film's story and director's used to just inform me about my role. But this is the first time I am playing a lead character and I will appear throughout the film. The story revolves around me; I had to be involved in the story discussion and dialogues and also interact more with the director about my scenes," said Rao Ramesh. So, these all give him a really good feel, he added.

Irrespective of the film's success or failure, Rao Ramesh's role is always a talking point. Speaking of getting into the skin of the character and doing the homework, he shares, "I never do any homework for any of my characters. When the director narrates my role, I just grasp at him, and when the shooting happens, I simply follow the director." He further added that he does what the director wants, and he never adds anything to the scene.

When asked, did he feel any pressure as a first-time lead actor? He enthuses, "Instead of pressure, I feel more responsibility. This is a hilarious role, and the story is also an out-and-out comedy. I make every character I do responsible, but when I do this film, I give full commitment to the filmmakers to complete the film in a shorter time. We completed this film in nearly 33 working days."

In other film industries like Marathi, Malayalam and Tamil, among the others, he says, they come up with different stories and many of the character artists played lead actors. But when it comes to Telugu, he goes on to shares, "It is not like that. Many of the directors write their stories keep-

ing the stars in mind, and they often come like this. If this film is successful, I am confident that many more films will come in the near future."

When director Lakshman Karya first approached Ramesh for this film, he was keen to know whether it was for OTT, with many of the star films not running successfully in theaters. The director says this film is going to be a theatre release because many of the Telugu audiences like Rao Ramesh and his dialogues.

Doing a lead role in this film, will he now be avoiding character roles in the coming days, we ask, to which he says, "I always choose my roles; that's why I can do different kinds of roles. I will continue to do character roles, but not for everyone; I will choose which one is best for me and also the audience."

Ramesh's father, Rao Gopala Rao, is one of the most inspired and well-known actors in Telugu cinema. On the comparisons, the *RX100* fame says, "When I was young, my father passed away. Initially, I never thought of acting, as I was interested in photography. I want to work behind the camera, but now I am working in front of the camera." He added that in the initial days of his career, he never used his father's name.

"People didn't know that I was the son of Rao Gopala Rao because I didn't want to use his name. I want to show my potential. I want to work hard and get a name for myself. Apart from these, I didn't get my father's voice or his looks. So there is no comparison with him," said Ramesh.

In fact, Ramesh admires his mother and it was because of her that he ventured into acting. "My mother used to tell me that I would shine as an actor. I believed in her words, and that is how I entered into acting. She was a pillar for my initial days of career; now she is not there, but she predicts that I will one day play the lead actor and achieve something like this," he added. Having a lead character is a big achievement for him. "There are many actors doing it, but for me, it came now. I always believe in my hard work, and it pays me now," he added.

In the Telugu film industry, many of the directors wrote some characters, especially keeping him in mind. However, due to budget constraints they'd go with the other actors. The Telugu audience owns Ramesh as a family member because of his impeccable acting and the way he rendered the dialogues.

On the work front, he has signed another film with director Nakkina Trinadha Rao, in which he plays one of the leads along with Sundeeep Kishan. "The story revolves around a father and son; the story is hilarious," she says about the film. He also has a Tamil film with Jeeva as the lead actor. "I played a different role in the Tamil film, and I am confident that it will get a good name for me," he signs off.



## Shock to Harish and Puri Jagannadh!

Last week was a four-day long weekend for film lovers, with three Telugu films and a dubbed film released. On the occasion of Independence Day, two big films were released: one was director Harish Shankar and Ravi Teja's *Mr Bachchan*, and the other is Puri Jagan and Ram Pothineni's *Double iSmart*. *Mr. Bachchan* gets positive talk before its release because of its publicity, and with that confidence, they started premiere shows also. But unexpectedly, the film was a big flop at the box office, as audiences right away rejected it. *Mr. Bachchan* is an adaptation of the Hindi film *Raid*. But director Harish Shankar completely failed to do a better remake in Telugu.

This is a crucial film for Harish Shankar, as it was released after a five-year gap, but he still delivered a big flop. The film collected nearly Rs. 7.78 crore after the fourth day, which is very low. The film's pre-release business was done for around Rs 28 crore. The film's failure is a big shock to Harish Shankar and even to the industry. Industry people expect that audiences come to theaters to watch films, but this film disappointed a lot.

The other one is the Puri Jagannadh and Ram Pothineni combination *Double iSmart*. It seems director Puri didn't learn anything from his earlier failure, *Liger*. Though Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt is playing a negative role, the impact is nothing. Without a proper story, double-entendre dialogues, and unnecessary exposure, audiences rejected the film. This is another film in Ram's career, as he is seeing continuous flops one after another. The film collected nearly Rs. 10.78 crore worldwide after four days, which is not even Sanjay Dutt's remuneration.

*Aay*, which was released on August 16 is doing better than the two big films. *Aay* was made with a low budget, and it collected a good amount of money to become a hit.

The pre-release business of this movie was approximately around Rs. 3.25 crore, and now the movie collections are around Rs. 4 crore. The breakeven is done, and it is now in the profit zone. The Vikram and Malavika Mohan starrer *Thangalaan* is also released and it is going well at the box office. Pa Ranjith is the director, and apart from his narration, Vikram's acting is also a highlight of the film.

## Seerat Kapoor collaborates with OG JD Chakravarthy for her next psychological thriller

Seerat Kapoor, a name that has swiftly become synonymous with talent and versatility in the Tollywood industry, is once again making waves with her latest project. The actress, known for her compelling performances and striking screen presence, has officially announced her collaboration with two of Tollywood's most celebrated actors, JD Chakravarthy and Naresh Agastya.

In a heartfelt and exuberant post on her social media, Seerat shared her excitement, writing, "Someone pinch me! Every artist is destined for their own journey. I am soo grateful to be collaborating with the OG #jdchakravarthy for a movie closest to my heart and craft! @nareshagastyaYou're going to take thetheaters ba storm! I can't wait for you all to meet my stellar team. Stay tuned! @shravan\_jonnada @arjunrajadft."

The announcement, accompanied by a series of captivating photos with JD Chakravarthy and Naresh Agastya, has set the internet abuzz. In the pictures, we could see Seerat Kapoor and Naresh Agastya engrossed themselves in conversation with legendary JD Chakravarthy. Fans and industry insiders alike are eagerly anticipating what promises to be one of the most intriguing films of the year.

Seerat Kapoor, who will be taking on a lead role in this project, is expected to bring her game to a narrative that revolves around her enigmatic character. The film, shrouded in suspense and drama, is set to unravel a story filled with unexpected twists, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting project as Seerat Kapoor, JD Chakravarthy and Naresh Agastya prepare to bring a cinematic masterpiece to life.



## Three films deal with Bhagyashri Bhorse

Another leading actress, Bhagyashri Bhorse, made her debut in Telugu with the film *Mr. Bachchan*. The film was released on the occasion of Independence Day, but it failed to impress the audience. Directed by Harish Shankar and produced by Peoples Media Factory, the film has Ravi Teja as the leading actor. It was a remake of the Ajay Devgan-starrer Hindi film *Raid*. Bhagyashri Bhorse is the female lead, and this is her debut film in Telugu. She made her debut with a Hindi film titled *Yaariyaan 2*. According to a source, the production house of this *Mr Bachchan*, Peoples Media Factory, roped in Bhagyashri with a three-film deal. Now, she did *Mr. Bachchan* and then she was supposed to do two more films for the same production house. The source added that the production house initially didn't want her to sign any other Telugu film but agreed to do opposite Vijay Deverakonda in a film directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri. "It takes time to do another film with her, so the production house accepted her request to do a film with another production house," added the source. Though *Mr. Bachchan* has failed at the box office, Bhagyashri has not failed as a female lead. She is in demand here in Tollywood, as many directors want to rope in her for their films. Before she signs any other film, she has to get permission from Peoples Media Factory, added the source. So has to complete two more films with them, and then she can sign other films.



## Vettaiyan is set to unfold on October 10

Lyca Productions is gearing up for a grand cinematic spectacle as their highly anticipated film, Superstar Rajinikanth's *Vettaiyan (Thalaivar 170)*, is set to hit theaters worldwide on October 10th. Helmed by acclaimed director T.J Gnanavel, known for his socially relevant narratives, the film marks his prestigious collaboration with Superstar Rajinikanth. This pan-Indian venture solidifies the successful partnership between Lyca Productions and Rajinikanth, with *Vettaiyan* being their fourth collaboration following the blockbusters *2.0*, *Darbar*, and the recently released *Lal Salaam*. The film also reunites the dynamic duo of Rajinikanth and music maestro director Anirudh Ravichander for the fourth time,



following their chart-topping collaborations in *Petta*, *Darbar* and *Jailer*.

Producer Subaskaran has assembled a stellar cast that has generated immense excitement. The film boasts a phenomenal ensemble, including Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who will share the screen with Rajinikanth for the fourth time after their iconic collaborations in *Andhaa Kanoon*, *Geraftaar* and *Hum*. Joining this illustrious cast are Manju Warrier, Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh and Dushara Vijayan, who are all set to make their on-screen debut with the Superstar. The film also features Rohini and Abirami in pivotal roles.

With post-production in full swing under the administration of Lyca Productions Head GKM Tamil Kumaran, *Vettaiyan* is poised to captivate audiences with its grandeur and compelling storytelling. The film will be released simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi, promising a pan-India cinematic experience.

## Vishwambhara climax delayed!

Mega Star Chiranjeevi starrer *Vishwambhara* is almost complete except for the climax sequences. Mallidi Vasishtha is directing this fantasy film that stars six female leads, including Trisha, Ashika Ranganath, Eesha Chawla, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Ramya Pasupuleti and Ashritha Vermuganti. According to a source, the climax scenes are supposed to shoot on August 10 onwards as per the schedule. But now the climax has been postponed for a few days because the director and many of the unit members fell sick.

"Many of the unit members, including director Vasishtha Mallidi, fall sick with viral fever. Everything is set for the climax, but because of this, it got postponed for a few days," says a source. The source reveals that now the makers are planning to shoot the climax within a few days. Trisha Krishnan has already landed in Hyderabad for this film shoot. With this climax, the film is complete, and the makers now want to concentrate on the graphic work. The film is slated to release in January 2025 on the occasion of the Sankranti festival.

Bollywood actor Kunal Kapoor is playing the villain in this fantasy film. UV Creations is producing it. Mallidi Vasishtha earlier made his debut as director with the hit film *Bimbisara* that stars Nandamuri Kalyan Ram. *Vishwambhara* is his second film as director, and this is a big opportunity for him as he is directing none other than Chiranjeevi.



## 'Janaka Aithe Ganaka is based on real life'

Dil Raju Productions' newest movie is *Janaka Aithe Ganaka*. This film features the multi-talented actor Suhas and was created by Harshith Reddy and Hansitha Reddy, with Sandeep Reddy Bandla as the director. The movie is scheduled to have a big premiere on September 7. The song *Na Favorite Na Pellame* from the film was released on Monday in celebrating Suhas's birthday. Speaking at the event, music director Vijai Bulgani said, "I am grateful to our producers, Harshith and Hansitha, for giving me the opportunity to work on *Janaka Aithe Ganaka*. I also want to thank our director Sandeep Reddy Bandla for creating a great environment and bringing out the best in the music. Happy birthday to one of my favourite heroes, Suhas. I was eagerly waiting to see when Dil Raju would be involved in this project. That dream has now come true. Thank you!" Meanwhile, director Sandeep Reddy Bandla expressed his gratitude to Dil Raju for encouraging new talents. "He is the only producer who can create hits like *Arya* and *Balagam*," shared Sandeep adding, "Having worked in the same organization for nearly seven years, I am thankful for this opportunity. I sincerely appreciate producer Dil Raju for believing in our potential. After hearing the script, we were



confident in its success. My first hero was Suhas, and the heroine was Sangeerthana. Thank you to the successful team for making this project a reality.

The star of the show, Suhas was all by virtue of the love and support by the team as he shares, "Thanks to Harshith anna and Hansitha garu for presenting me with this story. It's a very good story. A big thank you to Dilraju garu for his support. Our director Sandeep has delivered an unforgettable film. Also thanks to Vijai

Bulgani for the great music and KK garu for the lyrics and my heroine Sangeerthana." Producer Dil Raju went on to wish Suhas for his birthday and further shares, "When Sandeep first told me about the concept of *Janaka Aithe Ganaka*, I was immediately on board. Later, he joined Prashant Neel as writer. We developed the script and many people were excited about the story, including Suhas. After *Balagam*'s success, I spoke to Sandeep and Harshith and decided that Suhas would be a great fit for this role. The story will resonate well with audiences. This script, featuring a middle-class man who is content with his salary and wants children after marriage, humorously addresses the balance between financial needs and emotional desires. Director Sandeep has based the story on real-life incidents, presented in a humorous and engaging way. We believe you will enjoy this film, which will be released on September 7. Suhas and Sangeerthana make a good pair on screen, and Suhas portrays the middle-class boy excellently. We've seen many love songs, but Sandeep has crafted a special one about a wife's love. Every husband should dedicate *Na Favorite Na Pellame* to his wife. On September 7, we look forward to presenting *Janaka Aithe Ganaka* to you all."



# Deepti shines as London Spirit lift maiden women's Hundred title

PTI ■ LONDON

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma played a crucial role with both bat and ball as London Spirit lifted their maiden Women's Hundred title, beating Welsh Fire by four wickets in the final at the Lord's here. Deepti snapped a wicket giving away 23 runs and then smashed a run-a-ball 16, including the winning six off Hayley Matthews, as the Indian and England's Charlie Dean jumped into each other's arms in celebration. Two years ago, Deepti had controversially dismissed Dean after running her out at the non-striker's end during the third ODI against England in 2022, triggering a debate over the spirit of the game. It was ecstasy for Deepti and despair for Dean that day but here the two were on the same side, engineering the maiden victory after chasing down a victory target of 116 in 98 balls. Besides Deepti, Eva Gray (2/26) and Sarah Glenn (2/17) snapped two wickets each, while Tera Norris (1/18) also chipped in with a wicket to restrict Welsh Fire to 115 for 8 in stipulated 100 balls, which was mainly built on the 41-ball 54 by Australia's Jess Jonassen.



In reply, Georgia Redmayne anchored the chase with a 32-ball 34. Heather Knight (24) and Danielle Gibson (22) also

chipped in with useful contributions even as Shabnim Ismail threatened to derail the chase with figures of three for 24 in her 20 balls.

But Deepti then took the onus on herself and produced the only maximum of the match in the nick of time to take her team home.

# Tyson feels good after health scare and ready for his rescheduled bout with Jake Paul

AP ■ NEW YORK

Mike Tyson is 58 years old and coming off a health scare that forced the postponement of his return to the ring. The boxer once considered the most dangerous man in the world could be putting himself in danger by putting the gloves on again. Yet he was quick to respond Sunday when asked why he was going through with his bout against Jake Paul. "Because I can. Who else can do it but me? Who else is he going to fight to make this happen?" Tyson said, motioning toward the crowd at a packed press conference where fans cheered the former heavyweight champion and booed Paul. "We've just got to listen to the facts. We've got a YouTuber fighting the greatest fighter that ever lived." Tyson and Paul restarted their match that is now scheduled for November 15 at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. They had been set to meet July 20 before Tyson became nauseous and dizzy on a flight from Miami to Los Angeles in May, with his representatives attributing the episode to an ulcer problem. Tyson said on Sunday he resumed training two or three



weeks ago and feels fine. "Hey listen, I'm just ready," Tyson said. The undisputed heavyweight champion 1987 to 1990, Tyson (50-6, 44 KOs) retired in 2005 before coming back for an exhibition match against Roy Jones in 2020. Fans seem excited for his return, with a number of them turned away Sunday because too many showed up for their press conference on the final day of the Fanatics Fest event in New York. Paul (10-1, 7 KOs) sparred as much with the fans who booed him as with the fighter

across the stage. "Hey New York, you're just like Mike Tyson," Paul said. "You were good 20 years ago." Tyson's most dominant days are actually longer ago than that, and Paul understands that he probably wouldn't get much credit for a victory against such a diminished opponent. Yet the former Disney Channel star who insists he will become a boxing champion said there is benefit to fighting Tyson even now. "Big moments, big pressure, big stages, one of the greatest to ever do it, more experience than me, more fights than me,

I'm going to learn a lot in this fight and through this training camp," Paul said. "So this is helping me in my future fights and everything that I want to accomplish." He took a fight after Tyson had to pull out, stopping bare-knuckle fighting champion Mike Perry in the sixth round on July 20. Perry, like many of the fighters on Paul's resume, comes from the mixed martial arts world, rather than from a boxing background. He preferred to fight Tyson then and is eager now for his second chance. "I was ready before, you needed a little break," he said to Tyson. "Your tummy hurt still?" The fight that will stream on Netflix will be an official bout, though contested with eight 2-minute rounds and heavier gloves than usual. The truest boxing match on the card might be the one that precedes it, when super lightweight champion Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano have a rematch of Taylor's thrilling victory in 2022 in the first women's boxing match to headline at Madison Square Garden. Then Paul will try to show what he hopes to become in boxing, or perhaps Tyson can demonstrate what he once was. He said his health problems won't prevent that.



# Conte has work to do after Napoli melts like snow in the sun at Verona

AP ■ MILAN

Antonio Conte has a lot of work to do. Conte became Napoli's fifth coach in little more than a year when he was hired in June and on Sunday he saw his new team crumble 3-0 at Hellas Verona in his first match back in Serie A. "We melted like snow in the sun after the first goal," Conte said. "We should apologise to the Neapolitan people, who follow us with passion. I am the coach and it is right that I take full responsibility. In the second half there was an unacceptable performance. "We should be ashamed, and I have to be ashamed as I am coach. Those who know me know that today my heart is bleeding, and I hope that some of the players are also bleeding so that would mean that at least we are on the right path." Dailon Livramento and Daniel Mosquera - twice - scored on their league debuts to hand Verona the win



on the opening weekend of the Italian league season and there was further bad news for Napoli as it lost key player Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to injury. Napoli has been in a slump since Luciano Spalletti left last summer after steering the club to its first title in more than 30 years. The southern team finished 10th last season and it hoped for much better under Conte, who led Juventus and Inter Milan to the title.

However, it drew 0-0 with Serie B side Modena in the Italian Cup on Conte's debut, going through on penalties, before Sunday's second-half horror show. Conte's side had the better of the early stages in Verona and had chances with Matteo Politano, André-Frank Anguissa and Stanislav Lobotka before the home side almost gifted it the lead in first half stoppage-time. Verona defender Martin Frese played a woefully short pass to goalkeeper Lorenzo Montipò and Kvaratskhelia raced onto it but Jackson Tchatchoua came flying in for a heroic last-ditch tackle. Kvaratskhelia had to come off immediately afterward, appearing to be indicating that he was feeling dizzy. Frese played another poor back pass moments later that forced Montipò into an acrobatic clearance. Verona came out a different team after the break and Grigorios Kastanos curled just past the far post with its first real chance of the match before the home

side took the lead when Livramento managed to get enough on Darko Lazovic's cross to poke the ball into the bottom right corner. Anguissa hit the crossbar in the 61st but Verona doubled its lead when it won the ball in a midfield tussle and Ondrej Duda played it through for substitute Mosquera to fire past Alex Meret in the 75th. Mosquera had only been on the field for less than two minutes. The Colombian forward doubled his tally in stoppages as he was left completely unmarked by the Napoli defense. Verona was one of only two teams to win so far in the opening round. The other was Lazio, which rallied from conceding an early goal to beat newly promoted Venezia 3-1. In Sardinia, both Roma and Cagliari hit the woodwork and had other chances but could only draw 0-0. Bologna drew 1-1 at home to Udinese. There were four draws on Saturday, including for defending champion Inter Milan and AC Milan.

# Top-ranked Sinner reaches final in Cincinnati, but women's No. 1 Swiatek falls to Sabalenka

AP ■ MASON (US)

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner outlasted Alexander Zverev in a third-set tiebreaker to reach the final of the Cincinnati Open, while No. 1 Iga Swiatek was defeated in the women's semifinals by No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka. Sabalenka will face American Jessica Pegula in Monday's final, while Sinner will play either American Frances Tiafoe or No. 15 seed Holger Rune. Sinner on Sunday emerged with a 7-6(9) 5-7 7-6(4) victory after 3 hours, 7 minutes, tying Casper Ruud for the ATP Tour lead by reaching his fifth final of the season. Sinner leads the tour with four titles this season. The first set lasted more than an hour and the match also was suspended for 30 minutes by rain. Zverev, the No. 4 seed, had won four straight meetings against Sinner. Sinner finished

with a 124-121 edge in total points. "I think we both raised our level when it counted," Sinner said. "The tiebreaker can go both ways. I just tried to stay there mentally. Obviously, I'm happy to be in the final." Sinner, who's been dealing with a right hip issue, was seen grabbing that area early in Sunday's match but said he came through fine physically. "Sometimes I feel it," Sinner said. "I have to check after this tournament here. I haven't had too much time to recover before coming here. I'm not worried yet. I'm happy to play." Sabalenka reached the finals in Cincinnati for the first time with a 6-3 6-3 victory over Swiatek, ending the five-time Grand Slam winner's 15-match winning streak and avenging losses in the finals in Madrid and Rome. "Really happy with the win, especially against Iga, who is

always a tough battle," Sabalenka said. "To get the win in straight sets, that's kind of an achievement for me." Swiatek, who's been on top of the WTA rankings for 116 weeks, was satisfied with her week in Cincinnati. "I pretty much did better than I expected, honestly, especially on this surface," Swiatek said. "I'm happy with the result anyway, and already focusing on what I need to do to feel even better in New York." The US Open begins there on August 26. Swiatek won the title in 2022. Pegula, the No. 6 seed, beat Paula Badosa 6-2 3-6 6-3 after their semifinal was suspended more than an hour by rain. She is the third American to reach the finals at the Canadian and Cincinnati Open in a calendar year, the first since Serena Williams in 2013. "We've had a lot of great battles in the past," Sabalenka said.

# No goal for Mbappé in his Spanish league debut as Real Madrid draws 1-1 at Mallorca

AP ■ MADRID

Defending champion Real Madrid couldn't manage more than a 1-1 draw at Mallorca in Kylian Mbappé's first Spanish league match. In his second game with Madrid after debuting midweek, Mbappe failed to break through on Sunday. The France great had scored in Madrid's 2-0 win against Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti started with the same squad that beat Atalanta, with Rodrygo, Vinicius Junior and Mbappé in attack. "They change position from time to time," Ancelotti said of Vinicius and Mbappé. "Sometimes Mbappé plays more centrally and sometimes one of the two has to occupy this flank, without a particular plan. It depends on how they feel about it." It was Rodrygo who put

Madrid ahead against Mallorca 13 minutes into the match, but the hosts equalized with Vedat Muriqi's goal in the 53rd. "We got off to a good start, taking the lead and then had a chance to get the second goal," Ancelotti said. "We didn't find the balance in the second half. We could have lost as there was no balance at the back. It wasn't a good game. We need to defend better. We're a very attacking

team, but defensive balance is a fundamental factor." Madrid defender Ferland Mendy was sent off deep into second-half stoppage time for a hard foul on Muriqi. "I don't want to make excuses for anything, but we just need to do better and with a better attitude," Ancelotti said. "We can learn a lot from this match. It's quite clear where our problems could come from." Rafael Nadal, who is from the

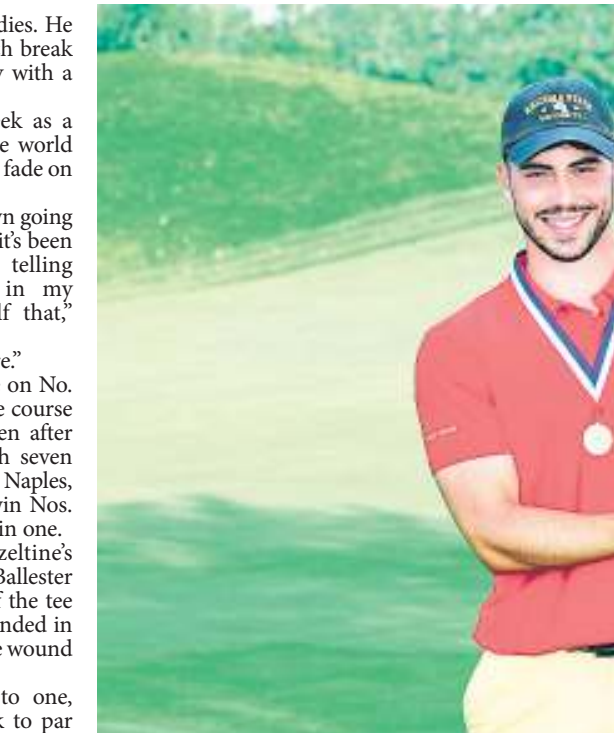
island of Mallorca, was among those watching the match at the Son Moix Stadium. Mallorca's players provided a guard of honour for the Super Cup winners, lining up to applaud the Madrid team as they entered the field before kickoff. Sociedad stunned at home. Real Sociedad, which finished sixth last season, was upset 2-1 at home by Rayo Vallecano, which fought to avoid relegation in the last campaign.

# Ballester becomes 1st Spaniard to win US Amateur, fending off Iowa's Noah

AP ■ CHASKA (US)

Jose Luis Ballester, a senior-to-be at Arizona State, became the first player from Spain to win the US Amateur, fending off Iowa sophomore Noah Kent 2 up Sunday at Hazeltine in the 36-hole match on his 21st birthday. Ballester, who was the only player in the top 10 of the world amateur ranking to reach the round of 16, took the lead on the second hole and never trailed. He joined Jon Rahm as the only players from Spain to win a USGA tournament. Rahm, who also played for the Sun Devils, won the US Open in 2021. "We have many great Spaniards, many great legends," Ballester said. "Being able to add my name into that history is pretty sweet." Both finalists gained exemptions for the Masters and the US Open next year, and Ballester also got a spot in the British Open. Ballester trailed at some point in his last three matches before taking control in the grueling final. Wearing a red polo, yellow shorts on loan from Spaniard he beat in the semifinals, Luis Masaveu, and black socks to match his country's colors, Ballester went 3 up after

four holes on two early birdies. He had a 4-up lead at the lunch break on a vintage 82-degree day with a slight late-summer breeze. Kent, who entered the week as a long shot at No. 560 in the world amateur ranking, refused to fade on the exhausting final day. "You don't want to be 4 down going into an 18-hole match, but it's been done before, and I kept telling myself that. Everybody in my corner kept telling myself that," Kent said. "I fought like crazy out there." He hit a long putt for eagle on No. 25 - the seventh hole on the course - to move within two. Then after falling behind by four with seven holes to go, the player from Naples, Florida, snapped back to win Nos. 31, 32 and 34 and pull within one. On the 34th hole, Hazeltine's signature lakeside No. 16, Ballester hit into the thick rough off the tee and, after clipping a tree, landed in worse shape in the reeds. He wound up with a bogey. But with his lead down to one, Ballester got back on track to par the final two holes. He nailed the shot off the No. 17 tee within striking range on the green. "I was juiced. I could feel the



adrenaline in my veins, in my forearms," Ballester said. Kent hit into the bunker off the No. 18 tee, then the rough. His last-chance chip overshot the hole. Once the victory was secured, Ballester began to cry as he thought of friends and family in Spain, including his grandmother who's

been ill this summer. "It was a hard summer back in Spain, so I feel like all those emotions kind of came out," Ballester said. Wearing a white polo with a Hawkeyes logo, Kent was attempting to become first Iowa player to win the event. The 19-year-old had the clear edge in fan support with dozens in gold Caitlin Clark shirts cheering from the gallery. "I knew it was going to be like that from yesterday. I kind of liked it a little bit," Ballester said. "When the other guy is feeling it and he's kind of grabbing that momentum and you see all the supporters that are going for him, it can be a little depressing. So it's important to face it with a nice mindset." Kent hadn't trailed since the 12th hole of his second round match until Ballester took the early lead. Kent beat 17th-ranked amateur and Big Ten rival Jackson Buchanan of Illinois in their 18-hole semifinal match. Ballester, who won the European Amateur last year, took a congratulatory call from fellow Spaniard Sergio Garcia after his

semifinal win. He shined with the short game all week. "I think it's in the blood," Ballester said. "It has to be." Hazeltine, which was designed by Robert Trent Jones and opened in 1962 in what was then mostly farmland and now a suburb filled with lakes and cul-de-sacs about 25 miles southwest of Minneapolis, last hosted the men's amateur in 2006. Since then, the course has seen the PGA Championship (2009), the Ryder Cup (2016) and the Women's PGA Championship (2019). The Ryder Cup is due back in 2029. The event began Monday with 312 players over two courses, the 130th edition of the tournament that has helped launch many greats of golf into a decorated career on the pro tour. Jones, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson are among the dozens of notable names who won the U.S. Amateur. Jones won the event a record five times. Woods won three. The last European to win the US Amateur was Viktor Hovland of Norway in 2018 at Pebble Beach.