

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
 The pioneer  
 KTR has been speaking about the Telangana Thalli statue now. It was not installed even though KTR had been in power for 10 years. We will take the responsibility of installing the Telangana Thalli statue on December 9 inside the Secretariat. There is no need to doubt the sincerity of us. Social boycott will take place if we speak meaninglessly. There is no place for dacoits and boozers at the Secretariat.  
 - A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana

India will work with Malaysia for prosperous Indo-Pacific:  
**Prez**

**INDIA & LANKA SIGN PACT FOR POWER GENERATION**

'My character in Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam is meant to tickle your funny  
**BONES'**

# Slugfest over statues

Statues are sacrosanct. But in Telangana, some statues have become political weapons for the game of oneupmanship, with the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharatha Rastra Samithi targeting each other. The BRS strongly objects to the plan of the Revanth Reddy regime to instal Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Secretariat while relegating the Telugu Thalli statue inside the premises. Starting mildly, the issue over the statue has reached a political crescendo with CM Revanth and BRS leader K. Taraka Ramarao sticking to their guns. While the former is saying that he would not budge, the latter, with the same force, is opposing the move. The statues have triggered a political slugfest.

**CM said the statue of those who looted Telangana in the guise of the movement should not be in front of the Secretariat.**



**"Mark my words Cheap Minister Revanth. We will clear out the trash from the premises of the Dr BR Ambedkar Secretariat the day we are back in office."**

## Touch the statue if you have guts: CM

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Criticising BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's comments that the BRS will remove the statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi now in front of the Secretariat, Chief Minister Revanth said the BRS leader's arrogance has not declined even after losing power. Revanth said that KTR wants to install his father K. Chandrasekhar Rao's statue in front of the

Secretariat. Addressing the gathering at the Rajiv Gandhi statue in Somajiguda on Tuesday after paying floral tributes to the statue on the occasion of Rajiv Gandhi's 80th birth anniversary, the CM said the statue of those who looted Telangana in the guise of the movement should not be in front of the Secretariat.

## We will clear out the trash: KTR

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Reacting to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's comments regarding the installation of Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Secretariat, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao warned the CM through X terming the Chief Minister as 'Cheap Minister'. He also described Rajiv Gandhi's statue as trash.

Minister Revanth. We will clear out the trash from the premises of the Dr BR Ambedkar Secretariat the day we are back in office. Can't expect a Delhi ghulam (slave) like you to understand the self-respect and honour of Telangana. Using foul language in front of schoolchildren exposes your uncouth upbringing. Wish you speedy healing from your mental sickness," KTR said.



## DOC'S RAPE AND MURDER

# SC terms it as horrific, blasts Bengal govt

- Forms 10-member Task Force
- Asks Mamata not to unleash the power of state on protesters

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Amid spiraling nationwide protests over the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Supreme Court on Tuesday constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other healthcare professionals.

state government over the delay in filing the FIR and allowing thousands of miscreants to vandalise the state-run facility.

It also asked the West Bengal government to not unleash the "power of the State" on peaceful protesters and to deal with them with "great sensitivity in this moment of national catharsis". The 10-member task force headed by Vice Admiral Arti Sarin has been asked to submit its interim report within three weeks.

## DON'T MISS...

### Protesters storm school building...

Thousands of protesters on Tuesday blocked railway tracks at Badlapur station in Thane district and stormed a local school building after the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls by the school sweeper in the washroom. Police cane-charged the protesters, who occupied the railway tracks, pelting stones at policemen. Hundreds of protesters, many of them angry parents, vandalised the school building to express their disgust over the sexual assault. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra...

-PAGE: 2

### State to be a global investment...

Real estate builders from across all the districts were drawn to STATECON 2024 organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) in Hyderabad on Tuesday. During the day-long event, members discussed key issues such as reducing registration charges, easing NOC processes and allowing farm layouts to boost real estate in Telangana. Ministers Uttam Kumar and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy assured the attendees that their concerns would be discussed in the...

-PAGE: 3

### Serum Institute says working to...

Serum Institute of India on Tuesday said it is currently working to develop a vaccine for Monkeypox, with positive outcomes expected in a year's time. The World Health Organisation on August 14 declared the Mpox outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. The move came after a sudden increase in cases was recorded in parts of Africa. In India, around 30 Mpox cases have been detected since 2022. The most recent case in the country was reported...

-PAGE: 8

### Nagal, Gaston to feature in 6th...

Ace Indian player Sumit Nagal and France's Hugo Gaston will be the main attractions in the men's category of the sixth Tennis Premier League to be held here from December 3-8. Poland's Magda Linette, who is ranked 41st in the world, and Armenia's world No 52 Elna Avanesyan, will headline the women's category in the tournament which will be held at the Cricket Club of India. The tournament will be played in a 25-point format in which each franchise will play a total of five matches to make...

-SPORTS

## Gutha Amith appointed TGDDCFL chairman



**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The Telangana government appointed Gutha Amith Reddy as the Chairman of the Telangana Dairy Development Co-operative Federation Limited for two years from the date of taking charge. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders regarding this on Tuesday.

Gutha Amith Reddy is the son of Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy. He had joined the Congress before the Lok Sabha elections after quitting the BRS.

## Hyd all set for realty boom, says Uttam

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Irrigation Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy predicted a boom for Hyderabad's real estate industry driven by projects announced by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu.

Speaking at the state conference of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Telangana at the Hyderabad International



Convention Centre (HICC) on Tuesday Uttam said that he is confident that Hyderabad is about to witness a real estate boom.

-5-

## 'Don't delay waiver benefit to farmers'

- Out of Rs 18K crore, banks disbursed only Rs 7,500 crore: Bhatti
- Asks bankers to show more concern
- Says even a one-week delay will not yield desired benefit

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Bankers should function with more concern for the public and not confine themselves to statistics, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said. Although the government has released Rs 18,000 crore to banks for waiving the loans taken by farmers so far only Rs 7,500 crore has been released to farmers, he said. Even a one-week delay in loan



DCM Bhatti Vikramarka and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao participated in SLBC meeting on Tuesday at Praja Bhavan

waiver would not have the desired benefit, he said while speaking at a meeting with

bankers at the Praja Bhavan here on Tuesday.

-5-

## Cong to up the ante over Adani issue

To hold 20 pressers across nation today

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Upping the ante over the Adani issue, the Congress said it will hold 20 press conferences across the country on Wednesday to highlight the need for a joint parliamentary committee probe into the matter which has "widespread ramifications for the economy".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, said,

"Tomorrow, the Indian National Congress will conduct 20 press conferences across the country to highlight the need for a JPC into the Modani Maha Ghotala that has widespread ramifications for the economy, and for cores of small investors - for whom the integrity of capital market regulators is essential." The opposition party has been persistent in its attack on the government, since Adani Group stocks took a beating on the bourses in the



wake of US-based short seller Hindenburg Research making a litany of allegations,

-5-

## Pocharam appointed Advisor with Cabinet rank

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy appointed Banswada MLA Parige (Pocharam) Srinivas Reddy as Advisor (Agriculture). He will have the rank of a Minister of State. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders regarding this on Tuesday. It may be recalled that Srinivas was elected as an MLA on a BRS ticket. He quit the BRS and joined the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Srinivas had said then that he was attracted to the Congress government as it was implementing schemes for farmers effectively.

## Extradite Hasina to face trial in Bangla

BNP asks India



**PNS ■ DHAKA**

Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Secretary-General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on Tuesday asked India to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to face trial as he accused her of plotting to thwart the country's revolution.

Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests by students and others against her government over a controversial quota system in government jobs. "It is our call to you that you should hand her over to the government of Bangladesh in a legal way. The people of this country have given the decision for her trial. Let her face that trial," Fakhru was quoted as saying by the Daily Star newspaper.

Talking to reporters after placing a wreath at the grave of former president and BNP founder Zia-ur Rahman in the city, Fakhru said India is seemingly not keeping its commitment towards democracy by providing shelter to her.

Continued on Page 5

## Ration shops get nutritional makeover

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Food Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday launched a pilot project to transform 60 Fair Price Shops (FPS), also called ration shops, into 'Jan Poshan Kendras' across UP, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Telangana, aiming to boost their viability and improve nutrition access.

The pilot allows FPS dealers to diversify their inventory beyond subsidised grains. The revamped shops can now stock millets, pulses, dairy products, and daily essentials, potentially opening up new revenue streams for the dealers.

"This transformation will be a win-win," Joshi said at the launch event.

He highlighted the current operational inefficiencies, noting, "In some areas, FPS open for just 8-9 days, while others operate only once every three months. The rest

## Govt pilots 'Jan Poshan Kendras'



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of the time, these shops remain closed." The minister emphasized that the existing commission structure for FPS dealers is inadequate, necessitating alternative approaches to utilize shop space and manpower more effectively.

Alongside the pilot, Joshi introduced an upgraded version of the 'Mera Ration' app and unveiled Quality Manual Handbook, Contract Manual of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Digital Quality Management System and NABL accreditation of the labs.

Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra highlighted collaborative efforts with SIDBI to facilitate easy credit for FPS dealers and partnerships with the Skill Development Ministry to provide entrepreneurship training.

-5-

## UPSC drops latest lateral-entry recruitment drive

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The UPSC on Tuesday cancelled its latest advertisement to fill key posts in government departments through lateral entry, amid a political row over the lack of a reservation provision for those positions.

The move came after Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh wrote to Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairperson Preeti Sudan to cancel

the advertisement, so that marginalised communities get their rightful representation in government services. The commission had, on August 17, issued a notification for the recruitment of 45 posts -- 10 of joint secretaries and 35 of directors or deputy secretaries -- through lateral

entry, which is referred to as the appointment of specialists (including those from the private sector) in government departments.

-5-

# Selections for Rajya Sabha seats reflect political expedience!

The criteria followed of late by the principal political players at national level for selection of candidates to fill vacant seats in the Rajya Sabha -- which is the upper House of Parliament and supposed to comprise venerable leaders of various political parties -- reflect political expedience rather than traditional, time-honoured parameters. At the individual level, almost every aspirant looks at the che saal befikar factor of the position.

A responsible political party will choose its RS candidates after wide-ranging in-house consultations and upon fair assessment of his or her image among the public. When it comes to the Lok Sabha, political parties go by the aspirant's popularity among the constituents.

The Congress has just picked its former MP and noted lawyer Abhishek Manu

Singhvi as its candidate for RS bypolls from Telangana. No doubt he has had a long career in the party and perhaps deserves the ticket. But the larger question is: Has the Congress' leadership garnered opinions from its local leaders and cadre? As the Congress needs a strong voice in the Rajya Sabha, it has preferred Singhvi, ignoring his demerits. Singhvi had invited the wrath of the Congress' leadership following his professional decision to side with lottery agencies in Kerala. The then Congress government in Kerala had banned lotteries as they weaken people economically and are nothing but a kind of gambling. Yet, Singhvi, in his individual and professional capacity, backed lottery agencies to the hilt in the Kerala High Court, causing embarrassment to the Congress. The

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party later relieved him of his responsibilities as official spokesperson of the party. In the undivided Andhra Pradesh state also, the Congress had broken self-imposed rules regarding the process of selection of candidates for filling vacant Rajya Sabha seats. In 2002, when the Congress was in the Opposition in AP, it had imposed rules for aspirants stating that losers in the 1999 elections would not be considered. By virtue of its strength in



Subbarami Reddy (Visakhapatnam). As the Congress had selected a candidate from the Madiga community, it changed plans of the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) headed by then chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He then zeroed in on former chairman of APSRTC Akarapu

Sudarshan from Nalgonda district. He was considered by the party cadre as the lucky one as he had lost his Assembly seat (Suryapet-SC) to Dosapati Gopal (Congress) in 1999. Dr. KVP Ramachandra Rao was on the list of aspirants for four biennial elections -- 2000,2002,2004,2006 -- for the Rajya Sabha. But he found no place in the final list, despite backing from YSR. At last, KVP got an opportunity in 2008. The party okayed renewal of his membership in 2014. Surprisingly, he was the beneficiary of the Congress party in the undivided AP, though the party disappeared from the AP political scenario following the state's bifurcation.

Later, in disregard of political and social equations, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu selected two leaders from his own Kamma community Y. V. Satyanarayana (Sujana) Chowdary and K. Ravindra

Kumar prior to the 2019 General Elections. In this case too, the party's political needs had played a decisive role. The erstwhile YSR Congress Party regime headed by former chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy too ignored the feelings and sentiments of party leaders and cadre. Jagan created a flutter in political circles as well as among the public by giving his nod for the candidature of Parimal Natwani, associate of Chairman of Reliance Industries Mukhesh Ambani. Natwani is in no way concerned about AP, much less acquainted with its affairs. Perhaps the idea of establishing a good rapport with Mukesh Ambani outweighed other considerations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi too in the picture.

In 2004, Rashid Alwi, former aide of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati joined the Congress after he

had been shown the door by the party leadership. He was given RS ticket from Andhra Pradesh by the Congress leadership. With a view to weaken Mayawati, the Congress took him in its fold for political brownie points.

At times, parties backed candidates cutting across all barriers. The Communist Party of India (CPI) was allotted one RS seat by the Congress since both were alliance partners in undivided AP. CPI (AP state council) proposed Ajiz Pasha, who was heading the Hyderabad city council of CPI.

It appears that these days RS seats are filled solely for political expedience, regardless of the candidate's credentials and the situation at the ground level. Political parties do make and break rules they themselves frame. Who cares for the party leaders and the cadre, much less for the public?

## 'Dharani complaints must be resolved within 10 days'

Workshops on draft of new Revenue Act on Aug 23, 24

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that Collectors have been directed to resolve complaints received during the tenure of the BRS government regarding Dharani issues as well as new ones received recently within 10 days. Proper reasons have to be given in case a complaint is rejected, he said.

Revenue Principal Secretary Naveen Mittal has been directed to focus on Ranga Reddy, Sangareddy and Vikarabad districts where pending complaints are high.

Collectors have been told to conduct workshops with intellectuals regarding the new Revenue Act 2024's draft on August 23 and 24.

Collectors were directed to speed up the layout regularisation process which would benefit lakhs of families. Regularisation of land should be done only according to rules. He said that LRS should also set up help desks along with special teams for field inspections.

The CS has been advised to appoint a Special Grade Deputy Collector as the supervising officer in all districts to



monitor the LRS process. If anyone has not provided the necessary documents when applying for LRS, they should upload them using the special

app meant for LRS. It has been suggested that 100 LRS applications should be processed in the first phase under the pilot project in each district. Officials have been asked to design future activities keeping in mind the good and bad things they have encountered.

Collectors have been advised to give the highest priority to Dharani applications keeping in mind the fact that during the tenure of the BRS government, there were about 25 lakh applications for LRS in 2020 and that these applications have not been resolved.

## Who is the Minister giving info to BJLP leader Alleti

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A discussion is going on about who is Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Cabinet colleague giving information to BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy. Maheshwar himself said on Tuesday that he has been getting information about the developments taking place in the Congress government through Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's cabinet colleague. Maheshwar said that he has good relations with many in the Congress government as he had worked earlier with the Congress. He said that he also has good relations with the leaders of all political parties and that musical chairs are played in the Congress now.

## Rajiv Gandhi laid foundation for Hyd IT industry

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Hyderabad became an IT hub thanks to late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as it was he who laid the foundation for the city's IT industry, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said.

Speaking at a meeting organised to mark Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary at the Somajiguda Circle here on Tuesday, he said the government would take forward the Rajiv Technology Mission.

Referring to the remarks of BRS leaders over development of the IT industry, Bhatti said the person who claims to have studied abroad and worked as the Minister for IT should know who had contributed the most to the development of the IT sector in Hyderabad.

It was Rajiv Gandhi who introduced the mobile phone technology, encouraged the dairy sector, gave voting right to 18-year-olds and created the IT revolution, he pointed out.

Bhatti reiterated that all encroachments of government lands and tanks would be cleared by HYDRAA.

Dharani software would be discarded as it was brought in by the BRS to help the rich, he



- Rajiv Technology Mission will be taken forward
- Doesn't KTR know who tried to develop Hyderabad's IT industry?
- Encroached lands, tanks will be cleared by HYDRAA
- Dharani will be scrapped as it was introduced to help the rich

## BRS leader Krishank files complaint with ED on Rs 1,000 cr Swachh Bio deal

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A complaint has been filed with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at its New Delhi headquarters by Krishank Manne, the official spokesperson of the BRS, raising serious concerns over a MoU signed between the company Swachh Bio and the Telangana government.

The MoU, announced by Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy on August 6, 2024, involves an investment of Rs 1,000 crore.

The ED accepted the complaint and gave an acknowledgment.

The complaint alleges that there is a "conflict of interest" and "quid pro quo" in the deal by pointing out that one of the directors of Swachh Bio is Anumula Jagdeeshwar Reddy, the brother of the Chief Minister. "It is a matter of serious concern that one of the directors



of Swachh Bio, Anumula Jagdeeshwar Reddy, is the Chief Minister's brother, which raises questions about the integrity of the deal," Krishank Manne stated in his letter to the ED.

Additionally, the complaint highlights that Swachh Bio was incorporated just 15 days before the Chief Minister's official visit to Philadelphia where the MoU was signed. The company, which is registered at an address in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, is allegedly a shell company with no active business operations.

"What is the purpose of announcing this company in the USA? Does it involve foreign funds? Is there any connection to money laundering?" the complaint asks.

## Katipally lashes out at HYDRAA, warns of another TG movement

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Criticising the demolition of buildings by HYDRAA, the BJP's Kamareddy MLA, Katipally Venkataramana Reddy, asked who gave permission to construct the illegal buildings that are being demolished by HYDRAA.

He said that it is not praja palana if the government punishes the public and allows the officials who permitted constructing the buildings to go scot-free.

He asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who is the chairman of HYDRAA, and



HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath to reveal what action they will take regarding this.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office here on Tuesday, Katipally said that HYDRAA is the brainchild of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and that commoners are facing problems due to HYDRAA. HYDRAA is a good idea, however, it is not proper to trouble people who gave power to the CM, he pointed out.

## Kerala CM affirms support for victims

**PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said the state government was seriously considering the various recommendations, including setting up a tribunal and framing a comprehensive Cinema Law, given by the Justice Hema Committee. Vijayan also said that the action recommended by the committee against the various crimes against women in the film industry was already being looked into by the agencies responsible for ensuring law and order in the state. The CM announced while speaking at a press conference here. Despite receiving the report, his remarks come in the wake of severe criticism of the Left government by opposition parties for its silence and inaction over the past four years.



## SEXUAL ASSAULT ON 4-YR-OLD GIRLS Protesters storm school building, block rly tracks

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

Thousands of protesters on Tuesday blocked railway tracks at Badlapur station in Thane district and stormed a local school building after the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls by the school sweeper in the washroom.

Police cane-charged the protesters, who occupied the railway tracks, pelting stones at policemen. Hundreds of protesters, many of them angry parents, vandalised the school building to express their disgust over the sexual assault.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said he has ordered the formation of a special investigation team headed by senior IPS officer Arti Singh.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha  
Tithi: Dwititya: Aug 20 08:33 PM to Aug 21 05:07 PM  
Trititya: Aug 21 05:07 PM to Aug 22 01:46 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
Purva Bhadrapada: Aug 21 03:09 AM to Aug 22 12:33 AM  
Uttara Bhadrapada: Aug 22 12:33 AM to Aug 22 10:05 PM

**Rahukalam:** 12:19 PM to 1:52 PM  
**Yamagandam:** 7:37 AM to 9:11 AM

**Varjyam:** 09:10 AM to 10:36 AM  
**Gulika:** 10:45 AM to 12:19 PM  
**Amritakalam:** 05:25 PM to 06:51 PM  
**Ahijit Muhurtham:** Nil

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Cloudy  
Temp: 31°C  
Humidity: 74%  
Sunrise: 6:00 AM  
Sunset: 6:38 AM  
Updated: August 20, 2024 5:00 PM

## India's reservoir storage levels surpass 10-yr average

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has reported a significant improvement in the live storage levels of India's reservoirs this year, with the current storage exceeding the ten-year average by 14 per cent.

According to the latest Reservoir Storage Bulletin, the live storage available in 150 major reservoirs across the country is 124.016 billion

cubic metres (BCM), which is 69 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. This marks a substantial increase from the corresponding period last year, when the storage was 111.85 BCM.

The current storage also exceeds the ten-year average, known as 'normal storage', which stood at 108.79 BCM.

Regionally, the storage levels vary across different parts of the country.

**CHANDRAYAAN 4-5 DESIGN COMPLETE**

**70 satellites likely to be launched in five years: ISRO chief**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

ISRO chairman S Somanath on Tuesday said the space agency has completed the design for the next round of moon missions -- Chandrayaan 4 and 5 -- and is in the process of seeking government approval for the same.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission includes bringing back moon rocks and soil to earth after a soft landing on the lunar surface, launching a spacecraft from the moon, demonstrating a space docking experiment in lunar orbit and getting the samples back to earth. "We have a series of missions to go to the moon. Chandrayaan-3 is over. Now, design for Chandrayaan 4



## MEIL deploys state-of-the-art drilling rig for ONGC in Rajahmundry

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL), a Hyderabad-based global conglomerate, has deployed its advanced, fully automated, and hydraulic 2000 HP capacity oil drilling rig (C3BRI NG 2000-5) at ONGC Asset, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. Previously, MEIL has deployed two 2000 HP capacity land drilling rigs in the same asset. This marks the third rig to be established

under the Rajahmundry asset of ONGC.

The inauguration ceremony of the oil drilling rig deployment was attended by representatives from MEIL and Drillmec, namely Manoj Varma, VP of Contracts; Marco Tozzi, Deputy CEO (Drillmec); Michele Bruzzi, COO (Drillmec); Sabir

Hussain, VP of Installation & Commissioning (Drillmec); and ONGC officials.

The new generation of fully automated oil drilling rigs is made under the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, as part of the Rs. 6,000 crore value of oil drilling rigs ordered by ONGC. MEIL is the first private company in India to manufacture and use oil and gas extraction rigs with indigenous technology.

MEIL has received an order for 47 rigs from ONGC through global competitive bidding. Of the 27 land drilling rigs, two are mobile hydraulic rigs with a capacity of 1,500 HP, and 17 are AC VFD rigs with a 1,500 HP capacity. Six others are AC VFD rigs with a capacity of 2,000 HP, and two others are HT VFD rigs of 2,000 HP.



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## CITY EVENTS

### Quick Vitals

The grand launching of AI-powered health monitoring app & panel discussion on Healthcare for all

#### Venue

Hotel Avasa, Madhapur, Hyderabad  
August 21, 11.30 am

### House Fair

To showcase our premium range of products that cater to all your pets' well-being.

#### Venue

The Platinum Boutique Inn  
TTD Balaji Temple, Gagan Mahal, Domalguda, Hyderabad  
August 21, Time: 12 noon to 8 pm

### Journey of Rhythms

Presented by Shivansh and Tatva Arts

#### Venue

Global Peace Auditorium, Gachibowli, Hyderabad  
August 31, 6.30 pm onwards

### 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 LJP Block, Adj. Fernandez Hospital, Bogulkunta, Hyderabad.  
11 am, Thursday, August 22.

### Free life-time bus pass for child born in RTC bus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) on Tuesday announced that a child born in an RTC bus of Gadwal depot on Rakhi Purnami will be given a bus pass for free travel throughout the State for life.

A pregnant woman named Sandhya was going to Vanaparthy to tie rakhi to her brothers on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan in Gadwala-Wanaparthy route. As soon as the bus reached Nachanahalli, the woman suddenly felt pains. The female conductor G Bharati, who was immediately alerted, stopped the bus. With the help of Alivelu Mangamma, a nurse who was travelling in the same bus, the pregnant woman was inseminated. Finally, the woman gave birth to a female child. Later, the mother and child were taken to a local hospital with the help of 108.

# City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 21, 2024

03

## First year Inter admissions extended

Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) on Tuesday announced that the last date for admissions into first year intermediate for academic year 2024-25 will be extended upto August 31. The officials stated that all the principals of all junior colleges and composite degree colleges are informed to make admissions to the candidates into Intermediate first year until the last date. Parents and students are informed to join only the affiliated junior colleges, as the list is provided on the official Websites of the TGBIE i.e., acadtgbie.cgg.gov.in and tabie.cgg.gov.in.

## CREDAI'S STATECON

# State to be a global investment destination: Minister

- Hyderabad's office market has grown exponentially since Telangana's formation in 2014. The city's office stock has more than tripled since 2014 to reach an impressive 127 million sqft as of Q2 2024
- Driven by robust occupier demand, new office developments have surged since 2019, primarily those concentrated in the IT Corridor and extended IT Corridor micro-markets

## Real estate developers ask for flexible NOC process



Ministers Uttam Kumar and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy inaugurating STATECON 2024 organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) in Hyderabad on Tuesday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Real estate builders from across all the districts were drawn to STATECON 2024 organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

During the day-long event, members discussed key issues such as reducing registration charges, easing NOC processes and allowing farm layouts to boost real estate in Telangana. Ministers Uttam Kumar and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy assured the attendees that their concerns would be discussed in the Cabinet.

E. Premasagar Reddy, President of CREDAI, highlighted the Chief Minister's vision of developing the State with a three-ring structure, focusing on the Core Urban Region up to the Outer Ring Road (ORR). However, he pointed out that builders in villages face challenges, such as the need to travel to Hyderabad to meet ministers and the delays caused by NOC requirements from multiple departments.

He suggested that if permissions are scrutinised more efficiently initially and there is flexibility with NOC approvals, delays and illegal layouts could be prevented. Murali Krishna Reddy, Chairman of CREDAI, noted that while the real estate sector in Telangana is improving, there are ongoing challenges. He requested the development of

grid roads within a one-kilometer growth corridor on the ORR to stimulate growth in the area. Additionally, he advocated for keeping height restrictions in the Peri-Urban Zone and allowing farm layouts, which could provide revenue to the government and meet the growing demand for farm plots post-Covid-19. Speaking on the occasion, Ministers Uttam Kumar and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, said that Telangana was going global with a focus on the existing landscape, drafting a blueprint of success for the real estate sector, thereby making the State a global investment destination.

He noted the palpable sense of excitement surrounding the city's imminent growth.

He highlighted that the present Congress government, under CM A Revanth Reddy, had announced several landmark development projects for Hyderabad, including the Future City at Mucherla, the Skill Development University, the expansion of the

Metro Rail and the proposed Musi Riverfront Development project. These projects, he said, had created an atmosphere conducive to growth, not only in Hyderabad but also in tier-2 and tier-3 cities across Telangana, which were likely to see substantial development.

## CITY'S RESIDENTIAL STOCK REACHES 4,40,000 UNITS HYDRAA, Skill varsity Bill to boost real estate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The newly introduced HYDRAA and Young India Skill University Telangana Bill 2024 are bound to strengthen Telangana's Real Estate Dynamics. This was revealed in research report released by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) and CBRE, providing a detailed analysis of the State's economic landscape, underscoring Hyderabad's centrality and the substantial, yet untapped potential of its tier 2 and tier 3 cities. The years from 2014 to 2024 have been detailed in the report.

In 2020 there were Grid Policy, Integrated Township policy, layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS), Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage System Policy. In 2021 it was ICT Policy 20 Logistics Policy; In 2022 it was Space Tech Policy Framework, GO111 revocation announcement and in 2023 it was Cool Roof Policy, Robotics Policy Framework, new LRS scheme, among others.

The survey also analysed that Hyderabad's office market has grown exponentially since

Telangana's formation in 2014. The city's office stock has more than tripled since 2014 to reach an impressive 127 million sqft as of Q2 2024. This remarkable expansion has solidified Hyderabad's reputation as a premier destination for global corporations, particularly those establishing their Global Capability Centres (GCCs). Driven by robust occupier demand, new office developments have surged since 2019, primarily those concentrated in the IT Corridor and extended IT Corridor micro-markets.

The office market's evolution in the city is characterised by a growing preference for high-quality, amenities and workspaces strategically located within key business districts, 14 per cent of Hyderabad's contribution to the total office stock in India. The robust expansion of Hyderabad's industrial and technology sectors has spurred significant growth in its residential market.

Increased economic activity has driven residential demand, particularly in the western regions proximate to the IT and extended IT Corridors.



## Minister's stress on micro enterprises to be credit linked

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Telangana has convened a meeting on Tuesday to review the performance of the banks for the quarter ended June 2024 in Telangana State.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister, while applauding the efforts of banks in achieving various targets, sought the banks to be benevolent in focusing more on extending credit to weaker sections and SHGs. Further, he conveyed that more and more micro enterprises are to be credit linked, which will bring in significant change in scenario.

Tummala Nageswara Rao, Minister for Agriculture, emphasised the need to focus more on exceeding the stipu-



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao at the State Level Bankers' Committee meeting in Hyderabad on Tuesday

lated targets for FY 2024-25 under agriculture and allied activities. He further sought the support of banks in focusing on development of agricultural economy. While reiterating the strenuous efforts put in by Government of Telangana in implementing CLW-2024 scheme in record time, he emphasised the need and involvement of banks in han-

dling the various issues related to crop loan waiver at the branch level effectively.

Chintala Suseela, CGM, NABARD, Kamal Prasad Patnaik, RD, Reserve Bank of India, also spoke on the occasion.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Prashanth Kumar Bariyar, DGM (FI & SLBC), SBI.

## Water released from Hussain Sagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With heavy inflows, water levels in Hussain Sagar reached alarming levels. As such, water is being released from the sluice gates of the Hussain Sagar Lake on Tuesday.

The water level at Hussain Sagar has exceeded the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) which is 513.41 meters. The water level at 5.10 pm was at 513.63. Authorities have released 1,600 cusecs downstream. The GHMC officials have also alerted the people in the downstream of lake.

Meanwhile, several water bodies in Hyderabad limits are also on the verge of breach and the two reservoirs including Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar of the city have reached their brim.

## AIG Hospitals' Dr Nageshwar appointed NTF member

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court appointed on Tuesday the Chairman and Managing Director of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy, as a member of the National Task Force (NTF) set up to formulate protocols to tackle the situation created by a doctor's rape and murder in Kolkata.

In the last four decades, Dr Reddy's contribution to therapeutic endoscopy has been immense including the development of the Nagi stent used for biliary drainage. He served as the first Indian President of the World Endoscopy Organisation.

A staunch believer in affordable, accessible healthcare, Dr Reddy set up the Asian Healthcare Foundation (AHF), a not-for-profit entity with the dual objective of increas-

ing health coverage in rural areas and creating robust research capabilities to improve patient care.

He is the first Indian doctor to start a mobile endoscopy unit which goes to rural areas and offers free treatment for GI related diseases.

Recently, under the AIG Rural Outreach Programme, a door-to-door survey has started across South India and aims to screen 10,000 people for various diseases in the next six months.

It is because of this programme, many GI diseases like IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) which were believed to be non-existent in rural India have been diagnosed.

The research arm of the AHF has partnered with organisations like the ICMR and DBT among others on several projects including the development of a macro-encapsulation device for islet cell transplantation for diabetes treatment.



## SIX IAS OFFICERS RESHUFFLED IN TG Amrapali given full charge of GHMC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government has transferred six IAS officers on Tuesday. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata has been given full charge of the corporation.

Amrapali Kata, of 2010 batch has been transferred from her position as Joint Commissioner of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to the Commissioner of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

M Dana Kishore of 1996 batch, Principal Secretary to the Government, Municipal Administration, and Urban Development (MA & UD) Department, has been given the full addition-

al charge of Managing Director of Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited, relieving Amrapali Kata of her additional responsibilities.

The other transfers and postings are notified as Sarfaraz Ahmad of batch 2009, Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA, placed in full additional charge of the post of Managing Director, Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited. Kota Sreevatsa of batch 2017, Additional Commissioner, GHMC, is transferred and posted as Joint Commissioner, HMDA. Chahat Bajpai of batch 2019, is posted as Municipal Commissioner, Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. Mayank Mittal of batch 2020, Addl. Collector (LB), Narayanpet, is transferred and posted as Executive Director, HMWS&SB.



## RENOVATED ENTRANCE



Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director (International Banking, Global Markets & Technology) and Chairman (Designate), State Bank of India, inaugurating the renovated entrance lobby of the Local Head Office, Hyderabad on Tuesday

## EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AI

### SAWiT teams up with THub

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Empowering women in Artificial Intelligence (AI), South Asian Women in Tech (SAWiT), a community focused on empowering South Asian women in technology, has partnered with T-Hub and Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (HYSEA) to train 10 million women across India in Generative AI skills.

As part of this nation-wide effort, SAWiT is expanding its activities in Hyderabad to equip women with the skills needed to support India's technological and economic growth. On Tuesday, SAWiT hosted an event at T-Hub, marking an important step toward the goal of training 500,000 women in the first phase of the program.

When asked, Kalido Co-Founder Sanjay Varma explained that SAWiT is a community focused on helping women find better opportunities.

He mentioned that the training will start on September 21, with the aim of upskilling half a million women in Gen-AI through a free course.

## YELLOW ALERT UNTIL AUGUST 24

# City experiences intense rainfall

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city experienced intense rainfall on Tuesday, causing flooding in low-lying areas and water-logging on many main roads and highways. Heavy traffic was reported, and some schools declared a holiday. Although most of the day

was cloudy, partly sunny and humid, a downpour in the evening led to severe traffic jams, especially in HYTEC City, Jubilee hills and Banjara Hills, with water-logged roads.

Evening showers continued on and off across West and North Hyderabad, affecting areas like Khairatabad, Jubilee

Hills, Manikonda, Nizampet, Kukatpally, Miyapur, Moosapet, Madhapur, Qutbullapur, and Charminar.

According to the TGDPs, Khairatabad recorded 574.3 mm of rainfall, exceeding its normal of 412.4 mm, while Nampally reached 567.9 mm against the usual 398.1 mm.

## Hyd SDG Leadership Awards presented

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Leadership Awards were presented at T-Hub on Tuesday. Weave Media's Event Management Company hosted the Pride of Hyderabad SDG Leadership Awards Season 3, recognising individuals and organisations dedicated to advancing the UN

SDGs.

In collaboration with the Telangana State Tourism Department, Language and Culture Department, Information Technology Department, and T-Hub, the event highlighted efforts to drive positive change across various sectors.

The awards honoured entrepreneurs, social reformers, and professionals who

have significantly contributed to Hyderabad's development. The event also launched Weave Media's non-profit arm, the Gurthimpu Foundation, which has already helped five individuals with disabilities start their own businesses through its DE-Hub incubator program.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Srinivas Rao Mahankali, CEO of T-Hub;

Sita Pallacholla, CEO of We-Hub; and Amar, Founder of CBN Forum XENEX.

Chairman and CEO of Weave Media's Event Management Company, Koppula Vasundhara expressed happiness in recognizing the award winners and emphasized the importance of celebrating achievements that inspire positive change in the community.



Former MLA of Malkajgiri Mynampalli Hanumanta Rao addressing a public meeting at old bus stand in Hyderabad on Tuesday

## Mynampalli dares Harish to resign as Cong kept its word on loan waiver

**PNS ■ SIDDIPET**

Former MLA of Malkajgiri Mynampalli Hanumanta Rao has alleged that former minister T Harish Rao is a man of words but not deeds. He was taking part in a massive car and bike rally held here on Tuesday in connection with Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he said that the Congress government, as promised in its election manifesto, implemented Rs 2 lakh crop loan waiver benefiting the farmers and hence Harish Rao, keeping up his promise,

should resign from the MLA post.

Re-lection of Harish Rao in Siddipeta was ruled out, he said adding that he would contest as Congress candidate in Siddipet in case of Harish Rao resignation. In case of his defeat, he said, he would quit politics, he claimed.

Hanumanta Rao exuded confidence that the Congress will implement all of its electoral promises.

To create disturbance among the farmers, the BRS party has been indulging in false propaganda on the loan waiver, he alleged.

## Doctors equal to God, they exist to serve people: Ponguleti

**PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM**

State Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Khammam MP Rama Sahal Raghunatha Reddy, Aswaraopeta MLA Jare Adinarayana and District Collector Jitesh V. Patil inaugurated the new building of the primary health centre constructed at a cost of Rs 1.56 lakh in Mangapet village of Mulakalapalli mandal on Tuesday.

As part of the programme, a sapling was planted in the primary health centre. The Minister inspected all the rooms in the primary health centre.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister directed the Panchayat Raj officials to complete the building construction work quickly. He directed the District Medical Officer to submit reports to the Collector regarding the required equipment, medicines and staff in the primary health centre.

Speaking to the doctors at the primary health centre, the Minister said that doctors are equal to God. They should be available to the people and provide better medicine, and with the hope of making medical services



Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy inaugurating the new building of the primary health centre in Mangapet on Tuesday

available to the rural people, measures will be taken to ensure that there is no shortage of medical staff and medicines along with the construction of concrete buildings.

Doctors and staff are advised to perform their duties properly and serve the people. The officials were directed to develop all the facilities in the primary health centre. The Minister said that he will come back for inspection soon.

State Irrigation Development Corporation Chairman Muva Vijay Babu, District Medical Officer Bhaskar Naik, DCMS Chairman Kotwala Srinivasa Rao, Kothagudem RDO Madhu, Panchayat Raj Department EE Srinivas, R&B EE Venkateswara Rao and medical officers and doctors participated in the programme.



Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao at the Kodavatancha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Regonda on Tuesday

## VISITS LAKSHMINARASIMHA TEMPLE

## Jupalli lays stone for temple development

**PNS ■ BHUPALAPALLI**

Excise, Tourism and Culture Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao visited Kodavatancha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Regonda mandal of Bhupalapalli district and performed special pooja.

The temple priests welcomed the Minister with full honours and Vedic blessings.

Later, Minister Krishna Rao laid the foundation stone for the development works of the temple to be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 12.15 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Lakshmi

Narasimha Swamy temple, which is the golden temple of the devotees, will be developed and the facilities of the devotees will be improved. The officials were directed to make proposals related to providing facilities for the devotees under the auspices of the Tourism department.

Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, Bhupalapalli MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, Vardhannapet MLA Nagaraju, MP Kadyam Kavya and Tourism Development Corporation MD Prakash Reddy participated in the programme.

## Thieves target shops in Shadnagar

**PNS ■ RANGAREDDY**

A group of thieves broke into multiple shops along the main road of Shadnagar during the night, making off with lakhs of rupees in cash. The GR Mobile Shop located at the bustling cross-roads, was among the hardest hit, with substantial amount of money stolen.

The burglars targeted several businesses in the area, leaving behind a trail of damage and losses. The incident has raised concerns among local shop owners, who are urging for increased security measures in the neighbourhood. Authorities are currently investigating the thefts, and more details are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses. Shop owners and residents are advised to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police immediately.

## Woman seriously hurt in road mishap

**PNS ■ RANGAREDDY**

In a road accident that occurred in Rajendranagar on Tuesday, a school bus struck a young woman near Attapur Pillar No. 130 on the PVNR Expressway.

The victim, identified as Harika, a resident of Attapur and an employee in a local pharma company, sustained serious injuries in the accident. According to eyewitnesses, Harika was waiting under the pillar for shelter from the rain when the accident occurred. The impact left her unconscious and she was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for urgent medical attention. Her condition is reported to be critical.

## CM urged to conduct BC census immediately

**PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI**

Telangana state BC welfare association president J Srinivas and retired bureaucrat Chiranjeevi have demanded the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to issue BC declaration immediately as promised by him at the time of the elections.

They were taking part in the district-level BC Garjana meeting held here on Tuesday. Earlier, they paid floral tributes to BC leaders by garlanding their portraits.

Addressing the participants, retired IAS officer Chiranjeevulu observed that the BC census had not taken place since the country became independent. He termed the anti-OBC policies being pursued by the state and central governments were not proper. The BC has been facing discrimination since the beginning politically.

The British who ruled the nation conducted the OBC census, but the BC census had not taken place in independent India, he said expressing concern over

the issue.

As a result, several highly education BCs have been losing precious job opportunities, he said. The BCs would be forced to launch a movement if the BC census is not conducted, he warned.

He Congress government promised to conduct the BC census in the recent elections held in Telangana, but went back on the promise. Former MLA Putta Madhukar demanded the CM to conduct the BC caste census

immediately for the fate of the OBCs to change. He vehemently condemned the discriminatory policies of the state and central governments towards the BCs.

Further, he alleged large-scale conspiracy to repress the BCs politically. As part of it, the state and central governments are not keen to conduct the BC census, he said breathing fire on the governments. The BC leaders vowed to step up their agitation till their demand of conducting BC census is met.

## Collector asks officials to take precautions in view of rain threat

**PNS ■ NAGARKARNOOOL**

Collector Badawat Santosh has directed the district officials to take precautions to rule out any loss to property and lives in the district as heavy rains are likely to lash the district for the next five days.

He was addressing the district officials after taking part in a video conference addressed by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Chief Secretary Santi Kumari from Hyderabad on the rain situation, LRS, changes proposed in Dharani portal gathering of public opinion on draft Dharani Act. Additional Collectors K Sitarama Rao and Devasahayam and officials of various government departments also took part in the video conference.



Collector Badawat Santosh addressing the district officials in Nagarkarnool on Tuesday

Addressing district officials, the collector asked the officials to ensure that there was no loss either to the properties or to the people due to heavy rains and remain alert to rule out rains paralysing the normal life.

## Awareness programme on cyber crimes held for students

**PNS ■ ASIFABAD**

District Superintendent of Police DV Srinivasa Rao has called upon students to increase their awareness on cyber crimes and check the cyber fraud. He appealed to the students to improve their understanding of cybercrimes and explain about them to their parents, relatives and near and dear.

He was addressing the students at Vodapalli Gardens here on Tuesday to sensitise students on cybercrimes.

DSP Sadaiah, district cyber security DSP Ramesh also took



part in the event.

The cyber criminals exploit weakness of the people to earn money quickly and sharing of personal details and OTP.

The cyber fraudsters gather information from people making

efforts to find jobs online. If people were to click the suspected links received by their mobile phones, the cyber criminals would sweep their accounts, he cautioned the students and asked the people, including the students, to be wary of such frauds.

He explained precautions to be followed by students to save themselves from the ill-effects of mobile phone and to safeguard themselves getting addicted to vices.

The mobile phone is beneficial to people as well as hazardous to the people, he said

asking the students to remain alert on the use of mobile phone. With the increased use of android phones, the cyber crime is also on the rise, he remarked.

Therefore, he asked the students to sensitise their parents, friends, neighbours and the people in their villages on cybercrimes. Some precautions are necessary to check cybercrimes, he said.

The police official asked the students to stay away from loan mobile applications, stop searching for customer care numbers in Google.

## Peddapalli Collector cracks whip on illegal constructions

**PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI**

Collector Koya Sriharsha has focussed on encroachments of illegal constructions taken up in tank beds and encroaching ponds and is gearing up to crack the whip on the illegal constructions.

He directed the government machinery to take stringent measures to safeguard the government properties.

He was addressing a special

meeting on safeguarding the government properties at collectorate on Tuesday. District level task force committee has been constituted in this regard.

He discussed the illegal constructions in the district with the task force committee. The task force would work to safeguard the government lands, tank beds and tanks and ponds from encroachments asking the task force committee to immediately take steps to

remove the encroachments of the government lands.

It is the responsibility of the district administration to safeguard the government properties at full scale and asked the officials to install notice boards in government properties indicating that it is a government property.

He asked them to fix the buffer zones of the FTL of water resources like tanks and ponds in the district and take

steps to prevent any construction activity in these zones.

Complaints received through media and other mediums on encroachment of government properties should be noticed from time to time and the task force should respond on the complaints of this nature from time to time.

He exhorted the people to lodge complaints on encroachments of government lands by calling 9491479020.

## MLA blames glitches for loan waiver not reaching farmers



MLA Chintakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao addressing the media at Peddapalli on Tuesday

**PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI**

Peddapalli legislator Chintakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao has claimed that the state government is totally committed to the implementation of the poll promises made by the Congress and felt that the crop loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh would soon reach all the eligible farmers. He put the blame on technical glitch for the loan waiver benefits not reaching some of the farmers.

Addressing media here on

Tuesday, the MLA observed that on account of technical defects and errors on the part of the banks, the loan waiver did not reach the farmers. The defects would be rectified and the farmers would be benefited by total loan waiver scheme, he said assuring the farmers.

In Peddapalli Assembly constituency, over 27,471 farmers were benefited to the tune of Rs 192.95 crore because of the loan waiver. Breathing fire on the BRS regime, the MLA said that the previous government pushed

the State into debts and plummeted the financial position of the State. At some places, the BRS leaders, under the garb of the farmers, are staging protests against the loan waiver. The farmers would teach these leaders a lesson, he predicted.

On the loan waiver, BRS leaders KTR and Harish Rao have been competing with each other in criticising the government. The BJP government at the Centre has been implementing the black laws to the detriment of the farmers, he alleged.

## Steps in place to prevent rains from paralysing normal life

**PNS ■ ASIFABAD**

Collector Venkatesh Dhote on Tuesday replied to Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, that all precautions have been put in place to prevent untoward incidents likely to happen in the district and disruption of normal life in the district due to the rains likely to occur in the next four days.

According to a weather bulletin monitored by the Met

office, the district is likely to receive heavy rains during the next four days. The Collector told the Minister that precautions would be taken to prevent breaching of tank bunds and canal bunds and special protection should be provided near highways, bridges, causeways and streams and measures would be initiated to prevent damage to electric poles, agricultural and horticultural crops and dilapidated government buildings and old and disused residential houses.

## DIGITAL PAYMENTS NOT AVAILABLE IN WINE SHOPS, BARS

### Liquor traders exploit loopholes in laws

**PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM**

Liquor merchants in Kothagudem are trampling on government regulations and acting at will. The real story of adopting lottery method in allotment of shops starts there. Traders have turned into a syndicate and are putting holes in the pockets of the drug lords to recover the same from those who have acquired the shops.

While putting up boards that they are selling at MRP

prices, they are moving all the goods to belt shops and making money. At present, these are seen everywhere on the streets. They are extorting Rs 10 extra on a quarter bottle and Rs 40 on a full bottle. Brand liquor is not available in any shop. If you go to the same belt shop, you will find all kinds of liquor sales.

Otherwise you have to pay a higher amount. No more digital payments in the shops. Transactions are done through

cash payments only. Indirectly, income tax is also being evaded and the government's income is being stolen. Excise officers who are losing money to the drug lords are acting as if they are watered down. There are allegations that the department has completely lost control in this matter.

Even now, many people want the higher officials to respond and stop the liquor mafia happening in Kothagudem districts.

ACROSS THE STATES



Tigers found dead in TN's Nilgiris district

A tigress and her cub were found dead under mysterious circumstances at an estate near Gudalur in Nilgiris district, a senior forest official said on Tuesday. The carcasses of the wild cats which had "external bleeding injuries" were found at some distance from each other, he said. "A team from the forest department, upon being informed, rushed to the estate pathway and found a sub-adult tiger dead. They also found a tigress, which might be the mother of the dead sub-adult tiger at an aerial distance of about 75 m in a marsh within the estate," the official said. Both had external injuries and raised suspicion about the nature of their deaths, he said. It has been planned to conduct a post-mortem by a Veterinary assistant surgeon from the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in the presence of non-governmental organisations as per a protocol of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).



SC permits Teesta Setalvad to travel to Malaysia

The Supreme Court on Tuesday permitted activist Teesta Setalvad to travel to Malaysia from August 31 to September 10 for a conference and asked her to file an undertaking that she will return to India as scheduled. The apex court had in July last year granted her regular bail in a case of alleged fabrication of documents to frame innocent people in the 2002 post-Godhra riot cases. During the hearing on Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Setalvad, told a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan that she has filed an application seeking permission to travel abroad as the apex court had in July last year said that her passport shall continue to be in the custody of the sessions court. "I (Setalvad) am seeking your lordships permission to go to Malaysia for an anti-racism conference from August 31 to September 10," he told the bench.



Underground terrorist hideout busted in J-K's Rajouri

Security forces on Tuesday busted an underground terrorist hideout in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The well-built hideout was unearthed during a cordon and search operation by a joint party of police, Army and CRPF at Sagrawat forest in the Darhal area of the border district, the officials said. They said a large quantity of daily use items including cooking gas, blankets and utensils were recovered from the hideout. However, no one was arrested during the operation as the terrorists using the hideout managed to escape before the start of the search operation, the officials said. They said security forces also busted a cave-type hideout in the Balotha area of Basantgarh in Udhampur district during an ongoing anti-terrorist operation. Some food items were recovered from the abandoned hideout, the officials said.

Effects of women empowerment on children weight, height

Study provides evidence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

When women are empowered, children are less likely to be underweight, researchers who studied several households in Odisha have claimed.

The study gathered data from more than 1,900 farming households from 12 districts in Odisha, home to some of India's most vulnerable tribal groups.

The research was conducted by the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Italy, which sought to gather field evidence of how women



empowerment affects food security, and quality of diet and childhood. The findings were published in the journal PLoS ONE.

The researchers scored the



India will work with Malaysia for prosperous Indo-Pacific: Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will continue to work with Malaysia and extend all cooperation in the pursuit of shared objectives of a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, President Droupadi Murmu said on Tuesday.

Welcoming Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Murmu said the common cherished values of democracy, multiculturalism, pluralism and mutual respect have been the guiding force for India-Malaysia relations.

This is Ibrahim's first India visit as the prime minister of

his country.

Murmu noted that both sides have decided to further intensify India-Malaysia rela-

**Malaysia is also a key partner for India in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and an important country in the Act East Policy and in the Indo-Pacific vision, she said**

tions by upgrading the ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, and are working towards an action-oriented roadmap for its implementa-

tion across various sectors of cooperation. The President said that India sees Malaysia as a strong part-

ner in the Global South.

Malaysia is also a key partner for India in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and an impor-

tant country in the Act East Policy and in the Indo-Pacific vision, she said.

Murmu extended best wishes for Malaysia's assumption of the Chair of ASEAN in 2025, reiterating that India will continue to work with Malaysia and extend all cooperation in the pursuit of "our shared objectives of a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region", according to a statement issued by the President's office.

Through Prime Minister Ibrahim, the President also conveyed her felicitations to the King of Malaysia, His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, on his recent coronation, it added.

Ration shops ...

Continued from page 1

With approximately 5.38 lakh FPS operational across India, the successful implementation of this pilot could pave the way for a nationwide transformation of the ration shop network.

The All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation welcomed the initiative, describing it as a "big relief" for shop owners grappling with viability issues. The launch event saw participation from senior FCI officials, state food secretaries, and representatives from the World Food Programme.

As the pilot unfolds, it remains to be seen how this re-imagining of ration shops as nutrition hubs will impact both dealers and beneficiaries in the public distribution system. Meanwhile, in a separate statement e2B2B platform udaan said it has partnered with Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to enhance the income of FPS dealers and improve nutritional outcomes for beneficiaries.

"By modernising Jan Poshan Kendra and expanding their access to a diverse range of products, the initiative aims to empower these essential community businesses while contributing to the broader goal of ensuring that every Indian has access to quality and affordable nutrition," udaan co-founder and CEO Vaibhav Gupta said.

Touch the statue if ...

Continued from page 1

CM said that KTR has been saying that he will remove Rajiv Gandhi's statue if he comes to power.

Touch the statue if anyone has cuts. KTR will say that he will remove Rajiv Gandhi's statue for his father's statue. The CM made it clear that the BRS will get power again and getting power will be a dream. KCR's family would confine to Chintamadak village only now, he said.

"KTR has been speaking about Telangana. The Thalli statue was not installed even though KTR was in power for 10 years. We will take the responsibility of installing the Telangana Thalli statue on December 9 inside the Secretariat.

There is no need to doubt our sincerity. Social boycott will take place if anyone speaks meaninglessly. There is no place for dacoits and boozers in front of the Secretariat," he said.

UPSC drops latest ...

Continued from page 1

It was one of the biggest tranches of lateral recruitment announced by the commission.

The decision had ignited criticism from the opposition parties, which claimed that it undermined the reservation rights of the Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Union Minister Chirag Paswan, the head of BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), had also said the

proposed recruitment was a "matter of concern" for him and that he would take up the matter with the Centre.

Official sources said the decision to cancel the advertisement was taken by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the government would now review the lateral-entry recruitment drive with reference to the applicability of reservation provisions in it.

At present, the sources said, there is no policy and provision for reservation for these specialised or single-cadre posts.

Cong to up the ante ...

Continued from page 1

including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, on the conglomerate headed by industrialist Gautam Adani.

The Congress has stepped up its attack on the government over the issue after Hindenburg Research launched a fresh broadside against market regulator SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, alleging she and her husband

had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning scandal.

Buch and her husband have since denied the allegations as baseless and asserted that their finances are an open book.

Adani Group has also termed Hindenburg Research's latest allegations as malicious and manipulative of select public information, saying it has no commercial relationship with the SEBI chairperson or her husband.

Hyd all set for realty ...

Continued from page 1

He said the current Congress government had announced many landmark development projects for Hyderabad like the Future City at Mucherla, the Skill Development University, the expansion of the Metro Rail, and the Musi Riverfront Development Project. These projects have created an atmosphere conducive to growth not only in Hyderabad but also in tier-2 and tier-3 cities across Telangana, he said.

He said that the efforts of

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu are likely to bring a surge in investment in the IT and manufacturing sectors.

He also praised Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for playing an important role in bringing the Regional Ring Road to Telangana.

He assured CREDAI that the Congress government is committed to taking Telangana to the next level. "In all your business operations our government is with you," he said.

Addressing concerns raised by the industry, he said that issues regarding the growth corridor, building coverage restrictions in peri-urban zones, farm layouts and zoning regulations were justified.

He also noted CREDAI's support for the government's initiative to increase the book value of land and promised to study issues like reducing stamp duty and revising the master plan. He urged industry leaders to submit written representations so that they can be addressed effectively.

SC terms it as horrific ...

Continued from page 1

The Supreme Court, which directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to submit a status report on the progress made in its investigation into the killing, also asked the state government to submit a report on the action it has taken against the vandals.

The court also expressed its deep concern over the name of the victim, her photographs and video clips showing her

lifeless body having been splashed all over the media.

Taking a serious note of mob violence in the hospital and the allegation that the Kolkata police fled the scene, the top court ordered deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the hospital to enable doctors to resume work.

"In the aftermath of the brutal incident and the demonstrations which followed, the State Government was expect-

ed to ensure the deployment of the state machinery to prevent a breach of law and order.

"It was all the more necessary to do so since investigation of the crime which took place in the precincts of the hospital was under way. We are unable to comprehend how the State was not prepared to deal with the incident of vandalism of the premises of the hospital," the top court said.

The bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud crit-

Extradite Hasina to face trial ...

Continued from page 1

"Staying there, she has started various plots to thwart the revolution that happened in Bangladesh," he alleged.

Over 230 people were killed in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina-led Awami League government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the

massive protest by students first started in mid-July.

An interim government was formed after the fall of the Hasina-led government, and 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was named its Chief Adviser.

The BNP secretary general said the people of this country do not consider her offences as minor. He said they think her "fas-

cist rule has weakened Bangladesh's independence and hindered the country's progress for the last 15 years".

During her regime, she made a debt burden of Tk 18 lakh crores for the nation and nearly USD 100 billion were siphoned off from the country, Fakhrul said, adding that all institutions of the country were destroyed during her misrule.

Don't distract from Raebareli Dalit's murder: Rahul

Evades queries on Kolkata case

PNS ■ RAEBARELI (UP)

Evading queries on the Kolkata doctor rape-and-murder case, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said he would speak on the matter in future as he does not want to be distracted from the issue of the murder of a Dalit

injustice "distraction" because it happened in Bengal This is an insult of the victim & of all women (sic)," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said on X.

Asked about the doctors' strike over the Kolkata case, Gandhi told reporters, "I have come here for this incident. I



youth whose family he met here.

"I have come here (Raebareli) for this incident (Dalit's youth killing). I have commented on the Kolkata incident and put forth my views. I do not want to distract from this incident here," he said while replying to media persons during his visit to the family members of 22-year-old Arjun Pasi who was shot dead on August 11.

Gandhi's remarks drew flak from the BJP which said it was an insult to the Kolkata victim and all women.

"Is Nyay for Beti a distraction? Those who speak about Sanvidhan, about Ladki hoon lad sakti hoon & visit victims homes in UP call a grave

know you do not want this issue to be distracted and not highlighted because you do not want Dalits' issues to be taken up. I have come here to protect Dalits, take up their cause. I will not allow distraction from this."

"Main Kolkata case par aage aane wale samay par bolunga (I will speak on the Kolkata case in the future)," he said.

A trainee doctor's body with severe injury marks was found inside the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9, leading to the arrest of a civic volunteer by the police the following day for his alleged involvement in the rape-murder case.

'Don't delay waiver benefit ...

Continued from page 1

Elaborating on the development goals of the government, Bhatti said the Congress government has decided to develop rural areas fast and has taken up construction of the Regional Ring Road.

Agriculture is the backbone of the State and investment support is being extended to farmers through loan waivers and Rythu Bharosa and funds are being allocated for the completion of major and medium irrigation projects.

The government is also providing 24 hour free power supply to farmers. All these

measures will strengthen agriculture and allied sectors, he said. Along with agriculture, Bhatti said priority is being given to industries and the government is going ahead with new policies.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Industry Minister Sridhar Babu signed MoUs worth Rs 36,000 crore during their recent visit to the US and South Korea, he said.

Small and medium-scale industries will generate large-scale employment, he said and asked bankers to sanction loans to these firms.

He also sought bankers' help in giving interest-free loans to

Self Help Groups under the Indra Mahila Shakti Scheme for industrial development. The government aims to provide Rs 1 lakh crore as interest-free loans to SHGs in the next five years, he said.

Bhatti expressed happiness over the encouraging performance of banks in the first quarter of the financial year 2024-25 in advancing loans to priority sectors.

Appreciating bankers, he said in the first quarter itself 40.62 per cent of the annual credit plan for the priority sector was achieved.

Significantly, the cash reserve ratio of the State improved to

127.29 per cent in the first quarter itself.

Telangana is one of the fastest growing states in the country and the Congress government is taking up development programmes to keep Telangana ahead in the race, he said. The increase in paddy production would help the state to take the lead position among States by supplying paddy to the FCI.

Bhatti said the government would extend help for oil palm cultivation in the State.

He hoped that bankers would exceed the target set for advancing credit in the next quarter of the financial year.

We will ...

Continued from page 1

Earlier in the day, KTR also posted about the Sunkishala Project saying, "As the main opposition party, we've been demanding a judicial inquiry into the Sunkishala incident and the blacklisting of Megha Engineering. Instead of acting against MEIL whose negligence resulted in the Sunkishala mishap, now the CM is going to reward them with the Kodangal Lift Irrigation contract worth Rs 4,350 crore! Wonder why this generosity and unconditional love for a company that he himself had labelled 'East India Company' and an exploiter of Telangana's wealth?"



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Take no chances!

Mpox is becoming a global concern. While there is no need to push the panic button yet, it is important to remain watchful

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is now facing another significant health challenge: Mpox, previously known as monkeypox. This viral disease, which has traditionally been confined to certain regions of Africa, has seen a disturbing rise in cases across the globe, prompting widespread concern and action from health authorities. Mpox is caused by the monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus, which also includes the smallpox virus. The good news is that it is not fatal in most cases and is curable. There is no specific treatment for mpox but most people recover in a few weeks. Supportive care and pain control can help people with good immune systems while those with low immunity can recover with medical treatment. While it is less deadly than smallpox, Mpox can still cause severe illness, especially in those with compromised immune systems. The virus is primarily transmitted to humans from animals, but human-to-human transmission can also occur, particularly through direct contact, bodily fluids, respiratory droplets, or contaminated materials like bedding. Mpox's symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and a distinctive rash that often starts on the face and spreads to other parts of the body.



As they say, once bitten twice shy, we have just wriggled out of corona pandemic and cannot afford to have another pandemic. It is not an epidemic but can become one if preventive measures are not taken. After a surge in Mpox cases globally Indian airports have ramped up surveillance and precautionary measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a nationwide advisory, urging airports to intensify screening processes and ensure that protocols for identifying and isolating potential cases are strictly followed. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported an uptick in Mpox cases across several regions, with particular concern in areas where the virus had previously been under control. Travellers exhibiting symptoms such as fever, rash, or swollen lymph nodes are being referred for further medical evaluation. Major international airports in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are at the forefront of these preventive measures. Special medical teams have been stationed at these hubs to conduct rapid assessments and ensure that any suspected cases of Mpox are swiftly isolated and treated. The focus is not just on inbound passengers; outbound travellers are also being advised to take precautions, particularly if they are heading to regions experiencing outbreaks. While India has not yet reported a significant number of Mpox cases, the proactive measures being implemented at airports are part of a broader strategy to prevent the virus from gaining a foothold in the country. Health experts emphasise that early detection and isolation are key to controlling the spread of Mpox, particularly in a densely populated country like India, where an outbreak could have severe consequences.

As they say, once bitten twice shy, we have just wriggled out of corona pandemic and cannot afford to have another pandemic. It is not an epidemic but can become one if preventive measures are not taken. After a surge in Mpox cases globally Indian airports have ramped up surveillance and precautionary measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a nationwide advisory, urging airports to intensify screening processes and ensure that protocols for identifying and isolating potential cases are strictly followed. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported an uptick in Mpox cases across several regions, with particular concern in areas where the virus had previously been under control. Travellers exhibiting symptoms such as fever, rash, or swollen lymph nodes are being referred for further medical evaluation. Major international airports in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are at the forefront of these preventive measures. Special medical teams have been stationed at these hubs to conduct rapid assessments and ensure that any suspected cases of Mpox are swiftly isolated and treated. The focus is not just on inbound passengers; outbound travellers are also being advised to take precautions, particularly if they are heading to regions experiencing outbreaks. While India has not yet reported a significant number of Mpox cases, the proactive measures being implemented at airports are part of a broader strategy to prevent the virus from gaining a foothold in the country. Health experts emphasise that early detection and isolation are key to controlling the spread of Mpox, particularly in a densely populated country like India, where an outbreak could have severe consequences.

### PICTALK



Flowers in full bloom in Amrit Udyan at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi

RANJAN DIMRI

# Another surprise regime change in neighbourhood



ASHOK K MEHTA

Amid economic distress and a coup, India's once strong alliance with Bangladesh teeters on uncertainty, as anti-India sentiment rises and strategic interests hang in the balance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned in his Independence Day speech that India is worried about developments in Bangladesh, especially about the safety of Hindus and other minorities there. Promptly Professor Yunus head of Caretaker Administration called Modi to reassure him of their safety. The soft coup in Dhaka, the fourth in 53 years is almost wholly student-driven following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina losing touch with her people and mounting economic distress. The killing of 200 and more protesters, many students, was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. COAS Gen Waqur Uz Zaman was left with only one choice: order Hasina to flee giving her 45 minutes.

The General must have foreseen this contingency as "the day after" scenario. Otherwise, the speed and orderly nature of the transition could not have been possible. The sentiment on the street is anti-Hasina with the Sheikh Mujib legacy she nurtured of freedom from Pakistan through a liberation war aided by India would not have been so bitterly desecrated. Anti-India feelings largely stem not only from India's blind support for Hasina despite the loss of democratic credentials but also some grievances that Bangladesh has nursed mainly like BSF firing on the border, not sharing Teesta waters and disallowing use of the Siliguri corridor.

Most of all, they were peeved by Home Minister Amit Shah calling Bangladeshis 'insects' and loud advocacy of CAA/NRC. Giving refuge to Hasina indefinitely could increase the anger against India. Critical strategic interests are at stake. Much has been written about the events of July and August in Bangladesh. Astonishing is the importance attached to conspiracy theories: naming the US, and CIA coveting St Martin Island which is also claimed by Myanmar and other usual suspects, Pakistani, ISI and China. While some of these players will certainly fish in troubled water, it is the role of Islamists and jihadi organisations India must



Even though a Nobel laureate, liberal democrat and regionalist, Mohammad Yunus is to lead the caretaker administration has said he will be guided by the students and their leaders Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud. The mystery in this drama is the extent to which Gen Zaman, a relative of Sheikh Hasina, was involved in the coup. No regime change has occurred in Bangladesh without the Army either facilitating or executing it. Sheikh Hasina's greatest achievement was transforming Bangladesh once a basket case into the fastest-growing economy in South Asia with human development indices surpassing all regional countries except Sri Lanka. Its garment industry was world-class till periodic protests and strikes over wages and COVID began to wreck it. Bangladesh grew at a steady 6.5 per cent for two decades with a per capita income of USD 2600, much higher than India's. But its growth story ended after it sought IMF assistance of USD 4.76 bn and inflation crossed 10 per cent.

Trade with India had grown phenomenally to nearly USD 18 bn. An FTA in the works for a long, had it materialised, Bangladesh's exports would have risen 182 per cent. The largest tourist population comes from Bangladesh giving

INDIA IS FACED WITH A CHALLENGING CONUNDRUM IN THE COUNTRY IT HELPED IN ITS BIRTH. THE GOLDEN PERIOD IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WHEN INDIA'S INTERESTS WERE BEING SUITABLY ADDRESSED IS BOUND TO CHANGE

fillip to medical tourism. Defence relations have enhanced miraculously: it is a story of turning foe into friend. This is quite extraordinary, given that Bangladesh used to portray India as an enemy in its war games. India has granted a \$500bn LoC for defence purchases but in Bangladesh's layered defence procurement system controlled by Armed Forces Division once led by Gen Zaman, India is at the lowest level for consideration for hardware with China topping the list at a level. Aircraft, submarines, tanks, artillery and other equipment are mainly of Chinese origin. Bangladesh is a nation in disarray being led by student leaders whose wishes are being promulgated by the Caretaker Administration. India is faced with a challenging conundrum in the country it helped in its birth. The golden period in bilateral relations when India's interests were being suitably addressed is bound to change given the fact that the new regime is targeting Sheikh Hasina and everyone associated with her or the Awami League. That the Bangladesh Army will become the conduit for a near-normal relationship is what India must hope for. Geography and economic logic also suggest that for Bangladesh to meet the chal-

lenge of its economic distress India's assistance will be necessary. Dhaka will not forget how New Delhi bailed out Colombo after its default in 2022 and the student protest movement which could not transform Sri Lanka's polity. Former only Hindu Chief Justice of Bangladesh Surendra Kumar Sinha who was sacked by Hasina said last week that everything that has happened in Bangladesh in the last few days has been unconstitutional and he cited the various changes brought about by the Caretaker Administration. In a revolution or a coup the constitution is one of several casualties. The Administration has said that institutional reforms will include reviewing the constitution before any election can take place. All this will take time. It is the early days of regime change with the future clouded with uncertainty. India's new geo-political challenge is shaping and it must now begin engaging relevant stakeholders. What it will do about Sheikh Hasina and Awami League will be one of many challenges.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CHANKYA OF INDIAN POLITICS

Madam — As a doyen of literature and a great administrator, no one can come close to him for having used "Anna Arivalayaam" as a treasure of knowledge center which paved the way for his glorious political career. The gesture from the Centre will be a welcoming one for the DMK to feel warmth that a commemorative coin of Rs.100 has been released by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Chennai to mark the Birth Centenary of Kalaingar Dr. M. Karunanidhi.

As a prominent writer and politician, he served as the CM for over two decades. His tenure as CM was the longest in the State's history by the count of 6863 days. Whatever one can see as the light and shade in TN in state's progress, Karunanidhi was instrumental for the same. He has recorded 13 times unbeaten in all the contested assembly elections. He reaped what he sowed and the tall leader deserves the coin as an honor for his contributions.

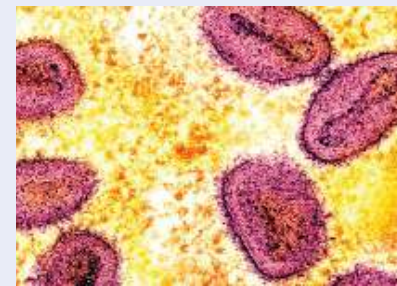
AP Thirvadi | Chennai

### DOCTORS' SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Madam — I strongly condemn the recent horrific incident in West Bengal involving the heinous crime against an innocent 31 year old junior trainee female doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. My heartfelt condolences go to the victim's family. As a matter of fact, it is not for the first time that such horrific incidents take place in one corner or the other across the country.

We have not forgotten the Nirbhaya case of Delhi. The other day, police have booked three persons, including two women, and detained two of them after a female doctor was allegedly assaulted at civic-run Sion hospital in the early hours of Sunday. Under the circumstances, resignations are not the solution and those who ask for resignation of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, will they ask for the resignation of the

### M-pox is turning into a global threat



The risk of M-pox is turning as a global health emergency after its cases took a surge spike in the African continent particularly. The disease had reached western continent as well, recently Sweden too confirmed it's first ever M-pox infected case along with the USA. So far more than 1 lakh cases been reported from around 116 countries in total, however the ministry of health

and family welfare confirmed it's possible chances as low for India. But we just can't underestimate the risk from M-pox virus. Taking precautions from one's own self is the utmost way to avoid any disease coming to our body. Although there is no such designated cure and vaccine for it right now, but precautions like smallpox and cow pox can be adhered for it as well. The zoonotic diseases had turned common after their frequent transmission from the animals to the mankind, it is unfortunate that we our own self is responsible for creating this imbalance between our and animals habitat. Man is itself responsible for the tragic over exploitation of everything, the consequences are in front of us.

The virus disease from squirrel and monkeys are now entered in human now, risk prevention and mitigation had to be implemented on early basis, to avoid another pandemic for the world.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Maharashtra Chief Minister for this incident or in Uttarakhand where two days back a similar incident had happened? Instead of asking resignations, the grim situation warrants the urgent need for enhanced safety measures for health-care workers throughout the hospitals in the country.

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

### LATERAL ENTRY

Madam — The issue of lateral entry (Pioneer, 19th Aug. Pg.4) in the Government services politically assailed as deprivation to the reserved classes and through RSS instead of UPSC needs closer examination from administrative angle and technology gaps in the government services cadre. It is not a political issue.

Neither it forfeits the interests of reserved classes in the services nor it encroaches their recruitment in the civil or subordinate services. Already several government controlled services relating to digitisation, advanced technological projects etc. have been outsourced to the

companies and entities having desired skills and resources. The patterns of recruitment of civil and subordinate services in the Central and State governments lacks appointment and engagement of specialised and skilled cadres. Presently all government services are being operated digitally through applications and online mechanisms.

The traditional government services are red taped and have colonial essence which are not public oriented. In fact, UPSC must reform its recruitment systems for various services to facilitate appointments of a strong and robust cadre of technocrats highly specialised in latest technologies like cyber security, fintechs, block chain, metaverse, cloud, artificial intelligence etc. who can provide services to all government departments instead of lateral entries which will always be despised and envied within the government cadres.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

## Cyber security: Reducing attack surfaces in the digital age



RIPU BAJWA

As cyber threats become more sophisticated, cybersecurity requires a proactive approach. Advancing security practices through Zero Trust principles is key

As cyber threats continue to evolve, it's important to remember cybersecurity is not a one-time task but an ongoing process. Advancing cybersecurity and Zero Trust maturity starts by focusing on three core practice areas: reducing the attack surface, detecting and responding to cyber threats and recovering from a cyberattack throughout the infrastructure, including edge, core and cloud. The attack surface refers to all potential areas in an environment that a cyber attacker can target or exploit. These points can include software vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, weak authentication mechanisms, unpatched systems, excessive user privileges, open network ports, poor physical security and more. This is achieved by minimizing the potential vulnerabilities and entry points that attackers can exploit to compromise a system, network or organization across various domains including the edge, the core or the cloud. Some ways we can strengthen our security posture: Apply Zero Trust principles: Zero Trust is a security



concept centred on the belief that organizations should not automatically trust anything inside or outside their perimeters and instead must verify everything trying to connect to their systems before granting access. Organizations can achieve a Zero Trust model by incorporating solutions like micro-segmentation, identity and access management (IAM), multi-factor authentication (MFA) and security analytics, to name a few.

Patch and update regularly: Keeping operating systems, software and applications up to date with the latest security patches helps address known vulnerabilities and minimize the risk of exploitation. Ensure secure configuration: Systems, networks and

devices need to be correctly configured with security best practices, such as disabling unnecessary services, using strong passwords and enforcing access controls, to reduce the potential attack surface. Apply the principle of least privilege: Limit user and system accounts to only have the minimum access rights necessary to perform their tasks.

Use network segmentation: Dividing a network into segments or zones with different security levels helps contain an attack and prevents lateral movement of a cyber threat by isolating critical assets and limiting access between different parts of the network. Ensure application security: Implementing secure coding practices, conducting regular security testing and code reviews and using web application firewalls (WAFs) help protect against common application-level attacks and reduce the attack surface of web applications. Utilize AI/ML: According to the Dell Technologies 2024 Innovation Catalyst report, 58% of Indian businesses feel GenAI will provide automation to help

with the efficiency and scale needed to deal with the influx of threats. We can leverage AI capabilities to help proactively identify and patch vulnerabilities, significantly shrinking the attack surface. Work with suppliers who maintain a secure supply chain: Ensure a trusted foundation with devices and infrastructure that are designed, manufactured and delivered with security in mind. Suppliers that provide a secure supply chain, secure development lifecycle and rigorous threat modeling keep you a step ahead of threat actors.

Educate users and promote awareness: By proactively implementing these measures, organizations can effectively reduce the attack surface, helping to mitigate risks and making it more challenging for adversaries to exploit vulnerabilities, enhancing the overall defence posture against new and emerging threats.

(The writer is Director and General Manager, Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies India; views are personal)

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

## THE HIGH COST OF FAST FASHION

Sustainable clothing that is produced ethically should be our responsible fashion choice



SHAINY SHARMA

Fast fashion, which refers to the rapid production of inexpensive clothing based on the latest trends, has transformed the global fashion industry. Brands like Zara, H&M, and Forever 21 have led this movement, providing trendy, affordable clothing at an unprecedented speed. By turning runway designs into store-ready garments in just weeks, fast fashion has made the latest styles accessible to a wide audience, particularly young consumers. While this has democratized fashion, it comes with serious environmental, social, and economic consequences. The fast fashion model thrives on its ability to meet consumer demand for low-cost, trendy clothing. The business strategy relies on efficient supply chains that quickly replicate popular styles, keeping consumers constantly engaged with new products. This approach fuels the desire for inexpensive, fashion-forward clothing, allowing consumers to experiment with various trends without spending much. For younger consumers, who often use fashion as a means of self-expression, this is particularly appealing. However, the lower quality and shorter lifespan of these clothes contribute to a cycle of overconsumption, waste, and environmental harm.

One of the biggest drawbacks of fast fashion is its environmental impact. The industry is energy-intensive, relying heavily on fossil fuels for textile production and transportation. It is estimated that the fashion industry is responsible for about 10% of global carbon emissions, surpassing the emissions from all international flights and maritime shipping combined. This is due to the widespread use of synthetic fibers, which are



derived from fossil fuels, and the energy required for manufacturing and global distribution. Furthermore, the production process consumes vast amounts of water, especially in the case of cotton, a commonly used fabric that requires thousands of liters to produce just one kilogram. Additionally, textile dyeing and finishing processes contribute significantly to water pollution. Fast fashion's environmental footprint extends beyond carbon emissions and water consumption.

Workers in fast fashion supply chains often endure poor working conditions and low wages. In many cases, these exploitative labor practices are linked to environmental degradation, as manufacturers in low-regulation regions cut costs by disregarding environmental standards. Thus, the social and environmental issues of fast fashion are intertwined. Despite these concerns, fast fashion remains popular due to its affordability and the constant influx of new styles. Many consumers, particularly those on tight budgets, are unaware of or choose to overlook the ethical and environmental implications of their purchases. However, there is a growing movement toward sustainable fashion, driven by increasing awareness of these issues. Sustainable fashion prioritizes quality over quantity, using eco-friendly materials and ethical production practices. Some brands are adopting circular economy principles, focusing on recycling, upcycling, and designing products for durability.

Consumers must be educated about the environmental consequences of their choices, and governments should implement stricter regulations on textile production and promote recycling initiatives. Encouraging sustainable practices and fostering demand for eco-friendly products can push the industry toward more responsible production methods. The shift from fast fashion to sustainable alternatives is critical for reducing the industry's environmental and social toll.

In conclusion, while fast fashion has made high-fashion trends more accessible, its environmental and social costs are significant. Addressing these challenges will require concerted efforts from consumers, industry leaders, and policymakers to move toward more ethical and sustainable fashion practices.

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

## Gas pricing: Reforms turn into a control regime



UTTAM GUPTA

Government's decision to grant a 20 per cent premium on natural gas from the state owned new wells has added complexity to the gas pricing regime



The decision of the Union Government to grant a 20 per cent premium over the APM price (a jargon for administered or controlled price) for any natural gas (NG) that state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) will produce from the 'new wells or well interventions' from their nominated fields has made the NG pricing more complicated. It is an outcome of a thought process that focuses on unshackling the oil and gas industry from price controls to start with but ends up exercising more controls.

Every year, India consumes 59.5 billion cubic metres (bcm) of NG. Of this, nearly 54 per cent or 32.13 bcm is produced domestically, and the balance is met from imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Of the domestic gas, around two-thirds is from blocks given on nomination to ONGC and OIL and from fields given under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) (launched in 1999) as well as those given to private firms before the NELP. NG supplies from the aforementioned fields (known in common parlance as 'legacy fields') are governed by a particular pricing regime.

Before April 2023, under the pricing guidelines effective since November 2014, supplies from these fields used to be a weighted average (WA) of prices of NG at four international locations: Henry Hub (the USA), Alberta Gas (Canada), NBP (National Balancing Point) (the UK), and Russian Gas. The prices used for arriving at the WA were over twelve months. It was revised every six months in a financial year (FY).

The four global hubs have fairly mature gas markets and the prices obtained there are pretty reasonable. Moreover, considering that the prices for twelve consecutive months were used for arriving at the WA, it smoothened out the month-to-month variations thereby ensuring that the price to the consumers was 'stable'. From April 1, 2023, the government changed the above system based on the recommendations of the Kirit Parikh committee (2022). Under the new formula, for any given month, the price expressed per million

British thermal units (Btu) (energy units used globally for setting NG prices) is arrived at by taking 10 per cent of the monthly average of the basket of Indian crude oil in the preceding month. The price thus calculated is subject to a price band of US\$4 - 6.50 per Btu. The shift to link the price of NG with the crude oil price is flawed as natural gas is not a replacement for crude oil. The pricing of NG has to be on its own, especially when nearly half of the gas is used for urea production and power generation. Given the intimate connection of these sectors to food security and the need for affordable electricity (especially for farmers and poor household consumers) and heavy subsidies are involved, the gas price has to be 'reasonable' and 'stable'.



EVERY YEAR, INDIA CONSUMES 59.5 BILLION CUBIC METRES (BCM) OF NG. OF THIS, NEARLY 54 PER CENT OR 32.13 BCM IS PRODUCED DOMESTICALLY, AND THE BALANCE IS MET FROM IMPORTS OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

While the earlier formula met both these requirements, the new one effective from April 2023 doesn't as the volatility in crude prices and monthly revisions in NG price linked to crude can create uncertainties for both sectors. To avoid this, the government has put a price band. What this means is even when the price determined based on crude linkage turns out to be higher (at the current Indian basket price of USD 77 per barrel, the NG price comes to US\$ 7.7 per Btu) than the ceiling of US\$ 6.50 per Btu, the price will be set at US\$ 6.50 per mBtu. Given the movement in crude price since April 2023 and considering that in the near term, it will continue to rule well above US\$ 75 per barrel, the formula-based price will always be much more than US\$ 6.50 per Btu. So, the ceiling price will be the price to consumers thus rendering the formula redundant. Effectively, thus there is control on the gas price for two-thirds of domestic production and that too at a level,

the government wants. One wonders whether a premium of 20 per cent allowed on gas supplied from the so-called 'new wells' or 'well interventions' in the nomination fields of ONGC and OIL will make any difference to the situation on the ground.

Applying a 20 per cent premium to the formula-determined price of US\$ 7.7 per mBtu (77x0.1), we get US\$ 9.24 per mBtu. But, then there is a cap of US\$ 6.50 per mBtu. So, the price remains at US\$ 6.50 per Btu. The purpose of giving premiums is defeated. On the other hand, if the government intends to build a 20 per cent premium on the ceiling price and give US\$ 7.8 per mBtu then, it makes no sense to put a cap in the first place. The moot point is: if anyway ONGC and OIL are to be given a good price, let this be driven solely by the formula and putting a cap is unwarranted.

At least, there is an element of 'predictability'; firms on their own can calculate as to what price they will be getting. But, here we have an APM price namely US\$ 6.50 per mBtu (call it base price) that is arrived solely at the discretion of the bureaucrat. And, yet another price for supplies from the so-called 'new wells' or 'well interventions' which is arrived at by adding 20 per cent to this. This too is at the discretion of the bureaucrat. Moreover, which fields get the benefit of interventions will also be at his discretion.

Even the pricing of the remaining one-third of domestic NG supplied from the so-called deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields (KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries and neighbouring KG-DWN-98/2 operated by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari basin off the Andhra Pradesh coast fall in this category) isn't free from 'discretion' and 'arbitrariness'.

Technically though, the firms can go for competitive bidding to determine the price for such supplies (referred to as a 'premium price'), this too is subject to a ceiling linked to the prices of alternate fuels including fuel oil, naphtha, and LNG. On taking charge in 2014, the Modi - government started the process of reforming gas pricing by introducing formula-based pricing for legacy gas and thereafter in 2016 by permitting market-based pricing for supplies from deep/ultra-deep and high-pressure/high-temperature fields. But, it has ended up exercising control of both. Meanwhile, the Kirit Parikh committee had recommended the de-regulation of difficult gas fields' prices by January 1, 2026, and the de-regulation of APM prices for gas supplies from the legacy fields by January 1, 2027. But, the government is silent on these recommendations. In fact, by adding more categories (read: 'new wells' and 'well interventions'), it has given a signal that the administered/controlled pricing regime for NG and attendant bureaucratic red tape is here to stay.

Delivering the 75th Independence Day address on August 15, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the country a target to achieve self-reliance in energy production by boosting the gas-based economy (besides giving a push to electric mobility and hydrogen production). He wanted the share of NG in the total energy mix to go up from the current around 6 per cent to 15 per cent. But, in the absence of a 'stable' and 'predictable' policy environment particularly when it comes to the most crucial aspect of pricing of gas, this won't be possible.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## Healthcare under siege: Rising violence, gender disparity, and the fight for justice

The silent struggles of healthcare workers, often overlooked, reveal a disturbing reality of increasing violence in hospitals and clinics

During Independence Day address, the Chief Justice of Telangana proudly announced that he had recommended a Protection of Advocates Act to the state government. The applause that followed made me think of the resident doctors marching through the rain in Delhi, gathering their courage to demand a law that protects healthcare professionals from the increasing violence in spaces that are supposed to be the safest.

In 2019, the draft Healthcare Service Personnel & Clinical Establishments Bill was introduced, seeking to penalise those who assault healthcare workers. However, the Home Ministry opposed it, stating that no separate law was nec-



SATENDRA SINGH

essary for doctors. A Right to Information (RTI) response from the Health Ministry later revealed that the draft Bill had been withdrawn. On July 26, 2024, the Health Minister further rejected the idea of a central law, asserting in the Lok Sabha that the newly enacted BNS and BNSS laws provided adequate protection for medical professionals. Despite this, healthcare professionals' anger is justified. Why

doesn't the public show the same solidarity as they did during the Nirbhaya case, where the horrific rape and murder of a physiotherapy student led to nationwide outrage? Even amid a national strike by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) over the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, another tragedy was overlooked—the brutal killing of a nurse, a single mother, who went missing from a hospital in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand. Her body was found in Uttar Pradesh after she had been strangled and bludgeoned to death.

Similarly, in Gujarat in 2020, an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker was raped while on duty. According to a study published in the \*Journal of Global

Health Reports\*, 32% of ASHA workers face sexual violence, while 88% experience emotional and economic abuse. Disturbingly, 12% report sexual violence from their husbands, and 64% from beneficiaries and their families. These incidents highlight the pervasive threat healthcare workers face. Last year, a doctor allegedly raped a nurse at a clinic in northeast Delhi. In another case, a Bhopal doctor was accused of confining and raping a 19-year-old patient. Just recently, at the same medical college in Bhopal, a resident doctor was suspended for inappropriate behavior with a cancer patient. Violence against healthcare workers also extends beyond sexual violence. Last month in Manipur, armed assailants



attacked a children's hospital, and two weeks later, a patient was shot dead at Delhi's GTB Hospital due to mistaken identity.

These violent acts, whether committed against doctors, nurses, paramedics, or patients, must be addressed with the same urgency and seriousness. However, the IMA has yet to make a statement regarding the rape and murder of the nurse in Rudrapur.

Have they suspended the membership of the Principal of RG Kar Medical College, implicated in the Kolkata case? Has the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) taken action against its accused member?

A journalist recently tweeted during a doctors' protest, asking where the female doctors were in leadership positions. This raises a crucial point. According to a study published in PLOS Global Public Health, out of 46 professional medical associations in India, only 9 (less than 20%) are headed by women. Neither the Academy of Hospital Administration (AHA) nor the IOA has ever had a female president. This is despite women demonstrating remarkable leadership in healthcare—both my hospital

and medical college are currently led by women doctors, and more than 50% of the heads of departments are women. Clearly, women are capable of leading in healthcare, but they remain under-represented in top positions. Of the 64 individuals currently serving as presidents and secretaries of the 32 state chapters of the IMA, only three are women.

It's time to move beyond token representation. Women doctors must be given more leadership opportunities. One of the most balanced and comprehensive statements on the issue of healthcare violence has come from Women in Global Health India. Their statement calls for an end to sexual violence in all healthcare settings, and it emphasizes that

anyone—whether doctor, nurse, paramedic, or even political party member—who commits such violence must face severe consequences.

Eleanor Roosevelt, who played a key role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, once famously said that human rights begin in small, often overlooked places.

In the context of today's healthcare system, that means the seminar room of RG Kar Medical College or the private hospital in Rudrapur—spaces where violence has occurred, but which remain untouched by reforms.

(The writer is director-professor at the University College of Medical Sciences and a disability justice advocate. Views are personal)

IN BRIEF



BIS launches hackathon to boost awareness

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Tuesday announced a new hackathon initiative to develop an online platform to promote awareness of Indian standards through interactive activities and games. The competition is open to students from institutions that have existing memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with BIS. Participants can access guidelines and submit applications through the official hackathon portal by August 23. BIS, in a statement, stated that the primary goal is to foster interest and enhance knowledge about Indian Standards among the general public and stakeholders. "The awareness of quality and standards is very important in the infrastructural and social development of the country," BIS said. The proposed platform is expected to feature various BIS-related activities, including time-bound and ongoing games.



Paddy, pulses sowing area up 6 pc so far

Paddy acreage has increased by six per cent to 369.05 lakh hectare so far in the ongoing 2024-25 kharif (summer) season, the agriculture ministry said on Tuesday. In the year-ago period, the area under paddy was 349.49 lakh hectare. Sowing of paddy, the main kharif crop, begins with the onset of southwest monsoon in June, and harvesting takes place from September. Additionally, the area sown to pulses increased to 120.18 lakh hectare till August 20 of the ongoing season, from 113.69 lakh hectare in the same period last year, the ministry said in a statement. There was a rise in coverage of 'arhar' to 45.78 lakh hectare from 40.74 lakh hectare. Area sown to 'urad' was 28.33 lakh hectare against 29.52 lakh hectare. The area under coarse cereals and 'Shree Anna' (millets) increased to 181.11 lakh hectare from 176 lakh hectare in the year-ago period.



IDBI Bank hikes FD rate to 7.85 pc for 444-day tenure

With an aim to garner more deposits, IDBI Bank on Tuesday increased its fixed deposit rate to 7.85 per cent for 444-day tenure for a limited period. The bank now offers a peak rate of 7.85 per cent and 7.75 per cent per annum on tenures of 444 days and 375 days, respectively, IDBI Bank said in a statement. This enhancement makes the Utsav Fixed Deposit an even more compelling option for customers seeking higher yields, it said. This offer is valid till September 30, 2024, it said, adding, customers can open an Utsav Fixed Deposit conveniently through the bank's website or mobile banking application or at any branch of the bank. Besides this, IDBI Bank continues to offer competitive rates on other special tenures under the Utsav Fixed Deposit scheme. The 700-day tenure offers a peak rate of 7.70 per cent, while the 300-day tenure provides 7.55 per cent, it said. Both Finance Minister and RBI Governor have expressed concern over slow pace in deposit growth as compared to credit growth. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had flagged concerns over household savings moving towards alternative investment avenues and asked banks to mobilise deposits through innovative

'Abandoning RBI's inflation target regime could be risky'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) inflation targeting regime has worked well and need not be abandoned in favour of a more discretionary regime that could be risky and counterproductive, a new research paper has said. The paper titled 'Inflation Targeting In India: A Further Assessment' said the weight of food-price inflation in the CPI inflation basket should be reduced to better reflect the circumstances of Indian households. "The RBI's inflation targeting regime has worked well. Given this record, radical changes such as broadening its mandate or abandoning the target in favour of a more discretionary regime would be risky and counterproductive," it said. The paper is authored by economists Barry Eichengreen (University of California, Berkeley) and Poonam Gupta (NCAER). In contrast, the paper noted that the 4 per cent point

target, +/-2 per centage point tolerance band and focus on headline inflation remain broadly appropriate. "That said, the regime can be tweaked to improve performance," it suggested. The government and the RBI signed an inflation-targeting agreement in February 2015 and amended the RBI Act in May 2016. The inflation target was set by the government in consultation with the RBI with the possibility of revisiting it after five years. Accordingly, the government announced, via the Official Gazette, 4 per cent Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation as the target from August 5, 2016, with an upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and a lower limit of 2 per cent. For most part, the paper pointed out that targets set under the inflation-targeting agreement have been met; and on almost all counts, it has performed as envisaged.



India & Lanka sign pact for power generation

PNS ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan government and a state-run Indian firm on Tuesday signed an agreement to develop infrastructure for storage, regasification and LNG supply for a combined cycle power plant in the island nation, according to the power and energy ministry here. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Sri Lanka's LTL Holdings Limited and India's Petronet LNG Limited for the infrastructure development of the Sobadhanavi Combined Cycle Power Plant at Kerawalapitiya, north Colombo. The Sri Lankan Minister of Power and Energy, Kanchana Wijesekera, and the Deputy High Commissioner of India, Satyanjal Pandey, signed the MoU at a ceremony here. Wijesekera said the power generation could be as low as fifty per cent less here than generation through fuel usage. "MOU for the development of Storage facilities, Regasification unit in Kerawalapitiya and the supply of LNG for the Yugadhanavi,



Sobadhanavi & other LNG power plants in Sri Lanka was signed today," Wijesekera said in a post on X. He said the initiative will "reduce the cost of energy from thermal power generation to the consumer from 2026, contribute towards the clean energy transformation, stabilise the grid for renewable energy integration, create a domestic market for LNG, facilitate LNG bunkering in the future & domestic other LNG requirements." "MOU between LTL Holdings Ltd Sri Lanka & Petro Net LNG of India aims to invest in development and implement the 18-month programme from the signing of the MOU to facilitate the LNG requirements through ISO container from Petro Net LNG Kochi Terminal to Port of Colombo and Kerawalapitiya to 1000 MWs of LNG power plants," he said. The 350 MW LNG-based Combined Cycle Power Plant 'Sobadhanavi' is a landmark power project currently underway in Sri Lanka, according to the adaderana.lk news portal.

Antfin Singapore Holding sells 2.1 per cent stake in Zomato for Rs 4,771 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Antfin Singapore Holding on Tuesday divested a little over 2 per cent stake in online food delivery firm Zomato for Rs 4,771 crore through open market transactions. Antfin Singapore Holding Pte is an arm of Ant Financial Group, while the latter is a part of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. According to the bulk deal data available on the BSE, Antfin Singapore Holding sold 18,54,40,550 shares in two tranches, amounting to a 2.1 per cent stake in Gurugram-based Zomato. The shares were disposed of in the price range of Rs 257.17-257.46 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 4,771.66 crore. After the share sale, Antfin Singapore Holding's stake has been reduced to 2.14 per cent from 4.24 per cent. Details of buyers of Zomato's shares could not be ascertained. Shares of Zomato rose 0.27 per cent to close at Rs 263 apiece on the BSE. In March this year, Antfin Singapore Holding parted a 2 per cent stake in Zomato for Rs 2,827 crore.

MINING COMPANIES

'SC ruling on royalties and taxes will affect profitability'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Ratings has said the Supreme Court ruling on royalties and taxes will be credit negative for mining companies like Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement, and Vedanta Resources Ltd, as it will dent their cash flows and affect their profitability. "The RBI's inflation targeting regime has worked well. Given this record, radical changes such as broadening its mandate or abandoning the target in favour of a more discretionary regime would be risky and counterproductive," it said. The paper is authored by economists Barry Eichengreen (University of California, Berkeley) and Poonam Gupta (NCAER). In contrast, the paper noted that the 4 per cent point



negative) because the instalment payments will dent their cash flows," Moody's Ratings said in a statement. "These companies will have to pay state taxes going forward that will hurt their profitability," it said. "While the companies' retrospective taxes could be significant, the effect on their cash flows will be eased because owed taxes will be paid in installments over 12 years beginning 1 April 2026," Moody's Ratings said. Companies' ability to pass on

higher costs to customers could also mitigate the effect on their profitability, as per the statement. However, the new taxes as well as denting cash flows, could prompt them to recalibrate their capital spending plans, it said. During the hearing on July 31, the Centre and mining companies have opposed the demand of states for refund of royalty collected since 1989. The July 25 verdict had overruled a 1989 judgement and subsequent decisions of the apex court, which held that only the Centre has power to impose royalty on minerals and mineral-bearing land. Some opposition-ruled mineral rich states then sought refund of royalty levied by the Centre and taxes from the mining companies since the 1989 verdict.

SILVER JUMPS RS 3,150

Gold rallies Rs 1,400 to Rs 74,150 per 10 grams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices saw the sharpest gain in the past one month and rallied by Rs 1,400 to touch Rs 74,150 per 10 grams in the local market on Tuesday, amid strong global cues. The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,750 per 10 grams in the previous session on Friday. Silver price also climbed by Rs 3,150 to Rs 87,150 per kilogram from Rs 84,000 per kg in the previous close. Gold prices recorded a steady fall after Union Finance Minister announced import duty cut on the metal in the annual budget for FY25. On July 23, the yellow metal had crashed Rs 3,350 to



touch Rs 72,300 per 10 grams. Meanwhile on Tuesday, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity increased by Rs 1,400 each to Rs 74,150 and Rs 73,800 per 10 grams, respectively. Traders attributed the rise in gold prices to increased demand from local jewellers as well as global trends. On the global front, gold is trading higher at USD 2,560.10 per ounce, up USD 18.80 per ounce.

"Gold extended its gains on Tuesday, buoyed by expectations of aggressive US Federal Reserve (Fed) interest rate cuts," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, Comex gold prices started the week with modest gains, peaking at a record high of USD 2,549.90 before settling at USD 2,541. "The uptick was driven by safe-haven demand and a weaker dollar amid concerns over the resilience of the US economy, geopolitical tensions, and recent comments from the Chicago Fed President that reignited recession fears.

Indian cos to spend USD 45-50 bn in capex: Moody's

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Ratings on Tuesday said rated Indian companies will spend USD 45-50 billion annually over the next 1-2 years towards capex as companies boost capacity, with the country's most valued firm Reliance Industries alone accounting for 30 per cent of the spendings. Investments to increase vertical integration and achieve net zero targets will also keep spending high, Moody's Ratings said in a report on corporates in India and Indonesia. "Rated Indian companies' capex will remain elevated at around USD 45-50 billion annually over the next one to two years. With an annual capex budget of around USD 15 billion spread across its different business segments, Reliance Industries alone will account for around 30 per cent of the portfolio capex," Moody's Ratings said. The oil and gas sector and Reliance Industries will collec-

tively account for over 60 per cent of the rated Indian portfolio's spending over the next couple of years. Moody's said the seven rated oil and gas companies in India will also account for around 30 per cent of rated Indian companies' capex. These companies will spend around USD 15 billion annually to expand existing capacity and make green energy investments to reduce carbon transition risk. For instance, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (Baa3 stable) and Indian Oil will spend USD 6 billion and USD 4 billion, respectively, in each of the next two years on reserves addition, downstream integration and energy transition, Moody's added. It also said strong earnings will continue to keep the leverage of Indian corporates low, even as companies push ahead with capital spending plans in response to consumption growth and as offshore borrowing rates remain high.

Sensex rebounds 370 points; bank stocks spurt

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty found firmer ground on Tuesday, propelled by robust buying in banking, financial and auto stocks amid a largely firm trend in global equities. Besides, easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and falling global crude oil prices further bolstered sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded 378.18 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 80,802.86. During the day, the benchmark soared 518.28 points or 0.64 per cent to 80,942.96. Rising for the fourth consecutive day, the NSE Nifty surged 126.20 points or 0.51 per cent to 24,698.85. "The domestic market started the session with a strong surge, buoyed by positive global sentiment amidst Israel-Hamas ceasefire talks and diminishing US recession fears due to recent favourable data.



"Concurrently, easing geopolitical risks and weak China demand have led to a decline in crude prices, benefiting the domestic economy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, NTPC, and Sun Pharma were the major gainers. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Adani Ports, JSW Steel and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In the broader market, the

BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.98 per cent and smallcap index went up by 0.52 per cent. Among the indices, financial services jumped 1.19 per cent, utilities (1.07 per cent), power (0.80 per cent), IT (0.76 per cent) and auto (0.75 per cent). Capital Goods and FMCG were the laggards. "Meanwhile, inflationary pressure in Japan and the appreciating Yen cautioned the rally. This week's Japan inflation data and FOMC minutes will provide insights into future interest rate trajectories and market trends," Nair said.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading with gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday. "Much of the strength and rally in Dalal Street is in the backdrop of steady SIP flows by retail investors. Global factors will be keenly watched as local investors would be eyeing the July FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting minutes to be released on Wednesday," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,667.46 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. However, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,802.92 crore. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.72 per cent to USD 77.10 a barrel.

Building materials biz expected to log big growth: Birla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Tuesday said the conglomerate's building materials business is expected to see significant growth over the next several years with cement and decorative paints poised to be a key segment on the back of housing and infrastructure boom in India. Moreover, the outlook of the Indian economy remains "positive" supported by strengthening of macroeconomic fundamentals, a robust financial and corporate sec-

tor, and a resilient external sector. The government's continued thrust on capex while pursuing fiscal consolidation, and consumer and business optimism augur well for investment and consumption demand, he said. Birla was addressing the AGM of the group's holding firm Grasim, which controls the group's flagship firms including UltraTech, Aditya Birla Finance and other investments in textiles, chemicals and paints. Grasim has invested Rs 50,000 crore in capex over the



The government's continued thrust on capex while pursuing fiscal consolidation, and consumer and business optimism augur well for investment and consumption demand, he said

past five years, of which 77 per cent is dedicated to growth initiatives, he said adding this would position it for sustained growth and value creation. "Remarkably, 40 per cent of this amount—nearly Rs 20,000 crore was spent in FY 2023-24 alone, marking the

largest-ever capital expenditure in our history," he added. According to Birla, its cement and decorative paints are poised to be a key segment of this expansion, with "robust demand" projected across the nation. "With our cement business, UltraTech, our decorative paints business, Birla Opus, and our B2B e-commerce platform for building materials, Birla Pivot, we are well-equipped to lead the charge in meeting the rising needs of India's construction," said Birla. Cement maker UltraTech is

rapidly scaling its capacity through acquisitions and brownfield expansions. It had last month announced acquisition of Tamil Nadu-based India Cements Ltd (ICL). Its Rs 3,142 crore open offer for acquiring 26 per cent stake in ICL would open on September 19. In FY24, it increased its cement production capacity by 13.8 MTPA through expansion projects and crossed 150 MTPA production capacity. It is now the third-largest cement company in the world, excluding China.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 NIT No. 7/EE/SRNR/GHMC/2024-25. Dated: 20.08.2024  
 Name of the Work: For (1) No. of Works 'S/WD Maintenance'. Estimate Amount: Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 24.08.2024 @ 3.01 P.M., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sr. K. Srinivas, Executive Engineer, Saroomagar Circle-5, GHMC. (M): 9989930802. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Saroomagar Circle-5, GHMC

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 NIT No.: Tender Notice No.02/SE/SWM/GHMC/2024-25. Dated: 20.08.2024  
 Name of the Works/ Products: Empanelment of agencies for finalizing the L1 rate for supply & delivery of 8 inch, 1 feet and 1.5 feet clay ganesh idols to GHMC for Vinayaka Chavithi Festival 2024. Bid Document Download Start date: 21.08.2024 @ 10.00 AM onwards. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids offline: 27.08.2024 @ 11.00 AM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: O/o. CTO (HO), IV floor, CC Complex. GHMC HO, Tank bund Road, Hyderabad. Cell +91-9704456422. The Tender document shall be downloaded from https://www.ghmc.gov.in under 'downloads'-'Tender Notification' section (or) may be obtained from the above mentioned office address Sd/- Superintending Engineer (SWM), GHMC



## 'Everybody is desperate and so am I for followers'

TEJAL SINHA

Hated by many, while also loved by many—but never ignored by any—is Uorfi. Despite starting on TV shows like *Bade Bhaiyya Ki Dulhania*, *Chandra Nandini* and *Meri Durga*, among others, it was her appearance on the first season of *Bigg Boss OTT* that really pushed her into the spotlight. Since then, she has become a sensation, garnering a large following and generating controversies along the way, with no regrets.

But what if you get to see her unfiltered life? Well, you actually can, with Prime Videos' upcoming nine-episode series *Follow Kar Lo Yaar* bringing to you a revelation of the mystery of her life, streaming on August 23.

The fierce person that she is on social media is how she's been in her personal life too. Beyond the glitz and glamour, filters on the gram and bizarre social posts and stories, the unscripted show reveals the authentic, unfiltered reality of her life beyond social media. "It feels amazing, like surreal," begins Uorfi, who was over the moon with "How did this happen? Is it happening? Am I dreaming? Is it a dream or a reality?"

The digital star, famous for her daring and one-of-a-kind style, has achieved a new accomplishment in her amazing adventure. She was literally looked down upon by people in the fashion industry. But just by being herself, the same Uorfi strutted down the runway for top designers! She believes she did not really shake up the fashion industry but rather, "I was just trying to be myself. See,

it's not like the fashion industry, *mai meri bahut respect hai*. Whatever I've been trying to do is not fashion-wise. I'm just trying to grab eyeballs; that's it."

In the trailer, we encounter a few well-known individuals, such as another internet sensation, Orry and Munawar Faruqi, who won *Bigg Boss 17*. The engaging trailer covers everything from Uorfi's voiceover about her passion and fame to the family conflicts.

Meanwhile, in the trailer, she's heard saying, 'Duniya ko pagal karke jaungi'. Beyond a doubt, she's made everyone go crazy. However, she feels, "Honestly, *abhi tak kuch itna kiya nahi hai lekin mujhe lagta hai*. I have to do more and I do want to get that level of fame where people would actually go crazy."

Just imagine: being around the cameras 24/7 isn't a cakewalk, making one go conscious at times. With the cameras rolling in day and night, there wasn't much of a process behind filming the series. The cameras followed for two whole months straight. So was she apprehensive? Well, not at all. But she humorously says, "Yehi toh dikkat hai. I should have been apprehensive. But now that I am not, let's see what happens."

This eventually makes it clear that Uorfi is someone who "listens to all but does her own" and she couldn't agree much to it. She, however, highlighted, "You know honestly, after a day, you do not even know that there's a camera. You just forget. You get so used to it that you don't even remember that cameras are there."

Just like her name, she has certainly proved that yes, Uorfi means famous. But what if the fame goes? "I will die," she says. "I can't be alive without this." Well, she's been a synonym for controversy. You see her saying in the trailer too,

"Bahut dimm se kuch controversy nahi hui." So would she try out to bring out one? We ask, and she says, "You never know, maybe!"

Being tagged as 'desperate' for fame and we see Munawar asking the same in the trailer too, she tells us in this interview, "Everybody is desperate to get followers, attention and money. So, yes, I am desperate."

With the trailer, comments and reports somewhere relating the Javed sisters to the Kardashians, she exclusively tells us, "I don't like it! We are not the Kardashians. It's very different. I hope we maintain our authenticity even after this show and I don't think we are anything like them."

Comments on the trailer had things like 'people like Uorfi and Dhinchak Pooja getting famous with no talents'. As savage as she is, she brings in a fun reply to it: "Dhinchak Pooja is more talented than me, yaar c'mon; you can't compare her to me. I cannot sing. She's like, *Selfie maine leli aaj*, I can't do that. I'm not as good as her. That's an insult comparing her to me! I can be good, but I can't be as great as her. I cannot come up like *Dilon Ka shooter hai mera scooter*. How can you even think of it? What a catchy line! I just love it." But again, some comments do get disturbing. Though she hasn't read them as of now, she does share that if she'd read those comments, it would certainly affect her undeniably.

With *Follow Kar Lo Yaar*, she says, "I have revealed some dark and dirty secrets about myself." So can one anticipate season after season? Heading towards the end of this chat, she says, "You have to ask Prime for that!" And I hope yes. But before that, *Follow Kar Lo Yaar*."

**THE UNAPOLOGETIC LIFE OF UORFI IS HERE WITH PRIME VIDEO'S FOLLOW KAR LO YAAR. KNOWN FOR HER SAVAGE PERSONALITY, WE HAVE THE STAR OF THE SHOW FOR AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT WITH THE PIONEER VIA A ZOOM CALL AND IT'S AN UNFILTERED CHAT!**



## Jayprad Desai's sensational spin on Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba

AARTI SREENATH

When Jayprad Desai stepped into the world of *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, he wasn't merely crafting a sequel but diving into a universe already sketched out by the visionary Kanika Dhillon. The story of *Haseen Dillruba* had already left an indelible mark and now, with the sequel, he found himself tasked with amplifying the chaos, the drama and the sheer pulpiness of the tale.

He admits that this was a different beast altogether! *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba* wasn't just a continuation; it was an expansion, a world that was larger, bolder and more daring than its predecessor. "The story was already written when it came to me," he shared, acknowledging the challenge of taking something familiar and pushing it to new, flamboyant heights. "I wanted to make the ride more exciting this time. The last one had a taste of pulp, but this time we were pushing the envelope."

The director's vision was clear: he wanted to make the audience suspend their disbelief, to pull them



**Jayprad Desai, the talented filmmaker, basking on the success of his latest project, Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba, discusses with The Pioneer about the sequel not being just a continuation of Haseen Dillruba and a lot more behind the making of it**



into a world almost hysterical in its believability yet so artfully crafted that they couldn't help but be swept along. He envisioned a film that would make viewers fasten their seatbelts and prepare for a flamboyant, reckless ride, one that was unapologetically bold in its presentation. For him, the film's distinct visual style was crucial in achieving this.

He collaborated closely with the production designer, the director of photography (DOP) and the costume designer to create a cinematic language that would milk the pulp aesthetic for all it was worth.

The use of colour was particularly significant. He detailed how each character's arc was visually represented through a specific colour palette—Rani, for instance, was almost always clad in red, a hue that captured her fiery and passionate nature. Rishu, on the other hand, was bathed in blue, symbolising his more calm and introspective personality. Abhimanyu, whose character evolved dramatically throughout the film, started with a palette of innocence that slowly shifted to green, reflecting his descent into envy and darker emotions.

"All these subtle details were designed to help the audience buy into the larger-than-life story," he explained. The use of motifs like rain, the Taj Mahal and the real locations of Agra further grounded the film in a sense of reality, even as the narrative spiraled into the realms of the fantastical.

But it wasn't just about the visuals. He was determined to ensure that beneath all the flamboyance and madness, the humanity and innocence of the characters remained intact. This was a story that, despite its outrageous twists and turns, had to resonate on an emotional level. "No amount of technical finesse can replace the need to touch the audience emotionally," he noted. "That's what keeps the audience rooting for these characters, despite their flaws."

The process of developing these complex, layered characters was as

intricate as the story itself. He inherited the characters of Rani and Rishu from the first film, but as the new story unfolded, they were thrust into even greater crises, revealing facets of their personalities that had previously been hidden. "Like in real life, we evolve when confronted with new challenges," he observed. These characters were no different—they grew, they faltered, and they became more colourful and edgy, but he was careful never to lose their inherent humanity.

One of the most challenging aspects of the film was balancing the various genres it straddled—romance, drama and thriller—all while maintaining the high-pitched, passionate tone that the story demanded. Filming on real locations, such as a railway bridge over the Yamuna River, added an extra layer of difficulty. He recalled a particularly memorable moment involving a 16-foot animatronic crocodile that they had built for a scene.

"Shooting on a real bridge with a real train on a real river was challenging yet amusing," he shares. As they were preparing, a train passed by, and the passengers, unaware that the crocodile was fake, began snapping pictures, convinced they were witnessing a wild creature being captured. "Those kids on the train will probably tell their children one day about the time they saw a giant crocodile being pulled from the river."

With *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, he understood that the key to making such a larger-than-life narrative work was to embrace its implausibility and lean into it fully. "The thing about pulp is that you cannot take away its larger-than-life experience," he reflected. "You have to make the audience drown in it, to tend to their disbelief and then excite them with the twists and turns."

This film marked a significant step in his growth as a director. Having previously worked on projects in vastly different genres, such as the sports biopic *Kaun Pravin Tambe* and the web series *Mukhbir*, Desai has shown a remarkable ability to adapt and innovate. With *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, he not only milked the pulp to perfection but also infused it with a distinct cinematic language that made the story more than just a series of sensational twists.

As for his future projects, he hinted at a diverse lineup, a con film inspired by real-life events, a pure romance, and other genres yet to be explored. His advice to aspiring filmmakers is simple yet profound: "Be yourself. Don't lose your identity in trying to cater to what you think the audience wants. Maintain your style, find your voice, and let your passion shine through. It's infectious."

## Navigating through Cyanotic and Acyanotic heart defects

There has been a concerning rise in the incidence of congenital heart defects (CHDs) in children in recent years. CHDs are structural abnormalities of the heart that are present at birth and can range from mild to severe. These conditions can significantly impact a child's health and require prompt diagnosis and treatment. CHDs can be broadly categorized into two types based on the presence or absence of cyanosis, a bluish tint to the skin caused by low oxygen levels in the blood. CHDs affect 8 to 9 out of every 1,000 live births, with approximately 25% considered critical congenital heart defects (CCHDs). The incidence of CHDs increases to 2-6% for children with Down syndrome. While the exact causes are not fully understood, genetic factors, maternal health conditions like diabetes, and exposure to certain medications or infections during pregnancy may increase the risk. Early detection through prenatal screening and prompt treatment are crucial for managing CHDs and improving outcomes for affected children.

### Cyanotic congenital heart diseases (Cyanotic CHDs)

Cyanotic CHDs lead to insufficient oxygenation of the blood, causing the "blue baby" phenomenon. Common examples include:

#### • Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF)

TOF consists of four heart defects: ventricular septal defect (VSD), pulmonary stenosis, right ventricular hypertrophy, and an overriding aorta. These defects reduce blood flow to the lungs and mix oxygenated and deoxygenated blood, resulting in low oxygen levels throughout the body. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, fatigue, and a characteristic blue tint to the skin.

#### • Transposition of the Great Arteries (TGA)

In TGA, the positions of the pulmonary artery and the aorta are switched, creating two parallel circulations. Oxygenated blood cycles within the lungs, while deoxygenated blood cycles within the body. This condition is life-threatening and requires immediate surgical correction to re-establish normal blood flow and oxygenation.

#### • Tricuspid Atresia

Tricuspid atresia involves the absence of the tricuspid valve, preventing blood flow from the right atrium to the right ventricle. Blood must bypass the blockage through an atrial septal defect (ASD) or a VSD to reach the lungs. This condition leads to significant oxygen deficiency and requires surgical intervention to ensure adequate blood flow and oxygenation.

#### • Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (TAPVR)

In TAPVR, the pulmonary veins incorrectly drain into the right atrium or systemic veins instead of the left atrium, mixing oxygenated and deoxygenated blood. This defect

necessitates surgical correction to redirect the pulmonary veins to the left atrium, ensuring proper oxygenation.

#### • Acyanotic Congenital Heart Diseases (Acyanotic CHDs)

Acyanotic CHDs do not typically cause cyanosis but can lead to heart failure and other complications if untreated. Common examples include:

#### • Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)

An ASD is an opening in the septum between the right and left atria, allowing oxygenated blood to flow from the left atrium to the right atrium. This increases pulmonary blood flow and can lead to complications such as atrial arrhythmias and pulmonary hypertension. Treatment may include surgical or catheter-based closure.

#### • Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD)

A VSD is an opening in the septum between the right and left ventricles, allowing oxygenated blood to flow from the left ventricle to the right ventricle. This increases pulmonary blood flow and can cause heart failure if significant. Smaller VSDs may close on their own, while larger ones may require surgical repair.

#### • Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA)

PDA is the persistence of the ductus arteriosus, a fetal blood vessel, after birth. This allows blood to flow from the aorta to the pulmonary artery, increasing pulmonary blood flow and potentially leading to heart failure and pulmonary hypertension. Treatment options include medication, catheter-based procedures, or surgery to close the ductus arteriosus.

#### • Coarctation of the aorta

Coarctation of the aorta is a narrowing of a portion of the aorta, increasing pressure before the narrowing and reducing blood flow to the lower body. This can cause hypertension and heart failure if untreated. Treatment typically involves surgical or catheter-based interventions to widen the narrowed segment.

#### • Diagnosis and treatment

Understanding and diagnosing these conditions involve clinical examination, echocardiography, and sometimes advanced imaging techniques such as MRI or CT scans. Treatment options vary depending on the specific defect and its severity, ranging from medical management to interventional procedures and surgery.

Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial for improving outcomes and quality of life for children with congenital heart defects. By recognizing the signs and symptoms of both cyanotic and acyanotic CHDs, healthcare providers can ensure timely and appropriate treatment, helping these children thrive and lead healthy lives.

(The author, Dr. Ved Prakash, is a Senior Consultant-Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery at Sarvodaya Hospital.)





The beauty pageant, *Miss and Mrs Strong and Beautiful 2024 - Season 1*, is all set to begin in October. The auditions for the pageant, which is open to participants from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, will take place in October.



Hyderabad's Runners Society, NMDC and IDFC First Bank, together with the Govt. of Telangana, announced the 13th edition of the annual NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2024. The marathon will be held on August 24 and 25. The edition will have over four categories: marathon, half-marathon, 10K and 5K. The finisher's medal and t-shirt was unveiled by Amitava Mukherjee, chairman and managing director (addl charge) and director finance, NMDC, along with national-level boxer Nikhat Zareen and other dignitaries attended the event.



On Tuesday, a website of renowned painter from Hyderabad, Sayeed Bin Mohammed under the name Naqsh, was launched by Professor T. Gangadhar at the auditorium hall, College of Fine Arts in Masab Tank.

**PARTY**



Dr. Nawab Mir Nasir Ali Khan arranged a business meeting at the BTR Greens - MAK Projects in Maheshwaram, Hyderabad, with Mr. Yusuf Aljawder, the Chairman of the Management Board, Astana International Airport, Kazakhstan.



The World Boxing Council (WBC) has officially endorsed the Indian Professional Boxing League (IPBL) and 12R's Fantasy Boxing App. The WBC's backing of the IPBL and 12R's Fantasy Boxing App is a significant step towards strengthening the professional boxing ecosystem in India. The league aims to offer a genuine pathway for Indian boxers to excel on the global stage, while the Fantasy Boxing App seeks to enhance fan engagement through a sophisticated digital platform.

**Photos by - SV Chary**



NP Digital India has unveiled its latest campaign for ResQ Jewelry, "#ReclaimTheMidnight," in celebration of Independence Day. This campaign addresses the ongoing issue of women's safety and lack of independence with a compelling narrative and impactful visuals.



IKEA clocked its first big milestone in India with 100% EV-powered deliveries across Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune. Its Mumbai operations will soon join this wagon and the company will enter all new markets with an EV-first approach. IKEA is also piloting same day delivery in its birth city of Hyderabad!



Ashley Furniture, commemorated its sixth year of operation. Gareth Owen, Deputy British High Commissioner, kicked off the festivities.



Toscano, the latest entrant amplifying Hyderabad's culinary fanfare, will enhance your tastebuds with Italian flavours. Known for its award-winning legacy, the restaurant is right on track to grow across major cities nationwide.

**FUN**

### ARCHIE

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

### GARFIELD

### REALITY CHECK

### SPEED BUMP

### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
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9			10	
12	13		14	15
17			18	
19				

### NANCY

### SUDOKU

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

### GINGER MEGGS

**ACROSS**

- Dirty and unhealthy air or water
- More than is needed
- Water covering land that is usually dry
- A female relation
- A symbol on playing cards
- A passenger needs this
- Famous singer or actor
- Run after trying to catch
- Sooner than expected
- Squashed
- Stretchy stuff in clothes
- Wreck completely
- Choose
- Move along on hands and knees
- The number in a trio
- At this place

**DOWN**

- Frequently
- Jump over
- A chewed sweet
- Bad smell

**SOLUTION 825**

B	P	N	I	G	D		
A	R	O	W	C	R	I	D
L	O	E	L	A	N	D	
E	L	P	D				
R	U	B	E	A	T	E	N
I	A	I	O	E	E		
N	A	K	E	D	P	L	A
A	E	O	L	R	S		
T	R	O	L	L	E		

**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.

**DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★**



# 'My character in *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam* is meant to tickle your funny bones'

PNS| HYDERABAD

In the upcoming comedy-drama *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*, set to release on August 23, Ramya Pasupuleti is all set to light up the screen with her performance, promising audiences plenty of laughs. The film, directed by Lakshman Karya and

produced by Bujji Rayudu Pentyala and Mohan Karya under the banners of PBR Cinemas and Lokamaatre Cinematics, features seasoned actors Rao Ramesh and Indrajith in the lead roles, with Ramya and Ankit Koyya taking on pivotal roles. This project also marks the debut presentation by Tabitha Sukumar, with Mythri Movie Makers overseeing its release in Telugu.

Ramya Pasupuleti shares insights into her journey, her role in the film and her experiences working alongside both veterans and her peers. Her journey in front of the camera began at an early age—just four years old. "I had also worked as a child artist in Anushka's *Panchakshari* and later, I had a small role in Mahesh Babu's *Spyder*." However, life had other plans as she took a hiatus to complete her bachelor's degree before the acting bug bit her once more. "Instagram played a huge role in my comeback. It helped me reach a wider audience and ultimately led me back to acting."

The opportunity to star in *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam* came her way thanks to her vibrant online presence. Discovered by director Lakshman Karya on Instagram, she quickly caught the attention of the team, leading to an audition that would set the course for her role in the film. From that moment on, her journey with the film has been nothing short of remarkable.

What intrigued her most about the project was the challenge of making people laugh. Comedy, as she notes, is no easy feat, as she acknowledges the difficulty of the genre. However, the role offered her the perfect opportunity to embrace this challenge. Her character is designed to tickle everyone's funny bone, and she is confident that audiences will appreciate the humour they've crafted. "My character is meant to tickle everyone's funny bone and I'm confident that audiences will enjoy what we've created," she adds.

In *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*, the actress, also known for her role in *Gaami*, takes on the character of an 18-year-old, whom she describes as dynamic and multi-faceted. "If you watch the *Madam Sir Madam* song, you'll see me in various avatars," she reveals, hinting at the character's complexity. The love story between the lead pair is both cute and cringy, adding an extra layer of fun to the film. She finds the character's versatility particularly engaging, as it allows her to explore different facets of her acting abilities.

Her admiration for her co-star, Ankit Koyya, shines through as she speaks about their on-screen partnership. She praises Ankit not only for his acting skills but also for his helpful nature on set. "Ankit is not just an amazing actor but also a genuinely helpful person," she says. Their chemistry on set was palpable, and she believes their scenes together turned out exceptionally

well, contributing to the film's overall appeal. The catchy tune of *Madam Sir Madam* has struck a chord with audiences, something she had an inkling would happen from the start. "I had a feeling it would resonate," she admits. When director Lakshman Karya first played the tune for her, she was immediately hooked. Learning that Sid Sriram would be singing it only solidified her confidence in the song's success.

Working alongside industry veterans like Rao Ramesh and Indrajith initially left her feeling a bit nervous. "I was quite nervous at first," she confesses, but any apprehensions quickly dissipated thanks to the warm and welcoming nature of her co-stars. While she didn't share much screen time with Indrajith, she describes her as being as lovely in person as she is on screen. "Indrajith garu—she's as lovely in person as she is on screen," she says. As for Rao Ramesh, she's in awe of his talent, remarking, "And Rao Ramesh garu—what a tremendous actor he is. A treat to work with! His presence alone made the experience so enriching."

As the release date for *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam* approaches, the *Husharu* fame is eager for audiences to meet her character and enjoy the film's blend of humor and heart. With a promising career ahead, this young actress is one to watch.

All excited for her upcoming release, *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*, actress Ramya Pasupuleti speaks to the media sharing her inclination towards acting and also some insights about her latest yet-to-be released film

## Dulquer Salmaan's *Lucky Baskhar* to brighten up Diwali 2024!

Get ready to celebrate Diwali with a cinematic extravaganza as *Lucky Baskhar* gears up for its grand release on October 31st, 2024. The film, featuring the incredibly versatile Dulquer Salmaan in the lead role, is poised to be the highlight of the festive season, offering a rich and immersive experience for movie enthusiasts.

Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan is now concentrating more on Telugu cinema. After *Mahanati* and *Sita Ramam*, he is doing a Telugu film titled *Lucky Baskhar*. Venky Atluri is the director while Sithara Entertainments is producing this film. This film is supposed to be released on September 7, but now the makers announced the release date is postponed!

They announced that the film is hitting on October 31, to cash in on the Diwali holidays. The makers said that they need more time for the post-production work for this film, thus they postponed its release. Apart from Telugu, the film is also releasing in other languages like Malayalam and Tamil. *Lucky Baskhar* is a period drama that happened in the late 80s and early 90s in Mumbai. Production designer Banglan worked on the sets and recreated Mumbai at that time, says the makers.

Meenakshi Chaudhary is the female lead, while National Award-winning composer GV Prakash Kumar provided the music. A few songs from the film were released a few days back.



## RANDEEP HOODA JOINS STELLAR CAST OF #SDGM

In a cinematic twist worthy of a blockbuster reveal, the incredibly versatile Randeep Hooda has been officially welcomed into the fold of the much-anticipated film *#SDGM*. The announcement, perfectly timed with Hooda's birthday, is a gift not just to the actor but to his legion of fans who eagerly await his every move on screen. Hooda, celebrated for his ability to dive deep into diverse roles, is set to add another memorable character to his impressive repertoire with this new venture.

But the excitement doesn't stop there. *#SDGM* is shaping up to be a true feast for the senses, with action superstar Sunny Deol leading the charge. Known for his powerhouse performances and larger-than-life persona, Deol's presence guarantees a film packed with thrills. Steering this cinematic ship is director Gopichand Malineni, whose knack for crafting high-octane narratives has made him a force to be reckoned with in the industry. And with the powerhouse production duo of Mythri Movie Makers and People Media Factory backing the project, expectations are sky-high.

The film's ensemble cast is nothing short of spectacular. Joining Hooda are the ever-talented Regina Cassandra and the dynamic Saiyami Kher, both of whom bring their unique flair to the screen. And let's not forget the musical maestro Thaman S, whose electrifying score is set to amplify the film's energy to a whole new level. Visually, *#SDGM* is in expert hands with Rishi Punjabi behind the camera, ensuring that every frame is a visual treat. Meanwhile, Kolla Avinash's art direction and Navin Nooli's sharp editing are set to weave the film's narrative with precision and style.

With Max Media also lending its expertise to the production, *s* is gearing up to be a cinematic tour de force. This star-studded, action-packed spectacle promises to deliver the "mass feast" that audiences crave, with every element meticulously crafted to leave a lasting impact.



## SANJAY SARA AND DASARATHI IGNITE VIDAA MUYARCHI

The anticipation for *Vidaa Muyarchi* is reaching fever pitch as the film gears up for its release and the latest reveal of actors Sanjay Sara and Dasarathi has fans buzzing with excitement. In their new looks, these talented actors are set to bring a powerful intensity to the screen, hinting at a dramatic showdown that promises to captivate audiences. Sanjay Sara and Dasarathi are showcased in striking new visuals that capture the essence of their characters. The intense expressions and dynamic poses suggest a narrative filled with high-stakes drama and emotional depth. As *Vidaa Muyarchi* unfolds, viewers can expect a riveting confrontation that underscores the film's central theme of perseverance and relentless effort.

Directed by the visionary Magizh Thirumeni and produced by the renowned Lyca Productions, *Vidaa Muyarchi* boasts an impressive lineup both in front of and behind the camera. With Ajith Kumar leading the cast and a musical score by Anirudh Ravichander, the film is shaping up to be a cinematic powerhouse. The ensemble cast also includes Regina Cassandra, Aravind Swamy and Nikhil Nair, each bringing their unique flair to the project. The film's high production values are evident in the meticulous attention to detail by the technical team, including cinematographer Supremesundar and art director Anand Kumar. *Vidaa Muyarchi* is set to explore themes of struggle and triumph, encapsulated in the powerful tagline, "Efforts Never Fail". As the film's release date approaches, the buzz around it is palpable, with major promotional support from Sony Music South, Sun TV and Netflix India South.

## Allu Arjun *Pushpa 2* shooting is going on silently

From the last few months onwards actor Allu Arjun and his film *Pushpa 2* is in the news for different reasons. The film was supposed to be released on August 15, but postponed to December 6. The shooting of this film was also supposed to continue in June, but was stopped due to some unknown reasons.

The star actor was also a target of trolls during the election campaign to his YSRCP friend at Nandyal Assembly Constituency. According to a source, the Mega Family kept him at a distance after he campaigned for the YSRCP candidate and has still been in a distance with the Mega Family.

Going by the whispers and sources, he is quietly filming his film *Pushpa 2*. Director Sukumar is canning some important scenes on lead actor Allu Arjun and the shooting is going on at RFC in Hyderabad, added the source. This is a sequel to the earlier one and Rashmika Mandanna is the female lead, while Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil is playing the negative role.

The interesting point about this shooting is that Allu Arjun trimmed his beard a few days back as he is getting angry that the film shoot is not happening properly. Still the beard is not as they expected, the actor now has to do some make-up for the beard which is annoying him and the unit, added the source.

"In this film he appears with a thick beard, but he trimmed it a few days back, so now the team is doing

some make-up for him, which the actor and the director is not happy," shared the source. But the shooting is going on with a make-up beard as they want to complete it as soon as possible.

After this they have to shoot a major part of shooting with Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil, added the source. They are planning it in October, so there is some rumour that the film may not release even on December 10, added the source.



## Narne Nithin enters into Dussehra race with *Sri Sri Sri Rajavaru*

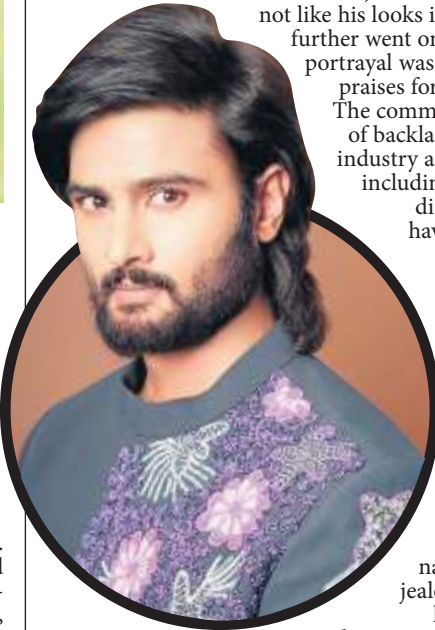
Narne Nithin is speeding ahead with hit youthful entertainer films like *Mad* and *Ayy*. Entering the film industry as the brother-in-law of NTR, Narnne Nithin is now looking for a hat trick with his streak of hits. Directed by national award-winning director Satish Vegesna, known for *Shatamanam Bhavati*, he is starring in the film *Sri Sri Sri Rajavaru*. The film features Sampada as the female lead and is produced by Chintapalli Rama Rao under the Sri Vedakshara Movies banner. This action entertainer, packed with all commercial elements, is set to release as a Dussehra gift to the audience!

Producer Chintapalli Rama Rao shared that their hero, Narnne Nithin, has recently been delivering feel-good, youthful entertainer movies with consistent success. However, their movie will be different, being a full-fledged commercial film with a large star cast, directed by Satish Vegesna, who selected this story with NTR's approval. The director has ensured that the film meets all expectations, without any compromises. They strongly believe that this Dussehra, Narnne Nithin will achieve a hat trick hit.

## Sudheer Babu slams Arshad Warsi for his comments on Prabhas!

Actor Arshad Warsi had not long ago commented about Prabhas role in *Kalki 2898AD*. The Prabhas-starrer film had released on June 26 and according to the reports, the film has grossed more than Rs 1000 crore.

During an interview, the *Jolly LLB* fame felt that Prabhas looked like 'Joker' and stated that he did not like his looks in the film. While, he further went on to say that Prabhas' portrayal was the worst, he was all praises for Amitabh Bachchan. The comment has sparked a lot of backlash in the Telugu film industry and several celebrities including Sudheer Babu and director Ajay Bhupathi have come forward and spoken up about the comment.



Filmmaker Ajay Bhupathi has opened up saying, "Prabhas is the man who has given everything & will do anything to take Indian Cinema to the world audience, a pride of our nation. We can see the jealousy on that film, on him in your eyes just because you've faded out & no one gives an eye to you. There's a limit & a way to express our opinion. It seems like you're the joker that you've said about him."

Meanwhile, actor Sudheer Babu calls out Arshad Warsi, saying, "It's okay to criticise constructively but it's never okay to bad-mouth. Never expected the absence of professionalism from Arshad Warsi. Prabhas's stature is too big for comments coming from small minds," says Sudheer Babu on his social media.

Re-release of films in Tollywood is achieving bigger success than regular films. The beginning was marked by Mahesh Babu's *Pokiri* two years ago, followed by star films like Pawan Kalyan's *Jalsa* and *Gabbar Singh*. Ram Charan's *Orange*, Jr NTR's *Simhadri* and Allu Arjun's *Desamuduru* were released again at a later date.

Going on with the trend, celebrating Chiranjeevi's birthday, his blockbuster film *Indra* will be re-releasing on August 22! The film was an industry hit when it was released in the year 2002. Now, after 22 years, Chiranjeevi and the makers of

the film are confident that the film is going to be a super success second time. "It is one of the best commercial films in my career, with everyone worked hard towards the success of the film," says Chiranjeevi about the re-release. He added that he always remembers this film as one of the best in his career. "Whenever I heard the name Indrasena Reddy, I get goosebumps. The main success for this film is its story and director B Gopal handled it well," says Chiranjeevi about the re-release. His another blockbuster film *s* is also re-releasing on his birthday.

## CHIRU'S B'DAY TREAT: RE-RELEASES BECOMING A HUGE HIT



# Samoan batter Visser sets new T20I record with 39-run over



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Samoan middle-order batter Darius Visser on Tuesday set a new world record for most runs in an over in T20Is, accumulating 39 against Vanuatu in the World Cup East Asia-Pacific Region Qualifier in the capital city of Apia. Visser hammered pacer Nalin

Nipiko for six sixes in an over that also included three no balls. The 28-year-old right-handed batter, who learned the ropes in Sydney grade cricket, was playing in only his third T20I, and comes with the reputation of being a genuine power-hitter, who once topped the shot-speed session by Hype Cricket Academy in

New South Wales, clocking a shade over 160 kmph. His big-hitting ability was evident in his knock against Vanuatu -- 132 off 62 balls with five fours and 14 sixes. "It was clean hitting (by Visser). We did not know it was a world record, and later it was mentioned during the innings break. "But happy for him, and

happy that we managed a win. Looking forward to the next match," Samoa skipper Jasmat Caleb replied to a PTI query. Samoa will face bitter rivals Fiji in their next EAP Qualifier match on Wednesday. Previously, there were five occasions when a bowler conceded 36 runs in an over and they were Stuart Broad

(2007), Akila Dananjaya (2021), Karim Jannat (2024), Kamran Khan (2024) and Azmatullah Omarzai (2024). Broad conceded six sixes in as many balls against Yuvraj Singh of India in the 2007 T20 World Cup, while Windies batsman Kieron Pollard achieved the feat against Dananjaya during a bilateral T20I at Coolidge, Antigua.

Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee creamed sixes off Qatar's Kamran Khan in the ACC Premier Cup, while Windies' Nicholas Pooran hit Afghanistan pacer Azmatullah Omarzai for six sixes during the T20 World Cup this June at Gros Islet. Rohit Sharma and Rinku Singh combined to take 36 runs off Afghanistan pacer Karim Janat at Bengaluru during a bilateral T20I that India won in the first-ever second Super Over. Along with joining these big names, Visser, who also dabbles in coaching in Australia when he does not have international commitments, made another piece of history as his century was the first by a Samoan batter in T20Is. The knock guided the side to a competitive 174 all out. The next highest score in Samoa innings was 16 by Jasmat, and it underlined the value of his knock. In reply, Vanuatu gave a strong chase but ended up at 164 for nine, losing the match by 10 runs. Opener Nipiko nearly amended his waywardness with the ball with a 73 off 52 balls with six fours and three sixes. He had good support from skipper Joshua Rasu (23 off 14 balls) and Tim Cutler (21 off 11 balls) but Vanuatu fell short.



## Bhushan's T-Series announces a biopic on Indian cricketer Yuvraj

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An upcoming biographical movie will chronicle the inspiring journey of former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh, the makers announced Tuesday. The yet-to-be-titled biopic will be produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and co-produced by Ravi Bhagchandka, known for "Sachin: A Billion Dreams" and the upcoming Aamir Khan-starrer "Sitaare Zameen Par". The film is touted as a "grand celebration of Singh's unparalleled journey and contributions to cricket, capturing the essence of his career, unforgettable six sixes in the 2007 T20 World Cup, his courageous off-field battles and his subsequent return to cricket in 2012", a press release said. Singh, who began his career at the age of 13, said he is hoping his life story will inspire people to overcome challenges. "I'm deeply honoured that my story will be showcased to millions of my fans across the globe

by Bhushan and Ravi. Cricket has been my greatest love and source of strength through all the highs and lows. I hope this film inspires others to overcome their own challenges and pursue their dreams with unwavering passion," the former India all-rounder said. Kumar, known for backing blockbuster films such as "Drishyam 2", "Animal", "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2", "Kabir Singh" and "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior", said he is excited to bring out the inspiring journey of Singh on the big screen. "Yuvraj Singh's life is a compelling narrative of resilience, triumph, and passion. His journey from a promising cricketer to a cricketing hero, and then to a hero in real life, is truly inspiring. "I'm thrilled to bring a story that needs to be told and heard through the big screen and to celebrate his extraordinary achievements," he said. The makers are yet to announce the key details about the film, including the director and cast.



## Debutants grab goals for Juventus

AP ■ LECCO (ITALY)

It was a good day for debutants in Italy's Serie A as new faces at Juventus and Atalanta gave their teams a winning start to the league season. New Juventus coach Thiago Motta surprised fans by handing a debut to youth academy graduate Samuel Mbangula on Monday and the 20-year-old winger responded by scoring the opening goal in a 3-0 win over Como. Mbangula cut in from the left in the 23rd minute and slotted a low drive into the far corner to give Juventus the lead. US international Timothy Weah scored the second for the Turin club when he smashed a shot in off the underside of the bar just before halftime. It was the American's first league goal for the club. Andrea Cambiaso added a third in injury time to pad the scoreline in Cesc Fàbregas' first league game in charge of Como since taking over as head coach this offseason.

### Atalanta routs Lecce

New signings Mateo Retegui and Marco Brescianini both scored twice as Atalanta routed Lecce 4-0 in a blistering start to its campaign. Brescianini joined last season's Europa League winners from Frosinone just three days ago and Retegui was signed last week from Genoa. Brescianini got the opener when the midfielder pounced on a parried save by goalkeeper Wladimiro Falcone after 35 minutes and then Retegui doubled Atalanta's lead with a powerful header on the stroke of halftime. Retegui got the third from the penalty spot 12 minutes into the second period and then Brescianini took advantage of gaping holes in the Lecce defence to make it four after 65 minutes. The result means the Bergamo club sits top of the Serie A table on goal difference after one round.

# Nagal, Gaston to feature in 6th Tennis Premier League in Mumbai from Dec 3-8

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ac Indian player Sumit Nagal and France's Hugo Gaston will be the main attractions in the men's category of the sixth Tennis Premier League to be held here from December 3-8. Poland's Magda Linette, who is ranked 41st in the world, and Armenia's world No 52 Elina Avanesyan, will headline the women's category in the tournament which will be held at the

Cricket Club of India. The tournament will be played in a 25-point format in which each franchise will play a total of five matches to make the semifinals. The matches between two franchises will include men's singles, women's singles, mixed doubles and men's doubles as there will be a total of 100 points at stake with each category carrying 25 points. "Each team will play a total of 500 points (100 points x 5



matches) at the league stage and the top four teams in the points table to qualify for the semi-finals," the organisers

said in a release on Tuesday. A total of seven franchises, PBG Pune Jaguars, Bengal Wizards, Punjab Patriots, Hyderabad Strikers, Gujarat Panthers, Mumbai Leon Army and defending champions Bengaluru SG Pipers will vie for top honours. In order to discover and monitor young players, the organisers said TPL has tied up with Gujarat State Tennis Association (GSTA), Delhi Lawn Tennis Association

(DLTA) and Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) for conducting district ranking tournaments apart from introducing their own mobile app. "Over 100 academies have been affiliated with TPL app from various regions of India. It connects the tennis community across India and allows them to compete with each other and helps the tennis players to track their progress," it added.

## Injured Messi out of Argentina's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Chile, Colombia

AP ■ BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA)

Lionel Messi will not play in Argentina's next two World Cup qualifiers because of injury. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni announced his 28-man squad on Monday for the matches against Chile on September 5 and Colombia five days later. Messi is still recovering from a right ankle injury. The 36-year-old Angel Di Maria, who retired from the national team after winning the recent Copa America, is not on the list either. World Cup champion Argentina leads South American qualifying with 15 points after six matches.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Walter Benítez (PSV Eindhoven), Gerónimo Rulli (Olympique Marseille), Juan Musso (Atalanta), Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa).

**Defenders:** Gonzalo Montiel (Sevilla), Nahuel Molina



(Atletico Madrid), Cristian Romero (Tottenham), Germán Pezzella (River Plate), Leonardo Balerdi (Olympique Marseille), Nicolás Otamendi (Benfica), Lisandro Martínez (Manchester United), Nicolás Tagliafico (Olympique Lyon), Valentín Barco (Brighton).

**Midfielders:** Leandro Paredes (Roma), Guido Rodríguez (West Ham), Alexis Mac Allister (Liverpool), Enzo Fernández

(Chelsea), Giovanni Lo Celso (Tottenham), Ezequiel Fernández (Al Qadisiya), Rodrigo de Paul (Atletico Madrid), Nico González (Fiorentina).

**Forwards:** Alejandro Garnacho (Manchester United), Matías Soulé (Roma), Giuliano Simeone, Julián Álvarez both (Atletico Madrid), Valentín Carboni (Olympique Marseille), Lautaro Martínez (Inter Milan) and Valentín Castellanos (Lazio).

## Top-ranked Jannik and women's number 2 Aryna win titles in Cincinnati

AP ■ MASON (US)

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner and women's No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka earned straight-set victories in the finals of the Cincinnati Open, the first titles at the tournament for both players. Sabalenka on Monday defeated Jessica Pegula 6-3 7-5 for her first title since the Australian Open in January. Sinner, who turned 23 on Friday, beat American Frances Tiafoe 7-6(4) 6-2 to become the youngest Cincinnati champion since 21-year-old Andy Murray won in 2008. "I'm very happy to be in the position where I am," Sinner said. "I'm just trying to keep going this way mentally. It's important to recover to be ready for New York. That's the most important thing." The US Open begins on August 26 in New York. Sinner and Tiafoe were both playing in their first Cincinnati finals with their previous best results being the third round. Tiafoe forced a tiebreak in the first set, but three straight



errors led to a 7-6 defeat. Sinner had a 5-1 lead in the second before Tiafoe saved three match points to make it 5-2 before Sinner was able to serve out for the win. Tiafoe had a less conventional path to the final. He won the first set in the quarterfinals on Saturday before Hubert Hurkacz retired with a calf injury then saved two match points to defeat Holger Rune in three sets in the semis. An American man hasn't won the title in Cincinnati since Andy Roddick in 2006. Sabalenka moved up a spot to No. 2 in the rankings before the match, then didn't lose a set en

route to her 15th WTA title. She had never gotten past the semifinals at Cincinnati, losing three times in that round. The 26-year-old Sabalenka can now be considered a favorite at the US Open. The Belarusian missed Wimbledon with a shoulder injury, then returned to the tour at Washington two weeks ago. "I would say that I'm really playing great tennis," Sabalenka said. "Probably not the best tennis I can play but I'm definitely getting there. Hopefully at the US Open I can reach even higher levels." Against Pegula, Sabalenka took 17 minutes to build a 4-1 lead in the first set. Pegula, who double-faulted five times, broke serve for the first time to tie the second set at 5-all, but Sabalenka won the next two games to finish off the 1-hour, 14-minute match. "She was playing at a high level and never really came down," Pegula said. "When she's serving really well, it's tough, especially on these fast courts." The sixth-ranked Pegula had a challenging road to the final. After defending her title at Toronto, the American played two matches on Friday because of weather-related postponements and had three matches go three sets. Her time on the court exceeded Sabalenka's by more than two hours entering the final. "I'm proving to myself that I can play a lot of matches and overcome a lot of challenges," Pegula said. "I'm looking forward to not doing anything for a few days." Sabalenka joined top-ranked Iga Swiatek as the only players with 10 or more WTA titles since 2020.

## Vardy scores on PL return as Leicester holds Tottenham to 1-1 draw

PTI ■ LEICESTER (ENGLAND)

Jamie Vardy still knows how to score in the Premier League. The 37-year-old striker rescued a point for Leicester in its return to the Premier League on Monday by heading home a second-half equaliser in a 1-1 draw against Tottenham, which had largely dominated the first half. Tottenham had plenty of opportunities to build a bigger lead but new signing Dominic Solanke was among those guilty of missing chances. Instead it was Spanish defender Pedro Porro who made

Tottenham's early superiority count after 29 minutes when he got between two Leicester defenders to head James Maddison's cross into the net at the far post. But Vardy, who was key to Leicester's stunning Premier League title win in 2016 and has remained with the club since then, was left unmarked to head home an equaliser. A corner count of 9-0 gave some indication of Spurs' dominance in the first half but Vardy's goal changed the game completely. Steve Cooper's team suddenly looked a lot livelier and both



teams had chances to win in a busy last half hour. "Tottenham are a really good team but we gave them too much respect, and we started getting after them and it changed the momentum," Vardy told Sky Sports. Vardy spurned a good chance in the 70th minute when he was able to run clear on goal but his low shot was saved by Guglielmo Vicario. At the other end, Richarlison sent a header wide deep into injury time with the last chance of the match. "It is a disappointing night for us," Tottenham manager Ange

Postecoglou said. "We need to be more ruthless in front of goal. We were that dominant, we should have been well away from the opposition. To be that wasteful tonight when we had so much of the ball and territory, it is disappointing." The game was halted for eight minutes late in the second half after Tottenham midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur sustained a head injury. The Uruguayan received oxygen and taken off on a stretcher, but Postecoglou said he was "conscious" and communicating.