



QUOTE OF THE DAY My college provides free education to 40,000 students. Shoot me, but don't destroy my college. The skills I am imparting to our students are making others envious. If someone has enmity with me, come and finish me. But don't try to stop the good work I am doing. Although I am now requesting, it doesn't mean that I don't have the strength to fight my enemies. I have been attacked and have wounds on my front side. Akbaruddin Owaisi is not a person who will show his back to enemies - Akbaruddin Owaisi, AIMIM MLA

DON'T MISS... '443-km India-Bangla border...

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday said the 443-km India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya is fully secure and denied claims of illegal entry by Bangladeshi nationals. The paramilitary force issued a statement after the media in the neighbouring country reported that Awami League leader Shakh Ali Khan Panna died of heart attack while climbing a hill in Meghalaya's Dawki in an attempt to flee his country. Dawki, in Meghalaya East Khasi Hills, is located close to Bangladesh. A BSF spokesperson...

TG records 913 new dengue...

Within two days after Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha provided an update on the dengue situation, Telangana has reported 913 new dengue cases as on August 25, bringing the total to 5,372 cases since January 1. The Health Minister's earlier release had indicated 4,459 cases up until August 23, but recent data from the Director of Health and Family Welfare reveals a significant increase. The State has tested 81,932 samples, with a positivity rate of 6.5%. The districts...

Vedanta readies Rs 30,000-cr...

Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Ltd has prepared a war chest of Rs 30,000 crore with recent funds raised through a qualified institutional placement (QIP), offer for sale (OFS) and dividend to pursue further deleveraging and growth, sources said. Proceeds from the Rs 8,500-crore QIP of Vedanta Ltd, HZL's OFS of Rs 3,200 crore, and Rs 5,100 crore from the second interim dividend, coupled with existing cash reserves of Rs 13,000 crore, will lead to the creation of a Rs 30,000-crore war chest after the...

Focus on Suryakumar...

India dasher Suryakumar Yadav will turn up for Mumbai in their Buchi Babu contest against TNCA XI, beginning here on Tuesday, with an aim to get his Test career back on track. Shreyas Iyer, also part of Mumbai's squad, too will be looking to make a statement in the pre-season event, having last played a Test in February. The star-studded Mumbai side will be captained by Sarfaraz Khan, who too will be jostling for space in a full strength Test squad when the home season begins next month despite a promising...

Caste census in limbo

BC Commission tenure to end in couple of days

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com HYDERABAD Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's emphasis on 'caste census' appears to be stuck in Telangana, despite a resolution passed in the state Assembly. The tenure of the Backward Classes (BC) Commission, headed by Dr Vakulabharanam, is ending on August 31, but the state government has not decided on extending the tenure of the commission appointed by the BRS, or constituting a new one. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has reportedly remained non-committal on the issue, even though similar exercises are on in Karnataka and Bihar and Rahul Gandhi continues to call for a nationwide caste census. While a Government Order (GO 26) was issued on March 15, 2024, to launch a comprehensive door-to-door household survey, progress has been minimal. High-level sources indicated that



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's emphasis on 'caste census' appears to be stuck in Telangana, despite a resolution passed in the state Assembly

BC Commission is nearing its end. The current commission had prepared an action plan, drafted a methodology, and developed a questionnaire with 63 questions, drawing from the census experiences of other states. However, the commission has not received clear directives from the government, leaving the project in limbo. Meanwhile, local body and municipal elections are approaching and the percentage of reservations needs to be notified. Sources allege that a policy decision is still pending for the Rs 150 crore project, and there seems to be a disconnect between the Ministries of Panchayati Raj and BC Welfare. Sources indicated, "If a notification is issued, it would take 10 days, as the census will be based on the erstwhile 10 districts. The census could be completed in 20 days with one month for analysis and three months to prepare the final report." The BC Commission may not receive an extension due to its association with BRS leaders.

I support HYDRAA although I am in BJP: Konda

A majority of BJP leaders including BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy and Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender are extending conditional support to HYDRAA. However, Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy extended unconditional support to HYDRAA. On Monday, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy said that he is supporting HYDRAA as it is a good decision although he is in the BJP. He said the Congress government took a great decision in the name of HYDRAA to demolish illegal buildings. He said that 78 per cent of respondents extended support and 22 per cent opposed HYDRAA in an online survey conducted by him. Vishweshwar said that there is no vengeance behind HYDRAA demolitions. If that is right, then the CM would have demolished KTR's Janwada Farmhouse first. He said the demolitions are being conducted irrespective of political affiliations.

Demolish Owaisi's illegal buildings:BJP

Challenging Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Congress government to demolish illegal buildings in the Old City if he has the guts, the BJP demanded that the Congress government should take action against the illegal buildings built by Asaduddin Owaisi. Speaking to the media on Monday, BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said that he is ready to be shot if the government wants to demolish the Fatima Owaisi College, AIMIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi said. He was responding to news reports on Monday that HYDRAA is going to demolish the Fatima Owaisi College located in Bandlaguda.

Everything 'Young India' in Telangana

Revanth stops naming institutes after politicians

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been naming all his pet projects as 'Young India', whether it is the Young India Skills University, the Young India Sports University or the latest Young India Integrated Model School. He is breaking the convention of naming institutes after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi like a typical Congressman. Sources close to the CM said that "Young India" signifies that Telangana is a state of the future and that the youthfulness of the country is reflected in its name. "The CM's mission and my slogan for everything will be Young India moving forward. The name is to inspire Telangana. Telangana is pitched as a future state by the CM reinforcing the vibrancy of the young state and eventually, it looks like a torch. We want to make Telangana synonymous with 'Young India' across the world and not just in the country as the state is largely about youth and youthfulness," the sources said. Acknowledging the gap between the skills of the youth and what industry needs, the Congress government went ahead with establishing the Young India Skills University



Govt to establish Young India Skills University, Young India Sports University & Young India Integrated Model Schools



Mala leaders ask CM to ensure justice

Mala community leaders requested the Chief Minister to ensure that no injustice is done to the Mala and Madiga communities during SC categorisation. They said that as per the court's direction both the Mala and Madiga communities should receive justice. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy assured the delegation that a committee would be appointed

HYDRAA DEMOLITIONS Congress steps up counter-attack

Countering the criticism of the BRS, the BJP and the AIMIM regarding HYDRAA, the Congress intensified its counter-attack on the opposition. Kisan Congress Vice-President M. Kodanda Reddy said that the BRS, the BJP and the AIMIM have been behaving in a surprising manner regarding HYDRAA. He said the opposition is behaving irresponsibly and their criticism is intended to weaken the CM's decisive actions. Opposition parties are trying to trouble the CM using HYDRAA, he added. The TPCC's official spokesperson, Gnana Sunder, said that no one can damage Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's self-confidence. HYDRAA has public support and the government should expand it to the entire state. During BRS rule, officials listened to BRS leaders and so BRS leaders acquired fake title deeds, he said. TPCC spokesperson Bhavani Reddy said that satellite surveys have proved that Palla Rajeshwar Reddy grabbed lake land. Palla constructed his Anurag University in Nadam Cheruvu with police protection, he said. Former Minister Malla Reddy destroyed the Suraram Lake and now the lake is not even visible. The government will demolish all illegal buildings, he said. Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar said fishermen depend on tanks and lakes.

Implement LRS free of cost in TG Harish urges CM

BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to implement the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) free of cost and honour the promise made during the 2023 Assembly election campaign. In an open letter addressed to Revanth, Harish criticised the government's approach to collecting LRS fees, which he argues unfairly burdens the public, particularly farmers and middle-class families already grappling with rising costs and unfulfilled promises such as loan waivers and delayed Rythu Bandhu payments. He expressed concern over the government's pressure on officials,

CM gives Rs 1 lakh to civil services candidates who cleared prelims

to address this mismatch. The establishment of the Young India Sports University aims to improve India's performance in the Olympics. Focussing on nurturing talent, the government is also setting up Young India Integrated Residential Schools on 20 to 25 acres in all constituencies to provide training and education for Telangana's youth.

BJP leaders complain to high command against Maheshwar

Is the Telangana BJP unable to stomach the blistering pace of Bharatiya Janata Legislative Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy? It is learnt that some Telangana BJP leaders have complained to the high command about the pace at which Alleti Maheshwar Reddy is functioning and have asked the high command to rein him in. Maheshwar has been busy himself with some political programme every day after taking over as the BJLP leader. He has been troubling the Congress government by levelling allegations against it and claiming that he has proof to back it up. He started his crusade by alleging that the CM and some ministers were collecting 'taxes' like R Tax, B Tax, U Tax etc. Later, he asked the government to explain why it is not taking action against the heads of the BRS government regarding the Kaleshwaram scam and power purchasing agreement scams. He said the Congress government is colluding with BRS leaders and so it is not taking action against them. The BJLP leader also targeted Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy saying that he got half the contract of the Kodangal-Narayanapur Irrigation Project. Maheshwar said that he has been getting information about the Congress admin's misdeeds from Revanth Reddy's Cabinet colleagues. He also visited the Sunkishala spot and asked the government to hold MEIL responsible for it. On Monday, Maheshwar said that there is a 'fake' Minister in the Telangana Cabinet as that Minister is using fake documents. He also challenged the CM to start demolitions from the Old City if he had guts. However, it is learnt that some Telangana BJP leaders are unable to digest his scorching pace.

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KTR has links with cinema actors, alleges Vivek

Says no connection between V6 Business Solutions & V6 Velugu Media

Alleging that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao has links with cinema actors, the Congress MLA of Chennai, Gaddam Vivek, slammed KTR saying that he did not demolish illegal buildings in FTL areas as he had been colluding with film actors. He said that it was the Congress government which started the demolition. He said that KTR had said that V6 Business Solutions belongs to Bengaluru and asked KTR to check

Google to know the facts. He made it clear that there is no connection between V6 Business Solutions and V6 Velugu Media. Speaking to the media on Monday, Vivek said that KTR banned V6 and Velugu newspapers when the BRS was in power. He said that KTR's social media team had resorted to a campaign of lies and that KTR's newspaper had published the false news that he has a farmhouse in the FTL area and buffer zone.

Kokapet sees nearly 90% surge in property prices, says Anarock

Hyderabad's Kokapet has emerged as a hotspot in the city's real estate market, witnessing a significant surge in property prices. According to a report released by Anarock on Monday, Kokapet saw a price increase from ₹4,750 per square foot in 2019 to ₹9,000 per square foot in the first half of 2024, marking an 89 per cent appreciation. This rise accompanies the introduction of approximately 12,920 new residential units in the area during this period. The report highlights that 52 percent of Kokapet's new supply was in the ultra-luxury segment, priced above ₹2.5 crore, with 30 percent in the mid and premium segments, and the remaining 19 per cent in the luxury bracket ranging from ₹1.5 crore to ₹2.5 crore. Kokapet's growth is part of a broader trend of rising residential prices across major Indian cities, driven by strong demand and increased supply.



BRS confident of bail for Kavitha, hearing today

The Supreme Court is set to hear the bail petition of BRS MLC Kavitha on Tuesday, following her arrest in connection with the Delhi liquor scam. Kavitha has been in Tihar Jail from March 15 and has recently faced medical problems leading to her being transferred to the Delhi AIIMS for treatment before being returned to the jail. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi will be arguing for her and the BRS leadership remains optimistic that she will be granted bail this time especially as Manish Sisodia got bail. BRS Working President KTR and MLA Harish Rao left for New Delhi along with some BRS MLAs and key leaders. Kavitha, who was jailed in March, first experienced medical problems on July 16, prompting her transfer to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in Delhi for treatment. She was presented in court via video conference two days later, where she brought her medical problems to the attention of Judge Kaveri Baweja.



ACROSS THE STATES



Actress asked to furnish proof of being Hindu at temple

Actress Namitha on Monday complained that she was asked to furnish proof of being a Hindu during her visit to the renowned Sri Meenakshi Sundareswar temple here, and expressed disappointment over the alleged rude behaviour of temple officials. The actress, who is a BJP state executive member, alleged that a temple official prevented her from having darshan and demanded proof of being a Hindu. "They asked for a certificate to prove that I am a Hindu and also my caste certificate. I never underwent such an ordeal in any temple that I visited in the country," she told reporters later. Namitha said it was a known fact that she was born a Hindu and that her marriage was solemnised in Tirupati and her son was named after Lord Krishna. "This being the case they spoke rudely and arrogantly and demanded a certificate to prove my caste and my faith," she said.



Refused money for alcohol, man kills mother

A man allegedly killed his 70-year-old mother here for refusing to give him money to purchase liquor, police said on Monday. The accused was identified as Ravinder (35), a native of Noorpur village, they said. Ravinder's sister, Kabool told the police that her brother is an alcoholic and handicapped. He was undergoing treatment at a de-addiction centre and recently returned home, an officer said. After killing his mother, Roshni Devi, with a sharp-edged weapon, Ravinder called Kabool and informed her about the incident. "He told me that my mother refused to give him money to buy liquor," Kabool told the police. The complainant further told police that she, along with her son, returned from her in-laws and found her mother dead in the courtyard, an officer said.



Indian Navy's frontline warship 'Mumbai' docks in Sri Lanka

Indian Navy's frontline warship INS 'Mumbai' on Monday docked at the port of Colombo, on a day when three Chinese Navy vessels berthed at the same harbour in Sri Lanka. Indian Naval Ship 'Mumbai' is on a three-day visit to the island nation, the Sri Lanka Navy said in a press release. The 163-metre-long Destroyer, which is manned by a crew of 410 members, was welcomed by the Sri Lanka Navy in compliance with naval traditions. This is the ship's first visit to any port in Sri Lanka and will be the eighth port call by Indian ships this year, the Indian High Commission said in a press release on Sunday.

BRS confident of bail for ...

Continued from page 1

The judge subsequently granted her permission to undergo medical tests at AIIMS Delhi. However, despite treatment, she has not fully recovered, and jail doctors have been providing med-

ical care. On August 22, Kavitha's condition deteriorated once again, resulting in her transfer to AIIMS where medical tests were conducted in the presence of her husband, Anil. She was brought back to the jail on the same day at around 2 pm. Kavitha

KTR has links ...

Continued from page 1

Vivek said that he had purchased the land in 2006 and had constructed a farmhouse but his farmhouse is not in the FTL area or the buffer zone. He said the BJP and the BRS had made the ED raid him and that they

had seized Rs 8 crore through Vijayan Security Services. However, the ED returned the money after ascertaining facts, Vivek said. He asked KTR to speak only after checking facts, and that he is ready to face anything if KTR proves his allegations against him.

Mala leaders...

Continued from page 1

to address the issue and based on its report justice would be ensured for all. Representatives of the Mala community, including MP

Gaddam Vamsi, MLAs Vivek Venkataswamy, Matta Ragamayee, Vamsikrishna, Nagaraju and leaders of the Mala Mahanadu like Chennayya met the Chief Minister at the Secretariat on Monday.



India, Singapore commit to further enhance co-operation

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

India and Singapore on Monday pledged to further enhance co-operation in the emerging and futuristic areas. The Indian delegation led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman deliberated upon six pillars identified under ISMR, which include Digitalisation, Skill Development, Sustainability, Healthcare & Medicine, and Advanced Manufacturing and Connectivity," the finance min-

istry said in post on X. The leaders also discussed plans for commemorating the 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore, alongside regional and global cooperation, including ASEAN & G20 developments, it said. The leaders noted that the discussions in the first round of ISMR have resulted in the successful conclusion of MoUs on healthcare, education &

skill development, digital cooperation and semiconductor ecosystem cooperation, it said. Along with Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw were present for the meeting. ISMR is a unique mechanism established to set a new agenda for India-Singapore bilateral relations.

PM Modi to lead BJP's election campaign in poll-bound J-K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the BJP's campaign in the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the first such democratic exercise after the erstwhile state was downgraded to Union Territory in August 2019.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP national president J P Nadda and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were also included in the list of 40 star campaigners submitted by the party to the Election Commission for the first phase of assembly elec-

are other prominent faces who will visit Jammu and Kashmir during the campaigning. The three-phased assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled for September 18, 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 4.



Anurag Thakur and Smriti Irani and Gen (Retd.) V K Singh besides Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur

the 40 star campaigners of the party may be treated as valid for the remaining phases "unless we forward an amended list" within the prescribed time limit.

Truck runs over pavement dwellers in northeast Delhi, three dead

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three died after a canter truck ran over five men sleeping on a footpath in the Shastrī Park area of northeast Delhi in the early hours of Monday, police said. They said the incident occurred at the Tarbuz market near the Shastrī Park metro station around 4:30 am, and added that the victims were homeless. An officer said the medium goods vehicle was approaching the Iron Bridge from Seelampur when it climbed the central verge and ran over the five men sleeping on the footpath. The trucker abandoned the vehicle and fled the spot after the incident. The victims were taken to the Jag Pravech Chandra Hospital, where three were declared dead. One of them was



identified as Mohammad Jakir (35) of Bihar's Katihar who worked here as a labourer. He would often sleep on the same footpath, according to the local residents.

The two injured -- Mushtaq (35) and Kamlesh (36) -- were taken to the GTB Hospital, the officer added. Police said there were rickshaw pullers and labourers among the victims.

Caste census...

Continued from page 1

Although Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting on conducting a caste census, no approval was given. Despite this, public funds have already been spent as commission members have travelled extensively. Sources hinted that if a new commission is constituted there is the possibility of court cases being filed questioning the veracity of the new commission.

Meanwhile, there are whispers about senior Congress members G. Niranjan and V. Hanumanth Rao being considered for the commission. However, Congress ministers seem divided over holding local body polls due to the alleged negativity among farmers due to the Rythu Bandhu scheme and crop loan waivers.

Karnataka's approach, where Siddaramaiah continued with a BJP report without releasing it, could be an option for Telangana to follow. However, experts say that constituting a new commission would mean starting from scratch, including revisiting places and redoing the work. Sources said that an extension of six months to a year for the current commission could provide clarity on the caste census.

Meanwhile, Rahul once again advocated a caste census on Saturday at the Samvidhan Samman Sammelan in Prayagraj by asserting that "caste census is my life's mission" and that "I am ready to pay a political price for it." But there is unease in the Congress in both Telangana and Karnataka. While in Telangana the project has not been launched, in Karnataka, the Siddaramaiah government's inaction in releasing the findings could put a question mark on the credibility of Rahul's claim.

Demolish...

Continued from page 1

said the Congress government introduced HYDRAA as it had failed to implement its election assurances. "Does the Congress government have the guts to demolish Asaduddin's buildings in Salkam Cheruvu? I will show the buildings if the Commissioner cannot find them. Should I send details of the illegal buildings in the Old City's Gurrum Cheruvu and Jalpally Cheruvu? In the Old City lakes and hills are being grabbed frequently. The government should start demolishing illegal buildings from the Old City if the CM has guts. The government should reveal when it will demolish the illegal buildings of Asaduddin Owaisi," Maheshwar said. The BJP leader asked whether the Congress government had taken any action against the officials who permitted the construction of illegal buildings. The BRS government enacted high drama regarding Ayyappa Society, he said and added the Congress government too is following the footsteps of the BRS government. He asked the government to reveal how many tanks are there in the state and how many are being grabbed. Does the government have the guts to take action against endowment lands, he asked. Maheshwar demanded that the government should release a white paper on lakes that are being grabbed. "What action did the government take against Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender who had levelled allegations against HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, he asked.

Implement LRS free ...

Continued from page 1

including Collectors and Panchayat Secretaries, to collect LRS fees. He condemned the harassment of citizens through repeated calls and threats to cancel layouts if the fees were not paid. Harish highlighted the government's target to raise Rs 15,000 crore through LRS fees, describing it as an exploitative measure against the public. In his letter, Harish reminded the CM of the opposition the Congress had earlier voiced against the LRS, recalling statements from several current ministers who had promised free LRS during their Assembly election campaign. Harish accused the Chief Minister of changing his stance after coming to power, turning LRS into a revenue-generating scheme

despite earlier claims of opposition to such fees. Quoting Congress leaders, including Uttam Kumar Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka, Seethakka and Revanth Reddy himself, he underscored the contrast between their pre-election promises and current actions. He criticised the government's perceived duplicity, citing how ministers who once filed Public Interest Litigations (PILs) against LRS now support its fee collection. Harish called on the people of Telangana to resist paying LRS fees, reaffirming the BRS's commitment to pressuring the Congress government into implementing LRS without any charges. He emphasised the need for the government to stay true to its promises and reduce the financial burden on the public.

'Don't demolish ...

Continued from page 1

He said that he had constructed the Fatima Owaisi College with 12 buildings keeping the future of poor students in mind and that some people are wilfully spreading the lie that the college buildings are illegal. "I have been shot at in the past. If you want to rain bullets in me again, do it, but don't demolish the Fatima Owaisi College," he said. However, the BJP posted on X regarding the Fatima Owaisi College on Monday saying, "From agricultural land in 2012 to Fatima Owaisi Women's College in 2024. Fun fact: Fatima Owaisi is the daughter of AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi. Will HYDRAA or the Revanth Government dare to take any action?" The BJP also posted the satellite maps of Salkam Cheruvu taken in 2012 and in 2024.

Everything 'Young...

Continued from page 1

Some seasoned Congressmen attributed this to Rajiv Gandhi's idea. A Congress leader said, "Rajiv Gandhi once said that India is an old country but a young nation. I too ave a dream. I dream of an India which is strong, independent, self-reliant and occupying the front rank among nations. Telangana has a rich history but is a young state. We want to make it a front-runner in the world." Mahatma Gandhi used Young India to disseminate his ideas regarding non-violence and to urge readers to consider, organise, and plan for India's independence from the British. Meanwhile, critics pointed to the Young Indian Private Ltd company owned by the Gandhis. The ED has been investigating Sonia Gandhi and her family regarding the ownership of Young Indian Private Limited (YIL) by the Gandhi family and its shareholding pattern in the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), the company that runs the 'National Herald' newspaper.

I support HYDRAA although ...

Continued from page 1

HYDRAA demolished the illegal building of a senior Congress leader too, he said. However, Vishweshwar suggested that the government should punish the builders of illegal buildings and collect money from them for demolitions. HYDRAA should also provide a solution to its poor and middle-class victims, he said. The government should take action against the officials who gave permissions and HYDRAA should act regarding endowment lands, he said. He said that HYDRAA is protecting the environment by demolishing the illegal buildings of the rich and the poor. He said that not only him,

but BJP leaders like Eatala Rajender, M. Raghunandan Rao and Katipally Venkataramana Reddy also supported HYDRAA. He said that the Janwada Farmhouse is not in the FTL area and buffer zone but is located in GO No: 111 limits. The Janwada Farmhouse was constructed by closing a water channel and so there is a chance that HYDRAA might demolish it. People know that the Janwada Farmhouse belonged to KTR or his proxy, he added. However, Vishweshwar suggested that the government should punish the builders of illegal buildings and collect money from them for demolitions. HYDRAA should also provide a solution to its poor and middle-

class victims, he said. The government should take action against the officials who gave permissions and HYDRAA should act regarding endowment lands, he said. He said that HYDRAA is protecting the environment by demolishing the illegal buildings of the rich and the poor. He said that not only him, but BJP leaders like Eatala Rajender, M. Raghunandan Rao and Katipally Venkataramana Reddy also supported HYDRAA. He said that the Janwada Farmhouse is not in the FTL area and buffer zone but is located in GO No: 111 limits. The Janwada Farmhouse was constructed by closing a water channel and so there is a chance that HYDRAA might demolish it. People know that the Janwada Farmhouse belonged to KTR or his proxy, he added.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Give peace a chance

The Cairo talks represent a glimmer of hope for war ravaged Gaza in an otherwise bleak situation

As fighting continues unabated in Gaza, negotiators gathered in Cairo this weekend for crucial discussions aimed at securing a ceasefire. The talks come at a pivotal moment, with the conflict between Hamas and Israel now in its tenth month. Despite the ongoing hostilities, there is hope that a breakthrough might be within reach, though significant hurdles remain. The war has left Gaza in ruins and triggered a humanitarian crisis of immense proportions. The conflict has displaced nearly all of Gaza's population at least once, and efforts to broker a ceasefire have so far failed to bring lasting peace. The international community, led by the United States, Egypt, and Qatar, has been engaged in persistent but ultimately inconclusive negotiations to end the violence. The Cairo talks, held under the shadow of ongoing violence, are seen as a critical step towards ending the conflict. However, the talks are complicated by the fact that Hamas, while sending a delegation to Cairo, has stated that it will not participate directly in the negotiations. Instead, the Hamas delegation is expected to meet with senior Egyptian officials to receive updates on the progress of the talks. Hamas continues to insist on a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, including from the Philadelphi Corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border, a key sticking point in the discussions. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has his own reservations and is unwilling to withdraw troops from border,



The framework for the current talks is based on a plan outlined by U.S. President Joe Biden on May 31, which has been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. The plan envisions a three-phase process, beginning with a full and complete ceasefire, during which hostages would be exchanged for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Despite initial agreement on the plan by Hamas leadership, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed reservations, particularly regarding the continued presence of Israeli troops along the Gaza-Egypt border, which he argues is necessary to prevent Hamas from rearming. The United States is exploring new proposals to bridge the gap between Israel and Hamas. The success of talks likely hinging on whether the U.S. can pressure Netanyahu into accepting a compromise. Meanwhile the war rages on in Gaza. Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire have devastated the territory, with reports of dozens of civilian casualties in recent days. The United Nations has reported large-scale evacuations from areas such as Deir el-Balah and Khan Yunis, as Israeli military operations intensify. The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire, with displaced families forced to flee daily in search of safety. Both Israelis and Gazans are increasingly desperate for an end to the bloodshed. Protests have erupted across Israel, with thousands calling for a deal to secure the release of the remaining hostages. The path to peace remains fraught with challenges, and the coming days will be crucial in determining whether a lasting ceasefire can be achieved.

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PICTALK



A farmer harvests grapes, at Repora Lar area in Ganderbal, Kashmir

Gender reform in 19th-century Bengal



RAJDEEP PATHAK

In the 19th century, a complex interplay of reformist and colonial influences emerged, particularly concerning the status of women

In the 19th century, as British colonialism reshaped the Indian socio-cultural landscape, intellectuals like Captain N. Augustus Willard and Indian reformers grappled with the status of women in India. Willard, like many British officials, viewed Indian women with a mixture of pity and a sense of moral duty, perceiving them as victims of ignorance, reflected in their preference for songs that were considered passionate and sensual. At the same time, English-educated Bengali elites, inspired by both Western ideas and traditional Hindu values, sought to reform women's education while retaining patriarchal norms. It is pertinent to mention the role played by the renowned social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, a key figure among the Bengali bhadralok, who championed the cause of widow remarriage and women's education.

Influenced by Western education, yet deeply rooted in his cultural heritage, Vidyasagar sought to balance these dual influences. He established numerous schools for girls, believing that education was essential for their empowerment and societal upliftment. Another key figure in India's renaissance movement, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (Chattopadhyay), a luminary in Indian literature, is celebrated for his seminal contributions to both educational reforms and the Indian freedom struggle. His multifaceted legacy extends beyond his literary genius, encapsulating his role as an intellectual force in the socio-political landscape of 19th-century India. Bankim Chandra was a pioneering figure in the sphere of educational reforms in India. His vision for education was grounded in the belief that a modern, enlightened society could only emerge through an educated populace. Chatterjee advocated for the modernization of the education system, emphasizing the need to integrate Western scientific knowledge with traditional Indian learning. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's engagement with educational reforms is evident in his writings



and his role as a Deputy Magistrate – the first in-charge (Sub-divisional magistrate) of the Arambag subdivision in West Bengal. He used his position to influence educational policies and advocate for the establishment of institutions that could impart contemporary education. Author of India's National Song Vande Mataram became a clarion call during India's Independence movement, Bankim Chandra's novels, often interwoven with themes of social and educational upliftment, served as a medium to propagate his ideas to a broader audience. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's novels often depicted strong, complex female characters, who played crucial roles in the narrative, challenging the traditional views of women in society. "Vande Mataram," depicted in Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel "Anandamath," serves as the manifesto of the Sanyasi group, celebrating a land abundant with rice, lush greenery, vibrant flowers, and sparkling rivers. The song idolizes the country as a goddess incarnate. While historically and politically significant, "Anandamath" unfolds through semiotic, discursive, and aesthetic dimen-



BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAY'S NOVELS OFTEN DEPICTED STRONG, COMPLEX FEMALE CHARACTERS, WHO PLAYED CRUCIAL ROLES IN THE NARRATIVE, CHALLENGING THE TRADITIONAL VIEWS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

sions. The narrative, through characters like Mohendra, Kalyani, and Sukumari, intertwines with India's traditional and cultural contexts. The Santan of the Math, led by guru Satyananda and his disciples, embody qualities of truth, knowledge, emotion, patience, and being. "Vande Mataram" transcends patriotism, embodying philosophical renderings of existential and metaphysical human attributes, with women depicted as equals, exemplified by Shanti's bravery and sacrifice. Bankim Chandra's portrayal of women was significant as it challenged the prevailing societal norms and provided a progressive vision of women's roles in society. In "Devi Chaudhurani" (1884) the protagonist Prafulla transforms from a submissive girl into the powerful Devi Chaudhurani, a leader of a band of rebels. Her character embodies the potential for women's empowerment and the possibility of their active participation in societal change. By depicting women as strong, capable, and essential to the nation's progress, his novels contributed to the broader discourse on women's rights and empowerment in pre-independent India, which, however, is debatable.

Novels like "Kapalkundala," "Debi Chaudhurani," and "Durgeshnandini" feature characters such as Kapalkundala, Prafulla, and Ayesha, who exhibit depth and complexity. "Brisabhriksha" (The Poison Tree) and "Krishnakanta Uil" addresses social issues like widow remarriage and polygamy through the stories of Suryamukhi, Kundanandini, and Rohini. In "Sitaram," the tragic effects of polygamy are highlighted, while "Anandamath" contrasts the nation's depiction as Mother, while the exclusion of women from the fight for its cause is also depicted. It can be said that Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's depiction of strong, independent female characters – despite their complexities – challenged existing gender norms and inspired a rethinking of women's potential and place in society. By showcasing women as central figures in the fight against oppression and as leaders in their own right, Bankim Chandra's works resonated with the growing movements for social and political reform. (The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SANCTITY OF OATH

Madam — We all expect aspirants who desire to make a career in public service must be clean in their thoughts and acts. All MPs, MLAs take oath and swear on this but the reality is different. For those of whom read this information don't be confused and conclude yourself that this is the tally of medals in the recently concluded Paris Olympics 2024. Anybody would have been shocked and put their head in shame to feel pity for the people who have voted for the respective candidates from their constituency by the fond hope that they will deliver well for them. The update is that there are as many as 151 sitting MPs and MLAs declared cases related to crimes against women in their election affidavits, with West Bengal having the highest number of lawmakers facing such cases, according to a recent report by a poll rights body.

West Bengal tops the list with 25 sitting MPs and MLAs facing charges related to crimes against women, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 21 and Odisha with 17, according to the report that comes under the ongoing nationwide protests. BJP tops the list with 54 MPs and MLAs facing charges of crime against women, and Congress follows with 23. It would be more appropriate if the law takes its course to prove or clear those of charges by putting them before the fast track so that people's trust on them can be delivered on its own merits.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Madam—Today, we are facing a serious threat in the form of youth unemployment, which is hindering India's long-term development and growth. It stresses the need to tackle this problem for sustainable economic development. A few announcements have been made in the recent budget to address the issue of the job crisis in India. The key factors responsible for the employment cri-

Chalk vs cheese!



This relates to your edit "Surging Ahead" (Aug.24). Words, they say, are the dress of thoughts. And it is by their words that Americans are today judging Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. Trump's utterances are akin to Modi's in the last lap of the 2024 elections when he neither had issues nor proper words to bash the Opposition with. He spoke like one cornered and defeated, rather than one who was optimistic of winning the election. In the end, his 'mutton,

mughal and mangalsutra" rants did not resonate even with those aligned with the BJP. In the fight for the US' presidency, Trump is not coming out trumps with his all too palpable lies, slanderous remarks at Kamala and his fist-pumping which is not helping him or his party to take the battle into the 'enemy' lines. Poor leadership is on full display, with Trump seemingly tilting at the windmills. In contrast, Kamala has shown much grace, sense and sensibility as she speaks about issues rather than engaging with Trump in a shouting match. Trump already has the baggage of making the USA a laughing stock of the world with his open calls for violence and questioning institutions that constitute America's bedrock of democracy. As the hour of reckoning approaches, it is becoming increasingly clear that it's going to be chalk Vs cheese, and that there are no fence-sitters this time.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

is outdated labor laws acting as disincentives for large-scale employment. The government's past efforts to enhance private investment have mainly been focused on increasing production activities rather than creating jobs. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the share of unemployed youth in the total unemployed population was 82.9% in 2022. The government of India should consider increasing industrialization and investment in agriculture, as it can create more job opportunities and boost the productivity of the overall nation.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

PROTECT TEMPLE LANDS

Madam — In the state of Andhra Pradesh, many temple lands have been illegally occupied and used for unnecessary constructions. Due to this, the temples are not able to conduct their puja programs properly. Strict measures should be taken to prevent land encroachment.

There should be important laws and regulations for the protection of lands. Such laws need to be framed and strictly enforced. Special ordinances should also be framed to protect temple lands. People's cooperation is very important for the protection of temple lands. Conservation of lands is possible if temples, their administrators and local people work together. All necessary measures regarding protection of lands can be taken by deputing specially trained personnel to protect temple lands. By recording land status and other details in digital form, illegal encroachments can be detected quickly. It is good for conservation of lands. Protection of temple lands means protection of spiritual, cultural and social rights. Hence, it is imperative that the government, local institutions, and people work together.

Appanna Gonapa | Visakhapatnam

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Life's dilemmas: Lessons from everyday conflicts



SANJAY CHANDRA

We should recognise the value of pausing and reflecting, to determine whether our reactions to perceived insults are genuinely justified

We face conflicts and dilemmas many times in our lives. We resolve a few of those, avoiding others to avoid confrontation. We went through some fascinating times recently. We cast our votes to elect the next central government. The excitement of the crowd at the polling booth was palpable even early in the morning. There was another major event, which was at our society level. We also had elections for the governing body of our residents' welfare association. I realised that the two elections mirrored each other. New alliances were formed, and old ones were discarded. Sworn foes smiled at each other with a warmth not unlike the hot Delhi summers. There were many heartbreaks too if friends vied for the same position. Two of the prospective candidates for a position went about venting their frustration when told by well-meaning friends about the intent of the other. I suggested a mutual tete-a-tete. The conflict was resolved. I faced a dilemma as an



adolescent half a century back. One afternoon, I had an argument with a friend, which went a little overboard, and I punched him. He was taller than me and did not take kindly to my aggression. He punched me back. It did not erupt into a full-blown fist fight only because I had already rationalised his punch a little before it had connected with my soft abdomen. After all, I had started the battle; he was entitled to retaliate. Many of us hesitate to ask for personal favour, apprehensive of facing rejection. It is also a dilemma, albeit in our minds. I had no say in the allotment of the zonal

railways after the completion of our railway probation training. I did get an opportunity to express my heart's desire, when my senior asked me if I had any preference for the place of posting. I was diffident and I gave a convoluted reply, "Anywhere, though my preference would be Mughalsarai." This was a small town in my native state. He took the first part of my statement at face value. I was posted at Sealdah, the other end, and a long way from my hometown - physically, linguistically, and culturally. I understood much later in life the importance of plain speaking, however unpalatable it might be. It may cause initial bitterness, but the relationship would be stronger eventually. The self-realisation still did not give me the courage to upbraid a junior colleague for his tardiness. I chose to walk away from confrontation by not allocating him any responsibilities. I envy those who have mastered sugar-coating the bitter pill. It softens the blow, yet hits the person equally

hard. But it might even convey a wrong meaning. During a recent conversation, my wife and her friend contemplated conveying a rather difficult sentiment to another friend through a message. A small phrase was added to be polite. I felt that this changed the intent to something entirely different. They did not agree and chose not to send the message. Yet, the friend had not hesitated to upbraid another friend a few days earlier over a trivial issue. I saw conflict in the two situations, she did not. Conflicts have been a part of our lives since ages. I would not like to be the Arjun who faced the biggest challenge of his life. I am a mere mortal. I have my follies. It is not for me to preach to be perfect. I would look at the words of author Jo Coudert to give me strength, "Every life is a dilemma that must be solved by the person living it."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN ALL WORK AND NO SPORTS MAKES YOU DULL

Sports are essential for achieving physical and mental balance to have wholesome life



SAKSHI SETHI

The question of whether India is overly focused on work and less on sports is a valid concern, especially in a country where academic and professional success is often prioritized over physical activities. In many Indian families, there is a strong emphasis on academics and securing stable, well-paying jobs. However, this focus often overshadows the importance of sports, which sometimes are viewed as extracurricular activities rather than potential career paths. Despite living in the 21st century, the competitive nature of academic exams, such as the IIT-JEE, NEET, IIFT and various public service exams, place enormous pressure on students to excel in academics and as a result, sports often end up taking a backseat during the crucial educational years.

There is no denying the fact that sports teach valuable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, discipline and resilience, which are beneficial in both personal as well as professional life. Today, if we look back, India's journey in the Olympics has been marked by significant achievements, challenges and a growing presence in various sports disciplines be it archery, weightlifting, badminton, athletics and the list goes on and on. Increasing media coverage of a diverse range of sports beyond cricket has helped in promoting other sports. Moreover, sports have proved to be a powerful tool for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. They bridge divides, foster understanding, and create opportunities for personal and collective growth as can be seen in the 2024 Olympics being held in Paris. Enhancing sports in India



requires a multi-faceted approach that involves government support, private-sector investment, grassroots development and public engagement.

By addressing these areas, India can unlock its vast potential in sports, leading to greater national pride, improved public health and economic benefits which even include initiatives to encourage female participation thereby providing equal opportunities, safety assurance and challenging societal norms that restrict women's involvement in sports. Moreover, sports can be adapted for individuals of all abilities thereby promoting inclusivity for people with disabilities. This will help not only in breaking down barriers but ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Sports can be a tool for conflict resolution, providing a neutral ground where individuals or groups in conflict can engage constructively. It even teaches important life skills such as leadership, resilience and teamwork. These skills are transferable to other areas of life, contributing to personal development and societal harmony. Programs that use sports for peacebuilding have been successful in areas of conflict around the world. International sports events such as the Olympics often serve as platforms for diplomacy and dialogue between nations, helping to ease tensions and promote global peace. While there has traditionally been a strong focus on academics and work in India, there is a growing recognition of the importance of sports.

However, for sports to gain equal footing, there needs to be a cultural shift, increased investment and better integration of sports into daily life. By promoting a balanced approach that values both work and sports, India can and will foster a healthier, more active and well-rounded society. Achieving this balance involves effective time management, prioritization and a shift in mindset that values both mental and physical well-being.

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

How feasible is the goal of \$5 trillion economy by 2025



B K JHA

Can India truly sustain such high growth rates, or do these figures oversimplify the complex realities of its socio-political landscape?



In any discussion involving economists, a common saying goes, "When six economists gather and deliberate, there will be seven views." This adage humorously reflects the diversity of opinions that often arises in economic discourse. While economists are inclined to project growth through metrics like GDP, inflation, and depreciation rates, these projections sometimes oversimplify the complexities of real-world politics and societal dynamics. Indeed, even the most well-reasoned economic forecasts can falter when confronted with the unpredictable nature of political realities and the broader socio-economic context. Economists from the Reserve Bank of India, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, other big financial institutions, and even our government-serving prominent experts arrive at different projections of India's growth story. Going by the latest two projections, Krishnamurthy Venkata Subramanian, the former Chief Economic Adviser to the Narendra Modi government and current Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says India will be reaching a \$55 trillion economy by 2047. Subramanian's projection of a \$55 trillion economy appears optimistic, especially when juxtaposed with Ernst & Young's prediction of \$26 trillion by 2047. At this point, it is difficult to say whose projection is realistic given the very dynamic nature of the Indian economy where several socio-economic and political forces are at work simultaneously. Subramanian has made a bold claim in his new book, India @100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse. Released recently by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal at a Special Session organized by ASSOCHAM in New Delhi, the book envisions India reaching a \$55 trillion economy by 2047. Subramanian's proposition, while ambitious, is grounded in a comprehensive analysis of India's economic trajectory and the policies required to sustain high growth rates. It is not difficult to find the economic rationale behind such an ambitious projection, considering India's historical inflation rates, currency depre-



SINCE 2014, NEW FIRM CREATION IN INDIA HAS SURGED, ESTABLISHING THE COUNTRY AS THE THIRD-LARGEST ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM GLOBALLY. ENTREPRENEURSHIP NOT ONLY DRIVES PRODUCTIVITY IN NEW FIRMS BUT ALSO COMPELS INCUMBENT FIRMS TO INNOVATE

ciation, and recent economic policies. He rightly emphasizes that achieving this target hinges on maintaining a real growth rate of 8% and an inflation rate of around 5%. Historically, the depreciation of the Indian rupee against the dollar has averaged between 3% and 3.5%, primarily due to India's higher inflation rates. Subramanian notes that before the adoption of inflation targeting in 2016, India's inflation averaged above 7%, necessitating higher depreciation rates. However, with inflation targeting and subsequent economic stability, India's inflation rate has moderated to around 5%, even amid global economic shocks like COVID-19 and the Ukraine war. The rule of 72—a simple formula to estimate the doubling time of an investment—to project India's economic growth may have some limitations. Subramanian posits that if India's real growth rate remains at 7% and inflation at 5%, the nominal growth rate in rupee terms would be 12%. Accounting for a historical depreciation rate of 3%, the dollar-denominated growth rate would be around 9%, doubling the economy every eight years. This would place India's GDP at \$26 trillion by 2047. However, Subramanian argues that with improved inflation targeting, resulting in lower inflation and depreciation rates, India could achieve a nominal growth rate of 13% in rupee terms and 12% in dollar terms. This would lead to the economy doubling every six years, reaching the \$55 trillion mark by 2047. To many economists and experts, these projections seem unreasonable as it is very difficult to predict 20 years of macroeconomic environment and political realities. Political stability would be a growth driver certainly but if India's current stable coalition

government loses its strength the entire economic journey would face a difficult path. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal may disagree as while releasing the book launch, he also emphasized that the target appears realistic due to the current political stability in India. He noted that even in a coalition government, the ability to make bold decisions has been a key factor in driving economic reforms. Goyal highlighted that political stability, particularly with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) maintaining a dominant position, provides a conducive environment for long-term economic planning. He pointed out that most seats the BJP lost in the last general elections were by margins of less than 30,000 votes, suggesting a strong underlying support base. This political backdrop, according to Goyal, is essential for sustaining bold economic reforms over the next two decades and beyond. It is widely admitted that achieving these ambitious targets requires sound economic policies, particularly those that promote formalization, innovation, and entrepreneurship. India's informal sector, which constitutes a significant portion of the economy, is far less productive than the formal sector. Enhancing formalization through digital infrastructure and regulatory reforms could substantially boost productivity. Additionally, the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation. Since 2014, new firm creation in India has surged, establishing the country as the third-largest entrepreneurial ecosystem globally. Entrepreneurship not only drives productivity in new firms but also compels incumbent firms to innovate, leading to overall economic growth. A key pillar of Subramanian's vision is ethical wealth creation, which he believes

is essential for fostering a large, prosperous middle class. He refutes the notion that wealth creation and employment are opposing forces, citing examples from his personal experiences and the broader economy. Wealth creators, he argues, generate significant employment and pay higher wages, contributing to overall economic welfare. Emphasis on ethical wealth creation stems from past instances of crony capitalism, which stifled economic growth and led to systemic inefficiencies. By promoting a transparent and fair business environment, India can ensure that wealth creation benefits a broader spectrum of society, thereby enhancing social and economic inclusion. The claim of a \$55 trillion economy may be viewed by some economists as hypothetical, given the complexities of global and domestic economic landscapes. Nevertheless, India's inherent economic strengths and resilience could indeed support the realization of the India@100 vision. Despite the slowing pace of globalization, geo-political tensions, and other unseen negative forces could pose significant threats to India's growth trajectory. Nonetheless, with the right policies, particularly those that encourage domestic investment and exports, India can navigate these challenges and sustain high growth rates, controlled inflation, prudent currency management, and robust economic policies that foster innovation, formalization, and ethical wealth creation. As India stands on the cusp of a new economic era, these pillars will be crucial in shaping its journey toward becoming a global economic powerhouse. (The author is a senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)

Building the foundation for the future: The struggles of adolescent girls in slums

Despite government initiatives, the young girls are often deprived of education facilities as they have to work and shoulder domestic responsibilities

In narrow lanes of Baba Ramdev Nagar, a slum in Jaipur, 12-year-old Pooja (name changed) cradles her three-year-old brother while her mother Sharda cooks nearby. Pooja obediently runs back and forth fetching water and other necessities as her mother instructs. In contrast, her 8-year-old brother plays undisturbed. The scene takes a poignant turn when a friend of Pooja's, returning from school, stops by. Pooja's eyes light up as they discuss school, revealing her longing for education. But when asked why Pooja isn't attending school, Sharda interjects, "If she goes to school, who will look after the children?" Pooja's dreams seem to slip further from her grasp.



HARSHALI NEELKANTI ZALKAR

Sharda and her husband, daily wage labourers, are among the many families in Baba Ramdev Nagar, a slum of over 500 people. Predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Tribes, including Lohars (blacksmiths), Jogis, Kalbeliyas, and daily labourers, these families have migrated from remote rural areas of Rajasthan, driven by the hope of better employment opportunities in

the city. While some families have settled permanently, others migrate seasonally, depending on the availability of work. However, the migration process and the economic hardships it brings take the greatest toll on the education of children, particularly girls. The struggle to make ends meet often forces families to prioritize immediate survival over long-term investments like education. In these situations, girls bear the brunt of the burden. The economic strain on the household disproportionately affects girls compared to boys, stunting not only their education but also their physical and mental development. Another story echoes Pooja's in this slum—14-year-old

Asha (name changed), the eldest of four siblings. With her parents working as scrap dealers, Asha is left to care for her siblings and manage the household. On days when her mother cannot work, Asha steps in. Despite her strong desire to learn, Asha hasn't seen the inside of a classroom since fifth grade. Her education, like that of many girls in the slum, halted as she took on responsibilities at home. An elderly resident, Kanti, questions, "If the girl goes to school, who will take care of the house and the younger siblings?" Yet, she remains silent on why these responsibilities aren't placed on the boys. Akhilesh Mishra, a social worker who has been active in the slum for eight years, points out, "There is



still a lack of awareness about educating girls in urban slums like Baba Ramdev Nagar. Economic challenges and a lack of social consciousness about the importance of education lead parents to prioritize income over

schooling, often dragging children into child labor." He adds that although the government has launched programs to promote girls' education, the distance girls in Baba Ramdev Nagar maintain from school prevents

them from benefiting. IndiaSpend's report highlights a concerning trend: while primary school dropout rates for girls in 2021-22 were 1.35%, this figure jumped to 12.25% at the secondary level. The report underscores the urgent need for not just policy implementation but also grassroots awareness. Societal awareness is critical to ensuring girls' education is valued as highly as boys'. The struggle for education is most pronounced for adolescent girls, particularly in urban poverty-stricken areas like Baba Ramdev Nagar. Though some urban areas are beginning to reduce barriers to education, the girls in this slum continue to fight for their right to learn.

In Baba Ramdev Nagar, the pursuit of education for girls like Pooja and Asha faces formidable obstacles. Economic hardships and entrenched societal norms prioritize immediate survival over long-term education, leaving many girls out of school. Despite government initiatives, the gap in educational attainment remains wide due to factors such as child labor and domestic responsibilities disproportionately shouldered by girls. Addressing these challenges is crucial for breaking the cycle of poverty and securing a brighter future for these young girls. (The writer is a grassroots worker from Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Charkha Features)

HARMONIOUS BLEND OF LOVE AND LOYALTY WITH HEY KANHA HEY GOPALA

TEJAL SINHA

It is the season when Hindu devotees immerse themselves in devotion to the divine deities once more! On Monday, we all observed Krishna Janmashtami and to add to the festivities, the famous singer and Padma Shri awardee Kailash Kher launched his new devotional song *Hey Kanha Hey Gopala*. However, don't expect it to be a typical release; this one is filled with spirituality, innovation and a hint of Kailash's distinct charm.

"*Hey Kanha Hey Gopala* was composed during our trip to Mathura and Vrindavan, during which our band Kailasa travelled for a concert," begins the *Teri Deewani* singer. During their visit to the temples and ashrams, a huge crowd eagerly anticipated meeting the crew.

Hey Kanha Hey Gopala is a deep musical tribute that transports listeners into the peaceful and holy worlds of worship. The soothing and spiritually uplifting soundscape created by Kailash Kher's emotive vocals, combined with a delicate mix of keys, flute and synthesiser, creates a complex auditory experience. The piece elegantly builds up to a grand

climax, capturing the profound journey of love and dedication, and ultimately leaves the audience feeling spiritually fulfilled. "The emotions we experienced back then are reflected in this song. How can we humanise the splendor of God? How can we humanise his wondrous shape? And then, how can we humanise the meadow, the trail, the immaculate physique—everything that has been inscribed within us? Just as the lyrics read, *Jamuna teere sameer, Thodi mand mand chale, Brij ki raj mein bhi sugandh, Mere govind ki mile.*" Overwhelmed during his visit to meet Kanha, the *Chand Sifarish* singer further recalls, "We were surrounded by a large crowd as we had gone to worship Kanha! I was so overwhelmed. I was all smiles. I felt God's presence in the form of my fans." He believes that, be it at Janmashtami or any other festival, people generally sing for the divine with a wish to be fulfilled. "*Bhai maangte hi rahoge kya?*" (Will you just keep asking?) he asserts. *Hey Kanha Hey Gopala*, he says, is a gratitude song. "We need to not always plead to God but rather thank God that we live a beautiful life. You are alive on earth; that is a great blessing. Your life is the biggest blessing. So we always compose songs for gratitude, for God and to describe their beauty."

An ardent devotional Kailash goes on to explain that just as the divine plants a thought in our hearts, he also provides us with a melody for that thought. Throughout the procedure, we also educate ourselves on sound

waves. "I don't have formal training, nor do I listen to any music. I simply focus on my music and strive to get better. I enjoy listening to classical and folk music. Listening repeatedly has made us grow up and that's why the music is shaped so perfectly. It's not about the music sounding like others, but keeping its distinctiveness." As the chat nears its conclusion, he signs off with great enthusiasm, stating, "Every time I feel inspired to create a song, either for God or any other topic, it is God who provides them

with the inner inspiration and the words. This is how all singers and composers aim to incorporate new elements into their songs." As Krishna Janmashtami dawns, let *Hey Kanha Hey Gopala* by Kailash Kher become the song that uplifts your spiritual path, connecting you to the eternal love and devotion of Lord Krishna.

Making Janmashtami even more devotional, Padma Shri Kailash Kher has released his devotional track *Hey Kanha Hey Gopala*. *The Pioneer* got an opportunity to speak to the ardent devotee as he took us on a devotional ride



Of beauty, purpose and power of representation

AARTI SREENATH

Arshi Ghosh, who was at the Miss International Queen 2024 pageant, representing India, speaks to *The Pioneer* about her humble beginnings, representing India globally and more around it

Arshi Ghosh, the dazzling Miss Transqueen India 2023, represented India at the Miss International Queen 2024 pageant. Held annually in Pattaya, Thailand, this prestigious event is the world's largest and most esteemed pageant for transgender women, offering a global platform for beauty, talent, and advocacy.

For Arshi, this opportunity was not just a dream fulfilled but a testament to her unwavering determination and the resilience that has defined her journey.

Her ascent to this pinnacle began earlier this year in New Delhi, where she secured the coveted Miss Transqueen India title. Reflecting on her victory, she describes it as "the world to me," capturing the magnitude of what it means to represent her country on such a prominent stage. The national pageant, powered by the Pride Plaza group of hotels, was a fierce competition, with contestants from across India vying for the crown. Ella Dev Verma and Victoria Taying, who secured the first and second runner-up positions, respectively, were also standout contenders and the event was judged by a panel of seven distinguished experts.

Arshi's journey to this moment has been one of

profound self-discovery and purpose. As a child, she was captivated by the world of beauty, but it was only as she grew older that she recognised the deeper significance of pageantry. "As a child, it was all about beauty. But as I grew up, I realised there's a lot more to it," she recalls. This realisation spurred her to follow pageant stories even before her transition, finding inspiration and motivation to stay focused on becoming the best version of herself.

Her path to Miss International Queen 2024 has not been without its obstacles. She speaks candidly about the financial challenges she has faced in pursuing her pageantry dreams. "People don't realise that pageantry is expensive," she explains, shedding light on the difficulties of arranging funds for both national and international competitions. Despite these challenges, she remains deeply grateful to the generous individuals who have supported her, enabling her to chase her dreams and represent her country on a global platform.

For her, participating in Miss International Queen 2024 was about more than just personal achievement—it's about breaking barriers and challenging stereotypes. "Just by standing on this platform, I inspire and give wings to thousands of dreams," she says, recognising the powerful impact of her presence. Her mission is clear: to bring the transgender community into the mainstream through education. She is committed to empowering her community while also sensitising society to be more understanding and accepting.

As she stepped onto the international stage, she felt a profound sense of fulfillment. The pressure of representing her country initially weighed heavily on her, but after arriving in Thailand and beginning the rounds, she feels like she is "living the dream life." This experience is not just about her—it's about paving the way for thousands of other trans girls in India and around the world who see in her the possibility of their own dreams coming true.

Navigating the stress of such a high-stakes competition is no small feat, but she maintains her mental well-being by focusing on the joy of each moment. "There will be many rounds and you might not be good at some," she acknowledges. However, she believes it's essential to move on and embrace each experience fully. Her approach to the competition is not just about winning—it's about enjoying the journey and growing through it.

She is also keenly aware of society's often flawed perceptions of beauty. Reflecting on her own experiences, she notes how dramatically perceptions can shift—from being labelled an "ugly" boy to being celebrated as a "beautiful queen." Yet, for her, true beauty transcends physical appearance. "Beauty isn't only about how you look," she asserts. "It's the light you bring to the world, the love that you share and how you make others feel."



Top skin and hair care concerns to keep an eye on!

Clear skin and luscious hair is the ultimate beauty dream but the onset of monsoon literally pours water down those dreams. Although all age groups, whether it's millennials or Gen Zs, are actively putting in an increased amount of thought into their personal grooming needs, the high ambient humidity and excessive sweat brought on by monsoon presents new skin and hair care problems. With the skin and hair becoming more oily, people become vulnerable to hyperpigmentation, increased acne, excessive hair loss and frizz-riddled hair, among the other ones.

That said, there are innumerable treatments and products available in the market that are specially formulated to target all these concerns. But the problem is, individuals actively experiment with different products without even understanding the seasonal changes and the associated concerns it presents. Against this backdrop, Clinikally conducted a survey to uncover the top skin and hair problems faced by Gen Zs and millennials during monsoon.

Talking about the survey, Dr. Anindita Sarkar, chief medical officer (Clinikally and AAYNA Clinics) said, "With the influx of beauty products, individuals continue to use 'one-size-fits-all' products, often forgetting about the uniqueness of their skin and hair."

Oily skin, pigmentation, and acne are some of the common skincare challenges in monsoon. The onset of monsoon brings forth a sense of relief from scorching summer heat but the surging humidity in the atmosphere makes the skin more oily, making it even more challenging for individuals with oily, acne-prone skin to maintain skin health.

something that is infused with vitamin C, or niacinamide.

Acne breakouts and scars continue to remain a common concern amidst the heavy rains. This is indicated by 12.97% votes. Despite the advancements in skincare products, acne breakouts plague a lot of people, primarily because majority of the products fail to take into account its root cause, ranging from hormonal imbalance, diet, stress, to environmental triggers. As a result, it becomes imperative to understand these triggers before jumping onto the solution.

Damaged and sensitive skin is another prevalent issue, with 10.63% individuals reporting their skin to be irritated and itchy. These common complaints of redness and irritation are typically associated with sensitivity issues as individuals are often prone to severe reactions either because of the wet weather or certain products. In tandem, there is an urgent demand for hypoallergenic and gentle formulations that minimise the damaged skin barrier by rejuvenating the skin altogether.

Despite the advancements in skincare products, acne breakouts plague a lot of people, primarily because majority of the products fail to take into account its root cause.

Monsoon means higher sebum production and oily scalp which translates into dandruff and hair loss. If you consider your hair as the epitome of your beauty, it is safe to assume that hair concerns significantly affect you. You're not alone in this journey, as 12.39% individuals have noted a drastic increase in hair fall and loss, especially as we move towards the wetter months. Whether caused by increased humidity, genetics, pollutants, or other factors, hair loss is a common challenge and can be addressed by using the right products recommended by expert dermatologists.

Apart from hair loss, 6.41% individuals have also complained about itchy and irritated scalp and 4.63% about dandruff respectively. The humid weather conditions worsen issues associated with dandruff and itchiness, as the scalp becomes riddled with excessive buildup of product, dirt, and oil. It is best to adopt a balanced approach to target both these symptoms and effects. In addition, 2.44% respondents also highlighted their discomfort over damaged and frizzy hair, underlying the need to curb the usage of heat styling tools and chemical treatments.



FUN

ARCHIE

WHAT ARE THOSE?
BETTY GAVE ME A BOOK OF COUPONS FOR HUGS AND KISSES!

SWEET KID! HOW MANY HAVE YOU USED ALREADY?
NONE! I'M WAITING TILL TOMORROW!

WHAT HAPPENS TOMORROW?
IT'S DOUBLE COUPON DAY!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

HOBBS! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU KNOW HOW DAD SAID I COULD USE HIS BINOCULARS AS LONG AS I WAS EXTRA CAREFUL WITH THEM? WELL, I JUST BROKE THEM BY ACCIDENT.

NOW I NEED SOME ADVICE. SHOULD I RUN AWAY, OR COMMIT HARA-KIRI?
OVER THE BINOCULARS?
YEAH.
MAYBE BOTH.

GARFIELD

TIMES CHANGE

WHY, I CAN REMEMBER A TIME...

WHEN I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT TIMES CHANGING

REALITY CHECK

WANNAD.

SPEED BUMP

I WAS TOLD SHE HAD A BARN CAT, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MIGHT POTTERY BARN!

CROSSWORD

JUNIOR CROSSWORD 831

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

ACROSS

- Underwater transport
- A breakfast meat
- Steals
- A large farm building
- Cross a river on this
- Not married
- A stringed instrument
- Attempted
- Reflection in a mirror
- Star study of the stars and planets

DOWN

- A sore in your mouth
- To look after something for someone
- Go back to a place
- With no clothes on
- Look after someone else's children
- Church spire
- An unpowered aeroplane
- These grow on fingers
- A warning sound
- A potter's oven

SOLUTION

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

GINGER MEGGS

MATE, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOUR THUMBS?
I'VE GOT RPCI.
WHAT'S RPCI?
'REPETITIVE PLAYSTATION CONTROLLER INJURY!'
LIFE ACCELERATES WITH AGE ALSO OBT.

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

I'D LOVE TO WORK WITH PRABHAS AGAIN: SRIDEVI VIJAYKUMAR

Sridevi Vijaykumar made her Telugu debut with *Rukmini* and played the female lead opposite Prabhas in his debut film *Eeswar*. However, after that, she did quite a few Telugu and Tamil films and almost quit after her marriage. Her last Telugu film was released more than a decade ago, but now she is coming back as a lead actress with the film *Sundarakanda* opposite Nara Rohit. "I feel happy that I am coming back with a feel-good film," says Sridevi at the promotional event for her Telugu film. She further went on to share, "I should thank the director of this film, Venkatesh, as he designed my character so well. The title is a good one and gives so much positivity. It's a fresh film and a family entertainer and I am

sure that the audience will definitely enjoy watching this film. I am happy to come back again after a long gap as the lead actress."

"I was excited when I heard this story, and I am sure that my role is portrayed very well. Though I told my director that I would take some more time, he insisted on me and gave me confidence, so I agreed to do it. Though I missed the big screen, I never missed cameras," she said. For the unaware, Sridevi had earlier appeared on the small screen for a few television shows.

"I was keen to do this film and I feel this one is new for me. The entire credit goes to the director, because he has come up with a different story. He doesn't look like he is a debut director, as he worked

as an experienced one and handled everyone very well. The way he presented me in this film, I am confident that everyone will like it," says Sridevi. Coincidentally, her film *Eeswar* is re-releasing on October 23 on the occasion of Prabhas' birthday. When asked about that film and Prabhas, she says, "Prabhas is a darling and everyone calls him like that from his debut film. How he was at the time of *Eeswar*, he is the same person to date. Definitely, I would love to work with Prabhas. I am very excited because *Eeswar* is releasing on Prabhas' birthday. I am looking forward to it," says Sridevi.

She is now keen to continue working in Telugu cinema and play different roles in the near future. "I want to do good films and portray different roles," she says.

Sridevi Vijaykumar is all set to make her comeback in Telugu after more than a decade. She spoke about her comeback and also about Prabhas, where she acted as the female lead in his debut film *Eeswar*



I didn't like couple of films that I'd done few years ago: Nara Rohit



Nara Rohit is all set to make his comeback with the film *Sundarakanda*. Venkatesh is the director and the film started its first promotional event on Monday in Hyderabad. Though his film *Prathinidhi 2* released a few months ahead of the elections, it didn't do well. "Actually I wanted to come back with *Sundarakanda*, but I did *Prathinidhi 2*. The film didn't fare well at the box-office," Nara Rohit tells about his film.

Rohit took nearly six years to come back and he took a long break. "There are quite a few reasons for my break. Before Covid I did a couple of films, which

I don't like. If I do the typical commercial films, I feel that they may work out at the box office, but they didn't do well. So I decided to take a break initially, but because of some family issues, the delay prolonged for some more years," said Nara Rohit about his comeback. He said that it's just a co-incident that he is doing films when his uncle (*pedananna*) Nara Chandrababu Naidu became the Chief Minister. He added that he is not worrying about his existence because he is doing a film after a long time. "Even if you are continuously doing films, the actor's fate is decided by every Friday. So, I am not worrying about the break, there

are so many Fridays and I am looking forward to my film's release," he said. About his entry into politics in the near future, he said he is presently concentrating on films. "I don't know, but if everything permits I may enter in 2029, let's see how things are going on, there is a lot of time for that," he said.

These days' audiences come to theaters to watch only star films, the small films they prefer to see in OTT. "I don't think it is right. The best example is Hindi film *Street 2* which is doing very well in theaters. You name any biggest Bollywood Star, but this film is doing better than those star films. If the con-

tent is good, definitely audiences come to theaters," said a confident Rohit. He added that the impact of OTT is not there. "Yes, after three weeks the film is streaming on OTT, but audiences wanted to see it first in the theater," he said. Talking about *Sundarakanda* he says that he has been travelling with director Venky from the last five years. "He wrote a peculiar love story and I loved it. This role is perfectly suited for me now," he says. "When I was 24 I did my debut film *Banam*. I played a role which was above my age. Now, I am playing a role in this *Sundarakanda* that suits me perfectly," he added.



Balayya@50 is going to be a big extravaganza

On the occasion of Nandamuri Balakrishna's 50 years of entering the film industry is going to be celebrated like never before and the Telugu Film Industry is planning a very big memorable event on September 1 at Hitex Novotel, Hyderabad. On this occasion some of the industry people met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and invited for this event. The Chief Minister responded positively and is likely to attend.

According to a source, the event is going to be a three-hour long duration with loads of entertainment programmes. Also many political, business and film personalities from all other industries may attend in

a big way. Apart from AP Chief Minister, the Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is also likely to attend this event. Few days back the industry people invited Mega Star Chiranjeevi and he too agreed to come to this event.

Tamil film industry actors like Vijay Sethupathi, Karthi may attend and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin may not attend as he is going to the USA for some work. "So, his son Udayanidhi Stalin, actor and Minister in Tamil Nadu Government, may attend this Balayya event," says a source. Some of the bigwigs from the Malayalam industry will also be present for this event.

From the Kannada film

industry Dr Shiva Rajkumar and few other actors are going to attend, added the source. Many film personalities are likely to attend. The TFI is also planning to invite some of the Bollywood personalities, added the source.

Apart from these people, there are some entertaining programmes that include dances from Balayya film songs and also a few skits from many actors. "This event is going to be a memorable one for Balakrishna," added the source. Apart from this event, there may be another event in Amaravathi on September 15. "It's going to be organized by Balakrishna's fans and Pawan Kalyan and Nara Lokesh may attend for that event," says a source.

Tejus pinning hopes on *Uruku Patela*

Young actor Tejus Kancherla will next be seen in *Uruku Patela*. His last good film was *Husharu* released in 2018 followed by *RDX Love* in 2019. After a hiatus, he is now pinning hopes on this upcoming film *Uruku Patela*. The film is directed by Vivek Reddy and produced by Kancharla Bala Bhanu.

The film's promotional videos including songs have already garnered interest on social media and the internet. The trailer was released on Monday and it creates interest about this film. In this trailer, the story reveals that the protagonist, who is disheartened by his inability to find a bride despite being of marriageable age. Although he has not pursued education, he dreams of marrying an educated woman.

According to the makers, the story gets interesting when a beautiful girl falls for him, raising questions about why she would choose someone who is overlooked by many educated girls. Here comes the twist as they reveal the other side of this beautiful girl and from here the film turns into another interesting narration and the makers hope that audiences like it. The film is releasing on September 7. Khushbhoo Chowdary is playing the female lead opposite Tejus.



Introducing Avram Baktha Manchu as 'Thinnadu' in *Kannappa*



The Manchu family's third generation is now into films. On the occasion of Janmashtami, the makers of *Kannappa* released the look of young Kannappa played by Manchu Avram Baktha, son of Manchu Vishnu. After Mohan Babu, it was Lakshmi, Vishnu and Manoj taking his legacy and now his grandson Avram is also making his debut on the big screen.

Continuing their promotional strategy of unveiling first-look posters of key characters from *Kannappa*, the makers introduced Avram Baktha Manchu as 'Thinnadu'. It is Mohan Babu who launched the first look of his grandson Avram and says "Here is my Avram. Happy Janmashtami!" (sic) on his social media account.

Avram Baktha Manchu makes a striking impression as Thinnadu, a character representing the childhood version of Vishnu Manchu's role. His portrayal exudes a fierce intensity, capturing the essence of the character with remarkable authenticity. From the intricacy of his costumes to his commanding posture, every detail contributes to a compelling depiction. The poster sees Kaali Maa statue in the background. Manchu Vishnu is proud to see his son on the big screen. "Happy Janmashtami! Proud to launch my Avram's look in *Kannappa*. Excited beyond words for the world to see him as an actor" (sic) wrote Vishnu Manchu who shared another poster of Avram.

Kannappa is more than just a cinematic venture. It represents the convergence of three generations of the Manchu family's cinematic journey, featuring Mohan Babu, Vishnu Manchu and Avram Manchu. Avram impresses big time with his appearance in the first look poster. *Kannappa* is scheduled for a Pan India release in December.

Shefali Shah expresses desire to work in Telugu cinema

Shefali Shah, one of the most versatile actresses in Bollywood, has consistently left a distinct mark on the screen with her compelling performances. Always eager to explore more in her craft, she is open to exploring opportunities in Telugu cinema.

Recently Shefali was part of a moderated chat with Arundhati Bhattacharya, the CEO of Salesforce, in Hyderabad. The event was attended by over 400 women in person and more than 3,000 online.

During the conversation, Shefali expressed her admiration for Telugu cinema, saying, "I truly admire Telugu cinema. I think they perfectly blend grandeur with the art of storytelling. Look at their films, whether it's the *Baahubali* franchise, *RRR*, *Kalki* or *Sita Ramam*—they are truly magical. I would love to work with them if given a chance."



KALINGA TO HIT SCREENS ON SEP 13

Dhruva Vaayu, who got recognition with *Kerosene*, is now coming up with another film *Kalinga*. He took two responsibilities for this film which he played as lead actor and also director of the film. Deepthi Kondaveeti and Pruthvi Yadav are the producers. At an event on Monday, the makers announced that they are planning to release the film on September 13. "The teaser of my film gets curiosity among both the industry and also the audience. With that the film's business done in all areas since the

content has been well-received," says Dhruva Vaayu. He added that this film is not a regular one. "The film has all ingredients such as emotions, love, comedy, horror and thriller," says Dhruva. The actor and director are very confident that the content of the film and screenplay are going to be highlights of the film.

Producer Deepthi Kondaveeti is also confident about the film. *Kalinga* is Dhruva Vaayu's idea and we just supported him, she said. Pragna Nayan is playing the female lead in this film.



STANDALONE

Megastar Chiranjeevi once again demonstrated the deep bond he shares with his fans. This year, he was particularly moved by the dedication of Eshwarayya, a long-time admirer who undertook a pilgrimage from Tirupati to Tirumala hill to pay homage to the legendary actor. Deeply touched by this act of devotion, Chiranjeevi invited Eshwarayya and his family to his home in Hyderabad for a memorable and emotional meeting. The megastar warmly welcomed the family, honoring them with gifts of pattu clothing and offering his unwavering support, further showcasing his well-known generosity and humility.

