


**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer

Rahul Gandhi has no faith in the SEBI, Adani, Supreme Court and democracy. But he believes the Hindenburg report. Rahul thinks that news reports written by foreign journalists are true. He wants to continue attacking the country's systems after getting a death blow in the LS elections. Why is Rahul not responding to the news published by the Blitz of Bangladesh?



- M. Raghunandan Rao, BJP's Medak MP

P2

India ready to extend all possible help for peace



**NOT AGAINST**  
E-COMMERCE FIRMS, WANT THEM TO BE FAIR AND HONEST: GOYAL



Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam: Rao Ramesh steals the show; credit goes to director for a clean ENTERTAINER



## 'Wealth created under Cong at stake'

Modi doling it out to crony capitalists like Adani, alleges Dy CM Bhatti



DCM Bhatti addressing protest meeting in front of the ED office on Thursday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the Congress had 'protected' the resources and wealth of this country, but Modi has been 'giving away' the nation's wealth created over several years to 'crony' capitalists like Adani.

Rahul Gandhi had given a call to Congress activists to stand up for the people, he said.

Addressing the protest in front of the Enforcement Directorate office organised by the TPCC, Bhatti said the nationwide protests organised by the Congress in front of ED offices are intended to 'protect public assets'.

He said that although initially there was not much response when

### Why is BRS silent on Adani 'scam'?



## 'Nothing short of full waiver'

DEMANDS BRS, CONDUCTS STATEWIDE PROTESTS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
Addressing the protest staged by farmers in Chevella, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) lashed out at the Congress government headed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over the unfulfilled promises of waiving farm loans and other issues faced by farmers across Telangana.

He recalled how Revanth Reddy, during his Assembly election campaign, swore on Sonia Gandhi that the first decision he would make as Chief Minister would be to waive farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh. However, KTR pointed out that this promise has turned out to be false with Revanth going back on his words. He emphasised the irony by pointing to how the CM initially claimed that Rs 49,000 crore was



needed for waiving loans. But after realising its impracticality he reduced the amount to Rs 40,000 crore and eventually slashed it to just Rs 7,500 crore, misleading the public at every step.

He also criticised Revanth Reddy's failure to waive all farm loans by August 15, despite making repeated promises, including swearing on deities.

Continued on Page 5

## Will it happen this time?

TG Cong brass for Delhi to finalise TPCC chief, cabinet berths issue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
Will the Congress finalise the TPCC chief and candidates for the leftover Cabinet berths?

The question arose as Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and AICC in-charge General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi, Advisor Harkara Venugopal, Nalgonda MP K Raghuvver Reddy went to New Delhi on Thursday night on a special flight.

It is learnt that Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, Roads

and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also will go to New Delhi on Friday.

The discussion going on among Telangana Congress leaders and workers is whether the high command will announce the new TPCC chief on Friday or not. Gandhi Bhavan sources said the party would finalise the new TPCC chief this time and so the high command has summoned the CM, Dy CM, Uttam and Deepa Das.

It is learnt that the high command is trying to balance equations and hence the delay.

5

## TG asked to pay Rs 2,500 cr to AP for externally aided projects?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Department of Expenditure under the Union Ministry of Finance has reportedly directed the Telangana government to pay Rs 2,500 crore to the Andhra Pradesh government. This payment is related to loans taken for externally aided projects (EAP).

The directive, issued on Thursday, is seen as part of the ongoing financial adjustments between the two states, following bifurcation. The apportionment of debt of 15 externally-aided projects between Andhra and Telangana has been pending.

5

## Acquire land fast for NLIP: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that land acquisition must not delay the Nellikal Lift Irrigation Project and directed officials to complete land acquisition by next April-end. The Minister held a review on Thursday at the Secretariat, focus-

ing on the progress of the Nellikal Lift Irrigation Project. The meeting was attended by Nalgonda MP Kunduru Raghuvver Reddy, MLAs Kunduru Jayadeer Reddy and former Minister Kunduru Jana Reddy, along with Engineer-in-Chief Anil Kumar, Nalgonda Collector Narayana Reddy and Chief

Engineers Ajay Kumar and Nageswara Rao.

During the meeting, Uttam asked the officials to expedite works by swiftly engaging with farmers regarding land acquisition. He also discussed the additional payments required for forest lands and stressed that related proposals should be prepared immediately.

5



## #CREDAIbility

is all about building your sanctuary in the nation's healthcare capital, Hyderabad.

(Mercer's Quality of Living Survey, 2023)


**23-25 Aug, 2024 - Nagole, Metro Station**

**Lucky Draw**

Win surprise giveaways on every 25<sup>th</sup> registration

Grab a lucky draw coupon & Win a Car





Sri Duddala Sridhar Babu  
Hon'ble Minister for IT & Industries



Sri Komatireddy Venkat Reddy  
Hon'ble Minister for Roads & Buildings and Chemorology

Gracing the occasion with their esteemed presence.

**Title Sponsor**



**Palladium Sponsors**



**Platinum Sponsors**



**Diamond Plus Sponsor**



**Diamond Sponsors**



**Banking Partner**



**Gold Plus Sponsors**



**Gold Sponsors**



**Silver Sponsors**



**Topaz Sponsors**



**Supporting Partners**




**Event Partner**



**TRANSPARENT. TRUSTWORTHY. TRANSFORMING.**

Visit the largest one-stop property show.



www.credaihyd.org  
Call: 040 - 40151614



# Why is BRS silent on Adani 'scam'?

CM Revanth questions KCR, KTR ● Asks Congress cadre to eliminate BJP threat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the BJP has become a 'big threat' to the country. It is the responsibility of all Congress workers to eliminate this menace, he said.

"Why are BRS leaders not questioning the BJP about the Adani 'scam'? We are least bothered if the BRS merges with the BJP. Why is KCR not questioning the BJP and KTR not posting messages about this 'robbery' on X? It is enough to prove that the BRS has been supporting the BJP which is 'looting' the country's wealth. We demand that the BRS clarify its policy on the JPC," the CM said.

Addressing the dharna before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in Basheerbagh on Thursday



CM Revanth Reddy addressing a rally at ED office on Thursday

demanding that the ED should probe investments by the SEBI Chairman in Adani's company, the CM said that Prime Minister Modi 'fled' without answering questions about the Adani 'scam' in Parliament.

The CM said that India's debt burden till 2014 was only Rs 55,000 crore and that during Modi's rule, the country's debt increased to Rs 1.15 lakh crore in just 11 years. Modi alone doubled India's debt burden

compared to the 16 Prime Ministers who ruled the country. The CM said that former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is highly regarded for constructing irrigation projects. Indira Gandhi

is the brain behind the nationalisation of banks and making banking services accessible to the poor. She also took the bold decision to distribute lands to the poor. He said that Rajiv Gandhi introduced the technological revolution in the country and also provided reservations for women in local bodies. Modi and Amit Shah are like "Hum do...Hamare do." The two BJP leaders' approach seems to be defrauding the country, he said.

The CM demanded that the SEBI Chairman should resign immediately or the Centre should remove the Chairman and demanded that the ED should investigate the 'scam'. When the party gives a call, everyone, irrespective of their post, should obey and that is the reason I am taking part in the protest, he said.

## Magistrate issues summons to CM on BJP complaint

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A summons was issued to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy by the Special Judicial First Class Magistrate for Excise cases in Hyderabad.

Under the guidance of the BJP's Telangana legal cell president, Gokul Rama Rao, the BJP represented by General Secretary Kasam Venkateshwarlu, had filed a criminal case (C.C. No: 312/2024) before the Special Judicial First Class Magistrate for Excise Cases in Hyderabad on May 14.

A note issued by the BJP on Thursday said that it had filed a criminal complaint in the magistrate court against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for making baseless statements during the 2024 LS elections like "the BJP if voted to power will scrap SC, ST and BC reservations."

## KOLKATA RAPE AND KILLING Justice and medicine cannot be stopped: SC

Directs Centre, states to take urgent steps for safety of doctors



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A tough talking Supreme Court on Thursday termed "extremely disturbing" the Kolkata Police's delay in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor raped and killed at the RG Kar Hospital, and also asked protesting doctors to get back to work.

Justice and medicine cannot be stopped, the court said while hearing a suo-motu case on the Kolkata doctor's horrific end and directed the Centre and the states to take urgent steps to institutionalise the safety of medics across the country. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud issued a slew of directions on the safety of doctors, norms for protests, rights of protesters as well as the West Bengal government. It said the National Task

Force (NTF) formed by the apex court will take note of the suggestions of all the stakeholders while formulating a national protocol for the safety of healthcare professionals, including the associations representing resident doctors. "We direct the secretary of the Union Ministry of Health to engage with the chief secretaries of the states and directors general of police to ensure the safety of healthcare professionals," the bench said, while ordering that the exercise be completed in a week. Appearing in the court on behalf of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Solicitor General Tushar Mehta alleged that senior doctors at the Kolkata hospital as well as the victim's colleagues had asked for videography, which means even they felt that there was a cover-up.

## Kavitha falls ill again



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kavitha who has been suffering from a gynaecological issue and viral fever underwent medical tests at AIIMS New Delhi on Thursday. The Bihar Jail authorities brought her to the hospital as per the recommendation of jail doctors. It has been reported that Kavitha has lost 11 kg due to medical problems.

## Congress must decide if Adani is hero or villain: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi MLA KT Rama Rao sharply criticised the Telangana Congress government's dealings with the Adani Group and accused the party of hypocrisy in its stance towards the business conglomerate.

Speaking during a recent interaction, KTR questioned

how the Congress could criticise Adani while signing substantial agreements with the group in Telangana. He highlighted the Congress government's Rs 12,400 crore MoU with Adani, calling it a stark contradiction of the party's public posture.

He asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to clarify their position on Adani.

## Govt sets up committee to decide Gaddar Awards

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has taken a significant step by constituting a committee to decide the Gaddar Awards.

This committee will be responsible for designing the logo, framing guidelines and the rules for deciding the awards.

Prominent filmmaker B. Narsing Rao has been appointed

as the Chairman of the Gaddar Awards Committee and film producer Dil Raju will serve as the Vice Chairman.

The committee also has notable figures from the film and literary fields as advisors like K. Ravagavender Rao, Ande Sri, Tammareddy Bharadwaja, Allu Aravind, Gummadu Vennela, Tanikella Bharani, D. Suresh Babu, Chandrabose,

Narayananamurthy, Vandemataram Srinivas, Allani Sridhar, Sana Yadireddy, Harish Shankar and Balgam Venu. The committee's first task will be to formulate the procedures for the awards, which are expected to honour those who make contributions in the fields of arts and culture in line with Gaddar's legacy.

## If CM's brothers can do biz why can't SEBI chief buy shares in Adani firm: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Medak MP, M. Raghunandan Rao, asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy whether his stance is that the CM's brothers can invest, but the SEBI chairperson should not buy shares of the Adani company.

He said the BJP is condemning the allegations made by the Leader of Opposition (LOP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and Revanth regarding the Hindenburg report which was intended to mislead investors and the public.

Speaking to the media on Thursday at the State BJP office, Raghunandan asked why the Congress is objecting to the SEBI chairperson buying shares. The Supreme Court rejected Hindenburg's allegations saying that there is no truth in its report.



"Rahul has no faith in the SEBI, Adani, Supreme Court and Indian democracy. But he believes the news published by Hindenburg. He wants to continue attacking the country's systems after getting a death blow in the LS elections. Why is Rahul not responding to the news published by the Blitz magazine of Bangladesh," he said.

"Rahul must respect the verdict given by the SC in the Adani-Hindenburg case. I am

going to New Delhi on Friday to give the news about Rahul published by the Blitz of Bangladesh," he said.

"People like George Sores write fake news to make money. SEBI issued notices to Hindenburg. Why didn't they reply? People like Rahul don't trust the SEBI, they don't trust the Adani Group. But Congress Chief Ministers do business with Adani. Rahul wants to create a controversy by saying that SEBI Chairperson Madhavi Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch have shares in an Adani company," he said.

"Subramanyam Swamy filed a petition in court along with details saying that Rahul is a British citizen. He submitted details showing that Rahul is a British citizen. Rahul is trying to avoid losing his Indian citizenship."

## Officials cite pressure in Kaleswaram Project design approvals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former ENC Muralidhar and former ENC CDO Narendar Reddy appeared before the Kaleswaram Commission, where they were questioned by Justice PC Ghose regarding the construction and design approvals of the project.

During the session, Narendar Reddy highlighted critical points, stating that he initially did not sign the final approval for the designs and drawings. He mentioned that both he and the CDO signed the approvals due to significant pressure from higher officials apart from KCR and Harish Rao. He emphasised that everything was hurriedly approved under pressure to expedite the process.

## Cong's support for Hindenburg amounts to treason: Maheshwar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Legislative Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said the support of the Congress for the foreign entity Hindenburg is a traitorous act against national interests.

In a post on social media on Thursday he said the BJP condemns the Congress's recent actions as a glaring display of political bankruptcy and treachery.

He said that it is deeply distressing that the Congress has aligned itself with the US short-selling and market research company, Hindenburg, to undermine India's economy. This act is

nothing but a betrayal of the nation.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and other Congress leaders have called for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to investigate the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) based on

Hindenburg's report. This report, intended to damage India's global economic standing, is being used by the Congress to destabilise our country's progress.

Senior Congress leaders must introspect and reconsider their allegiance to a foreign entity that seeks to harm India's economic interests, he said.

## Congress & BRS in quid-pro-quo deal, says Sanjay

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the Congress and the BRS have entered into a quid-pro-quo deal. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Sanjay said that the Raja Sabha by-poll candidate issue is proof of the secret pact between the Congress and the BRS. He asked why the BRS did not field a candidate as it has 38 MLAs. He asked why BRS leaders are not being arrested in connection with the Kaleswaram scam, phone tapping, drugs and the Miyapur land scam.

## Singhvi's election to RS unanimous

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress candidate Abhishek Manu Singhvi's election in the Raja Sabha by-poll from Telangana will be unanimous. After scrutiny on Thursday, only Singhvi remained in the fray.

A person named Padmarajan's nomination was rejected as he had no proposers, according to Returning Officer Chada Uppender Reddy. The Returning Officer will announce the election of Singhvi formally on August 27.

## 2022 batch IAS officer trainees posted as Sub-Collectors

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has issued orders posting IAS officer trainees of the 2022 batch belonging to the Telangana cadre as Sub-Collectors in various districts. This move follows the successful completion of their Phase II training at the Lal

Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie.

Shradha Shukla has been posted as the Sub-Collector of Kagaznagar in Kumrambheem-Asifabad District. Kiran Mayi Koppiseti will take charge as the Sub-Collector of Banswada in Kamareddy district. Narayan Amit Malempati

has been posted as the Sub-Collector of Miryalaguda in Nalgonda District, while Vikas Mahato has been appointed as the Sub-Collector of Bodhan in Nizamabad district.

Uma Shankar Prasad has been posted as the Sub-Collector of Tandur in Vikarabad District and Mayank Singh as the Sub-Collector of

Kataram in Jayashankar Bhupalpalay District.

Yuvraj Marmat has been posted as the Sub-Collector of Utnoor in Adilabad district.

Collectors and Magistrates have been directed to make necessary arrangements and report the date of joining of these officers to the government.

## Naidu, Nitish Kumar have assured to oppose Waqf Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All India Muslim Personal Law Board president Khalid Saifullah Rahmani on Thursday claimed that TDP's Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar have assured the Muslim bodies that their parties would oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

His remarks came at a joint press conference of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hindi and other Muslim organisations where they asserted that they will launch a nationwide movement if the proposed legislation is not withdrawn and exhaust all measures within the ambit of law. "We have met various opposition parties.

## Claims AIMPLB president



We also met Chandrababu Naidu, who assured us that 'we will oppose this bill'. We met Nitish Kumar yesterday and he also assured us that 'we will oppose this bill'. Tejashwi Yadav has also assured us that his party would oppose the bill. Uddhav Thackeray has made a statement that he would not allow anyone to lay a hand on the Waqf and Tamil Nadu

Chief minister M K Stalin has also said he would oppose," Rahmani said.

Specifically asked about the details of the meeting with Naidu and Kumar, Rahmani did not give a direct answer and said the Muslim organisations want all secular parties, including the BJP allies, to support their stand in view of justice and secularism.



## Tamil actor Vijay unveils party flag

Gears up for 2026 Assembly polls

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Popular Tamil film actor-turned-politician Vijay unveiled the flag of his political party - Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam - on Thursday and hoisted it at his party headquarters in Panaiyur near here.

The two-coloured flag with maroon on top and bottom, has a yellow horizontal stripe in the middle with a motif of two fighting tuskars on either side of the Vaagai flower.

The "vaagai" flower is also known as the Albizia lebeck. The word "vaagai" means "victory" in Tamil. However, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) objected to the use of the elephant image on TVK's flag saying this violated the Election Commission's rules.

BSP Tamil Nadu unit president P Anandan said the elephant was the election symbol assigned to the BSP in 1993 by the ECI.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha

Tithi: Chaturthi: Aug 22 01:46 PM to Aug 23 10:39 AM

Panchami: Aug 23 10:39 AM to Aug 24 07:52 AM

Nakshatram: Revati: Aug 22 10:05 PM to Aug 23 07:54 PM

Ashwini: Aug 23 07:54 PM to Aug 24 06:05 PM

Rahukalam: 10:45 AM to 12:18 PM

Yamagandam: 3:25 PM to 4:59 PM

Varjyam: 02:23 PM to 03:52 PM

Gulika: 7:37 AM to 9:11 AM

Amritakalam: 05:43 PM to 07:10 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:53 AM to 12:43 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

Temp: 29°

Humidity: 73%

Sunrise: 6:01 AM

Sunset: 6:36 PM

Updated: August 22, 2024 5:00 PM

## KOLKATA RAPE AND KILLING CBI to SC: Crime scene altered

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI alleged in the Supreme Court on Thursday that there was an attempt to cover up the rape and killing of a post-graduate medic at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital by the local police as the crime scene was altered by the time the federal agency took over the probe.

Appearing in the court on behalf of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that senior doctors of the hospital as well as the victim's colleagues had asked for videography, which means even they had felt that there



was a cover-up. "We entered the probe on the fifth day. Before that, whatever was collected by the local police was given to us. The investigation itself was a challenge because the scene of offence was altered. The FIR was registered only after the (victim's) cremation at 11:45 pm. "First, the parents of the victim were informed by the

deputy superintendent (of the hospital) that she was not well. When they reached the hospital, they were told that she had committed suicide.... Fortunately, the colleagues of the deceased insisted for videography. This suggests that they were suspecting a cover-up," Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.



**CITY EVENTS**

**First National Space Day**

One day national seminar on exploring space organized by Centre for Environment, JNTU, Hyderabad.

**Venue**

Golden Jubilee Conference Hall, Admissions Building, JNTUH Friday, August 23, 10 am onwards

**Protection of minors from sexual abuse**

Round-table conference with experts on the subject.

**Venue**

Press Club, Somajiguda, Hyderabad August 23, 10.30 am to 2pm

**Workshop on Chadrayaan Mission**

To commemorate the first soft landing on moon by Vikram Lander. Workshop to create awareness among teachers and students.

**Venue**

Little Flower High School, Abids, Hyderabad August 23, 2pm to 3.30 pm

**88<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The birth anniversary of veteran actress Jamuna Ramana Rao to be celebrated by Vamsi Art Theatres. Harikatha exponent Padma Sri Uma Maheswari to be honoured with Jamuna-Vamsi National award.

**Venue**

Sri Tyagaraja Gana Sabha, Chikkadpalli, Hyderabad. August 23, 4.30 pm to 7 pm

**CREDAI Property Show**

Inauguration of the Property Show.

**Venue**

Nagole Metro Station, Uppal Main Road, Hyderabad August 23, 11 am

**NMDC Hyderabad Marathon**

Technical briefing.

**Venue**

Park Hyatt, Banjara Hills, August 23, 3 pm

**Akshayakalpa Farm**

Experience the Good Food Journey Walk, Food & More

**Venue**

Akshayakalpa Organic / Regenerative Farming - R&D Facility - Hyderabad August 24 | 9:30am - August 25 | 5:30 pm

**Journey of Rhythms**

Presented by Shivansh and Tatvaa 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 Bakali'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)

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD FRIDAY | AUGUST 23, 2024

03



**Crimes against women, kids won't be tolerated: Rachakonda CP**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The former Investigating Officer Inspector Venkataiah, Head Constable Yadagiri, Srikanth and Additional Public Prosecutor Sunitha, who performed effective duties in securing maximum punishment for the accused in two different sexual assault cases registered in Vanasthalipuram area, were felicitated by Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudhir Babu at Rachakonda Camp Office, LB Nagar on Thursday. The CP said that some misguided youths are turning into criminals by committing inhuman crimes for temporary pleasures due to lack of proper guidance and education in their youth. The youth should choose good goals in life and work hard in the right way to reach higher heights. He warned that those who commit crimes against minor girls and women are likely to face harsh punishments like life imprisonment under the POCSO Act, thus spending their precious youth in jails.

**JUNIOR DOCS' STRIKE**

## No doctors for consultation at Fever Hospital for patients

DEEPIKAPASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The State-run Fever Hospital (Ronald Ross Institute of Tropical and Communicable Diseases) in Nallakunta was filled with children aged six to ten, many sitting or lying on the available seating arrangement on Thursday morning, around 9:45 am. Doctors were attending only to emergency cases due to a shortage of staff caused by the ongoing junior doctors' protests in Hyderabad.

A long queue formed near the Out Patient (OP) registration, but many were asked to wait or leave as there were not enough doctors to see them. The watch women, overwhelmed by the situation, tried to manage the crowd by shouting at patients attempting to enter the emergency ward. "No one listens when we ask them to sit down. Only critical cases are being seen by the doctors, but the patients don't listen," one watch woman lamented.

A middle-aged woman struggling to walk with the help of her mother, arrived at the hospital only to find that the queue was moving at a snail's pace. Like the children, she was unable to stand for long but waited, hoping the doctors would eventually attend to her.

Fathima, a mother of a 10-year-old boy, shared her frustra-



People lined up at Out Patient (OP) registration counter at Fever Hospital

tion with The Pioneer. "My son is feeling heavy-headed due to fever. He hasn't eaten anything and is lying around, unable to bear it. We've been in line since 8:30 am, but we keep being told that the doctors are unavailable due to the protests. If there's a protest, we can't go to any government hospital. My husband is now looking for an affordable private hospital," she explained.

In another case, a father rushed into the Resident Medical Officer's (RMO) room with his 15-year-old daughter, who was suffering from fever and swelling in her legs. "My daughter was being treated at Niloufer Hospital, but for the past week, the doctors

haven't attended to her because of the protests. I was advised to come to Fever Hospital, but they're not admitting her here either. The RMO saw her and said she would prescribe medicines and asked me to get blood tests done."

Resident Medical Officer Dr Jayalakshmi of Government Fever Hospital acknowledged the challenges. "We agree the queue is huge, but due to the ongoing junior doctor protests, we are able to serve only emergency cases. There is panic among people regarding Dengue, but we are assuring them that most fevers are viral. Despite taking precautions, we are seeing new fever cases

every day. Dog bite cases are also on the rise, with nearly 50 to 60 cases reported daily." Dr Jayalakshmi further noted

that the hospital is seeing over 100 fever cases daily, with one or two Dengue-positive cases reported every alternate day.

## Monkeypox special wards

Following the orders of Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha to make arrangements for Monkeypox and set up special or isolation wards, Fever Hospital has set up one, whereas Gandhi Hospital identified the separate isolation ward. The officers are also looking to make medicines available at the hospitals. Resident Medical Officer Dr Jayalakshmi of Government Fever Hospital explained to The Pioneer, "We received the orders and most fever cases are recorded at Fever Hospital. So,

we immediately arranged a special ward for the preventive stage. No individual has come until now either with suspicion of cases. Instead of panicking, when a case is positive, we have made precautions ready for attending such cases." Dr Raj Kumari, Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital told The Pioneer, "In regard to Monkeypox, Yes we have identified and prepared for Monkeypox separate isolation ward. We are on the job right now to make the facilities available at Gandhi Hospital too."



The Monkeypox ward arranged at Fever Hospital, Nallakunta

- According to the Health Department, no confirmed Dengue deaths have been reported in the State to date. It was found that other fever cases, not suspected of being Dengue, were also prevalent.
- Out of 63,532 samples tested, 4,459 have tested positive for Dengue, with a positivity rate of 7.01%, which is considered low compared to other states.

## CII TG, Google Cloud organise AI Summit



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CII Telangana, in collaboration with Google Cloud, hosted the Generative AI Summit in the city, focusing on "Revolutionising healthcare and pharmaceuticals."

Industry leaders from the Pharma & Health Sciences sector and Google Cloud professionals spoke at the event. Sai D Prasad, Chairman of CII Telangana and Executive Director of Bharat Biotech, discussed the future integra-

tion of AI into pharma and other industries. He highlighted CII's goal of contributing to Telangana's growth as a trillion-dollar economy.

Anil Bhansali from Google Cloud emphasised the role of AI in driving digital transformation, while Shilpa Reddy of CII Telangana, stressed the summit's alignment with their 2024-25 objectives. She also highlighted the importance of global trends and AI success stories.

CEO of Aragen Life

Sciences, Manni Kantipudi praised the event's focus on AI's application in various fields. Phanimitra B from Dr Reddy's Laboratories emphasised technology's role in enhancing production processes and continuous improvement.

Finally, Siddharth Bagga from Google Cloud highlighted AI's impact on drug discovery and personalised medicine, predicting a significant reduction in drug development time through optimised data usage.

## No free transport for women at night

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Police clarified that they are not providing any free ride service for women between 10pm to 6am.

Hyderabad City Police posted on X saying the information circulating on social media is false and urged the residents to be cautious about misleading information.

The viral post gave contact numbers with a message that women who are alone between 10 pm and 6 am could request a free police vehicle ride home by contacting helpline numbers and it should be shared to among women.

The nearby Station House Officer will connect with Control Room who are available for 24/7 services to drop women through these vehicles.

"Always verify the facts with trusted sources before sharing. Spreading false information can cause unnecessary panic and confusion."

**POSE SERIOUS ELECTROCUTION RISKS**

## Overflowing manholes, eroded roads in Anand Nagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city's Decent Street of Anand Nagar, down to the Banjara Hills Road No. 1, has been neglected for weeks. A manhole overflowing for many weeks is unattended, causing stinking sewage to flood the main road, which also connects three lanes. Overgrown trees with branches touching live electric wires poses risk of electrocution, especially during the monsoon season.

Recent heavy rains have made the situation worse. This overflowing blocked manholes and has made the main road flow with stinking water, forcing pedestrians to walk through sewage water splashing through them.

The overgrown branches hanging near live wires are creating a fear of electrocution, especially for those walking along the road's edge, where the branches hang within the reach of the hand. This is a significant concern, especially



with three schools nearby, putting children at risk. Despite these dangers, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) only cleans the roads, ignoring these problems as minor issues.

When asked, a resident of AnandNagar, Venkat, explained that the junction often floods during rains, making the road dangerous for motorists and pedestrians. He noted that GHMC responds only after complaints are made, and even then, with a few days

of delay. Venkat also pointed out that while the trees provide shade in summer, they become dangerous in the monsoon, as the branches may fall on people along with risk of electric shocks when accidentally touched, especially when overgrown. He urged the GHMC to address such risks before accidents occur, citing a recent incident in Kadapa where two kids crossing a road on a bicycle got electrocuted, leaving one dead on Wednesday.

## TO CREATE OVER 500 JOBS IN CITY City a long-term destination for core automated services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Choosing Hyderabad as a long-term destination for core automated services, AHEAD, a leading US-based provider of cloud, data, and engineering solutions, opened a new office in the 12th floor of RMZ Nexity skyscraper at HYTEC City on Thursday. This is AHEAD's second executive centre in India, aiming to hire over 500 employees by utilising Hyderabad's skilled workforce and its growing reputation as India's top IT hub.

When asked, Vice-President and Managing Director of AHEAD India, Praveen Grover, explained that Hyderabad has more skill sets compared to their first office in Gurgaon. This was a key reason for leasing the 26,000 sq. ft. space office in HYTEC City, which can accommodate 200 employees. Grover stated



Senior Vice-President of Infrastructure and Operations, Keith Odom lighting the lamp at their new Hyderabad office on Thursday

that they plan to hire 500 senior-level professionals and are not looking for fresh graduates initially.

He mentioned that the work model will be hybrid, with employees required to come to the office only two to three times a week. While most digital operations run from Gurgaon, AHEAD is ready to begin operations in Hyderabad once hiring is complete, with a goal of reaching 750 employees by the end of 2025.

## Exam schedule for Group-2 Services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC), Hyderabad, has announced the exam schedule for the Group-2 Services Recruitment. Candidates who applied under the Group-II

Services (General Recruitment) Notification No. 28/2022, dated 29/12/2022, should note that the written exams will be held as follows: Paper-I: General Studies and General Abilities on 15.12.2024 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Paper-II: History,

Polity, and Society on 15.12.2024 from 3 pm to 5:30 pm. Paper-III: Economy and Development on 16.12.2024 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Paper-IV: Telangana Movement and State Formation on 16.12.2024 from 3 pm to 5:30 pm.



## Prahari Club to tackle drugs abuse just eyewash

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY bhumireddyrashmi@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government Prahari Club or drug committees that would help tackle drug consumption, drug abuse and other related issues among school children, seems to be a failed initiative as a majority of private schools across Hyderabad haven't formed drug committees yet.

Speaking to the Pioneer Correspondent, Telangana Recognised Schools Management Association (TRSMA) leader Y Shekar Rao said, "Despite the State government having announced the formation of a drug committee or Prahari Club in various

schools across the city, it is not taking any further action in order to implement it. This announcement is only limited to paper but not in action. On other hand, a majority of private schools did not form drug committees due to their negligence. They are not showing any seriousness in tackling such issues."

Another member of TRSMA, Madhusudhan said, "First of all, the Telangana government should create a proper action plan by organising a meeting or discussing with important stakeholders of private and government schools, meeting with principals or directors of various schools etc and creating various awareness programmes to avoid drug intake or tackling drug abuse. This action plan is very crucial



for the successful implementation of the drug committee."

Gaddam Murali, Member of Hyderabad Schools Parents' Association (HSPA) said, "Similar to the previous issues, the government just releases the

GOs but nothing is not happening at field level. During the previous year, when such issues arose, the government just debated or made promises, but nothing happened. Most importantly, there is a GO to organise parents committees in schools but till now they are not implemented in the majority of schools across the city."

Asif Hussain Sohail of Sakina Foundation said, "We have been working for anti-drug consumption for the past 14-15 years across India by conducting various awareness programs, rehabilitation programs, sting operations etc. If the schools formed drug committees, it is good. But what will be the constructive action taken by the school management in solving drugs





## Stone quarry blasts damage houses

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Stone quarry blasts during night time are creating problems for the people in Khammam, Hanamkonda and Karimnagar districts. The stone quarries are being run by unknown persons without permission at Pattipaka village in Sayampet mandal of Hanamkonda district. In this regard, local villagers lodged complaint to authorities concerned, but so far no action has been taken. Farmers of Katakshapur in Mulugu district alleged that the powerful explosions from

the quarries are emanating sound, dust pollution and also damaging the walls of their houses. In north Telangana, most of districts have unauthorised quarries violating the government norms. The revenue authorities have given quarry permissions without field verification to some mines. Most of villagers in Hanamkonda, Karimnagar are spending sleepless nights due to the constant explosions in the quarries. The officials concerned are not responding to the complaints in this regard.

## FIERY RYTHU DIKSHA

# BRS launches attack on Cong over loan waiver

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has intensified its campaign against the Congress-led Telangana government, staging widespread protests across the state to demand the full implementation of the promised farm loan waiver. The protests, organised in various locations including Chevella, Shadnagar, and Ibrahimpatnam, come amid escalating tensions between the two parties over unfulfilled election promises. At a fiery Rythu Diksha event in Chevella, BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) launched a direct attack on Telangana Congress President A Revanth Reddy, questioning his commitment to the loan waiver. KTR, joined by Maheswaram MLA Sabita Indra Reddy, BRS State Youth Leader Karthik

Reddy and Patnam Avinash Reddy, challenged Revanth Reddy, asking, "If the loan waiver is true, then why are you afraid?" KTR vowed to continue fighting until every farmer receives the promised waiver without restrictions, signaling that the BRS would not back down from this issue. KTR expressed concern over what he described as a growingly repressive atmosphere for those who question the government. He accused the ruling Congress of using threats, blackmail, and legal action to silence dissent, comparing the situation to the Emergency era under Indra Gandhi. He warned that such tactics would only provoke greater resistance from the people of Telangana and asserted that the BRS would continue its struggle. Simultaneously, large-scale protests were held in



Shadnagar and Ibrahimpatnam. In Shadnagar, Former MLA Anjaiah Yadav, Former speaker Madhusudanachari and former MPP, youth leader Ravinder Yadav led a dharna, with significant participation from women activists. The protesters demanded the waiver of ₹40,000 crore in farmer loans as promised by the Congress. They criticized the government for waiving only 18% of the loans for just 40% of farmers, leaving many ineligible. In Ibrahimpatnam, BRS MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy led a similar protest, demanding that the government fulfill its promises without reducing the number of eligible farmers. The protesters insisted that the loan waiver must be comprehensive and inclusive of all farmers.

## Collector urges timely completion of Maheswaram Medical College

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a review meeting held on Thursday, Ranga Reddy District Collector Shashanka emphasised the need for the timely completion of ongoing works at Maheswaram Medical College. The meeting took place in the Collector's Chamber at the Integrated District Offices Complex and included key officials involved in the project. During the meeting, Collector Shashanka directed the officials to expedite the completion of essential tasks, including the installation of necessary equipment and the preparation of college facilities. He noted that the regulations required for the first-level college have already been com-



Ranga Reddy District Collector Shashanka conducts a review meeting with key officials regarding the ongoing development of Maheswaram Medical College.

finalise the remaining regulations. The Collector specifically instructed the Telangana Medical and Health Infrastructure Development Corporation to prioritise the completion of all civil works, staff recruitment, laboratory setups and hostel facilities. He stressed the importance of adhering to deadlines to ensure the college is fully operational as planned. Key attendees at the meeting included RDO Ibrahimpatnam Anantha Reddy, Executive Engineer Sriramulu, Deputy Executive Engineer Ravinder, Medical College Principal Triveni, Superintendent B Nagender and District Hospital Coordinator G Raju Yadav.

## Workshop to elicit opinions on new RoR Act-2024 held

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Collector Muzammil Khan has invited suggestions on the new Record of Rights (RoR) draft bill at a workshop held at conference hall of collectorate here on Thursday on the topic New Revenue Act-2024 draft bill. Several revenue officials, lawyers and intelligentsia took part in the deliberations. District Revenue Officer M Rajeshwari explained the objective behind the introduction of the bill. Addressing the participants of the workshop, the Collector said that the government decided to pass new revenue law to resolve land problems.

## SP asks cops to deal with crimes with heavy hand

PNS ■ JOGULAMBA/GADWAL

Superintendent of Police DV Srinivasa Rao has directed police officers and SHOs of all police stations in the district to deal with crimes with a heavy hand. At the crime meeting held here on Thursday, the SP issued several instructions to the police personnel. The visible policing should increase, he said laying emphasis on policemen visiting villages and wards in towns. By improving the rapport with the people, the police would be able to get information immediately as and when a law-and-order problems arises and should initiate measures to check the law-and-order problems. In a swift action, the police

personnel should reach the crime spot immediately to reduce the impact of the crime. He asked them to watch keep a strict vigil on movements of rowdy- and history-sheets. Rowdy-sheets against the aged, those who are having chronic health problems and those who have good behaviour over should be dropped, he said. On increasing smuggling of ganja, he wanted the policemen to pay special attention at the field level and register cases under NDPS Act. The cyber warriors in police stations should immediately respond as and when a cyber crime takes place and cooperate with the victims and help them lodge complaint wit h 1930 and NCRB portal and get acknowledgement.

## Massive landslides in Srisailem project area

PNS ■ SRISAILEM

Massive landslides were reported in Srisailem project area following heavy down pour lashed for over four hours in Srisailem project area on Thursday obstructing movement on the Srisailem road. Since Wednesday midnight for over four hours heavy rains lashed the Srisailem project area causing landslides in the Wayanad region in Kerala. The region resembles one of the Wayanad landslide with uprooted trees, damaged houses, slanting electric poles, vehicles carried away by swirling flood waters,

sand casting, heaps of heavy rocks, damaged huts and tin roofed houses found everywhere in the region. Huge floods were noticed generating from Srigiri and Kottapeta regions flooding its surrounding and washing away several vehicles. The locals said that they never witnessed such a heavy downpour in the past two decades. The locals and devotees of Srisailem were petrified at the scale of the flooding and landslides and the resultant devastation caused. The people lived in the grip of fear for about four hours knowing what was in store for them.

## US delegates visit forests in Medak district

PNS ■ MEDAK

Chief Conservator of Forests Saravanan led US delegates team, comprising Palgrove and Clerk (Senate Appropriations Committee members) to a visit of the forests in Narsapur, Pocharam and Medak in Medak district on Thursday. The US delegation members observed that Telangana tourism and environment development activities, nature camps impart wonderful skills among the participants. They toured the forest areas extensively and inspected forest activities, plantation activities and tourism activities.

## Youth demands removal of land from prohibited list

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In an unusual and eye-catching protest, a young man staged an upside-down penance at the Tehsildar's office in Ibrahimpatnam, demanding that his family's land be removed from the prohibited list. The protest, which took place on Wednesday evening, drew the attention of Tehsildar Sunitha and other staff members. The protester, Ullinthal Jeevan from Mangalpally village in Ibrahimpatnam mandal, is a B.Tech graduate who has been struggling to find employment. With the intention of selling a portion of his mother's one-acre land to



Ullinthal Jeevan, a B.Tech graduate, stages an upside-down protest at the Ibrahimpatnam Tehsildar's office.

mother, Ullinthal Jayasudha, is located in Survey Number 374 of Mangalpally village. However, due to an adjoining acre of ceiling land belonging to another farmer, the authorities mistakenly included Jayasudha's land in the prohibited list as well. On Wednesday, Jeevan entered the Tehsildar's office and protested by performing an innovative upside-down penance, espousing to the situation. Tehsildar Sunitha assured Jeevan that an investigation would be conducted and that she would bring the matter to the attention of the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) to have the land removed from the prohibited list.

## 3-member Bihar gang held, 4,000 mobile phones seized

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

A Bihar gang has adopted a new modus operandi in collecting old mobile phones from public. The Ramagundam cybercrime police nabbed such a gang and recovered over 4000 mobile phones, thereby preventing a large-scale cyber fraud from taking place. The police took three persons into custody. We have come across people selling steel utensils or other household goods in exchange of old and used clothes.

## CPM seeks unconditional implementation of loan waiver

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

CPM district secretary N Nageswara Rao on Thursday alleged that the loan waiver implementation has assumed political overtones with CM A Revanth Reddy and former Minister T Harish Rao trading charges and counter charges. He said that farmers did not seek anyone's resignation and what they all want is the loan waiver benefit. He demanded that the condition of having white ration card to be eligible to benefit under loan waiver should be withdrawn. In essence, he sought unconditional implementation of the loan waiver.



CPM district secretary N Nageswara Rao addressing the media at Sundaraihan Bhavan in Khammam on Thursday.

Nageswara Rao alleged that the ruling and opposition parties have been trying to derive political mileage. The CM has been lying through his teeth stating that the crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh have been waived if the statements of Agriculture Minister Tummalu Nageswara Rao and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka were any indication. At the time of last Assembly elections, the CPM promised to waive crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh. During the LS elections, wherever he went he promised to implement the loan waiver in the name of gods. The challenges have been thrown in, but not the loan

waiver implemented. To project that the government lived up to its promise of implementing loan waiver by Aug 15, only some of the farmers benefited under the loan waiver implemented in phases. The state cabinet okayed to waive crop loans worth Rs 31000 crore. However, the CM made a statement indicating that so far crop loans up to Rs 22000 crore have been waived, which the CPM leader called false. Taking part in SLBC meetings, deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka said that only Rs 7500 crore was credited into farmers' accounts. According to SLBC statistics, there are 45 lakh farmers.



## Dengue cases widespread in Nirmal

More than 2,500 people have viral fevers

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Nirmal district is trembling with viral fevers. More cases of dengue, chicken pox and malaria are being registered. Government and private hospitals are being filled with patients as viral fevers are spreading in all areas irrespective of the town and villages. In addition to this, due to lack of sanitation following rains, the spread of mosquitoes has increased. As a result dengue and malaria fevers are spreading throughout the district. Dengue cases are mostly reported in Dilawarpur, Sarangapur, Laxmanchanda and Mamada mandals. According to official figures, 43 cases of dengue have been registered in the district so far, while more than 2,500 people are undergoing treatment in government hospitals with viral fever. Since the last week of June, the number of victims has been steadily increasing. Unofficially, the number of these cases is estimated to be 10

times higher. There are allegations that deaths due to viral fevers in some areas are not recorded as they are declared dead due to other causes. The situation has become worse in the rural areas of the district. In some families, more than two people are coming to hospitals due to colds. There are not enough beds in the government hospitals. So they are being treated in the OP. In some hospitals, patients are being sent back due to lack of sufficient medicines. The State government's ambitious Swachhachanam Pachchadanam programme in the wake of monsoon does not seem to have yielded results in tight district. Though Dry Day programme is held every Tuesday and Friday in villages and towns, viral fevers are increasing due to lack of sanitation. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Rajender confirmed that 43 dengue cases have been reported across the district till Thursday and 2,500 people have contracted viral fever.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR, HYDERABAD DISTRICT FORM - C :: NOTIFICATION														
(Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given) (See rule 612)														
Gazettee Hyd. - HAMIL No. 14														
No. C6104/2024-RHS (126 to 150)														
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana Collector, Hyderabad District that a total of 666.54 Sq.yds of land is required in Sher-E-Hyderabad Village, Balakrishna Mandal, Hyderabad District for the purpose of the above said project in Sher-E-Hyderabad Village, Balakrishna Mandal, Hyderabad District, land measuring more or less 666.54 Sq. yds whose detail description is as following:														
S. No.	Sl. No.	Pr. No.	Type of Land	Type of person interested	Name & Address of person interested	Reg. No.	Area Sq.Yds.	Boundaries North	Boundaries South	Boundaries East	Boundaries West	Trees	Structure	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	RHS	23-1-126	600	Owner	Patla Shaik Ajaz Ahmed	179.55	23-1-557	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
2	RHS	23-1-127	567	Owner	Patla Syed Akbar Hussain	17.90	23-1-556	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
3	RHS	23-1-128	556	Owner	Patla Md. Yousofuddin	7.71	23-1-557	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
4	RHS	23-1-129	606	Owner	Patla Khader Ali Khan (deceased)	20.01	23-1-556	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
5	RHS	23-1-130	603	Owner	Patla 1. Mohd. Meezan Mansoori (Hyderabad Bad Center), 2. Mir Umar Ali Khan (A to Z Auto Consultancy)	112.85	23-1-557	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
6	RHS	23-1-131	616	Owner	Patla Md. Saleem	16.22	23-1-603	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	-
7	RHS	23-1-132	616	Owner	Patla 1. Mir Omer Ali Khan, 2. Mir Talazzul Ali Khan, 3. Mir Aeed Ali Khan	42.75	23-1-621	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
8	RHS	23-1-133	621	Owner	Patla Mir Asad Ali Khan	80.25	23-1-616	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+1
9	RHS	23-1-134	591/1	Owner	Patla Mohd. Ismail	4.22	23-1-616	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+1
10	RHS	23-1-135	616	Owner	Patla Mir Omer Ali Khan	3.83	23-1-591/1	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+1
11	RHS	23-1-136	625	Owner	Patla Mir Talazzul Ali Khan (A1 Radium)	90.16	23-1-616	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G
12	RHS	23-1-137	626	Owner	Patla Saheb Zaid Mir Mahmood Jahangir Ali Khan	89.77	23-1-625	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G
13	RHS	23-1-139	626/2/1	Owner	Patla Mohd. Zulfegar Baig	14.17	23-1-626/1	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
14	RHS	23-1-140	871	Owner	Patla Fide-E-Shabbir (K. Hoda)	3.42	23-1-876	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
15	RHS	23-1-141	876	Owner	Patla 1. Mohd. Bin Ahmed Bin Makhlooz, 2. Syed Bin Makhlooz	46.64	23-1-871	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
16	RHS	23-1-142	877	Owner	Patla Mohd. Ismail	12.73	23-1-876	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G
17	RHS	23-1-143	880	Owner	Patla 1. Mohd. Bin Ahmed Bin Makhlooz, 2. Syed Bin Makhlooz	22.47	23-1-877	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+1
18	RHS	23-1-144	897/2	Owner	Patla Ali Bin Makhlooz	22.07	23-1-667/3	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G
19	RHS	23-1-145	897/3	Owner	Patla Saleem	10.85	23-1-667/2	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+1
20	RHS	23-1-146	898/2	Owner	Patla SK. Mansooruddin	13.04	23-1-667/3	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
21	RHS	23-1-147	899/3	Owner	Patla Mohd. Masood Ali	25.1	23-1-899	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+1
22	RHS	23-1-148	899	Owner	Patla MA Wahheed	18.07	23-1-901	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
23	RHS	23-1-149	901	Owner	Patla 1. Wasim 2. Sultan Bee	31.06	23-1-899	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G+2
24	RHS	23-1-150	899/1	Owner	Patla Zahoor Mehdi Khan	15.21	23-1-901	Road	Neigro Property	-	-	-	-	G
							Total	666.54						



ACROSS THE STATES



It is govt's duty to trace missing children, women: HC

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said it was the government's duty to trace missing children and women. Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), a division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar directed the Maharashtra government to file an affidavit on measures taken by it to deal with such cases. The court also sought a reply from the Government Railway Police (GRP) on measures taken to check human trafficking, and suggestions from the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (MSCW) for curbing human trafficking. The PIL, filed by Sangli-resident Shahaji Jagtap, sought a direction to the state police to trace more than one lakh women who went missing in Maharashtra between 2019 and 2021. The petition expressed concern over 'inaction' by the state authorities in cases of missing women and children. The petitioner's advocate Manjiri Parasnis on Thursday told the court that Jagtap's own daughter had gone missing.



Porsche crash: no bail for teen driver's parents

A court here on Thursday rejected the bail applications of six persons including the teen driver's parents in connection with alleged blood-swapping in the Kalyani Nagar Porsche car crash case. Additional Sessions Judge U M Mudholkar refused bail to the 17-year-old's parents Vishal and Shivani Agarwal; Dr Ajay Taware and Dr Shreehari Halnor of Sassoon General Hospital, and alleged middlemen Ashpak Makandar and Amar Gaikwad. It is alleged that after the teen driver crashed his car into a motorbike and killed two IT professionals in the wee hours of May 19, his parents and others conspired to replace his blood samples so as to establish that he was not drunk at the time. The prosecution argued that if given bail, the accused might pressurise the witnesses and tamper with the evidence.

India ready to extend all possible help for peace

PM NARENDRA MODI SAYS AHEAD OF UKRAINE TRIP

PNS ■ WARSAW

A day ahead of his much-anticipated visit to conflict-torn Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India firmly believes that no problem can be solved on the battlefield and it is ready to extend all possible cooperation for the restoration of peace and stability in the region. Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk that saw the elevation of India-Poland ties to the level of strategic partnership and firming up of a social security pact to promote the mobility of skilled workers. The two sides also resolved to expand cooperation in key sectors of defence, trade, renewable energy, pharmaceu-



ticals, urban infrastructure, food processing, artificial intelligence and space. In his media statement, Modi, besides highlighting key outcomes of his talks Tusk, also referred to ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia and described them as matters of deep concern. "The ongoing conflicts in

Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of deep concern for all of us. India firmly believes that no problem can be solved on the battlefield," he said. "The loss of innocent lives in any crisis has become the biggest challenge for the entire humanity. We support dialogue and diplomacy for early restoration of peace and sta-

bility," Modi said with Tusk by his side. "For this, India is ready to provide all possible support along with its friendly countries." Modi arrived in Warsaw on Wednesday, in the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Poland in nearly half a century. In the second leg of his two-nation trip, Modi will be in Kyiv for around seven hours on Friday.

The Indian prime minister will leave for the Ukrainian capital onboard a train this evening and the journey will take around 10 hours. Polish Prime Minister Tusk said that he and Prime Minister Modi clarified their positions on issues that concern the whole world today. "I am very pleased that the Prime Minister confirmed the readiness of his personal commitment to a peaceful.

Restoring statehood to J-K is Cong, INDIA bloc's priority: Rahul

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said it is the priority of the Congress and the INDIA Bloc to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The former Congress president also said it is his party's aim that people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh get their democratic rights back. "It is our priority and also of the INDIA bloc to restore statehood in J-K as soon as possible. We had expected this could be done prior to elections, but it is okay, elections have been declared. It is a step forward and we are hoping that statehood will be restored as soon as possible and the democratic rights of the people of J-K will be restored," Gandhi said at a press conference after an interaction with party workers here. The Congress leader said he has "a very deep rela-



PM has no vision to tackle unprecedented unemployment crisis: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday claimed the country is grappling with an "unprecedented unemployment crisis" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "has no vision" to tackle this situation and provide employment to the youth. Congress general secretary in-charge communications



Jairam Ramesh shared a news article on X that cited a report

tion" with the people of J-K and it is always a pleasure for him to visit here. He assured the people that the Congress is always there to help them in whatever it can. My message to the people of J-K is that whatever way we can help you, the Congress party is always there. "We understand that you are going through a very difficult period, a tough period.

released by the Bank of Baroda claiming that the growth in employment in the corporate sector slowed to 1.5 per cent in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) from 5.7 per cent in FY23. "This is another report showing the failure of this government on the economic front. A total of 2.43 lakh jobs have been lost in the country in 2022-23.



Oppn members question provisions of Waqf bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill held its first meeting Thursday amid objections by opposition MPs over a host of provisions as the Union minority affairs ministry made a presentation in the proposed law. Sources said BJP members in the meeting lauded the proposed amendments, including the provisions which seek to empower women.

recent times, a member

claimed. The next meeting will be held on August 30, and the panel is likely to hear views of various state Waqf bodies, sources said. There was a view among the members across various parties, some of them said, that the minority affairs ministry was not "adequately prepared" to address the queries raised in the meeting, and the presentation made was not up to scratch. BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) said the Muslim community's concerns should be addressed and called for wider consultations, they said, adding that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) also pitched for holding broad deliberations. The members who attended the meeting included the BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal, Aparajita Sarangi, Tejasvi Surya, Dilip Saikia and Gulam Ali; Congress party's Gouvar Gogoi and Naseer Hussain; TMC's Kalyan Banerjee, YSR Congress' V Vijaysai Reddy.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR, HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

FORM - C NOTIFICATION (Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given) (See rule 5(12)) Gazette Hyd. - PART No.15 No. 43116/2024-RHS (161 to 175) Date: 23-08-2024. Dated: 17-08-2024. Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Hyderabad District that a total of 152.88 Sq. yds of land is required in Sha-2-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District namely for Collector's Office at Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II, MGRS in Chandrayanpeta, Sha-2-Darash-Sha. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Sha-2-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District, land measuring more or less 152.88 Sq. yds whose details are given as follows:

Table with 15 columns: S. No., District No., Plot No., Area, Type of Land, Name & Address of person interested, Area in Sq. Yds., N, S, E, W, Road, Verbal, Type, and Remarks. It lists various land parcels with their respective details.

This notification made under the provisions of Section - 11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013), is issued by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Hyderabad District and Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, Bahadurpura, Hyderabad on any working day, during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector Hyderabad District/ appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, Bahadurpura, Hyderabad and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act/Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances in such land/property from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Hyderabad District. Objections to the acquisition of any land and claims from all persons interested affected by settlement by acquisition of this notification, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act, before the Collector, Hyderabad District/Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, Bahadurpura, Hyderabad. The personal hearing on the objections so filed will be taken up on 23-10-2024 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, Bahadurpura, Hyderabad. Place: Hyderabad Date: 17-08-2024. Sd/- Sd/- Sd/- Sp. Dy. Collector (LA), HSRRL, Hyderabad. Add. Collector, Hyderabad District. Collector, Hyderabad District. DIPP R.O. No. - 207/LAPP-AGENCY/NDV1/1/2024-23

'Nothing short of full...

Continued on Page 1

"He has not only deceived the public but has also committed a grave sin by lying in the name of God," KTR stated. He lambasted the Congress government for disrespecting women and journalists and specifically mentioned the humiliation of Sabitha Indra Reddy who was insulted in the Assembly by Revanth Reddy. He condemned the mistreat-

ment of two women journalists in Kondareddy Palli and questioned the integrity of the Chief Minister who allowed such incidents. He also highlighted the dire state of farmers under the Congress admin, drawing attention to the meagre Rs 7,500 crore disbursed so far for waiving farm loans. KTR called on farmers to hold the Congress government accountable and urged

them not to let go of this issue until the promised Rs 2 lakh loan waiver is fully implemented. He assured farmers that the BRS would continue to fight for their rights and would not rest until justice was served. He concluded by warning Revanth Reddy that his failure to deliver on promises would lead to his downfall. "Running a government is not as easy as making promis-

es," KTR remarked, stating that if the Congress government continues to fail farmers they will face the consequences in the next elections. He announced that the BRS would soon declare its next course of action on the loan waiver issue. He emphasised that the fight would continue at all levels including village-level protests until the Congress government fulfilled its commitments.

Acquire land...

Continued on Page 1

He also instructed officials to promptly address the pending Rs 23 crore power dues along with proposals for increased electricity charges. Moreover, he highlighted the need to obtain administrative approvals for the new check dam planned in Nagarjuna Sagar con-

stituency and to complete the tender process for all five check dams without delay. Uttam also said that the jungle cutting in the low-level canal under AMRP jurisdiction should begin immediately. He also called for identification and immediate commencement of repair works in the NSP canal area.

TG asked to pay...

Continued on Page 1

It may be mentioned here that the Government of AP had proposed the apportionment of four EAPs on location basis, nine EAPs on utilisation

basis and the remaining two based on population ratio. The Telangana government's stand is that the apportionment of all EAPs shall be on the basis of population ratio. Sources said the party searched for a BC leader from North Telangana but failed to find one for the TPCC chief post.

Will it happen this...

Continued on Page 1

According to sources, the party may select a leader from North Telangana as the Chief Minister is from South Telangana. The high command would also balance caste equations. Sources said the party searched for a BC leader from North Telangana but failed to find one for the TPCC chief post.

It is learnt that the high command is not interested in TPCC Working President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud who has been trying for the TPCC chief post. Mahesh is from North Telangana and is a BC. It is also learnt that the Congress high command has been considering the name of IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu. However, it is learnt that Sridhar Babu, who is from North Telangana, has been

saying that he will take over the post only if the party allows him to continue as a Minister. It is learnt that the party is also considering Government Whip Alduri Laxman Kumar (SC) and Mahbubabad MP Balaram Naik (ST). Both are from North Telangana and no one has objected to them. It is learnt that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is interested

in Balaram Naik in case the party wants to give a chance to SCs or STs. It is learnt that Revanth Reddy thinks that he can save a Minister post if the TPCC chief post is given to an ST individual. However, the high command is inclined to give a chance to an SC leader to become the TPCC chief as there is no competent BC leader from North Telangana, it is learnt.

Stay vigilant to counter fake narratives: EC to J-K, Haryana poll observers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday advised its over 400 observers being deployed for assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana to stay vigilant to false narratives trying to derail the election process and to ensure a quick counter. Reminding the observers of their crucial role, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar emphasised that they, as representatives of the Commission, are expected to conduct themselves professionally and be accessible to all stakehold-

ers including candidates and public at large. He also advised them to overcome language barriers and ensure that there are no gaps in communication. He reminded the observers that they would be under the watchful gaze of parties, candidates, voters and EC alike. Around 200 general observers, 100 police observers and as many expenditure observers are being deployed in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana. CEC Kumar advised the officials to be vigilant towards false narratives trying to derail the election process.

'Wealth created under...

Continued on Page 1

Hindenburg Research has exposed the loot in detail which stunned the world, he said. It is even more 'shocking' that the SEBI chairperson who should have protected the nation's wealth was hand in glove with this 'loot' of the nation's wealth. The entire world was taken aback when this was exposed by Hindenburg, he said. Rahul has been raising his voice for a long time against crony capitalists and Prime Minister Modi remained indifferent to Rahul's demand

to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee with representatives of all political parties, he said. The AICC was compelled to give a call for nationwide dharnas in front of ED offices on Thursday due to the PM's apathy, he said. Bhatti said that it was the responsibility of everyone to protect the nation's wealth. Congress workers will continue their nationwide protests until the wealth 'looted' by Adani is restored to the people and a Joint Parliamentary Committee is constituted to probe Hindenburg Research's

latest allegations into what the party called the "Big Adani Scam," said Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti here on Thursday. He thanked Congress rank and file for turning out in huge numbers in response to the call given by the All India Congress Committee. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been fighting for the last few years to 'protect' the nation's wealth and against its 'loot' by some people. The nation's wealth belongs to the people and not to a few individuals, he said. During his padayatra from

Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Rahul explained to the people how Prime Minister Modi has been 'handing over' the nation's 'wealth' to crony capitalists like Adani. Rahul made it clear that the AICC leadership would fight against the exploitation of the nation's wealth, he said. Bhatti thanked everyone, Ministers, MLAs, MLCs and Congress workers for uniting to shoulder the responsibility of 'protecting' the nation's wealth and for participating in the protest under the leadership of TPCC President Revanth Reddy.





www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Witaj Poland!

### PM Narendra Modi arrives in Poland for the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 45 Years

In a significant diplomatic milestone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Poland on August 21, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 45 years. This historic visit underscores the growing importance of India-Poland relations, which have evolved considerably since their establishment over 70 years ago. India and Poland share a rich history of diplomatic engagement that dates back to the early 1950s, soon after India gained independence and Poland emerged from the devastations of World War II. The two nations established formal diplomatic relations in 1954, laying the foundation for a partnership based on mutual respect, shared values, and common interests. During the Cold War era, India and Poland maintained cordial relations, bolstered by their shared membership in the Non-Aligned Movement. This period saw steady growth in bilateral trade, cultural exchanges, and political dialogue. However, the relationship experienced a slowdown in the post-Cold War era as both countries



focused on domestic reforms and economic transitions. Despite this, the underlying warmth between the two nations remained intact. In recent years, the India-Poland relationship has witnessed a resurgence, driven by mutual economic interests, shared concerns about global security, and a commitment to multilateralism. Poland, as a member of the European Union and a key player in Central Europe, has become an important partner for India in its engagement with the region. Meanwhile, India's rapid economic growth and its strategic position in Asia have made it an attractive partner for Poland.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Poland is a significant step in revitalising and deepening bilateral ties. It is particularly noteworthy as it marks the first time an Indian Prime Minister has visited Poland since 1979. The visit is expected to enhance cooperation in several key areas, including trade and investment, defence, technology, and cultural exchanges. Trade between India and Poland has been steadily increasing, with bilateral trade reaching approximately \$3 billion in recent years. Polish companies have shown keen interest in the Indian market, particularly in sectors such as defence, energy, and infrastructure. Likewise, Indian businesses are exploring opportunities in Poland, particularly in the fields of information technology, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing. Défense cooperation is another area of mutual interest. India, with its growing defence industry, can be a valuable partner for Poland in this endeavour. Cultural ties between the two nations are also set to receive a boost during PM Modi's visit. Poland has a vibrant Indian diaspora, and cultural exchanges between the two countries have been on the rise. Indian films, cuisine, and festivals are increasingly popular in Poland, reflecting the deepening people-to-people connections. As India and Poland work together to address common challenges, from global security to climate change, this visit could mark the beginning of a more dynamic and mutually beneficial partnership.

# The shadow games of Pakistan's ISI



BHOPINDER SINGH

### Often accused of overstepping its professional bounds, ISI has become a player in domestic politics, international intrigue, and personal vendettas

Spy novelist John Le Carre describes spies as complicated and lonely beings, living double lives. Such seclusion makes deception, intrigue and unrequited ambition, their default mode. The fact that they know the deep and dark secrets but are still expected to comply by restraints occasionally leads them to flex their 'privilege' (read, confidential information) towards reckless ends. Because they are dangerously privy to so much dirt, they fear their ambition.

Like the proverbial Caesar's wife, must always be above suspicion – but often aren't. Pakistan's notorious spy agency Inter-Services-Intelligence (ISI) is infamous for going beyond its professional remit and dabbling in domestic politics, commercial interests or even partaking in cross-border dalliances, beyond their approved mandate. If the Pakistani Army Chief is the real power (pretence of civil politicians, notwithstanding), arguably the second most powerful person is the DG-ISI. Supposed loyalty to the Army Chief or to the PM (in times when the Army takes a backseat and politicians have an upper hand) is implicit, though, in the Pakistani narrative, backstabbing is common.

Ironically for such a powerful 'number two' post, there have been 29 DG-ISIs so far, and only one has ascended to the post of Army Chief i.e., the current Army Chief, General Asim Munir. It is reflective of the slippery slope that the post entails which invariably ends up making some power centres in Pakistan unhappy about their conduct e.g., Clergy, Politicians, Americans/Chinese or even their alma mater, the Pakistani 'establishment'. Even the current Army Chief, General Asim Munir was abruptly moved out as the DG-ISI as the then PM Imran Khan felt uncomfortable with his conduct (karma later evened out the equation as Imran finds himself languishing in the jail today). Seemingly the profile is for a loyal, unquestioning and low-key DG-ISI who does the job is satisfied with obscurity (shouldn't be overambitious) and effectively rides into



the sunset after retirement, without much fuss. Given the opportunity, lure and access, many do try to take their chances.

There is a curious case of one DG-ISI who did get appointed as the Army Chief, but his tenure was only for a few hours and the same does not go in official records as having become the Pakistani Army Chief. Lt Gen Ziauddin Butt was a typical DG-ISI who went across the Afghan border to meet the dreaded leader of the Taliban, Mullah Omar, to negotiate – he was in the thick of the dark corridors and machinations of the Pakistani State. Ziauddin had direct access to the other competing power centre i.e., PM Nawaz Sharif, and was a willing accomplice in Sharif's attempt to remove Pervez Musharraf as the Army Chief. Before the coup (or counter-coup as Musharraf calls it), 'General' Ziauddin was hastily appointed the Army Chief and then immediately dumped by the Pakistani Army which refused to back their DG-ISI's ambition. Spymaster's gambit failed. Ziauddin was not the first or the last of DG-ISIs to harbour personal ambition beyond what was warranted constitutionally. The shadowy likes of Lt Gen Akhtar Rahman,



WHEREAS THE UNHINGED POLITICIANS LIKE IMRAN KHAN WHO ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAVE THEIR SKINS AND INGRATIATE THEMSELVES TO THE PAKISTANI 'ESTABLISHMENT' HAVE DISOWNED AND THROWN LT GEN FAIZ HAMEED UNDER THE PROVERBIAL BUS!

Hamid Gul, Shamsur Kallu, Zaheerul Islam etc., operated with questionable interests. Yet another one who is in the news for harbouring extraconstitutional ambitions and paying the price for the same is the former DG-ISI, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed. Forced into premature retirement over his dubious role amid the recent turf war between the Pakistani 'establishment' (led by previous and current Army Chiefs i.e. Qamar Bajwa and Asim Munir, respectively) against the Imran Khan dispensation – he has been brought back to public news for having misused his then powerful position and arm-twisting people in some really deal.

While he was earlier afforded a relatively face-saving 'early retirement' (though everyone knew better), he could be embarrassingly court-martialed to score fresh brownie points against the deposed Imran Khan dispensation (which Lt Gen Faiz Hameed is popularly believed to be identified with). Many acts of Lt Gen Faiz Hameed did suggest a rather megalomaniac, cavalier and overreaching conduct that did not behave the role of spymasters, but perhaps the personal ambition had got the better of him. As the roll of the dice played out, the narrative changed and with it, he too

was ousted. Only he is back for a possible second round of infamy and disrepute if the current dispensation has its ways. Whereas the unHINGED politicians like Imran Khan who are desperately trying to save their skins and ingratiate themselves to the Pakistani 'establishment' (after realising that they are not going anywhere) have disowned and thrown Lt Gen Faiz Hameed under the proverbial bus! Instead of backing their henchman who did their bidding, Imran said, "if Faiz Hameed was involved, it should be investigated" and he welcomed the enquiry!

The whole saga says a lot about the unprofessionalism and complete absence of loyalty in overall governance, as exemplified by Lt Gen Faiz Hameed or by Imran Khan – the former was disloyal to his institution, and the latter to his word. As Israeli Michael Bar-Zohar notes in Mosaic: The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service, "Dirtiest actions should be carried out by the most honest men", perhaps former DG-ISI Faiz Hameed wasn't one and will pay the price, again.

### PICTALK



Visitors at the Taj Mahal in Agra

PTI

# The catalyst for corporate success

### Ambition is an incredibly powerful force. When properly harnessed, it has the potential to unlock remarkable outcomes

In the realm of corporate success, there is a fundamental truth: the sky is not your limit, but merely the starting point. With a powerful drive and unwavering determination, ambition propels you to surpass all perceived boundaries. Just like a high-performance engine, achieving your dreams requires proper focus and direction.

Today, we all have unique goals and dreams, both in our personal lives and careers. Nevertheless, the journey from having a vision to making it a reality can be challenging and draining. It calls for unwavering dedication, relentless effort, and occasionally, the need to ignore those who doubt you. In our business environment, having a strong drive and unwavering determination is not just a cliché, but a crucial factor in setting ambitious goals and relentlessly striving for excellence. We must connect these grand aspirations to careful planning, unwavering commitment, and consistent hard work.

Only then will the aspiration reveal its magic. Many times, the biggest obstacles we face



are a result of the actions of others. There will always be those who view our dreams as unattainable or doubt our abilities. It's crucial to remember that our potentials are not defined by external voices. Throughout history, countless individuals have faced ridicule and scepticism, only to ultimately prove their doubters wrong.

The proper environment can truly make a difference in our pursuit of success. It is an environment that fosters growth by providing opportunities to use our skills and allowing for energetic and unwelcome ambition, which drives change and advancement. Surround yourself with

mentors and peers who share your vision and are there to support you on your journey. Embrace growth opportunities and always value the feedback of others to refine your approach. Equally crucial is the art of expressing our goals.

Make sure to communicate your goals and progress with both supervisors and colleagues. It's important to keep everyone in the loop and stay motivated. When you openly express your aspirations and the steps you're taking to achieve them, not only do you attract valuable encouragement, but you also establish a sense of personal responsibility. However, the

true basis of ambition stems from the constant trust within oneself.

It is important to have a strong belief in your abilities and to acknowledge the unique qualities that you bring to the table. Recognising and celebrating the small victories along your journey to greater success is crucial. Embrace challenges as chances to grow and learn. Stay resilient in the face of setbacks.

Ambition is an incredibly powerful force. When properly harnessed, it has the potential to unlock remarkable outcomes. Despite facing obstacles and encountering negativity, you will always choose to embrace a positive mindset. And getting encouragement from prominent individuals will help you hugely achieve your goals. After all, everyone deserves a chance to shine. So set the bar high, work, and let the ambition catapult you to new heights. The sky is not the limit in the corporate world; it is just the beginning of your journey toward success.

(The author is a freelance writer; views are personal)



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DARKNESS BEHIND THE SILVER SCREEN

Madam — The long-awaited Justice Hema Committee report, commissioned by the Kerala government to investigate the challenges faced by women in the Malayalam film industry, has sent shockwaves through the community. The report, which was released to the media under the RTI Act five years after its submission, uncovers disturbing accounts of sexual exploitation, harassment, and mistreatment endured by women in the industry. Revealing the dark underbelly of the film world, the report underscores the truth behind what were once dismissed as mere rumors—casting couch practices, "adjustments," and compromises that are now exposed as grim realities. It's especially jarring to learn that even some of the most "popular" and "reputed" actors are implicated in these unethical practices, likely leading to the downfall of stars once idolized on the silver screen, now unmasked as villains behind the scenes. Additionally, the report highlights the dire working conditions faced by junior artists and other industry workers.

This report serves as both a wake-up call and a rallying cry, urging those within the film industry, along with the concerned ministry and stakeholders across the country, to take immediate and serious action to ensure the safety and well-being of female professionals in the industry.

M Pradyu | Kannur

### A BELLWEATHER ACT

Madam — This happened in a temple in a remote village, somewhere in a remote district of MP. A temple priest wanted his temple to be a serene place, free from the constant jangle of temple bells that were hung from several places in and around the temple. He wished to be left in silence while offering his prayers and doing his daily "pooja" before the temple deity. At the same time, he did not wish to do

## Ensuring safety of health workers



It's good to learn that the apex court has taken up the issue of Kolkata doctor's rape and murder case Suo Motu and formed a National Task force to examine the broader issue of doctors' safety at work places. The

failure of the hospital authorities and state as well even after the gory incident is glaringly evident, forcing the court to go to the underlying deep malaise. The hospitals and other public healthcare services are working under unsafe circumstances. The security angle of health care providers is not addressed effectively.

The junior doctors are being forced to undertake backbreaking schedules with inadequate facilities, thanks to the poor doctor patient ratio. India is not spending even two percent of its GDP. Where six percent is needed on health causing more pressure on limited resources. Apart from a stringent law against attacks on health personnel, the working conditions should be improved. Though the health and law and order are state subjects, there seems to be a need for a strong central act.

DVG Sankara Rao | Vizianagaram

away with the bells. They had always been a part and parcel of the temple. He struck upon an idea. He installed a call bell (sans the electrical connection) with a huge and prominent sign "Ring this bell only. Only this bell is connected to God."

People pressed it again and again to their heart's content, ignoring all the other bells of the temple. This smart gadget brought the much desired peace and calm, delighting in its wake, the priest as well as the deities. I hope that someday all our temples — noisy and crowded as they usually are — will realise the home truth that noise, even if it emanates from a temple bell or a loudspeaker, ought to be eliminated. If our gods and goddesses reside in temple idols, don't they deserve an environment that is free from noise pollution?

Avinash Godbole | Devwas

### SC TURNS DOWN HC VERDICT

Madam — Calcutta HC's act in advising an adolescent girl to restrain from sexual urge and not to give in, as right-

ly observed by the SC is not only an act unbecoming of an HC judge but also a trespass into the modesty of an adolescent. On top of preaching to the victim the acquittal of the delinquent is an act of a Kangaroo court and not a High Court of the country.

Judges should understand and realise that they are guardians of constitutional morality and the way deal in the matters in their court and their verdicts should reflect this. The SC's reprimand of the Calcutta HC highlights the need for judges to uphold constitutional morality.

The HC's inappropriate advice and the acquittal of the delinquent were unjust, reflecting a failure to protect the victim's dignity. The SC's intervention rightly restored justice and reaffirmed judicial integrity.

Kudos to SC in rapping the Calcutta HC and preserving justice in the matter!!

Gopalaswamy | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

### THAW IN INDO-MALDIVES TIES

#### The Maldives after a break is now trying to mend fences with India



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India's recent outreach to Maldives, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting the island nation, a couple of weeks back signifies a reset in the currently stressed bilateral relationship between the neighbours. After new President Mohammed Muizzu took charge, there has been a spate of anti-India voices, which has derailed decades of carefully curated strategic defence partnerships. Mr Muizzu's PNC-PPM coalition came to power last year, largely driven by India's campaign. Soon after Indian defence forces manning some critical equipment for the Maldives, were given marching orders and it seemed relations with India's nearest maritime neighbour were on a downward spiral without any checks. However, things began to change somewhere towards the beginning of this year and President Muizzu was invited to PM Modi's third swearing-in ceremony in June.

In his speech at the inauguration of the India-assisted projects to hand over water and sewerage projects across 28 islands of the Maldives President was all praise for the Indian PM. He said "The Government and people of Maldives extend our deep gratitude to Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi, the Government, and the friendly people of India for their generous and continued assistance to the Maldives and discuss strengthening our bilateral relations."

The speech highlighted a rethink regarding India relations and perhaps a silent acknowledgement that the Maldives needs India, to come out of financial stress. Maldives needs nearly millions of dollars in budgetary support for which the President has already reached out to China, Türkiye



and some Middle Eastern nations. However, any bailout by the lending countries has stiff collaterals attached, which could have risky consequences in future. Meanwhile India despite getting a bloodied nose, has been committed to rolling over nearly \$100 million in payments due from the Maldives, to ease off its financial burden. Maldives has also realised that beyond the India Out rhetoric, a recalibration of the bilateral in terms of economic and security ties would be a great midway for a stronger partnership with India. It was no coincidence that several critical India-assisted infrastructure projects inaugurated pre-President Muizzu's tenure were an important peg during S Jaishankar's visit to Male.

The press release issued by the ministry highlighted "EAM visited the India-assisted Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) site and jointly reviewed the progress of this flagship development project that will connect Male with the adjoining islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi...EAM also visited Addu city on 11 August 2024, during which he, along with Foreign Minister and Minister of Construction and Infrastructure, jointly inaugurated the Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project and Addu Detour Link Bridge Project. The visit highlights the importance of Maldives, India's maritime neighbour, as a key partner in the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and India's Vision 'SAGAR' i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region.

Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. "India and Maldives are dependent on each other for their respective economic, security and climate change-related issues. However, the resentment in the Maldives relationship is also a greater message to the new government in Bangladesh, which in the past has not been a great sympathiser with India's concerns. While the interim government in Bangladesh has so far maintained a moderate line of continuity on India bilateral, the political parties in power may not be too kind in future. Like many of India's neighbours, Bangladesh too is under severe economic crisis, and sooner or later the realisation would dawn that the best bet for the country is to have a good neighbour.

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

# Monsoon mayhem: Tackling urban flooding



B K SINGH

#### There is urgent need for comprehensive disaster management and infrastructure reforms to protect lives and property from future monsoon fury



In the warming world Sea surface temperature is rising followed by excessive evaporation and deposition of moisture laden vapours in the form of clouds. When conditions are favourable, incessant rainfall occurs. Many times, half the annual rainfall occurs in 24 to 48 hours. Urban infrastructures are unable to take the challenge; flooding on roads, public places, ground floors and the basement of buildings is quite common leading to disruption of rail, road and air traffic as well as businesses. Rural areas face the brunt of the mayhem; loss of crops, landslides, and landslips in hilly terrain can claim lives and livelihoods and can throw the economy out of gear.

It can put additional stress on the budget as the public fund (taxpayers' money) has to be diverted for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructures and also for compensating the losses for the private properties. The disaster that hit Wayanad on 30th July claimed more than 400 human lives and injured an equal number has been one of the worst of its kind in living memory.

Big boulders and stones from an 8.26 ha (82600 sq meter) area on the top of the hill located at 1550 meters above the mean Sea level have rolled for 7 km on a downward slope and smashed buildings, damaged roads and bridges etc in three-four villages at 650 meters above the mean Sea level. One ton boulder has attained the energy of 9 mega Joule, which is enough to destabilize and knock down an RCC building in a rural area. Monsoon mayhem has caused damage in many other places in Western Ghats as well as in the Himalayas. Landslides and damage to roads and bridges have posed a challenge to people and tourists in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

In this column let me confine to the issues faced by metropolitan cities and make some suggestions to deal with it. The death of three civil service aspirants in the basement flooding of Rau's coaching centre in Rajendranagar Delhi last month and also another aspirant dying



MANY TIMES, HALF THE ANNUAL RAINFALL OCCURS IN 24 TO 48 HOURS. URBAN INFRASTRUCTURES ARE UNABLE TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE; FLOODING ON ROADS, PUBLIC PLACES, GROUND FLOORS AND THE BASEMENT OF BUILDINGS IS QUITE COMMON LEADING TO DISRUPTION OF RAIL, ROAD AND AIR TRAFFIC AS WELL AS BUSINESSES

of electrocution are chilling reminders of the apathy of the civic body. We must know the precautions that must be undertaken by the agencies and the building occupants to make sure that such incidents are not repeated. Civic Body of Mumbai had earlier designed stormwater drains and related infrastructure to take care of 25 mm of rain in an hour.

Severe flooding repeatedly occurring during the past several years has forced them to remodel their drainage system to take care of more intense rains up to 50 mm per hour. However, in places like Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Satara, Mahabaleshwar and many other locations 80 to 100 mm of rain per hour has been recorded. Similarly, places in some other regions of the country are also experiencing frequent cloud bursts resulting in 80 to 100 mm of rainfall per hour for three to four hours. Wayanad tragedy was the result of 570 mm of rain in 48 hours.

All Civic authorities in cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Gurugram etc should remodel the drainage system to take care of at least 100 mm of rain per hour. The encroachments on storm water drains as well as on lake beds should be removed.

Further, the drains should be regularly de-silted and cleaned up so that plastics, polythene bags silts etc are removed and disposed of at far-off places. The lakes in the cities are balancing reservoirs where the water level should be regulated by opening the sluice gates. De-weeding and de-siltation of lakes are also required to be done periodically to ensure that the water reservoirs are kept clean up to maximum flood level. All the inlets of the lakes are

monitored to ensure that none carry untreated sewage into them. There is the possibility that lake water may enter people's houses at the time of flash floods; it must be ensured that sewage water does not enter houses. Stormwater drains in metropolitan cities are often found partly encroached and occupied for living by erecting small huts. Such occupants must be rehabilitated elsewhere and drains must be fully opened for flow of water. Let us not forget that the existing stormwater drain is insufficient to take the load of more than 25 mm of rainfall per hour.

Beds of many urban lakes have also been encroached. Lake beds up to high flood levels are meant for storage of water. The reduction in volume for storage indicates that the water flows in the basement and ground floor of the buildings, causing undue hardship for the people. Incessant rains in November 2015 (approximately 483 mm in 24 hours) led to one of the biggest catastrophes in Chennai. 500 people were killed and nearly 10 lakh houses were submerged resulting in the displacement of 1.8 million people. Two reasons were attributed to the disaster.

One was the encroachments on lake beds in Chennai and the other was the delay in regulating the water level in the Chembaram Bakkam reservoir. The situation came under control only when 1.5 lakh cusecs water from this reservoir was released into the Adiyar river.

Many wetlands in Chennai have been occupied by communities. Pallikarnai wetland used to have an extent of over 5000 ha has shrunk to 10% and only 500 ha is remaining as wetland at present. Unless the encroachments are cleared, we are likely to face

a similar tragedy in future. Civic bodies while working on drainage systems for stormwater as well as sewer lines must take enough precautions and keep the drains and man-hole covered, so that no person accidentally falls into them and perishes.

When the road is flooded and becomes a flowing river, uncovered drains and sewer lines cannot be identified by people wading through. People in Mumbai, Delhi, Gurugram and many other metropolitan cities find flood water trapped in the basements of their houses. Often they resort to pumping it out, which requires time and energy. It is advisable to construct a sump underneath so that the rainwater can be effectively harvested and later used for various purposes.

If the basement is kept clean, then flood water collected would be of drinkable quality. Several Civic Bodies mandate water harvesting structures along with new constructions while approving Plans. At the implementation stage, however, such structures generally take care of harvesting water from the rooftop and ignore basements, prone to flooding during cloud bursts.

Water harvesting for basements should be made compulsory and must be seriously implemented. Building by-laws if necessary be amended by respective civic agencies to make sure that the basement of the buildings is used for parking vehicles, storing unserviceable items and water harvesting/ storage only. In no circumstances should people be permitted to use it for housing, hotels and businesses.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests, Head of forest force, Karnataka; views are personal)

## Prime Minister Modi's Ukraine visit: A strategic balancing act

#### PM's visit underscores India's evolving role on the world stage, where it seeks to navigate complex alliances and assert its national interests

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kyiv marks a significant moment in international diplomacy, reflecting India's strategic balancing act between Russia and the West amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. As the first leader from a nation that maintains strong relations with both Russia and Western countries, Modi's visit sends a nuanced message to global powers, particularly Russia.



AKHILESH SUMAN

While some observers suggest that Modi's visit is intended to placate Western disappointment following his two recent visits to Russia, the reality appears more complex. Modi's trip to Ukraine serves primarily as a subtle signal to Moscow that India can engage with Ukraine as well. This visit

comes at a critical time, coinciding with Ukraine's recent military successes against Russian forces, adding weight to the message Modi intends to deliver. India's historical relationship with Ukraine has been far from warm, yet the scale of suffering in Ukraine has stirred sympathy within India. This sentiment is reflected in Modi's earlier statements, emphasizing that this is not an era of war

and advocating for peaceful resolutions. Despite this, India has refrained from condemning Russia's actions, continuing to purchase oil from Moscow, which has been crucial for Russia during the conflict.

However, Russia's increasingly close ties with China have become a point of concern for India, particularly regarding China's aggressive behavior along the Indian border. The 2020 Galwan Valley clash and subsequent military tensions have strained India-China relations, making Russia's perceived indifference to India's security concerns troubling. The frequent meetings between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping have heightened these concerns,

prompting India to reassess its foreign policy strategy.

Modi's visit to Ukraine can be seen as a diplomatic effort to subtly pressure Russia into reconsidering its relationship with China. By engaging with Ukraine, India signals to Moscow that its close ties with Beijing cannot be taken for granted without potential consequences. Historically, India has enjoyed a strong relationship with Russia, especially in defense, but the evolving geopolitical landscape requires India to prioritize its national interests.

Modi's visit also underscores India's independent foreign policy, a principle that has guided the country since the Cold War era. India has long prided itself on its non-aligned stance, making decisions based



on strategic interests rather than aligning with any particular bloc. This approach remains relevant in the 21st century, as India navigates the complexities of global politics. India's refusal to outright condemn Russia at the United Nations has caused friction with Western capitals. However, Modi's visit to Ukraine demonstrates that India's neutrality does not imply inaction or tacit approval of Russian aggression.

Instead, it reflects a nuanced approach, balancing relationships and interests while encouraging Russia to reconsider its military strategy.

As India seeks to strengthen its ties with Western nations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region where China's assertiveness is a growing concern, Modi's visit to Ukraine reaffirms India's commitment to a multipolar world. India values its strategic autonomy, making decisions based on its national interests—a stance that has occasionally drawn criticism from its allies.

Another important aspect of Modi's visit is India's interest in contributing to Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. The war has left Ukraine in ruins, and India sees an opportunity to play a role in its rebuild-

ing process. This involvement would not only be a humanitarian gesture but also a strategic investment that could benefit the Indian economy. India has already provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and Modi's visit could pave the way for more substantial support, including infrastructure projects and logistical assistance, which would also benefit related Indian industries.

Furthermore, India's involvement in Ukraine's reconstruction could serve as a counter-balance to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). By offering an alternative model of development cooperation that respects the sovereignty of partner countries, India positions itself as a more favorable partner for nations in need. This approach aligns with

India's broader goal of positioning itself as a global leader and a moral force in international diplomacy.

As the world closely watches Modi's visit to Ukraine, the potential outcomes could have far-reaching implications for global power dynamics. Should Modi's diplomacy contribute to a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, India could emerge as a significant peacemaker and problem solver on the world stage. This would enhance India's reputation as a nation capable of navigating complex geopolitical landscapes while maintaining its principles and strategic autonomy.

(The writer is a senior journalist who has been covering foreign affairs for many years; views are personal)



IN BRIEF



Govt announces simplified norms for seaplane operations

The civil aviation ministry on Thursday announced simplified regulations for seaplane operations, including allowing non-scheduled entities to operate such services and putting in place a simplified certificate process. The relaxed norms are aimed at encouraging seaplane operations under the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik). Generally, seaplanes are amphibian aircraft that can take off and land on the sea. Under the relaxed norms of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), there will be no need for a waterborne license and compliance requirements have also been reduced. Waterdromes are for landing and take off of seaplanes. The revised regulations have been carefully planned and prepared after extensive consultations, said Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu.



Wipro Hydraulics opens Rs 250 cr facility in Jaipur

Wipro Hydraulics on Thursday inaugurated its sixth manufacturing facility in Jaipur, Rajasthan, built with an investment of about Rs 250 crore. The plant was inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Wipro Enterprises chairman Azim Premji and Pratik Kumar -- Wipro Infrastructure Engineering CEO and Wipro Enterprises MD. "The company has invested approximately Rs 250 crore to set up this facility, which is projected to generate about 400 jobs. We currently have a manufacturing capacity of 1,000 hydraulic cylinders per day, and we are fully capable of doubling it if and when the demand rises," Kumar told reporters here. This is Wipro's sixth facility in India, after two units in Chennai and Hindupur each and one unit in Bengaluru, he said, adding it will cater to domestic and international demand.



Gold remains flat at Rs 74,150/10g for 2nd day

Gold traded flat at Rs 74,150 per 10 grams for the second day in a row in the national capital on Thursday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. However, silver prices firmed up Rs 200 to Rs 87,200 per kg against Rs 87,000 per kg in the previous close on Wednesday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also remained flat at Rs 73,800 per 10 grams for the second day. Internationally, Comex gold traded at USD 2,537.80 per ounce, down by USD 9.70 while silver quoted marginally down at USD 29.94 per ounce in the global markets. Bullion market traders seem cautious ahead of US Federal Reserve Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole symposium, experts said. Even Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes released on Wednesday have influenced the purchasing pattern among traders. The FOMC meeting minutes said that the recent progress on inflation and surge in unemployment is providing room for 25 basis point rate cuts in the next policy meeting.

Not against e-commerce firms, want them to be fair and honest: Goyal

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India is not against e-commerce companies but wants them to be fair and honest. In remarks that came a day after he flagged concerns about e-commerce firms, Goyal said online businesses need to ensure a "fair chance" of competing.

Goyal on Wednesday voiced concerns about predatory pricing by e-commerce firms and feared about the impact their operations have on small retailers in the country. He also went public with his fears, warning of the "huge social disruption" with the massive growth of the e-commerce sector. "We are very clear that we

want to invite FDI (foreign direct investment), we want to invite technology, we want to have the best of the world, and we are not against online at all," Goyal said at an event here.

"What the country always desires is fair play, is honesty" for the customer, honesty to the supplier of goods and services and to ensure that other people also have a fair chance to compete against such online business," the Union minister, a member of Parliament from the Mumbai North constituency, said.

He said the e-commerce sector possesses "tremendous benefits" like speed and convenience, and made it clear that the government wants such companies to serve the people of the country.



BSE, NSE impose Rs 10.73 lakh fine on Hindustan Zinc

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on Thursday said BSE and NSE have imposed a fine of Rs 5.37 lakh each on the company for non-compliance with Sebi regulation relating to number of independent directors on board.

The company said it is making constant efforts and follow-ups are being made with the mines ministry to meet the compliance requirements.

"The company has received a notice issued by BSE and NSE dated August 21, 2024, levying fine for non-compliance with Regulation 17(1) of the SEBI Listing Regulations, w.r.t the Composition of Board of Directors relating to number of independent directors," it said in a filing.

Further, the requirement of the woman independent director on the company's board has already been ful-

Sensex gains 147pts, Nifty ends above 24,800

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 147 points to settle above 81,000 level while Nifty closed above 24,800 following buying in commodity, telecom and consumer stocks amid a firm trend in global markets.

Rising for the third straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 147.89 points or 0.18 per cent to close at 81,053.19, registering gains for the third day in a row. During the day, it climbed 331.15 points to hit an intra-day high of 81,236.45.

Extending gains to a sixth session in a row, the NSE Nifty went up by 41.30 points or 0.17 per cent to end at a two-week high of 24,811.50.

Bharti Airtel was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 1.63 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Titan, Asian Paints and Ultratech Cements.



On the other hand, M&M, NTPC, Tata Motors, TCS and PowerGrid were the major losers.

"The domestic market witnessed modest gains owing to the positive global sentiments. Particularly, the recent signs of weakness in the US non-farm payroll data have strengthened the case for potential interest rate cuts in September," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Services said. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.47 per cent, and the midcap index climbed 0.67 per cent. "Markets are closely monitoring global indices for direction, and the recent pause in US markets ahead of the Jackson Hole Symposium is leading to some caution locally also," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Centre urges states to adopt new tech initiatives for better farm data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi on Thursday urged states to swiftly adopt and implement new technology-driven initiatives to improve farm production estimates and enhance data accuracy.

Addressing a national conference here, Chaturvedi emphasised the need for continuous collaboration between the central and state governments to enhance the quality of agricultural statistics, an official statement said.

The new initiatives include the Digital Crop Survey, Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES), and the revamped FASAL (Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology, and Land-based Observations) programme.

The Digital Crop Survey is designed to provide plot-level data with geotagged areas of crops, serving as a single source of truth for accurate crop area estimation.

DGCES aims to calculate yield based on scientifically designed Crop Cutting Experiments for all major crops across the country.

The revamped FASAL programme leverages remote sensing technology to generate accurate crop maps and area estimation for 10 major crops.

The conference also highlighted the UPAg Portal, which allows for cross-verification of data from multiple sources, ensuring robust agricultural statistics.

The agriculture ministry said these initiatives are expected to provide near real-time and reliable data directly from the field, enabling more precise estimations of crop production.

The agriculture department is collaborating with various institutions, including the Space Application Centre and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, to develop yield forecast models.

Additionally, the department is working with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to increase the supervision of crop-cutting experiments by the National Sample Survey Office.

The conference concluded with a consensus on the importance of these reforms and a commitment from all states to strengthen the agricultural statistical framework.

We need to develop our own infrastructure: Joshi

PNS ■ BENGALURU

India is blessed with talent, manpower and potential, so we need to go forward and make more in India, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday.

Joshi was in Bengaluru to lay the foundation stone for an Electric Vehicle (EV) testing facility at the National Test House (NTH) here.

"Technology upgrade is a must. We need to develop our own systems, our own infrastructure. Towards this goal, the first EV battery testing facility will be opened in my home state," Joshi said, speaking at the launch event.

According to him, every



decision made by the Narendra Modi government is interconnected and is a step towards 'atma nirbharta' (self reliance).

"For instance, we plan to have 30 per cent EV vehicles on Indian roads by 2030. But we also want the power used for electric vehicles to be renewable, so we are promot-

ing solar power in a big way. We are pushing for installing 1 crore households with free solar setup, so that we have access to renewable power," Joshi said.

He also urged the NTH to diversify its testing capacity by training more people and putting in place more facilities like the EV testing one.

NTH, which has been at the forefront of testing and quality assurance in various fields, operates under the Department of Consumer Affairs.

"The government will provide all the support it needs to achieve this goal. Already NTH has bagged some of the prestigious projects in India, like Central Vista and Metro Rail.

GoM on GST discusses reducing taxes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ministerial panel on GST rate rationalisation on Thursday broadly converged towards retaining a 4-tier slab structure and asked the committee of tax officers to analyse the implication of tinkering rates on some items and present it before the GST council. The issue of GST on health and life insurance was also raised by some states in the meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation and referred to the fitment committee, comprising central and state tax officers, for further data analysis.

The suggestions of the GoM will be taken up on

Adopt more supportive approach towards MSMEs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Swaminathan J has asked financial institutions to adopt a more sensitive and empathetic approach towards MSMEs, and deploy supportive measures like restructuring options for loans, to support the sector which plays a key role in the economy.

In a speech at the Annual Day of the Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India (FEDAI) here, the deputy governor said MSMEs face challenges like access to affordable finance, delayed payments, infrastructure bottlenecks, and requirements of compliance, among others.

The journey of India's economic transformation cannot be complete without the robust development of the MSME sector.

"MSMEs are not just the backbone of our economy, they are the engines of growth, innovation, and employment," he said at the event held on Wednesday.

However, for these enterprises to truly thrive and scale up, the financial sector must step up with innovative solutions, sensitivity, and a forward-looking approach, Swaminathan said.

"This is not just about providing credit; it's about enabling these enterprises compete globally, drive exports,



and contribute to the nation's goal of becoming a developed economy by

2047. While financial instruments and support mechanisms are crucial, the way we engage with the MSME sector, our sensitivity to their challenges and our commitment to their success, will ultimately determine the strength and sustainability of this partnership," he said.

The deputy governor also emphasised that considering the key role that MSMEs play in the economy, the financial sector should adopt a more sensitive and empathetic approach towards them.

"While financial discipline is crucial, the unique challenges faced by MSMEs, such as low capital base, lack of scale, cash flow constraints from

delayed payments, fluctuating market conditions, and external economic pressures, necessitate a more nuanced approach to assessment as well as follow-up," he said.

While timely repayment of dues is crucial to maintain the health of the financial system, financial institutions should focus on deploying supportive measures such as restructuring options, grace periods, and tailored repayment plans that give MSMEs the breathing space they need to recover and get back on track while encountering difficult situations, the senior official said at the event attended by representatives of financial sector, among others.



The resilience of domestic activity is also reflected in the strong performance of the manufacturing and services sector purchasing managers' indices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic momentum remains intact despite a somewhat erratic monsoon, and real GDP growth of 6.5-7 per cent projected in the Economic Survey seems appropriate, a finance ministry report said on Thursday.

According to the Monthly Economic Review for July, the Indian economy has sustained its momentum in the first four months of FY25.

Goods and Services Tax collections in the first four months of FY25 underwent a level shift pushed up by the widening of the tax base and heightened economic activity, the report released by the finance ministry said.

"The resilience of domestic activity is also reflected in the strong performance of the manufacturing and services sector purchasing managers' indices. The manufacturing growth has been driven by expansion in demand conditions, a rise in new export orders and growth in output prices," it said.

On the fiscal front, it said,

the Union Budget FY25 has laid out a glide path of fiscal consolidation. Supported by strong revenue collection, discipline in revenue expenditure, and robust economic performance, the fiscal deficit is projected to decline.

At the same time, it said, capital expenditure is maintained at high levels, supporting the fledgling private investment cycle.

Retail inflation decreased to 3.5 per cent in July 2024, the lowest since September 2019,

driven by moderation in food inflation, it said, adding that steady progress in the south-west monsoon has supported kharif sowing.

Replenishing water levels in the reservoir bodies well for the current kharif and upcoming rabi crop production and this will further aid in reducing food inflation in the coming months, it said.

"On balance, India's economic momentum remains intact. Despite a somewhat erratic monsoon, reservoirs

have been replenished. Manufacturing and services sectors are expanding, according to the Purchasing Managers' indices," it said.

Tax collections, especially indirect taxes, which reflect transactions, are growing healthily, and so is bank credit, it said.

"Inflation is moderating, and exports of both goods and services are doing better than they did last year. Stock markets are holding on to their levels.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
 NIT No. 19/EE-28/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25 Date: 22-08-2024  
 Name of the Work: Maintenance Works Others -05, Estimate Amount: Rs. 92.00 lakhs. Bid Submission Start date & Time / Bid Submission of Closing Date & Time: 22-08-2024 @ 03.00 PM / 27-08-2024 @ 03.00 PM, Name & Address of officer Cell. No.: Executive Engineer, 9154795465. For further details can be sent at e-procurement @ http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in  
 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No. 28, GHMC.  
 E.O.No: 3184-PPCL/ADVT/12024-25, Dt: 22-08-2024

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
 NIT Nos. 01/EE/NTD/2024-2025, Dt: 23.08.2024  
 Name of works: Fixing of FTL boundary stones at Yellamma Cheruvu, Kukatpally (V&M), Medchal District, ECV amount: Rs. 5,08,071.00, Bid document Start date/ End date: 23.08.2024 @ 11.00 AM / 02.09.2024 11:00 A.M., Address of the Officer concerned: Executive Engineer, North Tanks Division, Buddha Bhavan, 3rd Floor, M.G. Road, Hyderabad. Further, the details can be seen at www.tender.telangana.gov.in.  
 Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Tanks Division, Hyderabad.  
 E.O.No: 3185-PPCL/ADVT/12024-25, Dt: 22.08.2024

**HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Swarnajyothi Commercial Complex, Aneerpet, Hyderabad.  
 Public Notification Uis. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008 (Government Memo. No. 11558/Pig/1/2023, dt:05.10.2023)  
 In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Revised Development Plan (Master Plan) MDP-2021 approved by the Government vide G.O. Ms.No.288 MA&UD, dt:03.04.2008.  
 The site in Sy.No. 325, 326, 327, 328, 329/P, 331, 332, 333/P, 334, 337/P situated at: Ramapally Village, Keosara Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District to an extent of Net site area Ac. 10-24 Gts or 42895.86 Sq. mtrs., which is presently earmarked for Conservation use as per the notified Revised Development Plan (Master Plan) MDP-2021 approved by the Government vide G.O. Ms.No.288 MA&UD, dt:03.04.2008, is now proposed to be designated as Residential use zone, subject to compliance of G.O.Ms.No.105, MA&UD, dt: 06.07.2020.  
 The details of the above are available in Website: http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/ and http://hmda.gov.in/. Objections/ Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C., HMDA or to the Principal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.  
 E.O. No.: 355-PPCL/AGENCY/NOT/1/2024-25 Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA



TRAVELOGUE

## NAGMA MIRAJKAR'S MAGICAL EVENING ON THE PARISIAN STREETS

Nagma Mirajkar had the best of her times while on her trip to the beauty of Paris, exploring its culture, streets and everything else. We have the popular influencer on-board for our special Travelogue segment as she takes us through her voyage

TEJAL SINHA

Tired of your work, as you close your eyes, you envision a world where the desire to travel merges you into a wanderer. What's the best way to rejuvenate from a hectic schedule by exploring new cities, meeting new people and knowing different cultures and traditions? Well, that's how it's been for Nagma Mirajkar, who loves it when she jets off across a country as she gets to discover and explore new horizons, perspectives and cultures. "Travel inspires me to be more of me and be more creative," begins the social media star while in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, as she was much more keen than us to discuss her love for travel! While travelling, she certainly tries to capture and document as much as she can because, again, she's someone who loves to go back in time and relive beautiful moments.

Her latest trip was to none other than the French capital, Paris. "Paris was incredible! It's the city I always enjoy re-visiting, and being there during the Olympics made it even more special. Every time I visit the city, I'm amazed at its beauty and people," shares Nagma, who was all thrilled and proud to be in Paris for the Olympics. "It was amazing to see people from all over the world coming together in harmony in such a beautiful city." But what really stood out to her was watching the Indian team at the Olympic Opening Ceremony. The energy, she recalls, was incredible and the views were breathtaking. "I could have never been more proud of representing India," she says with utmost zing.

In Paris, she recalls how people are elegantly dressed, even if it's something basic but always stylish. Talking of keeping up with her fashion game on this trip, the beauty and fashion influencer shares, "I tried to keep up with the Parisian vibe by wearing chic outfits that mixed classic and modern styles. I picked up some chic tops and paired them with cute skirts and otherwise I kept it simple but elegant for the Olympics." Apart from being at the Olympics, just as her 'gram' posts hint at, she got to explore Paris' rich culture by visiting museums, historic sites and enjoying local art. "I also talked to locals, which helped me understand their culture better," she enthuses and she also goes on to share how she explored famous spots like the Louvre and Notre-Dame and tried delicious French food like croissants and macarons! "The food in Paris was amazing; the desserts are to die for and I enjoyed every meal." We get it, Nagma, we get it!

For this trip, she chose to stay at an Airbnb property. Speaking of her experience at the property, with much exhilaration, she shares, "It was chic yet minimal and cozy, with a blend of modern and classic Parisian design. It felt like a mini vacation every time I came back after a day of exploring." In fact, this trip was more than a liberating experience for her because "their desserts are top-tier! I changed my workout plan the minute my Paris plan was confirmed so that I could eat all the desserts I wanted. They also have amazing bakeries and my go-to is their baguettes and croissants."

Since the trip was brief, she took in the famous sights of Paris from a distance, enjoyed the local cuisine, went shopping and strolled through the picturesque streets, embracing the charm and culture of the city. Apart from this, her trip to Rajasthan was one of those trips that she cherishes, as she was completely blown away by its beauty and cultural richness. "The experience was unlike anything I've encountered outside of India. The hospitality was exceptionally warm and the vibrant festivities, particularly in the Golden City and its mesmerising desert, made for an unforgettable and truly unique journey."

We could completely relate to her as she spoke of her go-to place for relaxation and we are sure you would too, because it's none other than her home. "Since I'm always travelling, just being able to be with my family and Pookie at home relaxes and makes me content."

There's always something bad happening behind the good. While she's always had a great time in all her travels, there was also a frightening experience she had been through. "Once, my bag was lost in a foreign city at night. It was a bit scary, but I managed to find my way back and it turned into an adventure I'll never forget."

So where is Nagma heading next? Well, it's Korea on her travel list. "I'm excited to dive into the world of K-Beauty, especially its renowned skincare products. I'm also eager to explore the vibrant fashion scene and can't wait to indulge in some serious shopping while I'm there," signs off the travel-boo on a concluding note!



## Banking spreadsheets to mastering scripts

AARTI SREENATH

In the world of Bollywood, where dreams often shimmer as elusively as stars, few dare to leap into the unknown. Jitin Gulati, a former banker, traded in his spreadsheets for scripts. Jitin's journey from the corridors of finance to the dazzling sets of Bollywood is a tale of passion, persistence and an unwavering belief in the magic of cinema. With each role, he's rewriting his own story, one that proves it's never too late to follow your dreams.

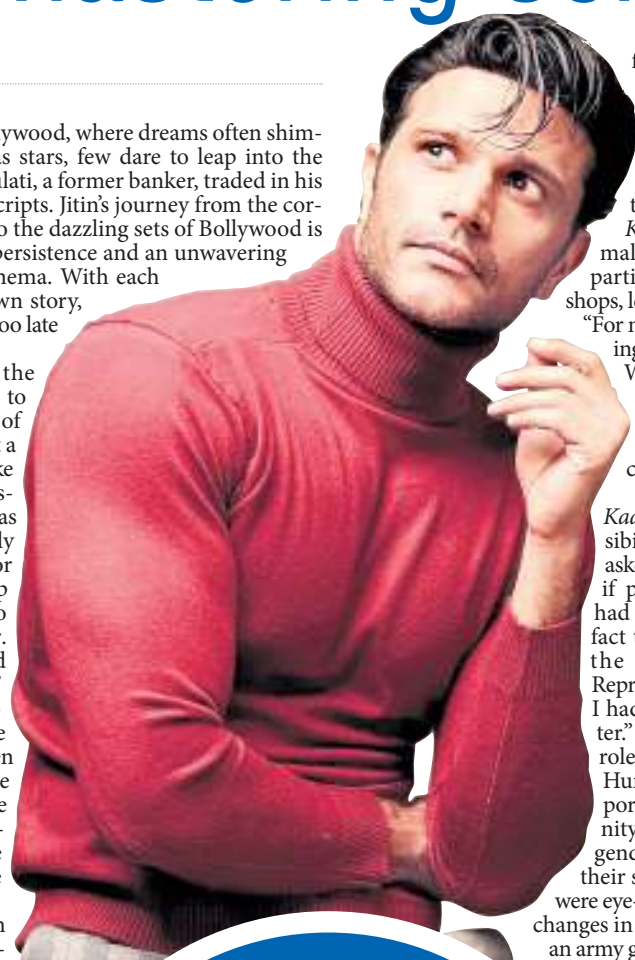
Transitioning from the secure world of banking to the unpredictable realm of modeling and acting isn't a decision many would make lightly. But for him, it wasn't just a sudden leap; it was a calling that had quietly simmered within him for years. "I didn't wake up one day and decide to become an actor. Somewhere deep down, I'd always wanted this." Growing up, he was captivated by the magic of the silver screen and had been performing on stage since childhood. Each choice he made was subtly influenced by the dream of one day stepping into the world of acting.

However, coming from a middle-class background, pursuing such a dream was far from easy. "My father served in the Indian Navy and my mother was a teacher. Our background was worlds apart from the glitz and glamour of Mumbai," he explains. Yet, with unwavering determination, *The Warning 3D* fame began taking small, deliberate steps toward his goal. While working in the banking sector for nine years, he wasn't just crunching numbers; he was also honing his skills in theatre and dance, quietly preparing for the day he'd move to Mumbai.

His breakthrough came when his banking job made him relocate to Mumbai, a chance he grabbed with both hands. Reflecting on this transition, he acknowledges, "Yes, banking is stable and this industry is not. But if you love something, stability is just a matter of perspective. The discipline I learned in finance, especially compliance, is what I've carried with me, but otherwise, these two worlds couldn't be more different."

"I never considered myself a model-turned-actor," he clarifies. "The idea behind doing all those commercials was to learn the technique of acting and to get as comfortable as possible with the camera."

His acting debut was a pivotal moment in his career. "It was a dream come true," he recalls with emotion. "For someone who grew up in Faridabad, dreaming of the big screen and seeing myself up there was surreal." Working with industry veterans like Anubhav Sinha, Gurmeet Singh and Sandhya Mridul, who was then a casting director, was a learning experience unlike any other. "Every role, no matter how small or big, teaches you something. Acting might seem easy from the outside, but there are countless nuances that you only understand once you're in it. That first role paved the way for me to become a better actor, and I'll always be thankful



Actor Jitin Gulati, who has created a niche from being a banker to an actor, speaks to *The Pioneer* about his humble beginnings, getting onboarded into popular productions and more

for that opportunity?"

The *Broken But Beautiful* fame career is marked by a variety of challenging roles, from playing a cricketer in *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* to a transgender character in *Kaala*. Despite not being formally trained in acting, Jitin has participated in numerous workshops, learning from each experience. "For me, it's about fully understanding the character I'm portraying. Whether it's wearing heels for a transgender role or mastering a British accent, I dive deep into what makes the character tick."

When asked about his role in *Kaala*, he admits it was a responsibility he didn't take lightly. "I asked my director, Bijoy Nambiar, if people from the community had been tested for the role. The fact that I got it made me realise the responsibility I had. Representation matters and I knew I had to do justice to this character." To bring authenticity to the role, he met the head of the Humsafar Trust, an agency supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and spent time with transgender individuals, listening to their stories. "Those conversations were eye-opening and even led to some changes in the script. The character was an army guy who eventually realises he's a woman trapped in a man's body. It was crucial to portray the journey authentically, without revealing too much too soon."

He found inspiration in Caitlyn Jenner's life, drawing parallels between her experience as a gold medal-winning Olympian and his character's journey. "Once I had a reference point, I could work on the body language, the accent and the overall arc of the character. It was a lot of reading, research, and writing—making sure I didn't make a fool of myself," he laughs.

Being part of productions like *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* and *24* significantly influenced his career. "As an actor, you learn a lot from big-scale projects like these. *MS Dhoni* was a global icon and *24* had massive stars in it. My biggest takeaway was learning how to maintain your craft on big sets." Even though some projects didn't perform well at the box office, they still opened doors for him. "People still recognise me from *Dhoni*, even if it was a smaller role. It led to better opportunities and that's what matters."

With the rise of OTT platforms, his career has seen a new wave of success through web series like *Inside Edge* and *Bambai Meri Jaan*. However, when it comes to choosing roles, he relies on instinct rather than platforms. "OTT is a boon. I'm calling myself an actor today because of OTT," he says gratefully. "But the choice of roles is never about the medium; it's about what calls out to you and where you want to go in your career."

Looking ahead, he is excited to explore different genres, especially drama and romance. "I've done a lot of dark, dramatic parts. I'd love to try my hand at romance next," he shares. As for directors he aspires to work with, names like Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Zoya Akhtar, Neeraj Ghaywan, Arun Dhawan and Randeep Jha top his list. "Working with Mr. Bhansali is a dream for any actor," he gleefully signs off on a concluding note.

## MAINTAINING HEALTHY SKIN DURING MONSOON TRAVELS

Rainy season feels enjoyable to many, but has serious implications on our skin. The high temperature, humidity and moisture in the atmosphere during such times highly affects the skin as it becomes an ideal place for fungal and bacterial growth. Skin gets more predisposed to acne and breakouts. So taking extra care of your skin in such a weather condition is quintessential, especially while traveling.

### Skincare tips during monsoon travel

**1. Prefer loose and breathable clothing** - Skin infections happen when skin gets damp or sweat accumulates. So while traveling in the monsoon, prefer loose clothing especially made of cotton or any other breathable fabric.

**2. Have a wholesome diet** - For healthy looking skin while traveling, carry a snack box with mixed nuts and berries or fresh fruits. Berries and fresh fruits such as apple, banana, oranges etc. are high in vitamins, minerals and antioxidants while seeds give essential fatty acids, all needed for a healthy and glowy skin.

**3. Have adequate water intake** - To keep skin youthful and hydrated, never skip water while traveling. Keep a water bottle handy and keep on sipping water to flush out the body toxins and not giving a dull appearance. You can also relish coconut water to beat the heat.

**4. Keep your body dry** - When you are traveling in the monsoons, always carry an umbrella and waterproof clothing as well as shoes. Rainwater, if directly exposed to the skin, is harmful due to its acidic nature and environmen-

tal pollutants in it. Try avoiding direct exposure to rain water. If you get wet in the rain, take a shower immediately or pat yourself dry with a soft and dry towel.



**5. Always carry and apply anti fungal powders** - All those areas of the skin that remain damp such as the groin area, armpits or space between your fingers and toes are more prone to fungal infections during the hot and humid weather of monsoons. Try to keep such areas dry as much as possible and prefer application of antifungal powders. They have the tendency to absorb extra moisture and prevent skin infections.

**6. Follow patterned ritual of cleansing, moisturisation and SPF protection** - Three practices

should remain constant in your skincare routine - Cleansing, hydration and sunscreen protection. Make use of a gently non-oily cleanser to remove dirt, impurities and extra sebum from the skin. After face cleansing, apply a non-oily moisturizer for skin hydration and layer it up with a broad spectrum sunscreen of at least 30 SPF. If you spend a lot of time outdoors, reapply sunscreen every 2-3 hours.

**7. Use light makeup products** - Practice extra caution with your skin while traveling in the monsoons and use lightweight, non greasy, waterproof, non comedogenic and breathable makeup products. If you use extra heavy products, they have the ability to clog the pores of the skin resulting in more breakouts.

**8. Deep cleansing at least twice a week** - In order to take extra care of your skin, opt for deep cleansing treatment for your face such as medi facials that use the technique of cleansing, exfoliation and hydration on your face to nurture it. The use of dermatologically proven ingredients to treat the skin, keeping pores clean should be performed at least once or twice a month under an expert supervision.

### Bottom line

Your skin demands your special attention during the monsoon. So be extra vigilant and follow a proper routine, especially while traveling for a youthful, glowy and shiny skin.

(The author, Dr. Neha Saraswat Kalra, is a Senior Aesthetic Consultant, PGDCC, PGDMT, at Kosmoderma.)



# what's brewing?



**Purnima Durga**





**Dr. Usha**



**Harish Bisam**



**Harman siohu**



**Andrew Shostak and Daniel Goldman**



**Kajol and Kavsha**



**Akhila**



**Akhila**



**Sarita**

PARTY

Photos by - SV Chary

Bisam Pharmaceuticals has launched the world's first AI-powered health monitoring app, "Quick Vitals," offering a groundbreaking way to monitor, check and map vital health data through your smartphone or tablet. The launch event, held at Hotel Avasa in Madhapur was headed by Harish Bisam, founder and MD of Bisam Pharmaceuticals, G Chinna Reddy (Planning Board Commission Vice-president) and Dr. Sudha- Professor of forensic Medicine, Osmania General Hospital, among the other dignitaries.

### Vaishnaoi Group announces new villa

Vaishnaoi Group, one of Hyderabad's largest and most trusted builders, announced the launch of their latest luxurious project, "Vaishnaoi Southwoods." To kick off this exciting new development, they hosted a Channel Partner Meet at the Prestige Nirvana Club, Rajendranagar which ended up being a resounding success. Around 250 channel partners explored the project's offerings in the presence of Vaishnaoi Group's Chairman Yelishala Ravi Prasad, Directors - Hemchandra, Sharatchandra, and Krishna Reddy along with their management team and staff.

### Consumer awareness drive by Tata Tea Gemini

Tata Tea Gemini is set to launch an initiative to educate consumers about the importance of tea quality and the potential risks associated with adulterated or colored loose tea. Chemically-colored teas have become common in many markets across the country. Tata Tea Gemini aims to raise awareness and ensure consumers understand the ill effects of such practices, promoting a shift towards safer, higher-quality packaged tea from a trusted brand.

### Multi-modal education delivers results!

Lead Group has released a new study, 'The Pulse of School Leaders Survey', which analyses the current state of school education in India. Among its significant findings, schools that deliver multimodal education to their students rate themselves higher than schools that use only traditional forms such as textbooks. The nationwide survey was based on ratings from 500+ private schools representing nearly 1.7 lakh students.

### Takshashila program aims to recruit, train 2000 Youth

Trident Group announced the launch of 'Takshashila', its flagship recruitment and training program. This groundbreaking initiative aims to recruit and train 2000 entry-level employees from rural and semi-urban India, focusing on employment and skill development. The Takshashila Program offers a platform for youth from various educational backgrounds, including ITI, diplomas, and 10+2 education.

## LISTENINGS

### Special tourist train for Pitru Pakshalu

Our Times in association with South Star Rail, have announced the next departure on 14.09.2024 – 28.09.2024 (15Days) as Mahalaya Paksha Moksha Sthala Yatra to Prayag – Gaya – Kasi – Ayodhya – Mathura – Ujjain – Omkareshwar – Somnath – Dwaraka – Bet Dwaraka – Nageshwar – Matru Gaya which offers a unique opportunity to explore India's rich spiritual heritage, steeped in ancient traditions and the essence of divinity. This Special Train Departing from Madurai via Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Guntur, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda, Secunderabad, Kazipet enabling tourists to board the train.

### myTrident plans to double its retail touchpoints

myTrident, the flagship domestic home furnishing brand of Trident Group, unveiled its Fall-Winter '24 collection today at Andaz. Dr. Rajinder Gupta, Chairman Emeritus, Trident Group, inaugurated the five-day Associate meet by addressing more than 1500 retailers under the captivating theme of 'Home Coming'. myTrident is targeting a significant growth trajectory, aiming to double its revenue to INR 1000 crores + in next 3 years by expanding its retail presence and strengthening its foothold in existing markets.

### Certificate program for class 10 dropout youth

A noteworthy achievement, the Certificate Program in Information Technology—an initiative by the LTI Mindtree Foundation, in collaboration with the Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Dharwad as the Educational Partner and the EduNet Foundation as the Implementation Partner—has reached a significant milestone. The program also featured three months of dedicated on-the-job training for the learners, opening new avenues and offering them valuable insights into the professional environment.

### Yas Island Abu Dhabi will welcome Punjabi music icon Dhillon Dosanjh to the Etihad Park on November 9, 2024, as part of the eagerly awaited Dil-Luminati Tour. Saregama and Ripple Effect Studios have partnered with the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi and Miral to bring this eagerly anticipated concert to the UAE. The event is proudly presented by Emirates NBD



FabriCare is thrilled to announce its latest campaign featuring Bollywood's most celebrated couple, Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. Also present at the announcement, Ajay Arora, Managing Director, D'Décor Home Fabrics Pvt Ltd, this campaign, directed by the iconic Karan Johar, under his banner Dharma 2.0 and conceptualised by 82.5 Communications, celebrates the essence of "Beauty that needs no protection" of innovative fabrics against the backdrop of everyday drama in homes. Inspired by the insight that homes are filled with unexpected moments—be it spontaneous celebrations, lively parties, or simple daily mishaps—the campaign showcases how it's advanced fabric technology is built to endure it all.



## FUN

### ARCHIE



WHY'D YOU GET DETENTION THIS TIME? FOR NAPPING BETWEEN CLASSES!

THAT PUNISHMENT SEEMS A LITTLE HARSH IF YOUR NAP WAS BETWEEN CLASSES!

HE NAPPED BETWEEN HIS FIRST-PERIOD CLASS AND HIS FOURTH-PERIOD CLASS!

### CALVIN AND HOBBS



MOM SAYS SHE DOESN'T THINK WE'VE FOUND A SKELETON AT ALL.

SHE SAYS WE JUST DUG UP SOME TRASH SOMEBODY LITTERED.

OUR DINOSAUR IS A FRAUD.

I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO SELL IT TO A MUSEUM THEN.

NOT AT FULL PRICE, ANYWAY.

### GARFIELD




IF I'M IN HERE ANY LONGER...

I'M GOING TO GET ALL PRUNY

HA! HA! GET IT? YEAH, I KNOW. FISH JOKE

### REALITY CHECK




ILL JUST STICK WITH THE WATER

JESUS DO YOU MIND TURNING THE WATER INTO WINE AGAIN? THANKS MAN!

LESSER-KNOWN BIBLICAL FIGURE: JOHN THE TIGHTWAD

### SPEED BUMP



PLEASE ROLL OVER AND BREATHE THE OTHER WAY.

### CROSSWORD

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

### NANCY



IT'S IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT THE QUALITY OF WHAT YOU READ

YOUR INFORMATION DIET IS A BIG PART OF WHO YOU ARE

GOOD THING I STICK TO RELIABLE SOURCES

### SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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: ★★★★★

### ACROSS

- A flying machine
- Wealthy
- Light a fire with this
- Our planet
- In a coma
- A feeling of rage
- Less
- Carrying on

### DOWN

- Remaining
- Wetly
- Sleep lightly
- Mix with a spoon
- A large group of musicians
- An emergency vehicle
- Nearby

11 Living

12 Donkey

15 Firearms

16 Wet weather

17 The number in a quartet

18 A drink made from grape juice

SOLUTION

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



# ALLU ARJUN INDIRECTLY DEFENDS HIS NANDHYAL VISIT!

Allu Arjun had kept mum for the last few weeks. However, now the actor has once again is in the news! It is known that the actor visited Nandhyal during the elections, where he campaigned for YSRCP candidate Shilpa Ravichandra Kishore. This didn't go well with the Mega family members, including Mega Star Chiranjeevi and from then on, there seemed to be a distance between Allu Arjun and the family.

Not just this, the *Pushpa* star was a target of trolls in regards to campaigning for the YSRCP candidate and not for his close relative and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan. Since then, there has been a war of words on social media between both their fans. Apparently, Allu Arjun supports his action of going to campaign for his friend. In an event, he indirectly indicated that he is not doing anything wrong and reiterated that he would do anything for his friends and the people he likes.

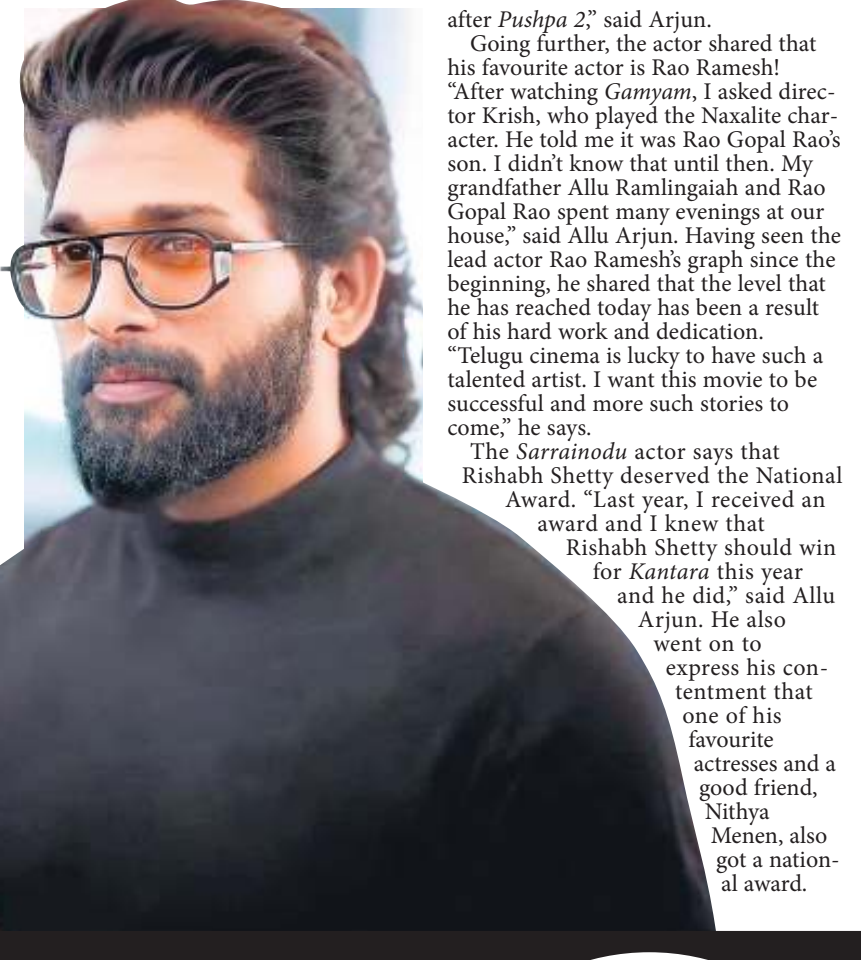
The *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* star had attended the *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam* pre-release event as a chief guest latterly. The film is presented by popular director Sukumar's wife, Thabitha Sukumar.

"I was obliged to attend the event when Thabitha came and requested that I attend the event as a chief guest," he said, again adding that he would do anything for people he likes. Indirectly, he defended his action that he had taken a few months ago. "I do whatever

I like," he asserts once again. This has once again started a big discussion on social media. This is not the first time that he has been in the news and trolled for his remarks. Earlier, when fans asked him to talk about Pawan Kalyan at one of his film's functions, he said *cheppanu brother* (I will not tell brother). This led to massive trolls by Pawan Kalyan and Mega fans for his remarks.

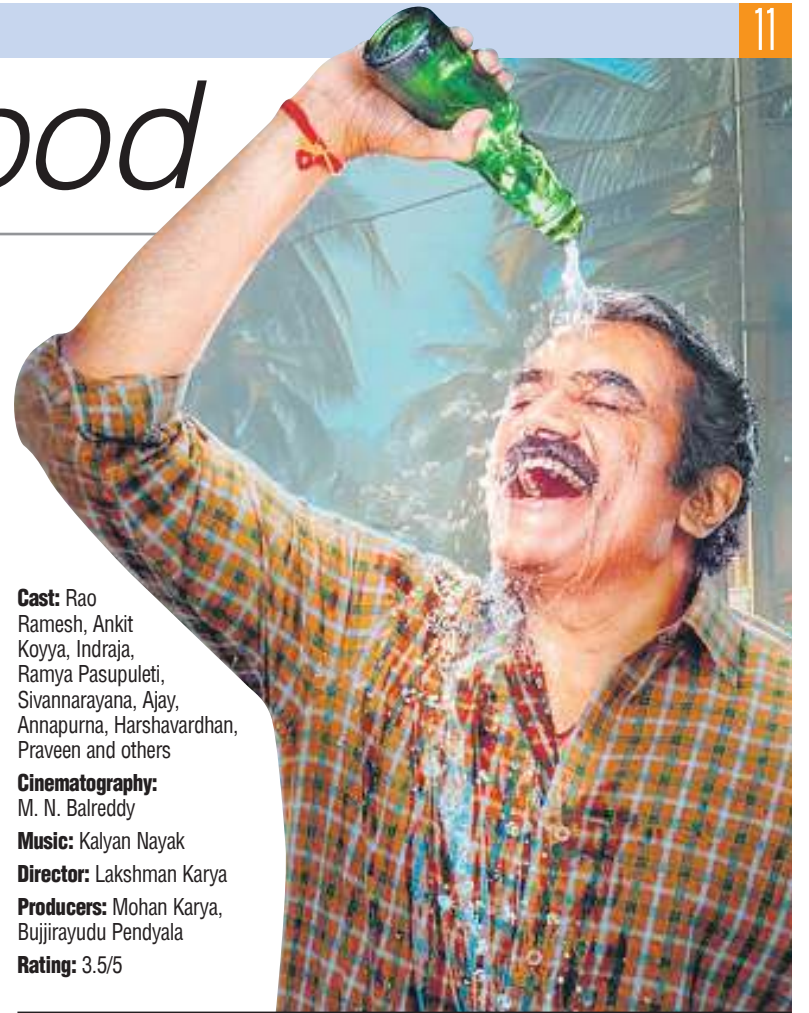
Meanwhile, the actor congratulated all the National Award winners. However, he did not say anything in regards to Chiranjeevi's birthday (August 22). For now, a producer on the condition of anonymity says, "Allu Arjun took his time to congratulate the National Award winners, but he doesn't have time to convey birthday wishes to Chiranjeevi from the same dais." The producer further stated that this might now turn into trouble and affect the relationship between the two families.

Well, going ahead, in the function, he gives credit to his fans. "My fans are crazy. I love you all so much. I always say that everyone becomes a fan of a hero, but I became a hero after seeing my fans," said Allu Arjun. He added that his last film was released three years ago, but fans are still patient and show so much love for him. "This time I won't disappoint you and I will do more films



after *Pushpa 2*," said Arjun. Going further, the actor shared that his favourite actor is Rao Ramesh! "After watching *Ganyam*, I asked director Krish, who played the Naxalite character. He told me it was Rao Gopal Rao's son. I didn't know that until then. My grandfather Allu Ramlingaiah and Rao Gopal Rao spent many evenings at our house," said Allu Arjun. Having seen the lead actor Rao Ramesh's graph since the beginning, he shared that the level that he has reached today has been a result of his hard work and dedication. "Telugu cinema is lucky to have such a talented artist. I want this movie to be successful and more such stories to come," he says.

The *Sarrainodu* actor says that Rishabh Shetty deserved the National Award. "Last year, I received an award and I knew that Rishabh Shetty should win for *Kantara* this year and he did," said Allu Arjun. He also went on to express his contentment that one of his favourite actresses and a good friend, Nithya Menen, also got a national award.



**Cast:** Rao Ramesh, Ankit Koyya, Indrāja, Ramya Pasupuleti, Sivannarayana, Ajay, Annapurna, Harshavardhan, Praveen and others  
**Cinematography:** M. N. Balreddy  
**Music:** Kalyan Nayak  
**Director:** Lakshman Karya  
**Producers:** Mohan Karya, Bujjirayudu Pendyala  
**Rating:** 3.5/5

## Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam: Rao Ramesh steals the show; credit goes to director for a clean entertainer

SURESH KAVIRAYANI  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Rao Ramesh, known for his character roles in many Telugu films, has now turned lead actor for the first time with *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*. The film is directed by Lakshman Karya, which marks his second project. Ankit Koyya and Ramya Pasupuleti star as the lead pair in this film, produced by Mohan Karya and Bujjirayudu Pendyala.

Now that Rao Ramesh is playing the lead role, we have to see how the audience will take it.

### STORY

Subramanyam (played by Rao Ramesh) resides in Maruthi Nagar and is determined to secure a government job, refusing to consider any other employment. His wife, Kalarani (Indrāja), is the sole breadwinner and manages the finances through her salary. They wish to build a good house that is constructed incompletely. Now that Subramanyam has a government job, he is keen on getting the construction done. Their son, Arjun (played by Ankit Koyya), has fallen in love with a girl (played by Ramya Pasupuleti), the daughter of a family friend (played by Harshavardhan), who works in a bank. He always feels that he is the son of Allu Arvind, and he is growing up here as Subramanyam's son. Subramanyam's mother-in-law, Annapurna, also lives with them. Tragedy strikes when she unexpectedly passes away. Kalarani decides to take a ten-day leave from work to scatter her mother's ashes at sacred sites. During her absence, Subramanyam faces mounting pressure from family members to consider applying for a private job. One day, Subramanyam is shocked to discover a deposit of Rs 10 lakh in his bank account. This unexpected windfall sets the stage for the real story, unraveling the mystery of who transferred the money and how Subramanyam decides to use it. Is Arjun really a rich kid? There are many twists and turns in the remaining story.

### ANALYSIS

Director Lakshman Karya's first film, *Happy Wedding*, released in 2018, was a big flop. After six years, he came up with the story of *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*, which he has taken from a real-life incident.

In this family, the father is waiting for a government job even though he is 50 years old; his wife is working, and because of her, the family is running. Their son feels that he was born into a rich family, but they left him with Subramanyam. He feels that one day his rich parents will come and take him away from them. On the other hand, Subramanyam is borrowing money from people, and he is under pressure to repay them. The director set up a middle-class family story pleasantly and introduced all the characters in the beginning without dragging much. From the beginning to the end, the director narrated the story in a hilarious way! When Subramanyam's account gets credited with Rs 10 lakh, the story becomes even more interesting and hilarious.

Who credited that much to Subramanyam? The twist after the interval is more interesting, something that one can't expect. The director takes a simple story and narrates it more like a screenplay-based film. Every dialogue and every character creates guffaw and the director comes up with a clean entertainer. There is one particular scene in the film where Subramanyam wants to repay one lakh, which he borrowed from Ajay. You won't be able to control your laughter after watching this particular scene! Actually, the entire film is full of comic scenes. The climax is also a big surprise and complete credit goes to director Lakshman Karya for coming up with a film like this. I'm not revealing the story much because I don't want to spoil the interest, but the director made a good story for around Rs 10 lakh. Many of the characters resemble middle-class families and the director makes good use of every artist in the film.

### PERFORMANCE

When it comes to the performance, it is Rao Ramesh who leads the front. He is a versatile actor and one of the best actors that Telugu cinema has. Give him any character, he not only delivers with good performance but takes it to the next level. He is the backbone of this film and his comedy timing, dialogue delivery and behaviour as a character are simply superb. Only Rao Ramesh can do such kinds of roles; Subramanyam is one of them. When a director comes up with a good story, the actors should give a better performance and Rao Ramesh did an excellent job. From the beginning to the end, he is simply superb.

The other performer is Ankit Koyya, who appeared along with Rao Ramesh throughout the film. His performance is lively and surprises everyone with his acting. He has a bright future as an actor. He completely transformed into his role and delivered a stunning performance. Indrāja is neat and in the climax scenes, she is the highlight with her amazing dance performance. Ramya Pasupuleti is cute and bubbly. She doesn't have much of a role, but she did a neat job. Harshavardhan, as a bank employee and Sivannarayana, as the neighbour of Subramanyam, also played their respective characters well. Ajay played his role too well. After a long time, comedian Praveen can be seen in such a good role in this film. Annapurna appears briefly, but her presence is very important.

The music is good and the cinematography is neatly done. The dialogues written by Lakshman Karya are impressive and entertain everyone. Though there are a few logics, you can ignore them because it's an entertainer.

### VERDICT

Finally, *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam* is a clean and hilarious entertainer. From the beginning to the end, one can laugh at every scene and character. At times, many of the films are filled with blood, gore, romance and a lot of action sequences, but this film is completely fresh, where there are no fighting sequences, no blood and not even a single knife. In recent times, this kind of hilarious movie hasn't come out and you must watch it.



## Chiru's look from Vishwambhara released

On the occasion of Mega Star Chiranjeevi's birthday, the makers of *Vishwambhara* released his look from the film. Directed by Mallidi Vasishtha, the film is releasing on January 10, 2025, on the occasion of the Sankranti festival. This film is one of the most-awaited projects, as Chiranjeevi is playing a fantasy film after so many years. On the other hand, director Vasishtha made his debut with a hit film like *Bimbisara*, which is also a fantasy one.

In this poster, Chiranjeevi is seen seated on a rock, wielding a trident instilled with special powers. The background features a radiant divine force deriving from a hill, while the atmosphere is charged with

electric energy and thunder. The makers feel that this film is going to be a visual treat, with graphics taking an important part in it. For director Vasishtha, this film is going to be a prestigious one, as he got a chance to direct Mega Star as his second film. He created a fantasy world for this film that promises to be a visual wonder with top-notch VFX and high-octane action episodes.

UV Creations is producing this film, while Trisha Krishnan and Ashika Ranganath are set to star as the female leads, and Bollywood actor Kunal Kapoor will be seen in a powerful role. MM Keeravani is collaborating with Chiranjeevi after many years and providing music for this fantasy film.

## RHEA SACHDEVA INTRODUCED AS VARSHA

The upcoming project *Hide N Seek* has been making waves, creating much anticipation around the film. The film is being directed by debutant Basi Reddy Rana and is touted to be a crime thriller.

The film stars Viswanth as the hero, while Shilpa Manjunath and Rhea Sachdeva are the lead actresses in the film.

On Thursday, the makers released the first look poster for actress Rhea Sachdeva, introduced as Varsha. "Love is the ultimate crime... it's the one we all want to be guilty of," reads the poster. The film has further completed its shoot and will hit theatres on September 13.



## Randeep Hooda jets off to Hyd for Gopichand's next shoot

Randeep Hooda, who recently announced his association with Gopichand Malineni starring Sunny Deol for the upcoming untitled film on August 20, has flown down to Hyderabad to commence the shoot for the film.

One of the most versatile and talented actors in the industry, Randeep Hooda, has raised the anticipation and interest of the audience for his upcoming action entertainer. Expressing his excitement to collaborate with Sunny Deol, Randeep announced joining the cast on social media.

After the success of *Swatantra Veer Savarkar*, which not only featured the actor but was also written, directed and produced by him, Randeep Hooda is all set to dive into #SGDM in Hyderabad.

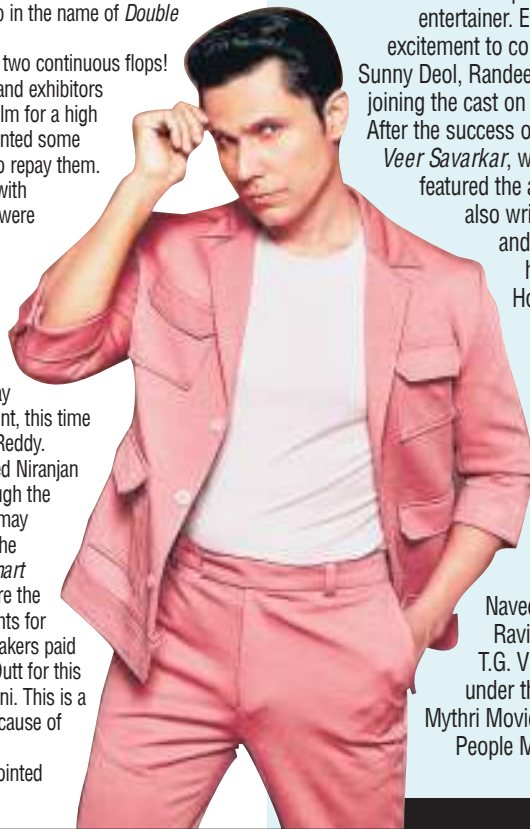
Touted as the biggest action film in the country, the film is produced by Naveen Yerneni, Y. Ravi Shankar and T.G. Vishwa Prasad under the banners of Mythri Movie Makers and People Media Factory.

## To compensate for loss, Puri decides to direct a film

Director Puri Jagannadh, after delivering a big flop like *Liger* with Vijay Deverakonda, has now seen another big flop in the name of *Double iSmart* with Ram Pothineni.

Doubtless, the director is in a lot of trouble with two continuous flops! When *Liger* became a disaster, the distributors and exhibitors incurred huge losses because they bought the film for a high price. After a couple of days, the distributors wanted some compensation from Puri. However, he refused to repay them. Instead of that, he officially lodged a complaint with distributor Warangal Srinu and others that they were threatening him.

Now, Puri Jagannadh delivered another dud, *Double iSmart* with Ram Pothineni. This time, *Hanuman* producer Niranjan Reddy has bought the rights to this film for approximately Rs. 60 crore, says the source. But the film didn't fare well at the box office; hence, Niranjan Reddy may incur huge losses. Unlike the earlier *Liger* incident, this time Puri Jagan wanted to compensate for Niranjan Reddy. According to the source, Puri Jagannadh assured Niranjan Reddy that he would make a film for him. "Though the details are not known, in the future, Puri Jagan may direct a film for Niranjan Reddy. This underlines the losses that were incurred due to the *Double iSmart* failure," added the source. Puri and Charmme are the producers of this film and they sold the OTT rights for a good amount, according to the source. The makers paid nearly Rs 15 crore for Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt for this film. He played the villain opposite Ram Pothineni. This is a sequel to the earlier hit film *iSmart Shankar*. Because of that hit, the distributors and exhibitors expected something better in this sequel, but Puri disappointed everyone.



## STANDALONE

Renowned actor and motorsport enthusiast Akkineni Naga Chaitanya is set to ignite the Indian Racing Festival (IRF) as he takes the helm of the Hyderabad Blackbirds as team owner for the 2024 season of the Indian Racing League (IRL). A passionate follower of Formula 1 and a dedicated collector of supercars and motorcycles, Chaitanya brings a unique blend of motorsport fervour and star power to the league. His deep-rooted love for racing, coupled with his influence as a youth icon and his stature in the entertainment industry, is expected to significantly boost the festival's visibility and attract a broader audience to the thrilling event.



## Entha Pani Chesav Chanti trailer launched by Trinath Rao

The trailer for *Entha Pani Chesav* was released by sensational director Trinath Rao Nakkina who appreciated the director and the team. "This film is only for women; men should not watch it even by mistake," declared director Uday Kumar. The film, produced by P J K Movie Creations, is a unique story directed by Uday Kumar, who gave entry as director with *Tasmath Jagratha*. The film, produced by the Ladde Brothers, will be released soon.

The trailer release event was held at the Producers Council Hall in Hyderabad, where Trinath Rao Nakkina was the chief guest. He released the trailer and expressed his wishes for the film's success. The film's hero Srinivas Ulishetty, heroines Diya Raja, Neaharika and Shanthi Priya, producers Ladde Brothers, cinematographer Santosh, actor Trinath and co-director Battina Suryanarayana attended the event.





# LORD'S TO HOST ITS FIRST-EVER WOMEN'S TEST BETWEEN INDIA AND ENGLAND



PTI ■ LONDON

The 'home of cricket' Lord's will host its first-ever women's Test to be played between India and England in 2026, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Thursday. The ECB said on its website that after a three-match ODI

series between India and England in July 2025, the former will return in 2026 for a one-off Test. "I'm also delighted we can confirm that India Women will return in 2026 to take on England Women in the first-ever women's Test match at Lord's. It will be a truly special occasion, and one of real significance," ECB CEO

Richard Gould said. India and England will play three ODIs on September 2, 4 and 7 at Headingley, Lord's and Southampton respectively. "It has also been confirmed that India Women will return in 2026 for a one-off Test match at Lord's - the first-ever Women's Test to be staged at the Home of Cricket," the ECB added.

"England Women have played white-ball matches at Lord's for the past three years, with another scheduled next year, but it will be the first time the ground has hosted a Women's Test match." India have played nine Tests so far against England in their backyard from June 1986 with their last clash at Bristol in June 2021 ending in a draw.

# 'Future economist' Archana bids farewell to TT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Archana Kamath will dearly miss donning the Indian jersey, but the table tennis player is determined to serve the country in a "different way" in future, helping to shape its public policies as an economist. Days after recording India's only success in the quarterfinal loss to Germany in the recent Paris Olympics, the 24-year-old from Bengaluru has re-entered student life in the USA where she is studying for a Masters in Public Policy at the University of Michigan. Having started her professional career as a teenager, Archana's decision to move away from table tennis has been quite emotional. But she has equally enjoyed studying since her school days where she was a topper, securing 98.7 and 97 percent in her 10th and 12th exams. Now, she is pursuing her second masters degree in Michigan, having already completed her post graduation in International Relations. Archana obtained her bachelor's degree in economics and she wants to return to India after two years and serve

FROM PARIS TO MICHIGAN IN A FORTNIGHT



the nation, probably as an economist. Her role models range from well-known economist Sanjeev Sanyal to the likes of tennis stars Carlos Alcaraz and Rafael Nadal whom she met at the Games Village in Paris earlier this month. Speaking to PTI from Ann Arbor in Michigan, Archana explained her decision to leave elite sport right after the Olympics. She categorically stated that "she is not in it" for a better financial future as she has been taken care of by her employers Indian Oil, OGQ and the government. "I have always liked studying,

as much as table tennis. I had inquired about this course in Michigan last year as well but then we qualified for the Paris Olympics as a team for the first time and I wanted to focus on that. "Now that the Olympics are done, I want to study more and come back to India after two years and serve the people in a different capacity. My decision has nothing to do with financial returns. "I have got all the support I have needed while playing for India, which has been the biggest honour," said the soft-spoken athlete, who has gone to Michigan after applying for

a study leave with her employer. She comes from a financially secure family of doctors with both her parents being ophthalmologists. Her brother is currently pursuing a PHD in aerospace engineering in the USA. But her memories cannot be ripped away from table tennis as it was the first time that both Indian men and women had qualified for the team event of the Olympics. Archana hopes to continue playing table tennis in the USA and will miss the team environment the most. "The best thing about the Olympics was being with seniors like Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra. The environment was so good. I also got to meet Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz. I made memories for life there. "I have also loved fighting for my country and that is something I will miss the most. I hope to keep playing here (in the US)," she said. Archana is certain about being a public servant in India after her course in Michigan but she is yet to work out the finer details.

# Berge joins Fulham and Liverpool sells teenager Clark

AP ■ LONDON

Fulham completed the signing of Sander Berge from relegated Burnley for a reported 25 million pounds (\$32.8 million) on a five-year contract on Thursday, with the Norway international set to

replace the departed Joao Palhinha as the club's holding midfielder. Palhinha left for Bayern Munich in the transfer window. "It's been a little bit back and forth the last few weeks," Berge said, "but I'm finally sitting

here in the shirt in this beautiful stadium, knowing that my future is here, which feels great." Berge, who has also played for Sheffield United in the Premier League, could be in contention to make his debut for Fulham against Leicester

on Saturday. Liverpool sold 19-year-old midfielder Bobby Clark to Salzburg for a reported 10 million pounds (\$13 million). Clark was one of the youngsters who helped Liverpool win the English League Cup last season.



# Mohun Bagan, East Bengal to clash in Lucknow on September 2

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow, the city of Nawabs, is gearing up to host traditional rivals Mohun Bagan and East Bengal for the first time on September 2 as part of plans to promote football in Uttar Pradesh. The derby will be played at state capital's K.D. Singh Babu Stadium. State Sports Director R.P. Singh told PTI that preparations are on full swing for the high-voltage match that will be played under floodlights. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is also expected to watch the proceedings and about 10,000 spectators are expected to throng the stadium. As part of the preparations, the testing of the recently-installed flood lights in the stadium has started and dressing rooms and other facilities are being arranged for the players. Singh said that All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow recently and expressed the need to promote football in Uttar Pradesh. It was during that time, that he had proposed to organise the derby and the state government accepted the proposal. Both the teams will reach Lucknow on September 1.

# Teen prodigy Kartik to lead Indian challenge at Asia Pacific Amateur golf

PTI ■ GOTEMBA (JAPAN)

A year after becoming the youngest golfer to make the cut at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, 14-year-old Kartik Singh will spearhead the Indian challenge at the 15th AAC to be held here from October 3-6. Kartik is the highest ranked Indian at 199 while the other three players to have received the invitation for this prestigious event are Krishnav Nikhil Chopra, Vedant Sirohi and Rakshit Dahiya. Krishnav and Vedant have earlier participated in the tournament. A regular winner in junior and amateur events, Kartik has also been named in the 2024 Junior Presidents Cup team. Apart from Kartik, seven

others have been named in the 2024 Junior Presidents Cup International Team. They are Joshua Bai, Warut Boonrod, Xihuan Chang, Rayhan Latief, Khanh Hung Le, Thangwin Lee, Anh Minh Ngyuyen. As many as 113 players have been confirmed for the Championship, which will be held at Taiheiyō Club in Gotemba, Japan. The field will have 120 players with a few more names to be added by the organisers. India's best ever performance has been the second-place finish by Rayhan Thomas in Sentosa, Singapore in 2018. The Dubai-based Indian has since turned professional, and last week won his first pro title on India's Professional Tour of India Tour. Krishnav, who plays college



golf in the US, is the son of former India cricketer turned commentator Nikhil Chopra, who often takes the role of a caddy for his son. Created in 2009, the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship was established by the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC), The R&A and the Masters Tournament to further develop

amateur golf in the Asia-Pacific region. The champion will receive an invitation to compete in the 2025 Masters Tournament and The 153rd Open, while the runner(s)-up will gain a place in Final Qualifying for The Open. The confirmed list which has players from 38 APGC member organizations is

highlighted by defending champion Jasper Stubbs of Australia and four players representing China inside the top 100 of the World Amateur Golf Ranking: Wenyi Ding (No. 4), Xihuan Chang (No. 36), Xiangyun Bai (No. 61) and Paul Chang (No. 97). Ding finished runner-up to Stubbs in the 2023 Asia-Pacific Amateur while Xihuan Chang reached the semi-finals of the U.S. Junior Amateur in July. Other top-100 participants include Vietnam's Anh Minh Ngyuyen (No. 68) and Japan's Rintaro Nakano (No. 78). Notable past competitors include 2021 Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama, a two-time winner of the Asia-Pacific Amateur, and 2022 Open champion Cameron Smith.



# Guys like Pant have muscle memory and thirst for victory: Hayden

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Batting great Matthew Hayden feels Rishabh Pant will be a key player for India when they travel to Australia for a five-Test series later this year owing to his "muscle memory and thirst for victory" that made him such a sensation during the team's previous tour Down Under. The eagerly-anticipated five-Test series starts on November 22 at Perth. "Guys like Rishabh Pant have got a muscle memory and the thirst for victory. He was such a key player last time he played there and the Australian public loved him as well, because of the nature of the way he played his game," Hayden told media on the sidelines of 'CEAT Cricket Rating Awards' here on Wednesday. "It was exciting. It was innovative. It was just fresh and good. Then you have got your old stewards, like Virat Kohli, (he) will want to make an impression again. From a batting point of view, I'm excited to see how India have that strategy to take on the Australian conditions," the Australian added. Pant, who has made a successful return to cricket after a life-threatening accident in 2022, was an outstanding performer for India in the 2020-21 tour, notching up brilliant knocks of 97 and 89 not out in the landmark trip. India outgunned a full-strength Australia despite missing several frontline players in one of the most dramatic turnarounds in the history Test cricket. The visitors bounced back from the ignominy of 36 all out in the opening Adelaide Test to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1 for a second consecutive time. Kohli had to return home after the Adelaide game due to personal reasons and five other players, including key pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, were forced out due to injuries and fitness issues. "The great thing from an Indian

perspective is that when you look at the last victory, there was no Virat Kohli. There was a very much a second team bowling line-up that won at the Gabba, Hayden said. "That's the kind of confidence that you can expect this Indian unit to go to our shores (with) and go, guys, we've done this before, and we've done it in a way that's second to none, even without our key players," he said. **PINK TESTS TAKE AWAY AUSTRALIA'S HOME ADVANTAGE:** Hayden said scheduling a day-night Test tends to take away the advantage enjoyed by Australian teams in the past. Even in the upcoming tour, the two teams will play a Pink Test in Adelaide. "Once you get those overhead conditions under that twilight zone, they can be really difficult," he said. "I would go as far as to say that the home advantage in Australia has been taken away quite a lot, simply on the basis that if you get (on) the wrong side of a certain session, be that you are four for 130 at twilight, you can (soon) be eight for 150. "There's no chance to actually really naturally dominate a game," he added. Hayden said Pat Cummins, who led Australia to the World Test Championship and ODI World Cup wins last year, has rallied his troops like no other Australian captain in the past. "He has a very special leadership style and ability. It's a very different style to the former captains of the Australian cricket team that were (about) very much a carrot and stick type approach," he said. "He's operating on a model that's bringing out the individuals and individual preparation in particular - something which our game struggles with being a team sport," he added. Hayden said Australia under Cummins has been an extremely close-knit team which has earned respect from former players like him who were upset with the manner in which previous coach Justin Langer was removed.

# Bahrain's track team sanctioned over doping and blocked from naturalising more athletes

AP ■ MONACO

Bahrain's track team will have to pause its successful strategy of naturalizing athletes from Africa after accepting a package of sanctions related to doping. World Athletics said Thursday that Bahrain had been restricted to a maximum of 10 athletes in the track and field events at the Paris Olympics - which wasn't announced at the time - and at next year's world championships in Tokyo. Bahrain's team in Paris included Kenya-born Winfred Yavi, who won gold in Paris in the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase, and Nigeria-born sprinter

Salwa Eid Naser, the silver medalist in the 400. Neither athlete was accused of any wrongdoing in the case announced Thursday. The Bahrain Athletics Association admitted a charge of "conducting itself in relation to doping, negligently and/or recklessly and/or so as to prejudice the interests of World Athletics or bring the sport of athletics into disrepute," and another related to its employment of staff to work with athletes, governing body World Athletics said. That followed an investigation into allegations two athletes used blood transfusions at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and into the BAA having



"engaged" a coach who was under a doping-related ban, World Athletics added. Bahrain has agreed not to recruit any more foreign athletes until 2027, World Athletics said. The next Summer

Olympics are in Los Angeles in 2028. Bahrain has also committed to fund a "talent academy" to develop local athletes and has set up a new national anti-doping body. It's not the first time Bahrain has faced scrutiny over doping, particularly among its roster of athletes who were naturalized. Naser missed the Tokyo Olympics while serving a ban for not being available for drug testing. Kemi Adekoya, a former world indoor champion in the 400, got a four-year ban in 2019 in a steroid case. Marathon runner Marius Kimutai was banned for three years in April after failing a drug test.

# Cash-strapped Barcelona sheds players one year after their arrival

AP ■ BARCELONA (SPAIN)

If trying to compete with Real Madrid and newly arrived Kylian Mbappé wasn't daunting enough, now Hansi Flick's Barcelona squad is being thinned out by departures. Barcelona looks set to lose both Ilkay Gundogan and Vitor Roque in the coming days - or even hours - with both players reportedly close to exits. Gundogan appears set on returning to Manchester City a year after the midfielder left the serial winners to start a new chapter in Spain. That could be cut short because of Barcelona's need to trim its salary burden, leaving the team without one of its top playmakers from last season. Roque is also reportedly close to leaving on loan for Real Betis, although Portugal's

Sporting has made inquiries. The young Brazilian forward cost Barcelona a 30-million-euro (USD 33-million) transfer last summer. He arrived in the winter transfer market but never earned consistent playing minutes despite the significant investment made to sign him. When their exits are made official, it will confirm that the club's efforts last summer to strengthen the squad turned out to be makeshift moves. Last summer, Barcelona maintained the quality of a squad that lost veteran leaders Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba without spending much money. Gundogan and former Athletic Bilbao defender Inigo Martinez arrived as free agents, Oriol Romeu's move from Girona cost a reported 4 million euros, and João Félix and João Cancelo both arrived on loan deals from Atletico



Madrid and Manchester City, respectively. But a year later, only Martinez appears set to continue with the team that finished last season without a title and the departure of coach Xavi Hernández, who was pushed out after he publicly complained that the club's lack of money would make it hard to compete with Madrid or the other top European clubs. Barcelona has locked up the arrival of Spain midfielder Dani Olmo from Leipzig. But, it has yet to meet the financial requirements of the Spanish league necessary to register him to play. Flick is also without key players Gavi Páez and Ronaldo Araújo, who are recovering from leg injuries. With players hurt or leaving, Flick has not hesitated in relying heavily on the products

of Barcelona's famed La Masia youth academy. He gave debuts to midfielders Gerard Martín and Marc Bernal at the always demanding outing at Valencia in their Spanish league opener when Robert Lewandowski scored a brace for a 2-1 victory. In total Flick aligned three 17-year-olds in his starting 11 between Lamine Yamal, Bernal and Pau Cubarsi. As Lewandowski said after the victory, "We can win games with these youngsters." **NEXT TEST:** Barcelona will face a good test on Saturday in the second round of league fixtures when it hosts Athletic Bilbao, including Nico Williams. Williams and Barcelona teen Lamine Yamal helped lead Spain to the European Championship title this summer. Barcelona had been rumoured to be interested in securing Williams' transfer

from Athletic, but right now that looks like wishful thinking given the Catalan club's ongoing financial struggles. Coached by former Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde, Athletic will look for its first victory at Barcelona since the 2001-2002 season. Since then, it has gone 22 visits without a victory, with Barcelona winning 19 times. Athletic, which won the Copa del Rey last campaign, will likely have to use its youth-team goalkeeper, Alex Padilla, after minor injuries to Spain's keeper Unai Simón and backup Julen Agirretxabala. Madrid hosts Valladolid on Sunday after the defending champions were held 1-1 at Mallorca in their league opener. Atletico Madrid hosts Girona on the same day in a matchup of the respective fourth- and third-place finishers from last campaign.