



Be fearless, stand with truth



RBI
FOCUSSES ON MAKING UPI, RUPAY 'TRULY GLOBAL': DAS



Naga Chaitanya talks about his destination WEDDING!



QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The pioneer
If someone says my relatives have constructed illegal buildings let them submit proof. I went to KTR's farmhouse with evidence of its illegal status. If KTR has the guts he should bring evidence of illegal buildings owned by my family or me. I will get them demolished.
 - Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister



DON'T MISS...

'TG tourist spots can shine...'

Minister of Tourism and Culture Jupalli Krishna Rao said that Telangana tourism sector will be introduced to the world in a new way. "We will make it a sightseeing destination during the QSNCC Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart - PATA Travel Mart (PTM) held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand on Wednesday. In all, 900 representatives from 45 countries attended it and five states from India along with Telangana took part..."

-PAGE: 3

'Night patrol, access...'

Security audit of district hospitals, night patrolling, and regulated access at large health facilities were among the measures the Centre asked states to implement on Wednesday to prevent violence against medics. The directions came days after the Supreme Court, while hearing the rape-murder case of a junior doctor in Kolkata, ordered the Union health secretary to ensure states have basic measures in place to assuage doctors'...

-PAGE: 5

Sebi cautions against...'

Amid certain SME companies resorting to share price manipulation by projecting an unrealistic picture of their operations, Sebi on Wednesday cautioned investors against putting their money in scrips of such firms. Sebi, in a statement, said it has come to its notice that post-listing, some of the SME companies or their promoters have been making public announcements that create a positive picture of their operations...

-PAGE: 8

Kohli, Jaiswal move up...'

Senior India batter Virat Kohli moved up two rungs to eighth place while his captain Rohit Sharma dropped a spot to sixth in the latest ICC Test rankings released here on Wednesday. Joining Rohit and Kohli in the top 10 is young Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has moved up a spot to seventh. Veteran England batter Joe Root maintained his place as the top ranked Test batter in the world following their success in the opening Test against Sri Lanka in Manchester. But Root's teammate Harry...

-SPORTS

TG posts 11.3% growth in software exports: Sridhar

Telangana has achieved three times the national average growth in software exports, revealed IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Addressing a gathering at an event organized by NASSCOM in Gachibowli on Wednesday, as a curtain-raiser for the Global AI Summit being held on September 5 and 6, Sridhar said that while national IT exports grew by only 3.3% in the first three months of 2024-25, the state registered an impressive 11.3% growth between April and June. He disclosed that the IT sector in Telangana added 40,570 new jobs last year. He also released NASSCOM's 'AI Adoption 2.0'

PUBLIC INTEREST IS PARAMOUNT

No going back on HYDRAA: CM

Demands KTR must be disqualified for not mentioning farmhouse lease in affidavit

NAVEENA GHANATE
 naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
 ■ HYDERABAD

As the political heat intensifies over HYDRAA demolitions in Hyderabad, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy declared that there is no question of HYDRAA backing down. He emphasised that his top priority is to protect lakes and that his actions are not influenced by any political party. "HYDRAA will continue its job without hesitation," he clarified and added, "Whether it's Old City or any other city, we won't step back."

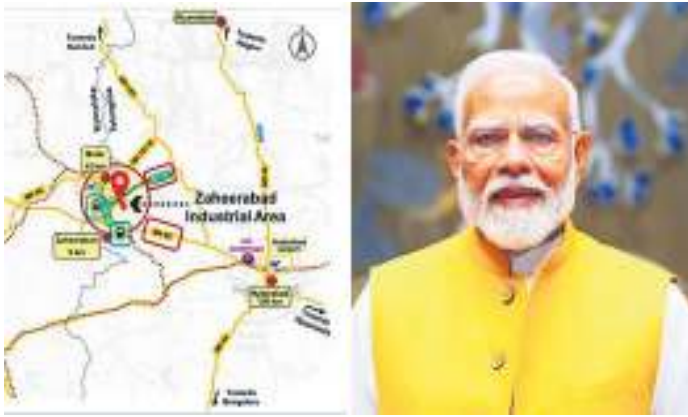
HYDRAA, which is currently focused on Hyderabad, will prioritise the demolitions of buildings in the Full Tank Level (FTL) area and buffer zones of lakes and canals and removing encroachments. Referring to the demolition of an encroachment by AIMIM Bahadurpura MLA Md. Mubeen and Mirza Rahmat Baig MLC, Revanth said, "You can find out whose side the demolition happened." The houses are in Shastripuram where Akbaruddin Owaisi stays. On demolishing Akbaruddin's college, Revanth said that they have



Demolition of edu institutions in FTL areas put off: Ranganath

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency's (HYDRAA) Commissioner, Ranganath, said that HYDRAA would give "some more time" before demolishing educational institutions which were illegally constructed in the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones of lakes. He said that some more time would be given to colleges to make alternative arrangements without disturbing the academic careers of students. Meanwhile, a writ petition was filed against the demolitions at the Chinna Dameral Cheruvu in the High Court. Justice K. Lakshman of the High Court told the Counsel that there was a newspaper report which stated that HYDRAA would take action during vacations (after the academic year is over). The counsel for the petitioner, Tharun G. Reddy, said that there was a joint inspection by two advocate commissions on February 17, 2024, at the Chinna Dameral Cheruvu.

Continued on Page 5



Centre clears smart city in Zaheerabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre has sanctioned another mega project for Telangana to speed up industrial development. An industrial smart city will be established in Zaheerabad in Sangareddy district, as per the latest announcement by the Centre. During a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the establishment of 12 Industrial Smart Cities across 10 states under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme. The project will have an investment of Rs 28,602 crore. These industrial cities modelled on UP's Greater Noida and Gujarat's Dholera will be located in

the interests of students in mind and added, "We will always stick to rules."

He said that public representatives, journalists and celebrities should be role models and not encroachers. He said the government has not yet assessed the extent of encroachment in lakes and that it will be done.

"I know the pressure on HYDRAA but public interest is paramount. If you are doing something in the larger interest you have to face the music," he said.

HYDRAA will be given police station status like TGNAB.

TG will gain from transfer of Rs 2,500 crore to AP: CM

○ AP agreed to TG's terms on EAP as I am CM: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that Telangana will benefit from the Rs 2,500 crore given to Andhra Pradesh for Externally Aided Projects (EAP).

The payment is based on the foreign loans taken by United Andhra Pradesh for major infrastructure projects in Hyderabad like the Inner Ring Road and the Hussainsagar Development Project.

These loans, categorised under Externally Aided Projects (EAP), were intended to improve the city's infrastructure but became a point of contention after the state's bifurcation in 2014.

"These are loans taken for some projects. Andhra Pradesh wanted the loans of Telangana to be transferred to the state as the location was in TG. However, Telangana contended that this should be done based on population ratio."

"These are loans taken for some projects. Andhra Pradesh wanted the loans of Telangana to be transferred to the state as the location was in TG. However, Telangana contended that this should be done based on population ratio. For 10 years, AP paid interest. Now they agreed to 42% basis, that is, population basis which has been our demand. The Centre gave it as a loan like market borrowings. They took it as per our demand on a population basis. It happened because I am Chief Minister, unlike the BRS government which kept it pending for 10 years. This will benefit Telangana, as in future we can show it as an example and apply it to all other pending issues. This could be done only because I am CM. The Centre allowed more interest to AP and AP agreed on population basis," the CM said.



Mamata wants laws changed to include death penalty for rapists

Data error robs Meghalaya villagers of PDS entitlement



Truth has prevailed: Kavitha

Gets grand welcome as she returns home

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kavitha received a grand welcome in Hyderabad when she returned to the city after five and a half months. After her release, Kavitha didn't let go of her brother KT Rama Rao's hand.

Kavitha, who was released from Tihar jail on Tuesday, came to Hyderabad on Wednesday, accompanied by her brother BRS MLA KTR, her husband Anil, son Aditya and BRS leaders.

Arriving in Hyderabad at 5:30 PM, Kavitha was greeted by enthusiastic BRS workers and leaders at the RGI Airport. The air was filled with slogans of 'KCR Zindabad... BRS Zindabad... Kavithakka CM...Jai Telangana.'

A huge rally of BRS workers escorted her to her residence in Banjara Hills where fireworks were set off in her honour. She greeted

Nagarjuna Sagar gates opened again

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Authorities have once again opened the 18 gates of the Nagarjuna Sagar project to release water downstream due to heavy inflows. The current inflow and outflow stand at 1,94,758 cusecs.

The water level has touched the full reservoir level of 590 feet. The total storage capacity of the reservoir is 312 TMCs, which is now full.

At the Nagarjuna Sagar project, the spillway discharge has increased to 1.46 lakh cusecs from 18 gates, each lifted to a height of five feet. The inflow at Nagarjuna Sagar stands at 1.95 lakh cusecs, with 29,000 cusecs being released into the river after power generation.

The discharge through the spillway at Srisaillam has increased to 1.68 lakh cusecs after six crest gates were lifted 10 feet each.



IMD ISSUES YELLOW, ORANGE ALERTS
Heavy rainfall expected across TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Heavy rainfall is expected across Telangana from August 29 to September 1. The North, East, and Central parts of the State will experience significant downpour starting from August 30 through September 2, according to Telangana weatherman.

An Orange alert has been issued for Hyderabad for moderate to heavy rains with cloudy weather and persistent showers.

The IMD has issued a Yellow alert for thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds at 30-40 kmph in isolated areas of Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherla, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda and Jangaon districts.



An Orange alert is in place for heavy to extremely heavy rain in isolated areas of Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu and Bhadradi Kothagudem. Heavy to very heavy rain is also expected in isolated areas of Komaram Bheem, Mancherla, Jagityala, Rajanna Sirisilla, Karimnagar, Khammam,

Mahabubabad, Warangal and Hanamkonda districts. Yellow alert continues for heavy rain likely in isolated areas of Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Suryapet, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajigiri, Medak and Kamareddi districts.

31 new FM radio stations for Telangana

Move intended to promote regional languages, create jobs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of the third phase of the Centre's initiative to expand private FM radio stations aimed at promoting regional languages and increasing employment opportunities, approval has been granted for setting up 730 FM radio stations in 234 cities nationwide. Telangana will get 31 new FM stations.

The approval came during a Union Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday in New Delhi, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In Telangana, upcoming districts

like Adilabad and Kothagudem, along with districts like Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Mancherla, Nalgonda, Ramagundam and Suryapet will each receive three radio channels. Nizamabad district will be allocated four channels. These new channels will facilitate the broadcast of creative content in regional languages and local dialects, providing a platform for cultural expression. This move will also help in more effectively disseminating government schemes at the grassroots.

Sub-classification of castes: Naidu's legacy revived by SC

Telugu Desam Party president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is not widely known for consciously engaging in social engineering, though it is often done in a predictable manner by political parties seeking to bolster their vote banks. However, one of Naidu's significant initiatives stands out for its potential to make a substantial impact on the social structure: the bold move he made, more than two decades back, to sub-categorise Scheduled Castes so that the benefits of reservation could be distributed more evenly than ever before among all sub-castes.

Nearly 25 years after Naidu made this crucial decision fraught with political risks, the Supreme Court of India upheld the underlying principle in July 2024, affirming that

the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes is constitutional and that states have the authority to effect such proportionate distribution of reservation benefits.

The campaign for reservation sub-classification gained momentum in combined Andhra Pradesh in the late 1990s. Manda Krishna, a former Naxalite, spearheaded a movement under the banner of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS). In the combined Andhra Pradesh, 59 sub-castes were classified under the Scheduled Castes, with the Malas and Madigas comprising almost 90% of the SC population.

The movement for reservation sub-classification began when the Madigas, a major Scheduled Caste community, demanded action against what they perceived as the inequitable distribution of

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quota benefits in favour of the Malas. Although the Madigas slightly outnumbered the Malas in the combined Andhra Pradesh, they lagged behind the latter in educational, social, economic, and political parameters. Often described as 'Dalits among the Dalits', the Madigas could not compete with the Malas in availing themselves of the reservations.

A Commission of Inquiry

constituted by the state government found that while the Malas and Madigas formed 41% and 47% of the SC population, respectively; 62% of all reserved state government jobs were secured by the Malas, with the Madigas receiving only 31%. This disparity was also reflected in educational opportunities.

Under the leadership of Manda Krishna, the MRPS led the agitation for the sub-cate-



RAMESH KANDULA
Chief Editor Swatantra TV and author

gorisation of SC reservations to ensure that the Madigas received their fair share of education, employment, and other government-provided benefits. At the height of the movement, Chandrababu Naidu, then Chief Minister, faced both support and opposition.

While various sections of society, including the media, progressives, and leftist intellectuals, backed the movement, while the Malas vehemently opposed it, claiming that the advances made by their community were based on merit and invoking Dalit unity against any further subdivision of the quota system.

Despite political risks and strong objections from the Malas, Naidu did not budge. His government established a judicial commission of inquiry, the Ramachandra Raju Commission, on 10 September 1996 to investigate allegations that certain Scheduled Castes were securing disproportionate benefits from reservations to the detriment of others. The Commission submitted its report in May 1997, largely agreeing with the Madigas' complaints. Acting swiftly, the Naidu government issued a

Government Order (GO) on 6 June 1997, subdividing the 15% reservation quota for Scheduled Castes into four categories.

The GO was challenged in court, leading to a protracted legal battle. Despite facing significant opposition, Naidu persisted in his efforts, ultimately pursuing the matter through legislative means. The issue eventually reached the Supreme Court, which, in the landmark case of E V Chinnaiah vs. State of AP, ruled the Act unconstitutional. The court's decision kept the issue entangled in legal disputes for years.

Naidu's efforts, however, did not garner widespread recognition or support, particularly among the Madigas. Even during the height of the Madiga movement, critics accused Naidu of seeking to drive a wedge between Dalit commu-

nities for political gains. However, some prominent figures, like noted human rights activist K. Balagopal, argued that such accusations were unfounded.

Despite these efforts, the Madigas did not support Naidu in the 2004 elections, contributing to his defeat. It is a different matter that Naidu's other comparable initiatives, such as promoting Dalit leaders to significant positions (as in the case of Balayogi as Lok Sabha Speaker and Pratibha Bharati as Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker), did not resonate widely with the public in the Telugu states, though minor gestures by YS Rajasekhara Reddy or his son YS Jagan Mohan Reddy towards certain communities have since been highlighted as recognition that has eluded Naidu despite his significant contributions.

RRR alignment must protect TG's interests: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The alignment of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) South Section should be in such a way that it protects the interests of Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said.

He suggested that the alignment should ensure that industries being established in the forthcoming Fourth City and the staff working there have access to educational, medical and other facilities.

The Chief Minister conducted an extensive review on Wednesday at his residence in Jubilee Hills, on the alignment of the RRR South Section, the construction of radial roads, and the greenfield road connecting the dry port to the seaport.

During the review, the Chief Minister proposed several changes to the RRR South Section alignment, following up on suggestions made at a



previous meeting last week.

Based on these changes, officials made some modifications to the alignment. However, discrepancies still existed, prompting the Chief Minister to recommend additional alterations. He directed officials to finalise the alignment and proceed with the implementation of the action plan thereafter.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of the radial roads proposed to be

constructed from the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to RRR. He advised officials to speed up land acquisition in the areas identified for these roads.

Regarding the construction of a dry port, the Chief Minister recommended that the Machilipatnam and Kakinada ports be considered, emphasising that factors such as distance, the Andhra Pradesh government's preference, and the benefits to Telangana should guide the

decision. He said the greenfield highway should be designed only after studying these aspects. The meeting also discussed inland waterways, with officials noting that the Centre is prioritizing such routes combining rail and water. The Chief Minister asked the officials to study the success rate and feasibility of inland waterways and submit a report.

The Chief Minister said that forest areas at three locations along the road being constructed from Raviryalu to Amangal, between ORR and RRR, should be developed into night safari zones. He said that having an international airport, a city, and a forest nearby presents an opportunity that should be utilized.

Revanth mentioned the example of Jindal Nature Care in Bengaluru and said that there is potential for similar projects in the forest areas of Telangana.

KTR invited to speak at 'Festival of Future Portal' in Moscow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president and former m

Minister KT Rama Rao, has been invited to speak at the 'Festival of Future Portal' event in Moscow. He will deliver a 30-minute keynote on a futuristic topic at the Skolkovo StartUp event, which is part of the larger Festival of the Future Portal 2030-2050, scheduled for September 5 to 7, 2024.

The Skolkovo Foundation, in their invitation, commended KTR as an "innovation pioneer and influencer in Telangana." They are honoured to have him share his views with a diverse audience.

The event will bring together leading scientists, futurologists, tech entrepreneurs, and investors to discuss technologies that could shape the future. The platform will also engage citizens, students, young scientists and startups interested in breakthrough technologies.

Telangana Talli statue to be installed on Dec 9

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The statue of Telangana Talli will be unveiled in the Secretariat in the presence of the public on December 9, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said. This unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue will be organised like the Million March held during the Telangana movement, he said.

Amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns by priests, the Chief Minister conducted Bhumi Puja for the installation of the Telangana Talli statue on the secretariat premises on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister said the government had planned to organise the Bhumi Puja on a grand scale. But Vedic scholars said that there were no auspicious days till Dasara and so the Bhumi Puja was conducted on Wednesday in a hurry in the absence of the Deputy CM, who is on a visit to Kerala, and other Ministers who are preoccupied with their

CM conducts bhumi puja



official programmes. The achievement of Telangana state is a testament to the determination of Telangana activists, the CM said praising AICC leader Sonia Gandhi for fulfilling the 60-year-old dream of the Telangana people.

The formation of Telangana state in 2014 is a matter of pride for all and should be inscribed

in golden letters in history. The BRS rulers had boasted that they had made Telangana a role model for the entire world, he said.

The CM said that people were barred from entering Pragati Bhavan by the BRS rulers who had put up a huge fence and deployed hundreds of policemen.

ST panel reviews excise raids on tribals, employee issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Responding to a complaint by the BJP State ST Morcha, the National ST Commission reviewed the excise raids on tribal communities living in tandas and the issues faced by ST employees. The meeting was attended by National ST Commission Member Jatoh Hussain Naik.

Dr Kalyan Naik, the President of the Telangana State BJP ST Morcha, attended the meeting along with Rizvi, the Principal Secretary of the Excise Department, Excise Commissioner E. Sridhar and Vigilance and

Enforcement Director Kamal Hassan Reddy.

The commission reviewed grievances about the Excise Department's actions against tribals in the name of eliminating Gudumba (illicit liquor).

It was alleged that unwarranted cases under the PD Act and breaches resulting in fines of Rs 1 lakh were being imposed. The licensing of belt shops and toddy compounds without proper permits in tandas was raised along with issues about employee promotions, outsourcing and implementation of reservation rules.

Data error robs Meghalaya villagers of PDS entitlement

PNS ■ SHILLONG

A village with over 50 households in Meghalaya's South West Khasi Hills district has not received foodgrains under the public distribution system for over 13 years, local MLA Renikton Tongkhar told the Assembly on Wednesday.

Tongkhar raised the issue during a call attention motion, referencing a newspaper report that highlighted how the villagers of Domtynrong have been deprived of food grains for more than a decade and have also been excluded from government schemes for over 20 years.

In response, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Comingone Ymbon acknowledged the



issue, explaining that Domtynrong was inadvertently excluded from the state's public distribution system due to an error in the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011.

"In 2011, Domtynrong village was mistakenly classified as uninhabited leading to its exclusion from the NFSA beneficiary list," Ymbon said.

The SECC 2011 data serves as the Centre's data-

base for identifying fixed beneficiaries of the NFSA allotted for Meghalaya - 77.79 per cent for rural and 50.87 per cent for urban areas, he said.

According to the Minister, attempts were made to rectify this error but the government of India maintains that any discrepancies in the database will only be resolved in the next SECC which is overdue since 2021.

Two people arrested in land cheating case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Cyberabad Police have arrested two people in a land cheating case in Gopanapalli of Gachibowli here on Wednesday.

Arrested persons have been identified as Jullapalli Chन्द्रashekar and Jullapalli Sunitha, both the residents of Gopanapalli, Serlingampally mandal. Julapalli Sunitha, who is Proprietor of Amacon Developers Private Limited, along with her husband Chandra Shekhar, collected Rs 1,02,89,000 crore from Sudhir Chakka, Pranoy and Vaidehi on the pretext of real estate investment and buy-back scheme.

NLCIL to supply 200 MW green power to TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Central Navratna enterprise under the Union Ministry of Coal, has entered into a Power Usage Agreement with Telangana State DISCOMs.

This agreement, signed in Hyderabad, ensures the supply of 200 MW of solar power at an affordable price under the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) scheme for the next 25 years.

The project, part of NLCIL's ongoing commitment to renewable energy, is set to generate approximately 1,300 crore units of green power and will offset around 90 lakh tons of carbon emissions throughout its operational life. The solar power project

will be developed using state-of-the-art equipment, including single-axis trackers and high-efficiency modules produced under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative. The project is expected to be fully commissioned by June 2025.

This partnership is a major step forward for both Telangana and NLCIL, as it not only provides access to affordable green power but also helps the state meet its Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO).

NLCIL has been supplying over 234 MW of thermal power to Telangana for more than three decades, and this new venture into renewable energy marks the beginning of a long-term collaboration focused on sustainability.

TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Ekadashi: Aug 29 01:19 AM to Aug 30 01:37 AM
Dwadashi: Aug 30 01:37 AM to Aug 31 02:25 AM

Nakshatram:
Ardra: Aug 28 03:53 PM to Aug 29 04:39 PM
Punarvasu: Aug 29 04:39 PM to Aug 30 05:55 PM

Rahukalam: 1:49 PM to 3:22 PM
Yamagandam: 6:05 AM to 7:38 AM

Variyam: 05:17 AM to 06:58 AM
Gulika: 9:11 AM to 10:44 AM
Amritakalam: 06:20 AM to 07:59 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:52 AM to 12:41 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thundrestorms
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 73%
Sunrise: 6:02 AM
Sunset: 6:32 PM
Updated: August 28, 2024 5:00 PM

HCSC to hold National Physical Security Summit tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To sensitise urban citizens towards enhanced consciousness for a safe and secure society, Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) is hosting the National Physical Security Summit on August 30 at Telangana State Police Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Banjara Hills.

Speaking to the media here at ICCC building on Wednesday, Sreenivasa Reddy, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad and Chairman of HCSC, said, "Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhattachi Vikramarka will be inaugurating the National Summit and it will have four



panel discussions about the physical security."

The Commissioner said, "The growth of Hyderabad as a global city will pose new challenges in ensuring fool-proof security measures that are aligned with the global standards and hence this aspect needs a review. Today, the role of private security has become increasingly demanding and their services in the society are inescapable. The physical security sector is currently undergoing a

transformation to effectively tackle the challenges of this digital age." "In this regard, the private security with a presence of almost 4 lakh security guards across the State of Telangana, plays a vital role and they need to be an integral element of the overall security mechanism of the State and hence an urgent need to integrate them into the security systems of the society by enhanced interactions at all levels.

DCA conducts raids on falsely manufactured drugs, quacks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Drugs Control Administration has conducted raids on August 27 and 28 detecting drugs falsely manufactured and sold under the guise of food products and nutraceuticals.

The Drugs Control Administration officials of Warangal Zone have said that product Fer-XT Tablets (Ferrous Ascorbate and Folic Acid Tablets) are circulating in the market. The product has been claimed to contain Ferrous Ascorbate 100 mg, Folic Acid 1.5 mg. These tablets were falsely manufactured under a food licence (FSSAI licence) and falsely claimed to be a food product.

Revanth Reddy is riding a tiger, says Kunamneni Sambasiva

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CPI Secretary and Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao MLA said that Revanth Reddy is riding a tiger. He demanded that the government release a white paper on the encroachments of lakes and immediately start restoration of these water bodies. He also praised IPS officer Ranganath as a capable and efficient officer.

He insisted that action should be taken against officials and ministers who granted permission to construct buildings on lake lands. Regarding Kavitha's release, Sambasiva said the issue is being politicized. He questioned why there is so much hostility towards a woman, adding that whether Kavitha

is guilty or not will be decided by courts, and even her bail is being politicized.

KCR criticized the government, asking why they are hesitant about loan waivers. He suggested that the government should clearly state what has been waived and what hasn't instead of creating confusion.

He also questioned ration card regulations, emphasizing that even small government employees should be eligible for loan waivers, as promised during the elections.

He stressed that September 17 should be officially recognised and that the Communist Party is the true heir of the Telangana Armed Struggle, which was not a conflict between Muslims and Hindus.

Hyd docs save Raipur boy after airborne rescue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad doctors saved a 12-year-old boy from Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The city's KIMS Cuddles Hospital doctors conducted an challenging airborne rescue mission. The boy suffered from a rare infection that caused high fever, seizures and brain pressure, making him unable to recognise his own parents. Initially treated in Raipur, his condition worsened, leading doctors to seek help from KIMS Cuddles.

Clinical Director of Pediatrics at KIMS Cuddles, Dr Parag Dekate explained that the boy's condition was critical when they arrived in Raipur. The team stabilized him, controlled his seizures, and airlifted him to Hyderabad.

'Shomie Das--The Man Who Saw Tomorrow'

Book launch by Governor of Mizoram K Haribabu. The book is authored by Naga Tummala, Co-founder of Oakridge Intl School and Founder & CEO of Coschool.

Venue
MPH, Oakridge International School, Gachibowli, Hyderabad
August 29, 6 pm

electriexpo

South India's largest electric expo. Inauguration by Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will be the chief guest.

Venue
HITEX, Hyderabad, August 29, 10am

Tamrapatra Live

The Ministry of Culture, Govt of India and Shankarananda Kalakshetra in association with the Dept of Culture, Govt of Telangana, is presenting a unique classical dance feature based exclusively on the exquisite poetry of Annamacharya. It will be presented by 5 of India's leading dancers - Ananda Shankar Jayant, Anupama Klyash, Deepika Reddy, Gopika Varma and Viabhav Arekar, across the styles of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Mohiniattam.

Venue
Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad
August 31, 7 pm

Monopoly Moves

KING's latest album, on KING's Monopoly Moves Listening Party Tour.

Venue
Air live, Gachibowli, Hyderabad
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024
Time: 7 pm onwards

Journey of Rhythms

Presented by Shivansh and Tatvaa Arts.

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

Banker among two held in Rs 175 cr fraud case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has arrested two more individuals, including a branch manager of the State Bank of India (SBI), in connection with a massive Rs 175 crore fraud case. The arrested individuals were identified as Madhu Babu Gali, the branch manager of SBI's Shamsheergunj branch and Upadhyaya Sandeep Sharma, a gym trainer residing in KPHB Colony.

The arrests were made based on a suo moto complaint registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station of Hyderabad. The case has been booked under Section 66D of the IT Act and Sections 318(4), 319(2), and 338 of the BNS Act.

Madhu Babu Gali, the SBI branch manager, allegedly colluded with fraudsters, facilitating the opening of fraudulent current bank accounts.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD THURSDAY | AUGUST 29, 2024

03

First-ever global Startup Fest to be hosted in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Supporting rural innovators and young entrepreneurs, the first-ever International Startup Festival (ISF) will be held in Hyderabad from September 26 to 28, at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI). Organised by the International Startup Foundation with the International Startups Network Pvt Ltd (ISN), ISF 2024 will be a unique opportunity for startup founders to connect with peers and investors. The ISN held a curtain-raiser Investor Connect Workshop at the T-hub to help startups fast-track their fundraising with expert guidance.

'Lake conservation panels throughout TG need of the hour'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) vision of a Golden Telangana has come under scrutiny, with critics pointing out to a lack of attention to the preservation of Hyderabad's lakes. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has made significant strides in this area by forming HYDRAA aimed at conserving the State's water bodies, said Member of Parliament Mallu Ravi on Wednesday.

"Revanth Reddy's decision to appoint a strong officer like Ranganath to lead HYDRAA has been hailed as bold and effective. The initiative has received widespread support from educational institutions, youth and the general public. The formation of Lake Conservation Committees across the State is seen as a crucial step toward preserving Telangana's lakes."

"We urge the Chief Minister to establish similar Lake Conservation Committees not just in Hyderabad but throughout Telangana. He emphasised the importance of demolishing



MP Mallu Ravi addressing the media in Hyderabad on Wednesday

schools and colleges built within Full Tank Level (FTL) only after ensuring that students are on holiday to prevent any disruption to their education.

While HYDRAA's efforts might cause temporary inconvenience to some, Mallu Ravi assured that the long-term benefits would be substantial. He highlighted that after the beautification of the Musi River, Hyderabad would stand out as one of the most attractive cities in India.

On other fronts, he mentioned that free travel in RTC buses would bring financial relief to the poor, countering opposition claims that the government won't fulfill its promises.

JUPALLY SHOWCASES STATE IN BANGKOK

'TG tourist spots can shine globally'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister of Tourism and Culture Jupalli Krishna Rao said that Telangana tourism sector will be introduced to the world in a new way. "We will make it a sightseeing destination during the QSNCC Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart - PATA Travel Mart (PTM) held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand on Wednesday. In all, 900 representatives from 45 countries attended it and five states from India along with Telangana took part in it."

Minister Jupally inaugurated the stall specially set up by the Telangana Transport department in the travel mart. The Telangana Tourism department has set up a special stall with the intention of introducing various historical and heritage buildings, tourist places to the international community. Photographs of Buddhavanam in Nagarjuna Sagar, Charminar in Hyderabad and Lucknow Cable Bridge in Mulugu district are being exhibited to attract international tourists.

The Minister met India's Ambassador to Thailand Nagesh Singh, Thailand Tourism Department Executive Director Malini Nitiksethantorn, India Chapter- PATA Executive Director Ranif Sansha and



Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao meets India's Ambassador to Thailand Nagesh Singh at Bangkok on Wednesday

representatives of various countries. He said that Telangana has more types of tourism, cultural, historical, spiritual, environmental and suitable sectors than any other country in the world, and through this travel mart, there is an opportunity to inform the world about the beauty of Telangana tourism.

According to the ideas of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Telangana is moving ahead with the creation of world-class infrastructure to further

develop tourism as a solid centre of history, culture and heritage. In the Telangana government's new tourism policy, priority will be given to such things.

Lifestyle connected with nature is a positive factor for tourism development and reflects the idea of living in harmony with nature. "You all come to Telangana to see Telangana's UNESCO recognised Ramappa temple, Golconda Fort, Warangal Fort, Kakatiya Thoranam, Charminar,

Qutub Shahi Tombs, Asia's largest Buddhism Project Buddhavanam, Thousand Pillar temple and World's Best Tourist Village Pochampally", he added.

The Pacific Asia Travel Association conducts the Travel Mart with the aim of promoting tourism in the Asia-Pacific region, discussing cooperation between Pacific countries, and providing better infrastructure, thereby attracting tourists and creating mutual benefit. This program will be held from August 27 to 29.

Telangana Tourism Development Corporation Executive Director Vijay and other officials participated in this program.

Telangana tourism sector

- Theme-based Buddhist Circuit and Heritage Circuit are being developed to preserve the State's heritage
- Special stall set up in National Convention Centre in Bangkok to attract tourists
- State moving ahead with the creation of world-class infrastructure to develop tourism

STRENUOUS TIMETABLE

Are we robots or humans? ask Gurukul teachers, students

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY
bhumireddyashmi@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Following the latest implementation of timetable or school schedule in Gurukul schools, teachers and students raised their grievances to remove the strenuous timetable and bring back the previous timetable where classes used to start at 9 am and end at 4 pm. Both the faculty and students questioned the higher authorities by stating, "Are we humans or robots, as there are no proper breaks or refreshments allotted for both students and faculty in this hectic schedule."

Speaking to Pioneer Correspondent, Surrender Rathod, a faculty at TTWR-JC said, "Currently, Gurukul schools begin at 5 am where 5-6 am is meditation followed by refreshment time. However, the refreshment time is not sufficient for girl students, especially those who have reached the menstrual phase.



As for girls, physical and personal hygiene is very crucial compared to boys. In every Gurukul school, the total strength is 600 students. However, washroom facilities are very less. For instance, there is only one washroom for every 20 students. This is very pathetic in the case of girl students."

In Telangana, 75 per cent of schools are for girls while 25 per cent of schools are for boys. Breakfast will be served around 7.15 am. The classes commence at 8:15 am and end at 11:15 am.

Till then there is no single break for students and teachers. Following the three hours continuous classes, a break is

allotted for just 10 mins. Can a fifth class student endure this study schedule? After the break, the classes will commence.

Following the sixth period, lunch will be served at 1:15 pm. Students who have their breakfast around 7:15 am should wait for seven or eight hours to have lunch which is at 1:15 pm. Majority of the students are getting exhausted after the seventh period.

The classes will run till 9 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Most of the students are sleeping without food. They go to bed with empty stomachs. The new timetable is leaving both students and faculty disappointed.

GHMC forms panels on lighting projects, traffic management

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has constituted several committees for a better approach to solve the problems in the city.

A committee has been formed for a comprehensive and integrated approach to traffic management and urban mobility consisting of Additional Commissioner (Traffic and IT) of the GHMC, Engineer-in-Chief, MD of HMDA, HMDA Joint Commissioner and Khairatabad Zonal Commissioner.

This committee would conduct a detailed assessment of real-time traffic management systems, exploring the integration of advanced technologies. The committee would work on Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), formulation of parking policy, GIS-based road and asset management system and onboarding of system integrators for traffic management.

"The committee shall be responsible for the end-to-end planning and vendor selection through transparent tendering processes. Furthermore, it will ensure coordination between various stakeholders, monitor project progress and make necessary recommendations for the successful deployment of these systems."

The GHMC formed a committee on Smart Poles Tendering Committee consisting of Additional Commissioner (Advertisement), Additional Commissioner (IT) and Additional Commissioner (Electrical). For tendering process for city street lighting project, street lights tendering committee consisting of Additional Commissioner (Traffic), Additional Commissioner (Electrical), Chief Engineer (CE) has been formed.

Incident-free festivities in focus at peace panel meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

For the peaceful conduct of the ensuing Ganesha festival and Milad-Un-Nabi celebrations, Kothakota Sreenivasa Reddy, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, held an interaction with the Central Peace and Welfare Committee from all zones of city, at TGC&CC, Banjara Hills on Wednesday.

The Commissioner sought the cooperation of the peace committee members to maintain the peaceful atmosphere and to continue their tireless work in preserving the reputation of the city and successful completion of the festivals. The Peace and Welfare Committee assured full support and

willingness to work for the peaceful completion of not only the ensuing festivals, but also to control anti-social activities.

Meanwhile, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty convened a high-level inter-departmental coordination meeting at the Cyberabad CP office.

Addressing the gathering, the Cyberabad CP emphasised the significance of Ganesha festival as one of the biggest festivals celebrated across the state which will commence on September 7 and conclude on September 17. The CP directed the officers and staff to ensure foolproof arrangements and that the festivities are held without any untoward incidents.



The Peace and Welfare Committee assured full support and willingness to work for the smooth completion of the upcoming festivals

UN Under-Secretary-General meets Minister Sridhar Babu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

United Nations Under-Secretary-General Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana met with IT and Industry Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the Secretariat on Wednesday.

The United Nations, in partnership with the Melinda Gates Foundation, will study how to increase the participation of women and small-scale industries in the State's agri-food systems. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP), part of the United Nations, has already trained 10 institutions in Telangana. A road map has been prepared to involve marginalised groups in



the mainstream, and have sought the government's assistance for further action.

TGIIC COO Madhusudan, Food Processing Division Director Akhil, Life Sciences Foundation CEO Sakthi Nagappa, were among those present.

TG records 2,550 fire mishaps; 1,116 deaths

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana recorded 2,550 fire incidents in 2024 and there were 1,116 deaths due to these fire mishaps.

The data was released by Telangana Pvt Electrical Technicians Federation who have called for an urgent need to prioritise the adoption of high-quality electrical components.

A fire broke out in a four-storeyed manufacturing warehouse-cum-residential building in Hyderabad recently,

resulting in the tragic deaths of a 10-year-old girl and her father, and injuries to five others. The fire, which is believed to have been sparked by a short circuit in the manufacturing unit, took firefighters considerable time to extinguish it.

The Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Service Department has reported a steep rise in fire incidents in Hyderabad over the years. From 2019 to 2023, there were 6,525 fire and rescue calls reported in the city and in 2024 alone, there were 2,550 calls, with many

incidents caused by short circuits and faulty electrical cables. Factories in Telangana witness a fire accident every two days, with over 600 accidents recorded in factories and industries between 2021 and 2023.

Speaking about the recent spike in fire accidents in Telangana, Sama Kondal Reddy, President of Telangana Pvt Electrical Technicians Federation said, "The alarming spike in fire accidents across Telangana, particularly those caused by electrical faults, is a wake-up call.

First Dalit appointed as Railway Board Chairman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Railway Board appointed Satish Kumar as the first-ever Dalit Chairman of the board. Satish Kumar's tenure is slated to commence on September 1 when he will replace the incumbent chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board, Jaya Varma Sinha, who will be retiring on August 31.

Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) officer Satish Kumar has been appointed as the chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Railway Board.



Satish Kumar

His appointment marks a historic moment as he becomes the first individual from the Scheduled Caste or Dalit community to be selected for this position.



BY SHARMILA KRISHNAN

The bustling hub of IT -- Cyber Towers-- has unfortunately become the haven for a grave issue plaguing the city: child begging. Despite

various initiatives taken by the authorities, many children continue to beg. Some of these kids, assuming to offer 'service', squeeze themselves into gaps among vehicles that halt at signals to wipe and clean cars

Child begging at Cyber Towers: city's grim reality

amidst heavy traffic, often putting their safety and well-being at serious risk.

As the sun rises over Cyber Towers, one of Hyderabad's most bustling intersections, a distressing sight emerges -- children, often barefoot and scantily clad, weaving through traffic, begging for alms, or volunteering to clean windshields for a few rupees. This distressing scenario unfolds daily, rain or shine, posing severe risks to the chil-

dren's safety and well-being.

A recent survey indicated a significant number of child beggars in Hyderabad, with estimates running into hundreds. The situation is particularly acute in the heart of the city, where the influx of traffic and the concentration of economic activity attract beggars seeking alms from commuters and visitors.

Despite the authorities launching Operation

Bhikshatan, under which 156 children were successfully rescued and restored to their homes, the problem persists, particularly in the heart of the city. The initiative, although noble in its intent, seems to falter in its execution. Hotspots identified in 19 areas of Hyderabad still witness children on the streets, raising concerns about the program's long-term efficacy.

Bhavani, a student who regularly interacts with these chil-

dren, expressed her deep sorrow. "It's heartbreaking to see the next generation of India in such dire conditions. Their parents, unfortunately, seem to be complicit, allowing their children to beg rather than ensuring they receive an education. We need the Child Helpline and other authorities to step in and provide a sustainable solution," she said.

Bhavani's concern highlights a critical issue: the lack of proactive intervention and long-

term support for these children. Simply sending them home is not enough. There needs to be a structured follow-up to ensure they do not return to the streets. The presence of begging children at prominent signals and traffic junctions is not just a humanitarian crisis but also tarnishes the city's image. Praveen Kola, a tech professional, highlighted the broader implications. "This situation creates a very negative impression for tourists visiting

India. If we continue to ignore this issue, we are setting a terrible example and failing these children who are getting habituated to begging from an early age. The traffic department and police personnel must intervene to prevent this from happening," he emphasized.

As the city grapples with this issue, it remains to be seen whether effective measures will be implemented to safeguard the future of these vulnerable children.

MP asks officials to ensure welfare benefits to eligible

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lok Sabha member from Medak M Raghunandan Rao has said that the benefits of the welfare and developmental schemes of State and Central governments should reach eligible beneficiaries on time. He asked the district officials to ensure that the schemes reach the target groups 100 per cent.

He was chairing the District Development, Coordination and Monitoring meeting held here on Wednesday.

The MP asked the officials to take steps to complete the construction of new buildings for village panchayats. So far only 80 new buildings to house village panchayat offices were constructed.

Asking the officials to take steps to complete the development of cement concrete roads and other works as early as possible, the MP asked the officials to ensure that the labourers



Lok Sabha member M Raghunandan Rao speaking at a review meeting in Siddipet on Wednesday

engaged by the District Rural Development Agency are paid at least Rs 300 each per day.

Expressing concern over the excessive use of plastic glasses and sachets at small hotels and tea stalls, he asked officials to search alternative materials to the plastic. He called for providing self-employment to the jobless in Dubbaka who have been going to Dubai in search of work. The custom milling of rice was only 74% completed in the district, the MP said asking the officials to complete the

balance of the custom-milling of the rice. He suggested planting of multi-layer saplings on either side of national highways. He directed the officials to take steps for distribution of completed 2 BHK houses among the beneficiaries.

Seasonal diseases are the rise in the district, therefore he wanted the Medical and Health department to rise to the occasion and provide treatment on time to patients.

He asked the officials to sensitise the farmers on culti-

vation of crops like avocado and dragon fruit.

MLC Yadava Reddy asked the officials not to plant saplings under electric wires. He asked the officials to plant fruit-bearing trees in forests to prevent monkeys raiding villages and give publicity to Sadaram camps in villages.

Collector Manu Chaudhary, Additional Collectors Garima Agarwal and Srinivas Reddy, DMHO, Municipal Commissioner and others took part in the meeting.



Nitya Anna Daana Satram soon at Vemulawada temple: Minister

PNS ■ SIRICILLA

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has said that the State government has a plan to set up Nitya Anna Dana Satram at Vemulawada Rajarajeswara Swamy temple on the lines of the facility at Tirumala.

The Minister visited the Vemulawada temple on Wednesday. He arrived here to a grand welcome extended to him by Government whip and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas, Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha and SP Akhil Mahajan.

Later, the temple priests extended traditional welcome to the Minister and the Government whip. They performed special pujas.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister appealed to philanthropic public, representatives of civil society organisations, all sections of people to come forward to help establish the Nitya Anna Dana Satram. The government has been initiating steps to provide quick darshan at the temple and provide better amenities there.

He said that the government will act on the advice of Sringeri Peeth seer, suggestions of the devotees and those from scholars on developing the temple.



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Batti Vikramarka greeting newly-weds at Oachira Parabrahma Temple in Kerala on Wednesday

Bhatti emphasises the need to uphold value in governance

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has said, "The spirit of reform and social progress that one witnessed in Kerala resonates deeply with the values that we hold dear in Telangana State as well."

Bhatti Vikramarka, who was the chief guest at the mass marriage of 400 couples organised by Oachira Parabrahma Temple Administration Board in Kerala on Wednesday, said he was honoured to be at the temple which had been a beacon of spiritual and social enlightenment for centuries.

Lauding the temple for its tradition of hosting the group marriages for the past several years, he said it was a reflection of commitment to a more inclusive and just society.

By providing economically and socially disadvantaged couples with the opportunity to marry with dignity and without the burden of financial strain, the temple and its administration demonstrated a spirit of compassion and social responsibility.

The event was attended by Kerala Revenue Minister K Rajan, MP K C Venugopal and MLA Ramesh Chennithala.

Bhatti recalled that Kerala's temples like Oachira temple have historically been more than just places of worship. They have been centres of social reform, education and community building.

From the times of great temple entry movements that challenged

caste-based discrimination to the efforts led by reformers like Narayana Guru, Chattampi Swamikal and Ayyankali, temples in Kerala stood at the forefront of social change. They were the places that nurtured the ideals of equality and social justice long before such concepts were enshrined in the Constitution.

Recalling that the transformative movements that swept across Kerala in late 19th and early 20th centuries were echoed in the rest of South India, Mr Bhatti said Telangana too has a rich history of struggle and reform- from the Telangana peasant armed struggle against feudal oppression to the fight for separate State- which was rooted in the desire for social justice and self respect. These movements much like those in Kerala were about affirming the dignity and rights of every individual irrespective of their social or economic status, he said.

"As we witnessed the 40 couples take their vows, it reminded me the importance of marriage as a social institution, the foundation for families, communities and society. But more than that today's ceremony is a celebration of values of equality, mutual respect and social justice that unite us as Indians," he emphasised.

"It is our duty to uphold these values in every aspect of our governance, every policy we implement and every action we take," he said Bhatti congratulated the newly-weds and extended his best wishes.



Congress workers staging protest against Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah at Shabad in Rangareddy district on Wednesday

Chevella MLA pelted with eggs, tomatoes

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah faced an unexpected backlash on Wednesday during his visit to Shabad under the Chevella constituency. A large number of Congress activists, while raising slogans against the MLA, pelted his car with eggs and tomatoes.

The protest, according to the Congress workers, was driven by growing frustration among longtime party workers, that

their efforts over the past decade went unrecognized by the party leadership. The protestors expressed their anger over the inclusion of individuals from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) into the Congress fold, while sidelining loyal party.

Amid the chaos, the crowd chanted slogans such as "Go back MLA" and "Down Down MLA," vowing to continue their protest until their demands for justice are met.

Weed out Conocarpus plants by Aug 31: Collector

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Collector Jitesh V Patil on Wednesday directed the officials to work in coordination to ensure that developmental works are completed on schedule.

The Collector was holding a review meeting with officials of various departments through video conference. Revenue officials and Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) and others took part.

He said that as per the instructions of the State Election Commission, the voters' lists should be updated on time by village panchayats. He emphasised the need to complete the work without any hiccup.

The Collector directed the Panchayat officials to ensure proper sanitation in all villages. He asked them to take up a special drive to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases like dengue, chikungunya and malaria. The responsibility to provide better services to people rested on the officials, he said.

Jitesh V Patil directed the officials



Bhadradri Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V Patil holding review meeting at the Collectorate in Kothagudem on Wednesday

to focus on weeding out Conocarpus plants till August 31. The panchayat officials were told to plant pagoda and other saplings in their place.

He instructed the Amma Adarsh school committees to monitor from time to time the schools. They were asked to ensure that the repair or development workers that were taken in various schools are completed speedily.

The Collector told the medical officials that he came know of shortage of medicines in some hospitals and asked them to take measures to ensure that patients do not suffer.

DRDO Vidyachandana, DPO Chandramouli, Panchayat Raj EE Srinivasa Rao, R&B EE Venkateswara Rao and officials of various departments participated in this meeting.



Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, along with Government Whip Addi Srinivas inaugurating branch of the Karimnagar District Cooperative Bank at Vemulawada on Wednesday

85 crore women passengers took RTC buses over 265 days: Ponnam

PNS ■ SIRICILLA

Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, along with Government whip Adi Srinivas, the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited chairman Konduri Ravinder Rao, inaugurated the 300 MTS warehouse of the PACS at Vemulawada. He inaugurated the PACS online services digital seva common service centre, the Karimnagar District Cooperative Bank Limited Vemulawada branch and ATM centre here on Wednesday.

Later, he distributed educational loans, housing loans, self-employment loans, granted by cooperative bank.

Addressing a gathering on

the occasion, the Minister said that the Congress government waived crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh in the first phase, up to Rs 1.50 lakh in the second phase and Rs 2 lakh in the third phase and called it unprecedented in the country. Those who obtained the crop loans prior to December 12 in 2008 and after December 9 in 2023 could not get the benefit of the loan waiver, he said.

In 265 days, 85 crore women travelled by RTC buses free of cost availing Rs 2,500 crore worth free travel. Women have been travelling by RTC buses to travel to Vemulawada and Kondagattu temples. In Telangana, more than 70% of the population avail themselves of 200 units of power free of cost every month. The

government has been providing LPG cylinder for Rs 500 each.

From September 17 onwards, as part of Praja Palana applications will be invited to implement the six guarantees. Similarly, applications will be invited to extend new ration cards and Indiramma Houses.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy earmarked Rs 31,000 crore for the loan waiver.

Vemulawada municipal chairperson Madhavi, vice-chairman B Mahesh, Vemulawada ASP Seshadrini Reddy, Vemulawada urban Tahsildar Mahesh, Vemulawada PACS chairman Tirupati Reddy, directors of PACS and others were taken part in the event.

Ponguleti congratulates best teacher award winner

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Wednesday congratulated Pesara Prabhakar Reddy, a biology school assistant in Tirumalaya Palem under Palair constituency on being selected as the best teacher at the



national level.

In a release, the Minister hailed the services of Prabhakar Reddy to society in general and students in particular.

He said that he felt proud to note that a teacher was selected as the best teacher at the national level from his constituency.

DC calls for steps to check spread of seasonal fevers

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

District Collector Adwait Kumar Singh has directed the panchayat officials and medical officials to alert the people on seasonal diseases and put in place precautions to prevent seasonal diseases. He held a review meeting on seasonal diseases in the district. Additional Collector Lenin Vatsal Toppo, panchayat officials and medical and health officials.

He enquired about the status of malaria, dengue, Chikungunya, typhoid fever cases in the district.

Maintaining the sanitation of the surroundings holds the key to rein in the seasonal diseases, he said.

He asked the officials to visit the hostels under the limits of the PHCs. Malaria-causing mosquitoes thrive on stagnated water, he said, asking the

sanitary workers to clean the drainages in villages and towns and spray bleaching powder and undertake fogging operations. Fridays should be observed as drydays without rain. The officials should undertake field visits, he said.

Medical camps should be conducted in urban as well as rural areas where there is scope for the outbreak of seasonal diseases, he said.

He directed them to keep necessary medicines at district headquarters, government hospitals and PHCs and conduct medical camps wherever necessary.

ZPCEO Narmada, DMHO Dr G Muralidhar, Deputy DMHO Dr Prameela Rao, district panchayat officer Hariprasad, DEO V Rajeshwar and others took part in the meeting.

One held for making country-made pistols

PNS ■ SIRICILLA

District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan on Wednesday said that a person was caught red-handed while making country-made pistols and tools used to make the country-made weapons were seized from him. The tools included saw, hammer, file, knife, drill, iron rods and a blow machine. Acting on a tip-off, Gambhirraopeta sub inspector conducted a raid on the house of the accused, named Rayalingu Sankar, at Gajasingavaram village and took the accused into custody and seized the tools used in manufacture of the country-made weapons and registered a case against him. Yellareddy petra Circle Inspector Srinivas has been probing into the case.

The Circle Inspector took into custody Rayalingu Chandramouli and Sataveni Harish and Logidi Gangaiah who bought the country-made weapons and

seized two tapanchas from them and four spares of the trigger. They were sent to judicial remand.

NARAYANAGUDA BRANCH
D No G-2-3-6-784/12, Legend Venkatesha
Narayanaguda, Hyderabad -500029

PUBLICATION DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Sent on 22.07.2024 by Regd. Post

To, 1. Mr T Laxman Kumar (Applicant) S/o. M T Ramulu (Lak) Ajan Nives, 1-1-231/26, New No 1-1-335/57, Chikidappally Hyderabad-500029. 2. Mr. T Gopal (Guarantor) S/o. Mr T Ramulu (Lak) Ajan Nives, 1-1-231/26, New No 1-1-335/57, Chikidappally, Hyderabad-500029

Sub: Your Loan account No. 7166477630 with Indian Bank, Narayanaguda Branch Reg. . You committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of Rs.197531.00 as on 22.07.2024 together with interest, cost & charges from 23.07.2024 till date of payment. The Bank issued notice under the Act on 22.07.2024 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.197531.00 as on 22.07.2024 together with interest, cost & charges from 23.07.2024 till date of payment. The notice was sent to you by "Regd. post has been returned unreserved. You are called upon to pay Rs.197531.00 as on 22.07.2024 together with interest, cost & charges from 23.07.2024 till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank. SCHEDULE: The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: **Mortgaged Assets:** All the Residential Unit No 102 on the First Floor measuring 650 sq. ft. including common areas, and scooter parking of forming part of the said residential complex along with undivided share of land 15 sq yards out of 400 sq yards in the premises bearing MCH MD 1-1-23 TO 26 KHOWAS "KALANTRI SQUARE" situated at Jawahar Nagar, Beksaram, Hyderabad, which is more fully hatched and described in the plan and bounded as under: Boundaries of the UNIT: NORTH: Unit no 101, SOUTH: Unit MD 100, EAST: Corridor, WEST: Open to Sky; Boundaries of the LAND: NORTH: Road SOUTH: Lane, EAST: Neighbor's Property, WEST: Neighbor's Property.

Hypothecated Assets: NIL.

Date: 22.07.2024
Place: Hyderabad

Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Indian Bank

ACROSS THE STATES



Pawar apologises to people for Shivaji statue collapse

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Wednesday apologised to people of Maharashtra for the collapse of the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Malvan fort in coastal Konkan region. "Be it officials or contractors, action will be taken against those guilty," Ajit Pawar said at a public meeting during his Jan Sanman Yatra in Latur district. "Shivaji Maharaj is our deity. I apologise to the 13 crore people of Maharashtra for the collapse of his statue," Pawar said. The collapse of the statue within a year (of installation) is shocking, he added. An FIR has been registered against the contractor of the statue work after it collapsed on Monday just eight months after it was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 4 last year. The FIR follows a complaint by the Public Works Department, which claims the statue's construction was of poor quality, and the nuts and bolts used in the structure were found to be rusted.



Rs 908 cr penalty in FEMA case against DMK MP: ED

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said a penalty of Rs 908 crore has been slapped in a case related to the alleged violation of foreign exchange rules against DMK MP S Jagathrathakan and his family members. The federal agency issued a statement which said that properties worth Rs 89.19 crore, seized in September 2020, have been confiscated following an adjudication order issued on August 26 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Jagathrathakan, 76, represents the Arakkonam Lok Sabha seat in Tamil Nadu. He has earlier served as a minister of state for Information and Broadcasting in the Union government. The agency said a FEMA violation probe was initiated against the MP, a businessman from Tamil Nadu, his family members and a related Indian entity.

Video shows cows being pushed into MP river in spate

A video showing more than a dozen cows being pushed into a swollen river in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district went viral following which three men were arrested and a minor was detained, police said on Wednesday. As per the initial reports, about 15 cows were pushed off the bank of the Satna river at a spot under Nagod police station limits on Tuesday afternoon and some of them apparently drowned, said an official, adding that the exact numbers were yet to be ascertained. "A video showing cows being pushed by some people into the Satna river under the railway bridge near Bamhor surfaced on Tuesday evening. A police team was sent to the spot and a case was registered," Nagod police station in-charge Ashok Pandey said. Beta Bagri, Ravi Bagri and Rampal Choudhary were arrested under the Madhya Pradesh Gauvansh Vadh Pratishedh Adhiniyam, a law that prohibits killing of cows in the state, and also under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), he said.



PUNE CREDIT SOCIETY SCAM

IPS officer Bhagyashree booked for forgery

PNS ■ PUNE

The Pune Police have registered a case on the charges of forgery and criminal conspiracy against IPS officer Bhagyashree Navtke who had headed the investigation into an alleged Rs 1,200 crore scam involving a credit cooperative society, an officer said on Wednesday. The case was registered against Navtke, based on a CID report that flagged procedural lapses in the scam investigation, and other unidentified persons, on directions from the Maharashtra Home Department. Navtke headed the Special Investigation Team as DCP (economic offence wing) in 2021-21 to probe cases relat-



ed to the alleged scam involving Bhaichand Hirachand Raisoni Credit Society in Pune district. "The CID (Crime Investigation Department) conducted a probe into the investigation related to the alleged Bhaichand Hirachand Raisoni (BHR) scam.

Be fearless, stand with truth

President Droupadi Murmu urges media



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday asked the media to do fearless reporting and stand with the truth as she saw the fourth estate playing a big role in shaping the country and society. The president, who met PTI editors at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the founding of the news agency, said everyone has a responsibility in taking the country forward and it was impor-

tant how the country is presented. "Media ko nirbhikta se kam karna chahiye (media should work fearlessly)," she commented. "Kabhi satya se hatna nahi chahiye (It should never deviate from the truth)." Murmu has also penned an exclusive article for PTI on the recent incidents of sexual and physical assaults on women, which have led to widespread agitations. "You are a journalist but you are also a citizen. I too

am a citizen. What you are concerned about, I am equally concerned about," she remarked on writing the article. "The media can play a crucial role in improving the country and society," the president said. "I am sometimes anguished because on the one hand we worship women as goddesses but that does not get reflected in day to day behaviour," Murmu said, recalling Rabindranath Tagore's famous poem

"Where The Mind Is Without Fear". She stated that the image of the media should not be tarnished. "Apni chhavi bhi kharab na ho (the image of media should not get blemished). Logon ka vishwas jeetna chahiye (you have to win the confidence of the people)." In her message to PTI on its 77th foundation day, the president said the Press Trust of India was established barely a few days after India won independence.

Mamata wants laws changed to include death penalty for rapists

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Asserting that her government has zero tolerance for incidents of rape, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said an amendment to existing laws will be passed in the state Assembly next week to ensure capital punishment to convicted rapists. Speaking at the Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad's foundation day rally here, Banerjee said she would sit for dharna outside Raj Bhavan here if the governor delays in giving assent to the amended



Bill or forwards it to the President for ratification. Banerjee also urged the

agitating junior doctors of Bengal, who are on cease-work for 20 days now to protest the alleged rape-murder of the RG Kar hospital medic, to urgently consider returning to duty and said she doesn't want to lodge FIRs against the striking doctors in consideration of their future careers. The TMC supremo dedicated the foundation day to the memory of the medic who was allegedly raped and murdered inside state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital earlier this month, triggering a nationwide outcry.

Road accidents have claimed more lives than wars, militancy, Naxalism: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More people have lost their lives in India in road accidents than wars, militancy and Naxalism, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday. Addressing the sixth Edition of FICCI Road Safety Awards and Conclave 2024, Gadkari further said the number of blackspots is increasing because of bad detailed project reports (DPRs) of road projects. "More people have lost lives in road crashes than wars, militancy



and Naxalism," he said. According to Gadkari, India accounts for 5 lakh accidents and 1.5 lakh deaths annually, while 3 lakh people are injured. "This caused a 3 per cent loss to the country's GDP. Like a sacrificial lamb, a driver is blamed for every accident. Let me tell you, and I observe minutely -- often, the road engineering is at fault," he said.

Demolition of ...

Continued from page 1

During the inspections, officials found substantial encroachments in the FTL area, buffer zone and filling up of the lake by private educational institutions like the MLR educational institution on the southwest of the Chinna Damera Cheruvu. The report said, "The dumping and lake filling activities predominantly on the educational institution side was noted. It was observed that the area near the college building and the football court were submerged at the time of inspections." The Counsel said that fishermen who attended during the site inspection had told the commission that the college was dumping debris and filling up the lake. This is leading to the diversion of the lake water into other lands of farmers and locals. They indicated that institutions have disturbed the water outflow and filling up of the water body and the FTL area is now proposed to be changed in December 2023. Reading the report, the Counsel said that encroachments and construction activity in the FTL area and buffer zones must be stopped and lakes have to be restored. The officials could not explain why action was not initiated to protect the lake and remove the buildings built in the submersible areas even though there were no court stays.

Centre clears industrial ...

Continued from page 1

The project will span 12,500 acres across two phases, with the first phase covering 3,245 acres under the National Industrial Corridor Development & Implementation Trust (NICDIT) framework. This Industrial Smart City is strategically located 2 km from the Pune-Machilipatnam NH-65, near the Nizampet-Bidar State Highway (SH-16) and the Zaheerabad-Bidar State Highway (SH-14). The city will be 65 km from Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road and 10 km from the proposed Regional Ring Road. The Zaheerabad Railway Station is 19 km away, while Metalkunta Railway Station is 12 km from the project site. The project site is also 125 km from the Hyderabad International Airport, 600 kms from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai, and 620 km from the Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh. The key gas tap-off point (Petroleum Products Main Pipeline) is 30 km from the proposed project between Zaheerabad and Bidar. The first phase of the Industrial Smart City will use 3,245 acres of land, with 3,100 acres (approximately 80%) already owned by the state government. The Shareholders Agreement (SHA) and State Support Agreement (SSA) have been completed. The project is expected to boost sectors like automobiles, electrical goods, food processing, machinery, metals, non-metallic industries, and transportation while generating employment for 1,74,000 people and attracting investments worth Rs 10,000 crore. Environmental clearances have been obtained from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests.

'Night patrol, access control'

Centre suggests measures to states

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Security audit of district hospitals, night patrolling, and regulated access at large health facilities were among the measures the Centre asked states to implement on Wednesday to prevent violence against medics. The directions came days after the Supreme Court, while hearing the rape-murder case of a junior doctor in Kolkata, ordered the Union health secretary to ensure states have basic measures in place to assuage doctors' concern over safety at workplaces till the court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) formulates a protocol. The NTF, under the chairmanship of the cabinet secretary, held its first meeting on Tuesday. In a virtual meeting on Wednesday, co-chaired by secretaries of the Union home and health ministries and attended by chief secretaries and director generals of police (DGPs), the central government officials said state laws are already in place in 26

states and Union Territories (UTs) for safeguarding healthcare professionals. According to a statement, Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan urged others to also enact such a law. In a letter on August 23 to chief secretaries and DGPs, Chandra said taking suo-motu cognisance of the Kolkata incident, the Supreme Court delivered orders on August 20 and 22. In its August 22 order, the court inter-alia directed that the health secretary to engage with chief secretaries and DGPs to ensure that states and UTs put into place "certain basic minimum requirements pending the receipt of the report of the NTF to assuage the concerns of the doctors over their safety at their workplaces", he had said. The incident at the West Bengal government-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital earlier this month triggered nationwide protests by residents doctors to press for a central law for the security of health professionals at their workplaces and justice for their peer.

Truth has ..

Continued from page 1

Until that day, my fight will continue. I will fight under the leadership of KCR and work even harder in the public sphere. I will be more active in

BRS activities from now on. I have the confidence that I will emerge from this case as pure as a pearl," Kavitha said. She also expressed happiness in returning to Telangana and her home.

TG will gain from transfer ...

Continued from page 1

It may be mentioned here that the Centre which should have ensured that Telangana fulfilled its obligations did not take any action to resolve this issue. As a result, the Andhra Pradesh government had been paying both the principal and interest on these loans during this period. This burden was a significant strain on Andhra Pradesh's finances, especially given the state's challenges post-bifurcation. AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, focused on resolving bifurcation issues, turned his attention to this long-standing financial dispute. Revanth Reddy, the Chief

Minister of Telangana, also showed readiness to cooperate, marking a significant shift from the BRS administration's stance. Their combined efforts, bolstered by the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) influential role in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led to a breakthrough in resolving this issue. The Union Finance Ministry intervened and directed the Telangana government to transfer the outstanding Rs 2,500 crore to Andhra Pradesh's account. This transfer was executed through the Inter-Governmental Transfer (IGT) mechanism, ensuring that the funds were allocated directly to Andhra Pradesh.

No going back on ...

Continued from page 1

"Buildings that do not comply with regulations will be demolished," Revanth stated, pointing out that the first demolition order of the HYDRAA was against Congress leader Pallam Raju. "In the name of education, no one will be allowed to grab lakes. If that's allowed a floating college will come up on Tank Bund," he said. "Let's do a joint inspection on encroachments by politicians. The BRS should suspend Malla Reddy, Marri Rajeshkar Reddy and Palla Rajeshwar Reddy for violating norms. Harish Rao is a former Irrigation minister and let him head a fact-finding committee on encroachments of lakes," the CM said. Speaking about the Janwada farmhouse, Revanth said, "How can a Sarpanch approve the Janwada farmhouse of KTR? He should have declared in his affidavit about the lease.

KTR should be disqualified as an MLA for not disclosing it." He also criticised the bail granted to BRS MLC Kavitha in the Delhi liquor scam and asked how she can secure bail in just five months. "It took 15 months for Sisodia to get bail and even now, Chief Minister Kejriwal hasn't got bail," he noted, suggesting that the BJP's support might have played a role in Kavitha's quick release. He said the BRS worked for the BJP during LS elections with Harish Rao helping the BJP win eight seats. "Kavitha's bail was part of the agreement between the BRS and the BJP," he said. Addressing allegations about illegal buildings, Revanth challenged his critics to provide evidence against him. "If someone says my relatives have constructed illegal buildings let them submit proof. I went to KTR's farmhouse with evidence of its illegal status. If KTR has the guts he should

bring evidence of illegal buildings owned by my family or me," he said. He also reiterated that they are following Supreme Court and NGT guidelines regarding GO: 111 and said that some buildings were allowed by the Supreme Court to be constructed in lakes and ponds. "The demolition at Raidurg was appropriate. That land belongs to the government," Revanth said. In a scathing attack on Harish Rao, Revanth labelled him a "fraud," and accused him of backing out of the challenge he made regarding farm loan waivers. "Harish, who lost the challenge, is nothing but a fraud. I kept my commitment on farm loan waivers. Let's have an open debate on the promises made by all the three parties. Let's hold special Assembly sessions to discuss the manifestos of all parties. KCR should attend the Assembly and not run away. We waived loans

amounting up to Rs 2 lakh as promised. If loans have not been waived, KTR and Harish should tour villages and verify the bank accounts of farmers," the CM said. "We waived 22,37,848 loan accounts benefiting 19,70,349 families who owed Rs 17,933 crore. The remaining loans are those who owe amounts above Rs 2 lakh. Once they clear that we will release funds to them," Revanth said. Revanth said that approval for the CBI is given on a case by case basis. He also extended an invitation to BRS MLA KTR to visit Kodangal and interact with the farmers there. "KTR's father, KCR, doesn't trust him. We have no connection to the Valmiki scam in Karnataka. Just because Telangana bank accounts were involved doesn't mean we are involved. It's well known that some BRS leaders travelled to Bengaluru for drugs," the Chief Minister said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Best of luck!

India sends largest ever contingent of 84 para-athletes for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

The 2024 Paralympic Games opened in Paris yesterday where differently abled athletes from 164 countries would be participating. India has sent its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes this year. This year's event is a testament to the unyielding spirit of athletes who continue to inspire the world with their incredible stories of perseverance and triumph over adversity. India's participation in the 2024 Paris Paralympics is a landmark moment for the nation. With 84 athletes across various disciplines, India is fielding its largest and most diverse contingent ever. This reflects the growing recognition and support for para-sports in India, as well as the increasing number of athletes who are challenging stereotypes and redefining excellence. The Paralympic Games have a rich history, dating back to 1948, when Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sports competition for World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries in Stoke Mandeville, England. This event is widely regarded as the precursor to the modern Paralympic Games. Over the decades, the Paralympics have grown exponentially, becoming a global platform for athletes with disabilities to showcase their extraordinary talents and push the boundaries of what is possible.



Among the Indian athletes, one name that stands out is that of Sheetal Devi, a young archer who has defied all odds to compete at the highest level despite being born without hands. Sheetal's journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Using her feet to handle the bow and arrow, she has developed a unique technique that has made her one of the most promising archers in the world. Her story is a powerful reminder that limitations are often only in the mind, and with determination and innovation, they can be overcome. Sheetal Devi's participation in the 2024 Paralympics is more than just a personal achievement; it symbolizes hope and resilience for millions of people around the world. Her ability to turn her perceived limitations into strengths has captivated audiences and earned her recognition as a true champion of the human spirit. The 2024 Paris Paralympics continue the tradition of celebrating the incredible capabilities of athletes with disabilities. The Games are not just about winning medals; they are about breaking barriers, challenging societal perceptions, and inspiring future generations. The inclusion of more sports and the increasing participation of countries like India signify a broader acceptance and encouragement of para-sports worldwide. As the athletes compete in Paris, their stories of courage, like that of Sheetal Devi, remind us of the power of sport to transcend physical limitations and bring people together in a shared pursuit of excellence. The Paralympic Games serve as a global stage where athletes demonstrate that with perseverance, anything is possible. India's largest-ever contingent and the inspiring story of Sheetal Devi exemplify the spirit of the Paralympic movement. As these athletes compete, they continue to inspire millions, proving that no obstacle is insurmountable when met with determination and heart.

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The rise of Sunita Kejriwal

As Arvind Kejriwal remains behind bars, Sunita Kejriwal steps up to bridge the gap between her husband and the party, taking on the mantle of leadership in his absence



KALYANI SHANKAR

Whoever thought the low-profile Sunita, wife of Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal, would emerge as an acceptable leader in the Aam Admi Party? Her increasing involvement is particularly significant after her husband has been jailed for a liquor scam since March. She has become a crucial link between her husband and the Party.

The recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections provided her an opportunity to demonstrate her potential. It is still unclear whether she will continue working for the Party after Kejriwal is released on bail.

Women from political families often enter politics as substitutes for their relatives. One successful example is Sonia Gandhi. She was the power behind the throne. Rabri Devi, the wife of former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, served as the Chief Minister of Bihar from 2000 to 2005. Lalu had to resign due to his alleged involvement in a scam. Rabri was merely a rubber stamp while her husband was the de facto chief minister.

She may be a novice in politics, but Sunita brings a wealth of experience and a solid professional background. Her 22-year tenure in the income tax department, ending as I-T commissioner at the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), showcases her competence.

Sunita supported her husband, Kejriwal, keeping a low profile, even during India Against Corruption, when he became a political leader and activist. Kejriwal projected himself as a family man and campaigned with Sunita during the polls.

While Sunita may be seen as a stop-gap replacement, her growing influence in the Party makes it challenging to sideline her. Sunita's role in the Party will remain significant even if Kejriwal returns. Fourthly, the Party faces a crisis of leadership. With the upcoming Haryana and Delhi polls, AAP needs a credible leader and a good campaigner. Sunita's role as a morale



crucial. She has arrived at a when the Aam Admi Party grapples with a crisis. The Assembly elections in Haryana will be held next month, and Delhi polls are due in January 2025. Many senior leaders are facing allegations of corruption charges. The recent arrest of Kejriwal has added to the Party's challenges. The Centre gave him a long rope and did not dismiss his government based on a constitutional breakdown.

Manish Sisodia, Kejriwal's deputy, says Sunita's role in the Party will end when Kejriwal is out of jail. Sisodia was also arrested last year in connection with an excise policy case. AAP MP Sanjay Singh claims Sunita's role as Kejriwal's messenger is growing. Still, Kejriwal says Sunita has no interest in politics.

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SUNITA HAS LAUNCHED HER CAMPAIGN WITH FIVE "KEJRIWAL'S GUARANTEES" FOR THE UPCOMING HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLLS

booster is to fill the gap and give pep talk.

Fifthly, the AAP members have accepted Sunita as the link, though Sunita holds no official position in AAP. She has campaigned during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and has just begun campaigning in Haryana. She has been hard-hitting on the Modi government and the BJP. Her line of defence was that some political forces were involved in discrediting her husband.

The opposition coalition INDIA has acknowledged Sunita's increasing involvement and acceptability. She was seated in a prominent position alongside Sonia Gandhi at a recent rally in Ramlila Maidan.

Sunita has launched her campaign with five "Kejriwal's Guarantees" for the upcoming Haryana Assembly polls. They include free electricity, medical treatment, education, \$1,000 monthly aid for women, and youth employment. She lauded the AAP government for its initiatives and urged people to vote for AAP. Sunita has some downsides. Despite Kejriwal's political success, she is untested. Whether she can keep the Party intact is still being determined. Her limit-

ed purpose is to convey Kejriwal's message from prison and campaign for the upcoming elections.

Sunita is in talks with other parties like the Nationalist Congress Party and has gained access to top opposition leaders. Her strategy for selecting candidates and forming coalitions depends on the Aam Admi Party's future alliances. Overcoming anti-incumbency as AAP seeks a third term in Delhi is challenging.

When Kejriwal returns, he must ensure that the Party is under control. And that his image in public is not tarnished. He must also keep an eye on Punjab, where Aap is ruling. He must ensure a chain of command between the Party and the government. He must develop a second line of leadership, as he has not allowed any leader to emerge. He needs to keep his team united and realistically evaluate his promises of benefits. The results of the upcoming elections in Haryana and Delhi could significantly shape Delhi's future political landscape. The results will show whether Sunita succeeds.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

PICTALK



A beautifully painted bus at display in the Heritage Transport Museum, in Gurugram PANKAJ KUMAR

Dealing with the eternal conflicts

Conflicts have been an inevitable part of human experience throughout history.

Each of us faces them in our own unique way at different points in life

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 ado-



lescent 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 Sealadh, 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)



SANJAY CHANDRA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD NEEDS STATESMEN

Madam — The editorial, 'Give peace a chance' (27-8-24) is timely. But war is an essential factor to keep the economy of a few nations alive. Weapon trading being a flourishing trade the countries engaged in manufacturing weapons long for wars somewhere between some countries.

With these countries craving for wars the world is longing for a leader who can play a genuinely mediating role and ensure peace. The US and the members of NATO want war between Ukraine and Russia to go on for long to make Ukraine a good market for their weapons. Countries like India may not have weapons to sell but finds war between Ukraine and Russia a good opportunity to buy oil at a lesser cost to benefit a few Indian monopolists if not the public.

With such vested interest in the ongoing war India cannot play any mediation to bring peace. Similarly the war in the Gulf having religion as its base has no scope to ensure peace there till either of the group loses in the war. Institutions like the UNO stand abjectly exposed for their emptiness, and helplessness. Besides religion the rich resource of oil makes this region more vulnerable for undue exploitation and war. We have witnessed an unnecessary war that destroyed nations like Iraq, Libya.

In the present global economic order everything is a commodity including Peace. But peace is proved to be such a costlier product there is no means to buy it. The world needs a charismatic selfless statesman who can interfere with confidence and boldness to establish peace anywhere. But still one should reach this problem with an open mind and positive attitude to find a solution.

A.G.Rajmohan | Anantpur

SAFETY FIRST

Madam — The cargo ship was routed from Kolkata to Port Blair when it reportedly sank due to rough seas

Remember the Hippocratic Oath!



Kudos to Mr. Sujit De for the letter titled "Don't make patients suffer" (August 26). Based upon professional fraternity (not human fraternity), the Doctors of the government hospitals are in strike in West Bengal! May it be asked what is the fault of the poorest of poor patients who have no option but to visit government hospitals during medical emergency! Why are they being denied medical treatment prolonging their suffering! Is providing treatment to patients and protesting against the murder mutually exclusive to each

other! Can't the two coexist together! What compensation would the Doctors provide to a family if their member passes away due to lack of treatment! How can the hypocrite Doctors make a cruel mockery of the Hippocratic oath! Hasn't any Doctor indulged in sexual atrocities in India previously!

What about that horrific incident (almost a decade ago) revolving around the poor mentally-retarded innocent Korpan Shah who was lynched to death by the trainee Doctors right within the campus of NRS Hospital Kolkata just on the baseless apprehension of stealing a cell phone! Will today's "revolutionary" Doctors dare to have a look at the mirror and indulge in a bit of self introspection! Of course Doctors must enjoy rights as entitled to human beings; but perhaps the last person in the queue like Korpan Shah was also entitled to the same human rights!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

about 90 nautical miles south of Sagar Island. With an immediate response, the Maritime Search & Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Chennai received a distress signal late on August 25.

The ICG immediately dispatched two of its ships, Sarang and Amogh, and also a Dornier aircraft outfitted with enhanced night-capable sensors, to locate and rescue the stranded crew. The Dornier aircraft was crucial in spotting drifting life rafts and identifying the crew's survival red flares. The aircraft guided the ICG ships to the coordinates where two life rafts had been found tied together, sheltering the survivors.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

MIDDLE PATH ON PENSION

Madam — Government seems to have adopted the mid way approach amid the growing demand for the rollback of the OPS, the government has filled the gap between market returns and a 50% assured pension. Under the Unified Pension Scheme government contribu-

tion will increase from 14% to 18.5%. And it will take a stock of the situation after three years whether to increase this or not. What is really beneficial for the government employees who joined after 1st January 2004 is that UPS will provide them assured pension, inflation indexation and family pension.

At the moment it looks like that employees will be content with the new rolled out scheme but they may come on to the streets to demand the difference between OPS and UPS. With life expectancy going higher and higher, how the government will be able to fund these expenses for such long durations would be a million dollar question. Employees should not forget that NPS has the unique advantage of having the equity exposure over a long period of time and invariably it will fetch far better returns over any other product or Pension scheme.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

CHOOSE DIALOGUE NOT DEBATE

By fostering a mindset of dialogue over argument, we contribute to a more harmonious society



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

There is a famous saying: "Two wrongs don't make a right," meaning it is not right to do something bad to someone just because they did something bad to you. In our day-to-day life, we end up doing many things that are wrong, but we still justify them as right by arguing well. Argument has always been a very powerful self-defense tool for people since ages. But one must know an important fact: behind every argument that we engage in, lies our ignorance towards truth and sometimes deceiving ourselves by knowing the truth. Hence, the best way to sort things out is through dialogues and healthy discussions. The beautiful part of a dialogue is that it's a mutual exploration for reaching an amicable resolution with an open exchange of views, as compared to an argument, which leads to a battle of opinions. In dialogue, there is much more listening than talking, and in an argument, there is war! A dialogue is possible only when two parties collaborate to uncover deeper wisdom and co-create a new understanding with a positive attitude.

We all argue in our day-to-day life because we have an opinion on almost everything, based on our beliefs. More so, when we see the beliefs of others as a personal threat, we either start defending or attacking, creating an environment of fear and aggression. There are many who are always armed with their opinions, prepared to defend their beliefs, and ready to do battle. The best way to avoid an argument with such people is first to support their beliefs positively to make them feel happy



from inside, and then after some time, make them realize their mistake with utmost love and care.

Many of us have experienced that if we do not have an opinion about important issues, then we are considered to be weak and conciliatory. But we must not forget that if our opinion is in defense of a position or against someone else's opinion, then it might result in a huge conflict that could lead to a war-like situation. History has shown that, at the root of the majority of wars fought were differences of opinion and clash of beliefs. Hence, it takes a lot of courage to have a point of view and yet be receptive to others' to the extent that you are prepared to shift your contention. This shows that you are flexible and acknowledge there are many other ways of looking at a situation. It also demonstrates that you have the humility to learn from others' points of view. However, to possess such courage, one needs to be enlightened with spiritual powers, for it is an enlightened soul that moves from an argument to a discussion to a dialogue, a process that is driven not just by the need, but by genuine curiosity and the intention to understand others to create a peaceful and harmonious environment.

In today's fast-paced world, arguments often arise from misunderstandings, impatience, and a lack of willingness to understand the other side. Technology, while connecting us globally, has also distanced us from face-to-face interactions where emotions and intentions are better understood. This digital age has made it easy to voice opinions without accountability, often leading to heated debates rather than constructive discussions. Moreover, the culture of instant gratification has diminished our capacity for patience, making us less tolerant of differing viewpoints. We must realize that true progress, both personally and collectively, comes from understanding and empathy. When we take the time to engage in dialogues rather than arguments, we open doors to new perspectives and solutions that we might not have considered otherwise. In doing so, we not only resolve conflicts but also build stronger, more meaningful relationships. Therefore, it is essential to cultivate the habit of active listening, where we fully engage with the speaker, seeking to understand before being understood. This approach can transform potential conflicts into opportunities for growth and learning.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)

A saga of violence and betrayal in Afghanistan



NILANTHA LLANGAMUWA

Kabul has long stood as a symbol of Afghanistan's resilience but conduct of many of its leaders like Hafizullah Amin remains shrouded in mystery and contention

Kabul, situated over a mile above sea level, is complemented by the Paghman Hills to the west, traditionally a retreat for Kabul's elite. Paghman, known for its pleasant climate and historical significance, was also the site of significant events, including King Amanullah's struggle for independence and the 1920 asylum of the Amir of Bukhara. The town symbolises Afghanistan's resistance to foreign dominance.

Hafizullah Amin, born in Paghman in 1929, rose to prominence as a staunch opponent of superpower influence. His brief tenure as leader, lasting only 104 days, ended with his assassination in 1979, marking a pivotal moment in Afghan politics. Amin's early education in Kabul and further studies at Columbia University, interrupted by political turmoil, solidified his political engagement. His relationship with Nour Mohammad Taraki and his subsequent return to Afghanistan via Moscow shaped his radical stance and political trajectory.

However, the accusation that Amin was a CIA agent, levied with equal fervour from the left, has been eagerly embraced by Babrak Karmal as a means to legitimise his own rule. Despite Karmal's claims of having known about Amin's alleged CIA ties since the 1950s and his assertion of possessing documentary proof, he has yet to present any credible evidence. Some foreign socialists privately dismiss this claim, suggesting that the new regime's intent was to tarnish Amin's reputation, particularly among the unassuming Afghan peasantry, by branding him as an American agent. A more nuanced explanation from a Karmal sympathiser posits that the Afghan populace, repelled by Amin's policies which they viewed as detrimental to the revolution, resorted to the CIA agent narrative as a simplistic justification. Although the USSR propagated this narrative domestically in an early 1980 film on Afghanistan, it has been notably cautious in its international communications.

An article on CIA interference in the Third World, published in International Affairs, notably omits any reference to Amin. As one commentator noted, "The uncomfortable reality for both Russians and Americans is that Amin resisted manipulation from either side." If Amin's portrayal as a genocidal dictator, a Soviet puppet, or a CIA operative is unsupported by evidence, what then is the truth? What was Amin's actual role in the Afghan revolution, and why did the Soviet Union deem it so crucial to eliminate him?

In August 1978, Nour Mohammad Taraki addressed the Islamic protest movement with a defiant stance, denouncing capitalist and reactionary forces for using religion to undermine his progressive agenda. He believed these tactics, driven by imperialistic ambitions, were outdated and doomed to fail. Despite his confidence, Taraki faced significant internal strife, particularly with Hafizullah Amin, whose ambitions threatened his leadership. Taraki's reliance on Soviet support proved insufficient as his political blindness and failure to address social realities created



opportunities for extremist groups.

Taraki's plan to correct his previous mistakes and form a new government with Babrak was thwarted by Amin's swift action. Despite Taraki's efforts to arrest Amin and align with Babrak for national reconciliation, the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan necessitated external military intervention. Amin's quick consolidation of power and Taraki's subsequent political struggles illustrate the volatile and precarious nature of Afghan politics during this tumultuous period. Hafizullah Amin was widely suspected of using Marxism as a political tool rather than adhering to its principles, while publicly presenting himself as a strict religious person. Despite his significant position as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, he faced substantial opposition, particularly from the Parcham faction. This internal discord delayed his rise to a full member of the PDPA's political committee. Amin's ability to navigate these challenges and become a prominent figure in Afghan politics, including his role in the Moscow friendship treaty, marked his personal success amidst a turbulent environment.

In September 1979, Taraki's visit to Cuba and subsequent meeting with his rival Babrak Karmal in Moscow remains enigmatic. There is speculation that Taraki sought to reconcile with Babrak to remove Amin and redistribute power, though Soviet influence likely played a crucial role in these negotiations. The depth of the animosity between Taraki and Babrak suggests that Soviet intervention was necessary to facilitate

any form of political reconciliation, particularly given Taraki's longstanding hatred for Babrak and Amin's role as a significant obstacle to his power. The political instability within the Khalq and Parcham factions weakened Afghanistan's administration, making it vulnerable to extremist support. With the security situation deteriorating and the Afghan army struggling, Taraki saw the need for Soviet intervention to restore order. Despite plans to arrest Amin and form a new government with Babrak, Taraki's efforts faltered, and Amin swiftly resolved his political predicament. The complexities of this period highlight the challenging dynamics of Afghan politics and external influences shaping its trajectory. In early December 1979, Yuri Andropov alerted Leonid Brezhnev to Amin's covert activities, his pro-Western inclinations, and the potential end of communist rule in Afghanistan, which could threaten Soviet influence. Andropov emphasized the need for military aid to support Babrak Karmal and his allies, though he did not explicitly propose a full-scale Soviet invasion. However, Andropov's primary goal was to finalize plans for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Following this, key figures including Andropov, Dmitriy Ustinov, Andrei Gromyko, and Boris Ponomarev, convened with Brezhnev and secured approval for Soviet military action. The Politburo authorized these officials to manage the invasion's execution in utmost secrecy. The documents related to the plan were handwritten by Politburo mem-

bers, and even typists were excluded from the process. Marshal Akhromeyev and the General Staff Operations Group established their base near the Afghan border, while KGB operatives traveled to Kabul to oversee Amin's removal, marking the commencement of Operation Agate.

The KGB's secrecy surrounding the assassination plan was intense. A covert team, including a chef planted in Amin's palace, was tasked with administering poison. The same toxicology laboratory that had been involved in previous assassinations, like that of Georgi Markov, handled the preparation of the poison. Talebov, an Azerbaijani operative, infiltrated Amin's kitchen and poisoned the food, ensuring the execution of the assassination plan without arousing suspicion.

On December 13, 1979, Babrak Karmal and key members of his future government secretly fled from Moscow to Bagram Air Base, positioning themselves to take control of Afghanistan immediately after Amin's removal. Meanwhile, on December 17, Asadullah Amin, Hafizullah Amin's son-in-law and head of the security service, fell gravely ill from food poisoning and was rushed to Moscow for treatment. The meal that led to his illness had been prepared for Hafizullah Amin, indicating that the poisoning attempt, orchestrated by Talebov, had not gone as planned. Despite Talebov's efforts, Amin's cautious behavior, including frequent changes in his food and drink, thwarted the poisoning plot.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal)



HAFIZULLAH AMIN WAS WIDELY SUSPECTED OF USING MARXISM AS A POLITICAL TOOL RATHER THAN ADHERING TO ITS PRINCIPLES, WHILE PUBLICLY PRESENTING HIMSELF AS A STRICT RELIGIOUS PERSON

The impact of CHETNA: Saving lives and empowering communities

'CHETNA@40-Nurturing Dreams, Empowering Destinies,' chronicles four decades of transformative work in women's health and community empowerment across India

When Julkiben, a dai or a traditional birth attendant (TBA), received a call from a pregnant woman, she immediately swung into action. First, she dialled 108, the number of the state government emergency ambulance. After she reached the pregnant woman's house, she cut a clean cloth into pieces to be used at the hospital and kept an empty lota (water container) ready to fetch and store water. But when the woman's labour pains increased and it became impossible for her to climb down the hillock to reach the ambulance, Julkiben summoned young men from the neighbourhood to make a sling from a bed sheet and carry the pregnant woman to the ambulance. They had bare-



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

ly reached the hospital labour room when the woman delivered. Julkiben's presence of mind and timely action helped to save the lives of mother and child.

It was not just TBAs like Julkiben but women, their families and community members in 60 villages in Vansada and Chikhali, two tribal blocks of Gujarat's Navsari district, who learnt that maternal deaths could be

prevented by accessing the public health system's maternal healthcare services. In fact, the three-year initiative in these two blocks by the Centre for Health Education Training Nutrition and Adolescents (CHETNA), the Ahmedabad-based not-for-profit working to empower women, adolescents and children, led to remarkable changes. There was an increase in institutional deliveries from 58% to 82% in Vansada block. More importantly, of the 776 deliveries that took place during the last phase of the intervention, not a single maternal death was registered in the area.

How was this achieved? What was done differently that brought about behavioural change? Could this success be replicated in other districts

with poor health indicators for women?

Answers to all these questions and more have been given in the recently published coffee table book to mark their milestone of turning forty. Titled 'CHETNA@40-Nurturing Dreams, Empowering Destinies', the book chronicles the organization's four decades of collective efforts, its distinctive approaches and the impact made by its innovative communication strategies that transformed countless lives and communities in 78 districts, 124 blocks and 439 villages in seven states.

One of the biggest reasons behind its ability to make a difference has been its focus on incorporating a gender lens to all its work, says Pallavi Patel, co-founder and Director,



CHETNA. Being the country's first all-women health initiative helped make CHETNA a trendsetter in women's health, nutrition and gender. Its pioneering approaches and impactful communications material gave it an edge over others. The popularity of their resources can be gauged by the fact that in 2022-2023 alone, over 2,77,981 copies of CHETNA's materials were sought by various government and NGOs based in 11 states.

The book unpacks their hands on, people-centred strategies to tackle not just the challenges in dealing with child birth complications in remote tribal areas with minimal health facilities in Rajasthan and Gujarat, but widespread nutritional anaemia in Gujarat, Rajasthan and MP. It also reveals how CHETNA fostered a change in behaviour in getting 70 schools certified tobacco free in Ahmedabad as well as in mindsets especially in Mehsana, Gujarat, one of the districts with the worst child sex ratio (CSR) in the eighties and nineties. The deeply entrenched son preference psyche and practice of placing the blame on the woman when a girl was born was addressed through saas-bahu meetings, engaging with caste panchayat leaders

and innovative dal-chawal games to explain the role of the X and Y chromosomes in determining the sex of the child. At the centre of these efforts has been CHETNA's ability to be adaptable, flexible and, creative. Besides out of the box thinking, health messages have been tweaked according to local needs, traditions and practices. Their innovative anaemia kit has undergone several adaptations as has their unique and highly popular cloth aprons with several flaps that are worn by male and female trainers to show the reproductive organs in the two sexes. Songs, games and animation films have been created to share knowledge on child care, nutrition, puberty, menstruation, adolescent

health, anaemia and contraception. The book details how CHETNA, which works under the symbiotic umbrella of the Nehru Foundation for Development set up in 1966 by the eminent scientist Vikram Sarabhai, strategically used their scientific and inventive health communications to make a lasting impact. Whether it has been to break the silence on menstruation, or creating an enabling environment for girls, CHETNA has shown that the dream it began with 40 years ago, of making women the mistress of their own destinies, was not an impossible one.

(The writer is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views are expressed are personal)

IN BRIEF



Gold prices remain steady; silver declines Rs 400

Gold prices remained flat at Rs 74,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in scattered deals even as it weakened in the overseas markets. Silver prices, however, declined Rs 400 to Rs 87,800 per kilogram. It had ended at Rs 88,200 per kg in the previous session on Tuesday. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also ruled flat at Rs 74,000 per 10 grams. Traders attributed the fall in silver price due to poor offtake by industrial units and global influences. In the international markets, comex gold is trading at USD 2,542.20 per ounce, down USD 10.70 per ounce or 0.42 per cent. "Gold prices were slightly lower during European trading hours on Wednesday, due to a rebound in the US dollar," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, comex gold is trading above USD 2,500 per ounce, supported by the FOMC meeting minutes, which reinforced expectations of a September rate cut.



MoRTH: Single bid for highway projects will be acceptable

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on Wednesday said that even a single bid for national highways work will be considered if it is reasonable. As per the circular, the bidding process will not be cancelled if there is only one bidder for a highway project. "Even when only one bid is submitted, the process should be considered valid, provided the procurement was satisfactory advertised and sufficient time was given for submission of bids, the qualification criteria were not restrictive and prices are reasonable in comparison to market value," it said. Regarding reasonableness of the prices, the circular said the evaluation committee may examine the rates taking into consideration the comparison with the similar contracts awarded elsewhere. The purchase price of similar contracts may be updated taking into consideration inflation during the interim period, geographical conditions etc, it added.



GQG Partners hikes stake in GMR Airports to 5.17 pc

Private equity player GQG Partners has hiked its stake in GMR Airports Infrastructure to 5.17 per cent by snapping up additional shares worth over Rs 433 crore through open market transactions. GQG Partners, also a key investor in Adani Group, purchased 0.43 per cent stake in GMR Airports Infrastructure on August 23, according to a regulatory filing on Wednesday. Prior to the transactions, GQG Partners held a 4.74 per cent shareholding in the company. Through its affiliates, Fort Lauderdale-based asset management firm GQG Partners acquired an additional 0.43 per cent or over 4.52 crore shares. At the closing price of Rs 95.85 apiece on August 23, the shares are worth more than Rs 433 crore. Earlier, GQG Partners held 7.66 per cent stake in the company but due to corporate actions, the shareholding reduced below 5 per cent, as per the filing. "On August 23, 2024, the acquirer and PACs (Persons Acting in Concert) acquired further shares of the company, resulting in their shareholding crossing 5 per cent of the share capital of the company," the filing said.

Cabinet approves expansion of scope of AIF scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday expanded the scope of Rs 1 lakh crore-Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme to make it more attractive, as part of its objective to strengthen farm-related infrastructure facilities in the country.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the "progressive expansion in central sector scheme of financing facility under the AIF to make it more attractive, impactful and inclusive", an official statement said.



enhance and strengthen the agricultural infrastructure in the country and support the farming community, the government has announced a series of measures to expand the scope of the AIF scheme.

"These initiatives aim at expanding the scope of eligible projects and integrate additional supportive measures to foster a robust agricultural infrastructure ecosystem," it added.

The government has allowed all eligible beneficiaries of the scheme for creation of infrastructure covered under 'viable projects for building community farming assets'.



RBI focusses on making UPI, RuPay 'truly global': Das

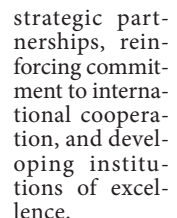
PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said efforts are on to make UPI and RuPay "truly global", as he outlined focus areas of the central bank going forward.

Speaking at the Global Fintech Fest 2024, the governor said the Reserve Bank's focus is on financial inclusion, deepening digital public infrastructure (DPI), consumer protection and cyber security, sustainable finance and global integration of financial services.

India is engaged actively in international fora and bilateral agreements to foster economic cooperation with many countries going forward, and strengthening financial infrastructure, including cross-border payment systems, will be the RBI's key focus areas, he added.

Das said India, with its tech talent and evolved financial fintech ecosystem, holds the potential to serve as a global hub for digital innovation and fintech startups, building and strengthening



The Governor said the RBI's focus is on financial inclusion, deepening digital public infrastructure (DPI), consumer protection and cyber security

strategic partnerships, reinforcing commitment to international cooperation, and developing institutions of excellence.

"We are now focusing on making the UPI and the RuPay truly global," Governor Das said.

He further said that notable progress in this

UPI network.

These endeavours, he said, underscore collaborative efforts for the adoption of India's initiatives across the globe.

Referring to the fintech sector, he said the segment attracted about USD 6 billion in investments in the last two years.

Addressing the gathering, Das said India is now a fast-growing economic powerhouse and stressed that financial institutions and fintech must swiftly adopt a robust framework to capitalise on new opportunities and mitigate risks.

The governor further said digital financial inclusion has unique advantages of scalability and cost-effectiveness.

New trinity of JAM-UPI-UPI will be a revolutionary step forward in India's digital infrastructure journey, he added.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones, while RuPay is domestically designed global card payment network

SBI raises Rs 7,500 cr via tier-II bonds

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday announced raising of Rs 7,500 crore through its first Basel III-compliant tier-2 bond issuance for the current financial year. The bonds with a coupon rate of 7.42 per cent are issued for a tenor of 15 years, with call option after 10 years and each anniversary dates thereafter, SBI said in a statement. The issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids in excess of Rs 8,800 crore against the base issue size of Rs 5,000 crore, it said. The total number of bids received was 70 indicating wider participation with heterogeneity of bids, it said, adding that the investors were across provident funds, pension funds, mutual funds, banks, etc. SBI Chairman C S Setty said wider participation and heterogeneity of bids demonstrated the trust investors place in the country's largest bank.

C S Setty takes over as SBI chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty on Wednesday assumed charge as Chairman of the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI).

He succeeds Dinesh Khara, who superannuated after 37 years of service at the bank at the closing of business hours on Tuesday, SBI said in a regulatory filing.



Prior to becoming chairman, Setty was the senior-most managing director of the bank.

As per the convention, the chairman is appointed from a pool of serving managing directors of SBI. Usually, the senior-most managing director becomes chairman of the bank.

Setty, who also headed various task forces/committees formed by the Government of India, had earlier looked after

the bank's retail and digital banking portfolio.

A Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers, Setty began his career with SBI in 1988 as a Probationary Officer.

Across a career spanning over three decades, he has rich experience in corporate credit, retail, digital and international banking and banking in developed markets.

Setty has held key assignments in State Bank of India, including Deputy Managing Director - Stressed Assets Resolution Group, Chief General Manager and General Manager in Corporate Accounts Group, Deputy General Manager in Commercial Branch, Indore and VP & Head (Syndications) in SBI, New York Branch.

SHARP GAINS IN IT SHARES

Nifty rises marginally to hit new lifetime high

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Nifty rose marginally to hit a fresh lifetime high of 25,052, and Sensex gained over 70 points on Wednesday, helped by buying in IT, tech and healthcare stocks amid a largely positive global market.

Foreign capital inflows and lower global crude oil prices kept the investor sentiment optimistic, traders said.

"However, valuation remains a near-term deterrent, which will be further tested based on the upcoming India Q1 FY25 GDP data this week. On the other hand, investors are giving more emphasis to defensive bets, which is evident with the outperformance in IT and pharma stocks," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Rising for the tenth straight session, the NSE Nifty went up



by 34.60 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 25,052.35. The benchmark surged 111.85 points or 0.44 per cent to hit a fresh intra-day all-time peak of 25,129.60.

Extending its winning run to the seventh day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 73.80 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 81,785.56. During the day, it jumped 327.5 points or 0.40 per cent to 82,039.26.

"Nifty failed to sustain midday gains and closed near the flatline for the day. However, it managed to touch a new all-time

of 25,129.60, making 25,000 a crucial support level now. Nifty IT index was the biggest gainer on the sectoral front, rising 1.64 per cent. "The IT index has now gained for three consecutive sessions on the back of Fed's interest rate cut comments. With India VIX gaining 2 per cent, broader markets midcap and small-caps closed in the red. Going ahead, US and Indian GDP data and tomorrow's monthly F&O expiry will be key to monitor," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, said.

LNG under new pacts to flow from 2026: GAIL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd will start importing LNG under two new contracts from 2026 and has added one more ship to transport the fuel, its Chairman Sandeep Kumar Gupta said on Wednesday.



The company had in January this year signed back-to-back deals to import liquefied natural gas (LNG). It first signed deal to import 1 million tonnes of LNG from Dutch energy trader Vitol for 10 years and then another agreement to buy 0.5 million tonne per annum of LNG from UAE's ADNOC-Gas.

"As a leading natural gas player, your company recognises the importance of

ensuring supply security. In this direction, we have signed two 10-year LNG supply agreements, starting in 2026: 1 million tonnes from Vitol Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore and 0.5 million tonnes from ADNOC Gas, UAE," he said at the company's annual general meeting.

LNG is natural gas, extracted from below the surface, that has been cooled down to liquid form for

ease and safety of non-pressurised storage or transport.

GAIL will import LNG in cryogenic ships and turn it back into its gaseous state before piping it to users that may include power plants for generating electricity, fertiliser units for producing crop nutrients or city gas operators for selling to automobiles as CNG or piping to household kitchens for cooking.

Amitabh's family office buys stake in Swiggy: Reports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan's family office is believed to have picked up a minor stake in IPO-bound food-delivery and quick-commerce platform Swiggy. The stake has been picked up through the purchase of shares from the company's employees and early investors, according to media reports. When contacted, Swiggy declined to comment.



Meanwhile, Bachchan could not be reached for comment.

In April this year, Swiggy received shareholders' approval for an initial public offering to raise Rs 10,414 crore fund through the issue of fresh equity shares and an offer for sale.

UPI transaction volume expected to rise to 439 bn : report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The total transaction volume on UPI is expected to increase to 439 billion by 2028-29 from about 131 billion in the last financial year and account for 91 per cent of overall retail digital payments, said a PwC India Report.

The report titled 'The Indian Payments Handbook - 2024-29' also said India's digital payments landscape has witnessed remarkable growth over the past eight years and the industry is projected to expand more than three times in volume, from 159 billion transactions in 2023-24 to 481 billion by 2028-29.

In terms of value of payment transactions, the market growth is expected to double, from Rs 265 lakh crore to Rs 593 lakh crore over the same period.

The PwC India report said UPI continues its remarkable growth trajectory with a year-on-year growth in transaction volume of 57 per cent, it said. "In FY 2023-24, the total

transaction volume was slightly over 131 billion and is expected to grow to 439 billion by 2028-29. UPI now accounts for over 80 per cent of the overall retail digital payments in India and is expected to contribute to 91 per cent by 2028-29," the report said. It further said credit cards have witnessed a formidable growth in 2023-24 with the industry adding more than 16 million new ones. With the addition of new cards, the industry has also seen 22 per cent and 28 per cent surge in transactional volume and value, respectively.

On the other hand, debit cards have seen a dip in both transactions volume and value owing to the shift in preferences by cardholders.

Credit cards are expected to reach 200 million by 2028-29, the PwC India report said, adding that newer features, innovations, product propositions and customer segments are expected to contribute towards this growth.

Shipping ministry approves wage structure revision for workers of major ports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has approved wage structure revision for workers at major ports, an official statement said on Wednesday.



According to the statement, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Bipartite Wage Negotiation Committee (BWNC) and the Indian Port Association (IPA), averting an indefinite strike that was set to disrupt operations across 12 major ports in India.

The MoU facilitates the revision of the wage structure and addresses other service conditions, including pensionary benefits, it added.

It was also agreed that the fitment benefit of 8.5 per cent on the aggregate amount of basic pay as of December 31, 2021, plus 30 per cent VDA

(variable dearness allowance) as of January 1, 2022, will be granted.

"The periodicity of the settlement is set for five years, from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2026.

"The new pay scales, effective from January 1, 2022, will be formulated according to existing practices," the statement said.

Both parties agreed to consider aligning the periodicity of future wage revisions for both officers and employees, starting from January 1, 2027, to avoid any potential anomalies, the ministry said.

PRICE MANIPULATION

Sebi cautions against investing in shares of SME cos

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid certain SME companies resorting to share price manipulation by projecting an unrealistic picture of their operations, Sebi on Wednesday cautioned investors against putting their money in scrips of such firms.

Sebi, in a statement, said it has come to its notice that post-listing, some of the SME companies or their promoters have been making public announcements that create a

positive picture of their operations. Such announcements are followed by various corporate actions like bonus issues, stock splits and preferential allotments.

The actions create a positive sentiment amongst investors, which induces them to purchase such securities. Simultaneously, this also presents an easy opportunity to the promoters to offload their holdings in such companies at elevated prices.

"Sebi urges investors to be

careful and watchful of the aforesaid patterns and exercise caution while investing in such securities. Further, investors are advised to not rely on unverified social media posts and not to invest based on tips/rumours," the statement noted.

Sebi, in the recent past, has passed orders against such entities. It can be seen that the modus operandi of these entities follows a pattern that is by and large similar to what has been mentioned above.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
No. 328/TUFD/CKMC/2024-25 Dated: 27-08-2024
Works in Khammam District - 10 Nos of works - Estimated cost Rs.1265.00 Lakhs. Reserved for SC 2 Nos- Rs. 170.00 Lakhs and ST 1 No - Rs. 75.00 Lakhs. Download start date 31-08-2024 and Down load end date as per uploaded bid document. Further details can be seen at www.tender.telangana.gov.in
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH)
R.O.No: 328/PH/CL/NDVT/2024-25, Dt: 28-08-2024 UNIT-1, TUFDIC, Warangal.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Short NIT No.20/SE (M)/Sec-bad Zone/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 27-08-2024
No. of Works: 01 Work, Estimated amount: Rs. 118.09 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 28.08.2024 @ 1:00 PM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 31.08.2024 @ 1:00 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: SE, Sec'bad Zone, GHMC, Cell No. 9989930374. Further details can be seen at @ https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer
R.O.No: 3372/PH/CL/NDVT/2024-25, Dt: 28-08-2024 Secunderabad Zone, GHMC

SATVIC REVOLUTION: REVITALISING WELLNESS THROUGH ANCIENT WISDOM

AARTI SREENATH

Founded in August 2017, the Satvic Movement, led by Subah Saraf and Harshvardhan Saraf, is at the forefront of holistic health education. This organisation merges ancient wisdom with contemporary wellness practices to promote a transformative lifestyle.

Subah Saraf's health journey started with major hurdles after a personal encounter. Despite receiving conventional treatments, she faced difficulties after being diagnosed with a thyroid disorder and later PCOD. She dealt with severe health issues for a period of seven years. Conventional medicine, however, did not work, which further led to her becoming overweight.

Her life came to a change in 2016 with the adoption of the Satvic lifestyle, emphasising reconnecting with nature and dietary changes. In just four months of following a Satvic diet and lifestyle, her blood tests normalised. It was a complete turnaround for her.

Motivated by her success, she learned from Indian masters and various international institutions, such as the Hippocrates Health Institute, to pursue a career as a health educator.

Later in 2019, Subah met Harshvardhan Saraf, who had also transformed his health through the Satvic lifestyle, reversing his psoriasis and sinusitis.

Meeting Harsh and collaborating was a game-changer for her. Together, they began sharing their health insights through online platforms. Their goal was to make holistic health accessible and relatable; their efforts quickly resonated with millions, leading to the formation of the *Satvic Movement*.

The *Satvic Movement* now boasts a substantial global presence. Their online workshops have impacted over 100,000 participants. In Hyderabad, an event showcased the movement's effectiveness and appeal. They launched their book, "The Satvic



The Pioneer brings to you about the Satvic movement, which aims to transform the lives of millions of people through the Satvic way of life

Revolution," which outlines habits for a holistic lifestyle, including maintaining good gut health, plant-based eating, proper sleep routines, having a purpose, nourishing relationships, incorporating movement and waking up early. The event featured engaging activities, including dancing and kirtan, evoking deep emotions. "The audience in Hyderabad was incredibly enthusiastic and quick to respond. The energy during the event, especial-

ly when music was involved, was electrifying," Harsh observed. The movement draws its principles from ancient Vedic texts, such as the Bhagavad Gita. Regarding the inspiration behind the movement, Harshvardhan said, "Our conviction comes from our own experiences, but the ongoing inspiration is from our ancient texts and Vedic wisdom. Nothing we share is made up; it's deeply rooted in our scriptures. We're just presenting it in a way that resonates with the youth, making it cool rather than boring. The food philosophy, for example, comes from the Bhagavad Gita."

This approach includes dietary changes, emotional and spiritual health, and practices like reconnecting with nature. The movement faces challenges in convincing older generations to embrace these changes. He noted, "With older audiences, the challenge is that they are used to their established ways. Subtle changes seem significant, and they question how to integrate these into their social lives. Younger audiences are more willing to adapt, finding it easier to make shifts. The challenge lies in overcoming the fixation on traditional ways. If enough people adopt these changes, it becomes easier for others to follow suit. Our goal is to create a tipping point

where it becomes a norm." He added, "These events are about fun and learning, allowing people to forget their problems and reconnect with their inner child. It's an emotional roller coaster—laughter, tears, surprises, passion and inspiration. Our nationwide tours help us connect with our community, which is usually only seen online. Meeting people in person and hearing their stories, like reversing diseases and becoming healthier because of us, inspires us to continue. The *Satvic Movement* belongs to everyone, and we're helping people realise their dreams by showing them the way. We're also planning to create Satvic World."

The *Satvic Movement's* nationwide tour aims to foster direct connections with their community. Harsh shared, "These events help us engage with our audience beyond the digital realm. We get to hear their personal stories of transformation, which is incredibly motivating."

The *Satvic Movement* continues to champion a holistic lifestyle, blending ancient wisdom with modern wellness. Their efforts not only promote a healthier way of living but also strengthen the sense of community among their followers. On the key messages of their book, he reflects, "The seven habits discussed in the book are the essence of our philosophy. It's about the pillars of good health, not just physical health but also emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. This is where our source of happiness comes from."

Clearing the smoke! Does nicotine cause cancer?

In a world of information overload, especially with the proliferation of social media, the authenticity of information is often questionable. One such misconception is that nicotine is a carcinogen and the main cause of cancer. According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), nicotine is not the primary cause of cancer or for that matter lung disease. Tobacco-related cancer is caused by toxins released from the combustion of cigarettes.

Even the UK's National Health System (NHS) has stated that although nicotine is addictive, it is relatively harmless to health. However, it is the toxic chemicals contained in tobacco smoke that cause almost all the harm from smoking. Nicotine itself does not cause cancer, lung disease, heart disease or stroke and has been used safely for many years in medicines to help people stop smoking.

It is often concluded that nicotine is only found in tobacco and leads to cancer. But is it true? It is a natural ingredient found in several plants. Various vegetables such as eggplant, tomatoes, potatoes, among others, also contain nicotine in trace amounts.

There are more than 7,000 chemicals in cigarette smoke. Of these, at least 250 are known to be harmful to health, such as hydrogen cyanide, carbon monoxide and ammonia. Some are natural components of the tobacco plant itself, but most harmful substances are only formed on combustion of tobacco and not by nicotine itself.

Products containing nicotine are often used to reduce anxiety, stress, or depression. A survey in the 'Human-Centric Approach to Tobacco Control' report highlights that stress and anxiety motivate tobacco consumption for 62% males and 40% females in tier 1 cities.

Nicotine from cigarettes is absorbed into the lungs through inhalation of smoke. When nicotine enters the body, it enters the circulatory system and reaches the brain within 20 seconds, causing nerve stimulation, resulting in feelings of euphoria.

The burden of cancer and tobacco related diseases is immense. A recent report by WHO suggests that new cancer cases are likely to rise to at least thirty-five million in 2050, a 77% rise over the cases diagnosed in 2022. In India, an estimated 1.4 million cancer cases were recorded in the same year, while one in nine citizens could develop cancer in their lifetime.

Generally, lower doses of nicotine are used in safer tobacco alternatives like nicotine gums, patches, lozenges & other technologies like heat-not-burn (HnB), minimising their exposure to carcinogens and other harmful substances in cigarette smoke. In fact, it is important to consider that if nicotine were causing cancer, then why would experts and professionals promote Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) as a cessation aid. Nicotine alternatives eliminate combustion and consequently reduce the levels of harmful compounds. They are a crucial factor in one's journey to quit & should be the cornerstone for tobacco control policies to improve public health.

Documenting tales of painful healing

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Given the number of crimes against women that occur in the nation, including rape, the documentary *Pink Belt* about Aparna Rajawat may serve as an inspiration to a great deal of people.

Aparna has spent the last few years teaching self-defense, giving motivational lectures and educating women about their legal rights. In an exclusive interview, John McCrite, the documentary's director, divulges information on the same. For instance, introducing the statement with, "To ensure that India was portrayed authentically and respectfully, I hired Aditya Patwardhan, who is from Jaipur, as a producer. We also employed one of the camera operators, the incredible Haley L. Watson, who is a self-produced documentary filmmaker. Haley took a lot of the pictures of the young ladies and girls in the movie. Through her photography lens, she gave *Pink Belt* an intimate depth and strength. I collaborated with our director of photography, Jon Lile, on a narrative film, and we have a wonderful working rapport. Allowing Aparna to narrate her tale was the major thing I accomplished. As we pursued her, India's narrative unfolded naturally. Aparna trained industrial workers, who then informed us about rape that occurs within marriages. She trained survivors at Sheru's Cafe and we learned about acid attacks from them."

Aparna was the tour manager for John when she was on vacation in India. As the tour bus approached Delhi, Aparna informed him that we were required to open the curtains according to legislation implemented following the Nirbhaya case. She continued by telling him about how she founded the *Pink Belt Mission* to instruct women in self-defense. She travelled to the United States for a vacation a few months later and John requested if he might record her narrating the stories she had told him on the bus. In that interview, Aparna declared that to raise awareness for her cause, she would smash the record for the most women trained in self-defense. John realised at that point that he had to follow her in her quest to break the record. He could follow everything through to the very end in real time!

"The women shared their individual tales. And they are violent stories, as you say and quite severe. However, the atmosphere in the room changed when Aparna entered and began teaching these ladies how to defend themselves. Aparna is a bright light who makes others laugh



John McCrite, the visionary filmmaker behind the *Pink Belt* documentary, takes *The Pioneer* through the behind-the-scenes of the project and also shares some insights into its chronicles

and feel hopeful. Not only does Aparna not fear the truth, but she also spreads happiness. Because that is Aparna's true self, that is the reason the movie has that vibe. Aparna empowers young girls by instilling in them the belief that they are capable of shaping their own future and by teaching them the importance of self-defense," adds *Little Boy Blues* fame. He goes on, "We always had two cameras following Aparna everywhere she went. However, the crowd for the world record event was so large that we needed to use seven cameras, including a drone. In order to walk onto the stage with Aparna for the world record event, we employed a gimble, a moving camera. The scene in the movie *Bohemian Rhapsody* where Freddie Mercury takes the stage for the *Live Aid* performance is where I got the concept. The most beautiful scene in the movie is when Aparna, seen by the camera from her point of view, climbs the stairs and onto the stage to greet the women participating in the world record event. The moment is also aided by the music's swell. Additionally, David Norland's thunderous orchestral composition effectively conveys the rage that lies behind the violent narrative."

Because of the brutality Aparna experienced in her own family, martial arts play a crucial role in the narrative. John was certain that she won the title of sixteen-time Indian martial champion not just because she was passionate about the sport but also because it equipped her with the defensive abilities her family had taught her. She turned to martial

arts because she felt compelled to defend herself. It is also encouraging to see the satisfaction she derives from mentoring young girls to avoid experiencing violent actions and from training women who have endured violent acts. In the movie, Aparna's tale and the stories of all the girls she coaches find solace and transformation in the martial arts.

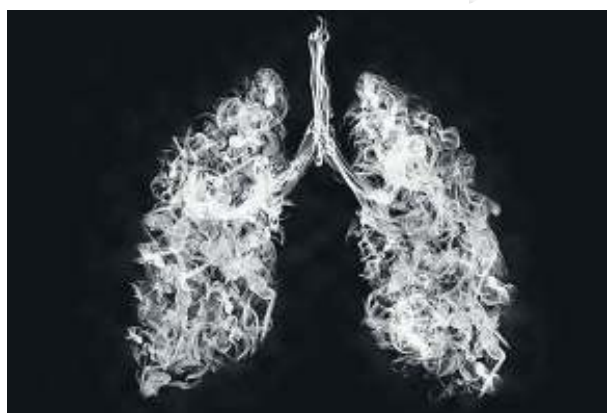
John did a fantastic job of portraying this documentary without overdoing it. He told us, "We put the CNN footage of Nirbhaya at the opening of the movie in an earlier cut of the *Pink Belt*. We chose to remove the CNN footage and let Aparna's personal account of her experiences with violence speak for itself, even though it is undoubtedly one of the reasons she founded *Pink Belt*. I was inspired to relate Aparna's narrative to Nirbhaya's." He preserved everything about Aparna's life that demonstrated her ability to overcome hardship. Every one of the women's tales he displayed involved overcoming adversity. Aparna's struggles throughout the World Record Event demonstrate her perseverance and ability to overcome obstacles. She uses teaching women self-defense as a means of getting over her painful history and finding healing. The most difficult task was narrating historical events without becoming tedious. Using family images, he made Aparna's sisters browse through the book of family photos. It was more interesting to watch her sisters' reactions to the pictures than it was to show them.

The *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* Adjacent star recalls, "The young women in the colleges seeing self-defense moves for the first time always gets me," when discussing one of the unexpected reactions he witnessed while filming *Pink Belt*. "When Aparna overcomes her male sparring partner, everyone gasps in shock before erupting into cheers. It is evident in real time how she is altering their perspective on safety. When she finishes, they react as though they have seen a rock star. She tells them the rape statistics and they listen intent-

ly to everything she says."

His American audience in Palm Springs was recently sold out. They wept, they laughed and they applauded when Aparna entered the stage for the world record event. They gave it a standing ovation when the film ended. He was told personal accounts of rape and molestation by numerous women and men in the crowd. Violence and rape are issues that extend beyond India. It's an international issue. He discovered in Palm Springs that the movie has a therapeutic effect. It initiated the discussion. Additionally, Aparna's tale encourages others to support her *Pink Belt Mission* by getting involved. The world record attempt was brilliantly documented in the documentary. The footage gave the impression that it was a live occurrence that happened instantly, like flying without a net. He is, however, presently writing a book about Aparna's life. "We are able to go into way more details than a documentary that lasts 78 minutes can cover," he says. He also intends to adapt the book and documentary into a narrative feature film.

"We can utilise this movie as a teaching tool. We'll be able to design instructional activities that include post-event takebacks. It will assist *Pink Belt Mission* and Aparna in reaching a global audience. My biggest lesson was that strength lies in numbers. Young girls learn to advocate for one another when they attend one of *Pink Belt's* events. They foster community, which is the source of healing, knowledge and prevention. I was reminded to never give up by Aparna's narrative. There were numerous obstacles to overcome throughout the five years I spent working on the movie, but Aparna's and the women's tales encouraged me to keep going. I believe that the next time I make a narrative movie, I'll adopt the documentary's more direct camera technique. Following a character is thrilling because it gives the impression that the drama is unfolding right before your eyes," and with that, global documentarian John McCrite ends the interview.



what's brewing?



Actresses Priyanka Chowdhari and Srivani Naidu, along with fashion lovers, marked their presence at the date announcement event of Hillee exhibition, which will kickstart from September 4 and end on September 6, at HICC-Novotel in HITEC City.

Greeshma

Priyank

Nazya Khan

Aparna Reddy

Monika

Srivani

Vrinda

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



Tasva, launched by ABFRL in collaboration with ace couturier Tarun Tahiliani - has opened the doors to its spectacular flagship store in the heart of Himayatnagar, Hyderabad. The grand opening was marked by the presence of Hyderabad's own superstar Naga Chaitanya alongside the legacy designer Tarun Tahiliani as Tasva's Chief Design Officer.



Priya Gazdar

Bina Mehata

Uma and Vanita

Jasleen

The Nand Utsav Celebrations, hosted by Poonam Daga, was held in the city, which marked the presence of the who's who of Hyderabad. The event was marked by an enchanting atmosphere, with the air filled with the sounds of soulful bhajans that resonated deeply with everyone present. The gathering celebrated with the cutting of a special cake in honour of Kanahiya, symbolising the joyous occasion, followed by a sumptuous serving of prasadam that reflected the richness of the tradition.

Geeta Rathi and Sarala

Lakshmi

Kusum seema Sheetal

Vasuki, Radhika, Poonam, Shubhra, Neha and Sujitha

Priyanka

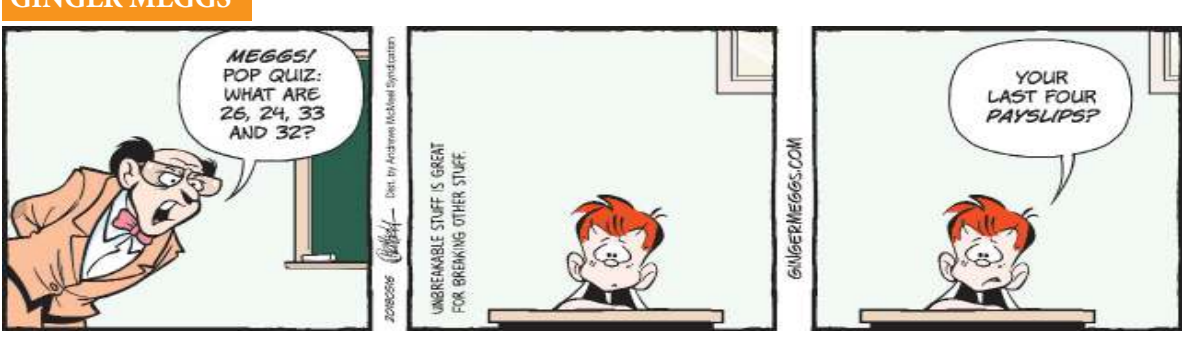
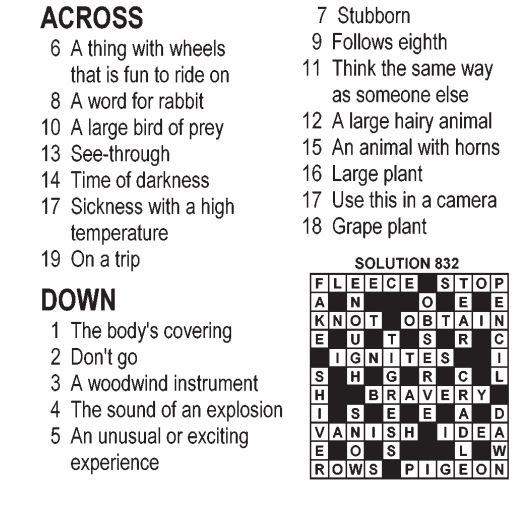
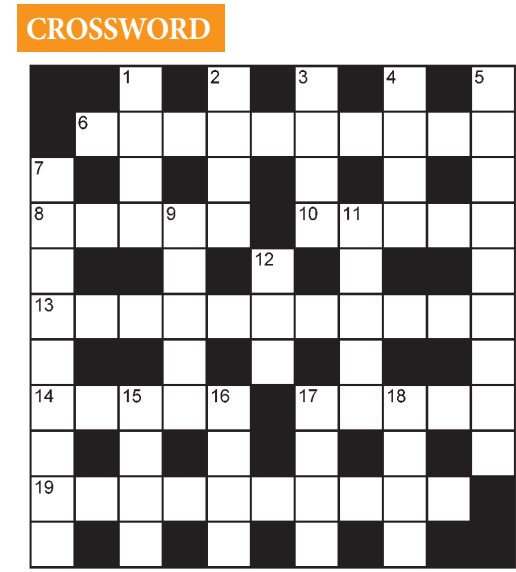
Jolly

Meenakshi, Poonam and Anu Totia

Sirisha

Poonam Daga

FUN



SHOWING DEV GILL IN A LEAD ROLE IS A BIG CHALLENGE: TRIKOTI

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Director Peta Trikoti journey goes back to working with ace director SS Rajamouli in many of the films, including films like *Magadheera* and the latest Oscar-winning film *RRR*. Though he made his debut as a director with *Dikkulu Choodaku Ramayya*, he was on hiatus for a few years. The director is now back with the upcoming film *Aho Vikramaarka*, starring Dev Gill in the lead role.

Ahead of the film's release, the director shares some insights around the making of the film.

"Dev Gill played the role of a villain in *Magadheera* that I previously worked in. Back then, I used to teach him the Telugu dialogues and also assist him for that film. Since then, we share a close bond and have constantly been in touch, be it over the phone or sometimes even meet, if time permits," says director Trikoti about his association with Dev Gill.

After *RRR* finished, Dev Gill called Trikoti and asked him to direct a film for him. "He asked me to come to Pune and it was then that we discussed the project.

Ahead of the upcoming release, *Aho Vikramaarka*, director Peta Trikoti speaks to the media here, sharing insights around the making of this film and working with Dev Gill

He wanted to do a low-budget film that would go well with the Marathi and Telugu audiences," recalls the director. He feels that it's never a cakewalk to write a story for an actor who has mostly portrayed the character of an antagonist. Therefore, he shares, "I decided to do a commercial film with a powerful character. It was then that I decided to write a story with a police backdrop. That's how *Aho Vikramaarka* started." Dev Gill, as we are all aware, plays the lead role. However, the director reveals that in the initial part of the film, he will be shown as a villain, but later turns out to be a hero due to a few circumstances.

"While shooting the film, I was scared due to how the audience would receive his (Dev) character because he is



known for his villain looks. I am presenting him as the lead actor. It's a big challenge for me," said Trikoti. He added that the story has not changed much, but Dev Gill shared a few real incidents that happened in Pune that have been included in the story.

In order to make the film appealing to all audiences, the police officers are transferred from Andhra to Pune. "I know there are hundreds of films in Telugu and other languages; my film is no different one, but it's a typical commercial

film," he said and added that the story has a mother sentiment. The film stars Chitra Shukla as the female lead, who plays a lecturer in the film. The director shares that they wanted to rope in a Telugu girl for the female lead.

His debut film, *Dikkulu Choodaku Ramayya*, released in 2014. He recalls, "It was a good film, and I got a good name, but it didn't do well at the box office. People to date remember me as the director of my debut film," said Trikoti. Later, his second film, *Juvva* released in 2018, which was also a flop. "Both films were made by popular producers, so I am not worried about the budget or release of those films. But now this *Aho Vikramaarka* I come to know how difficult it is to make a film," he added.

For the music, the team had many people in mind to get onboard, including MM Keeravani. However, Keeravani was busy with other films, so Dev Gill requested Kannada music director Ravu Basur to do this film, revealed the director. "He saw the film and then decided to give music and background score. He is simply superb," says Ravi.

Coming to the title, Trikoti wanted one that was pretty successful. When he worked with Rajamouli, he did *Vikramaarka* with Ravi Teja as a powerful police officer. "Now, I would like to take the same name, so I put *Aho Vikramaarka* for this one," he said about the title. Though Trikoti was scared in the beginning, once he completed the film, he showed a few people who liked and complimented him. "Now, I am happy and the film is releasing in Telugu, Marathi, Hindi and Kannada also."

After *RRR*, Rajamouli will next be directing a film directing Mahesh Babu. Trikoti, too, is joining Rajamouli for that project too.

Popular dialogue writer Nadiminti Narasinga Rao is no more

Nadiminti Narasinga Rao, who worked for successful films like Krishna Vamsi's *Gulabi* and Ram Gopal Varma's *Anaganaga Oka Roju*, passed away on Wednesday at a private hospital. He was not well for the past few days and was admitted at the Yashoda Hospital in Somajiguda; on Wednesday he breathed his last. He was 72 and is survived by his wife and daughter.

Narasinga was in a coma for a few days and on Wednesday morning passed away.

As a dialogue writer, he was very popular because of the two above-mentioned films. To date, the craze around his dialogues has been just as it was in the beginning. Narasinga Rao also worked for a few more films like *Patha Basti*, *Ooriki Monagadu* and *Kuchi Kuchi Koonamma*. Since he wasn't keeping well, the family members immediately joined him at Yashoda Hospital, where he went into a coma for a few days and on Wednesday morning he was no more.

Before entering into films, Narasinga Rao worked as a theater artist and gained popularity with the play *Bommalata*. He also wrote dialogues for the popular serial *Tenali Ramakrishna* that was screened on Doordarshan decades ago. He had also worked on popular serials like *Wonder Boy*, *Lady Detective* and *Antharangaalu*, which were screened on ETV. The Tamil Film Writers Association paid tribute to Narasinga Rao. In a statement, the president of the writers association, Paruchuri Gopalakrishna, says it's a big loss to the Telugu cinema and praises Narasinga Rao for his work.



NAGA CHAITANYA TALKS ABOUT HIS DESTINATION WEDDING!

The Akkineni family is in the news, buzzing and how. A few days ago, actor Akkineni Nagarjuna's N Convention Center was demolished by HYDRA, as it was reported to be an illegal construction. Later, Nagarjuna opened up about the center not being illegal and appealed to his fans that the land and his center built in a Patta-documented land are not encroached. He even showed the court order on his social media.

Nagarjuna's elder son Naga Chaitanya is also in the news now, as he is busy shooting for the film *Thandel* and just a few days back got engaged to actress Sobhita Dulipala. If the buzz is to be believed, he is planning a destination marriage in Rajasthan. He said that he wanted to celebrate his wedding ceremony with family and close friends.

Now, the *Bangaraju* actor has inaugurated a flagship store in Himayatnagar. While interacting with the media, he refrained himself from speaking about anything around demolition. However, when asked about his marriage, he said, "I haven't decided yet about the venue, but I definitely inform all of you in advance of all the details about my marriage," said Naga Chaitanya.

Chay had previously married actress Samantha in 2017, which was a love marriage. However, the couple parted ways in 2021. For the past few years, Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dulipala have been seen together in quite a few places; however, they never confirmed their relationship until their engagement got official!



Manju Warrier kickstarts dubbing for Vettaiyan

Actress Manju Warrier has commenced the dubbing process for her upcoming Tamil movie *Vettaiyan*. The creators of the movie revealed the news via social media on Wednesday. The movie is scheduled for release on October 10, as confirmed by the producers.

Manju Warrier, who appeared in the Malayalam movie *Footage*, will co-star with Rajinikanth in their upcoming film *Vettaiyan*. The producers revealed that Manju Warrier has started recording her lines for her role on Wednesday. *Vettaiyan* is scheduled to hit theaters on October 10th. The movie featuring Rajinikanth will be available in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Kannada. *Vettaiyan* is both written and directed by TJ Gnanavel, who previously directed the highly praised movie *Jai Bhim*.

Shriya to make special appearance in Suriya 44



Suriya and Karthik Subbaraj's upcoming film *Suriya 44* is currently in the production, with filming moving forward at a rapid pace. While the producers are occupied with filming, the latest updates indicate that actress Shriya Saran will have a cameo in the movie starring Suriya.

Sources have reported that Shriya Saran will join Suriya in a lively dance song created by Santhosh Narayanan. According to reports, the actress has finished filming her scenes in Ooty and will act alongside the Tamil star in this movie directed by Karthik Subbaraj.

The production of *Suriya 44* has been moving fast, with the crew recently finishing filming in Ooty following multiple weeks. The filming has now shifted to Kerala for a short period. Close to 70% of the movie has been filmed and it is anticipated that the whole production will be finished by October.

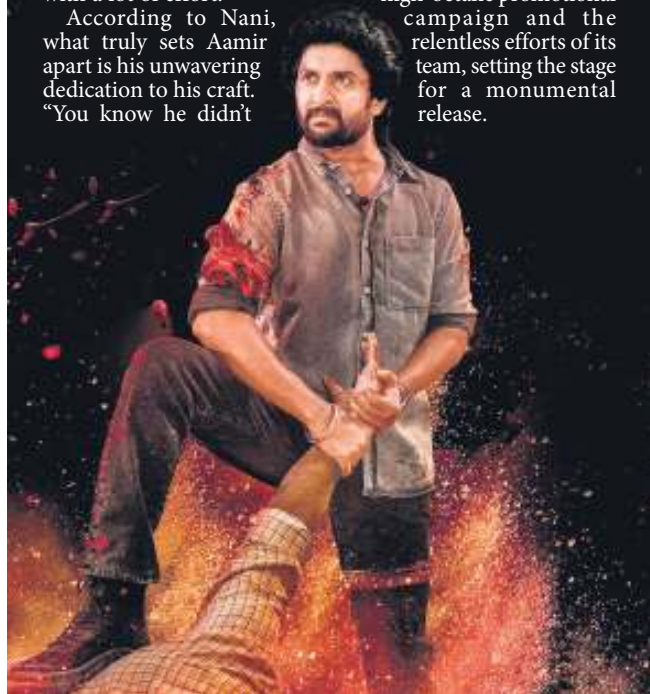
NANI COMMENDS AAMIR KHAN

Nani, the natural star of Telugu cinema, shared his thoughts on Aamir Khan in a recent conversation, discussing the profound impact the Bollywood icon has had on Indian cinema. Reflecting on Aamir's golden period, Nani recalled, "Aamir sir at one point in time; *Dil Chahta Hai*, *Rang De Basanti*, *Lagaan*; films came back to back and with each film, he delivered some original experience at that particular time. Emotional experience, and with a lot of effort."

According to Nani, what truly sets Aamir apart is his unwavering dedication to his craft. "You know he didn't

take one single film or one single shot for granted. You know he gave his best. And that's what matters and that's what inspires you," Nani added, emphasising how Aamir's approach continues to inspire actors across the industry.

Meanwhile, the entire film industry is brimming with anticipation for a blockbuster success in the latter half of 2024 and all eyes are now on Nani's *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram*. This film has been making waves with its high-octane promotional campaign and the relentless efforts of its team, setting the stage for a monumental release.



Some positive news for Allu Arjun

Allu Arjun has been in the news for the last few days for the wrong reasons. He had attended a pre-release event as a chief guest and indirectly defended his Nandhyal visit. He also said that he has a big army of fans. His comments at that function went viral again.

On Tuesday, the Jana Sena MLA Bolisetty Srinivas criticised Allu Arjun for his comments and said Allu Arjun doesn't have a single fan; all the fans are from the Mega family and they are called Mega Fans only. The MLA lambasted Allu Arjun that he earlier campaigned for his father, Allu Aravind, but couldn't succeed. "We have won 21 MLAs, so you should be within your limits and don't talk too much," says an angry MLA. The differences started between Mega Family and Allu Arjun after the actor went for a campaign for his friend and YSRCP candidate in Nandyal at the election time.

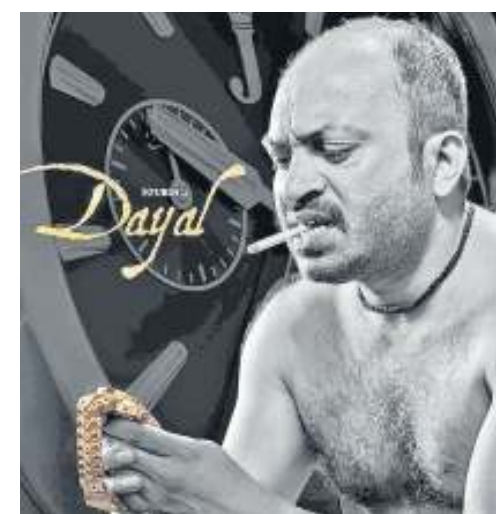
This widened the relationship between the Mega and Allu families more. Now, there is some positive news when it concerns Allu Arjun. The actor's upcoming film *Pushpa 2* is all set to release on December 6. There are reports that the film may postpone further to next year. But to put a stop to all rumours, the production house posted on its social media a picture of *Pushpa 2* and said, "Witness his rule in 100 days." With this, the production house wanted to confirm that the film is releasing on December 6 as scheduled and there is no postponement. This is a good news for Allu Arjun, as he is trolling very badly for all his comments.

Soubin Shahir onboards Rajinikanth's Coolie

Superstar Rajinikanth will next be seen in the soon-to-be-released movie *Coolie*. Touted to be an action thriller, the movie was both written and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. Now, adding to the cast is Malayalam actor Soubin Shahir to portray the character Dayal in the film and his first-look has stunned the audience.

It appears that Soubin Shahir is portraying a mysterious character and the way his appearance is revealed piques curiosity about the movie. Sathyaraj, Upendra, Shruthi Haasan, Mahendran and others have already been cast in key roles by the filmmakers, and the addition of Soubin has increased the excitement to the next level.

The movie is set against the background of gold smuggling. The movie crew is currently occupied filming in Vijayawada. The movie was filmed in Hyderabad, Chennai and various regions of Tamilnadu at an earlier time. Anirudh Ravichander is responsible for the music in the film. The cinematographer for the film is Girish Gangadharan. Philomin Raj holds the position of editor.



KOHLI, JAISWAL MOVE UP IN TEST RANKINGS, ROHIT DROPS TO 6TH



PTI ■ DUBAI

Senior India batter Virat Kohli moved up two rungs to eighth place while his captain Rohit Sharma dropped a spot to sixth in the latest ICC Test rankings released here on Wednesday. Joining Kohli and Rohit in the top 10 is young Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has moved up a spot to seventh. Veteran England batter Joe Root maintained his place as the top ranked Test batter in the world following their success in the opening Test

against Sri Lanka in Manchester. But Root's teammate Harry Brook has made a massive jump on the back of scores of 56 and 32 during that Old Trafford contest. The 25-year-old has risen three places to fourth overall, leaping past Pakistan's Babar Azam, Australia's Steve Smith and Rohit. Babar has dropped a whopping six places to fall from shared third to ninth following a rare failure in the first innings of Pakistan's Test against Bangladesh in

Rawalpindi. But teammate Mohammad Rizwan gained seven spots, achieving a new career-high rating by moving inside the top 10 at a shared 10th following his century in the same match. Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim has achieved a career-high rating as he climbed seven spots to move to 17th. Seasoned India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin continues to hold the top spot among bowlers while pacer Jasprit Bumrah and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja have maintained their third and

seventh spots respectively. England seamer Chris Woakes, who is up four rungs to 16th, and Sri Lanka's Asitha Fernando (up 10 spots to 17th) have gained some ground while Pakistan's right-arm pacer Naseem Shah (up four spots to 33rd) and England's Gus Atkinson (up four places to 42nd) have attained career-best ratings following good returns from their recent appearances. Among all-rounders, Jadeja and Ashwin continue to occupy the top two spots while Axar Patel is ranked sixth.

LLC returns with Season 3 Takes legendary cricketers to Kashmir after nearly 40 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Legends League Cricket, featuring retired swashbucklers like Shikhar Dawan and Dinesh Karthik among others, will return for a third season on September 20, criss-crossing Jodhpur, Surat, and Jammu before finally bringing the high-profile cricketers to Srinagar after close to 40 years. The league will kick off at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium in Jodhpur on September 20. A total of 25 matches will be played among six teams and the last two sides standing will play the final on October 16. The franchise-based tournament, which features a pool of over 200 players, will have its final at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar. "Legends League Cricket is back for another season and we are very excited to also be playing in Kashmir this season. This is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and



watch live cricketing action for the first time in almost 40 years," said Raman Raheja, Co-Founder, Legends League Cricket. "It also presents a unique opportunity for the cricketers to experience the beauty of Kashmir and enjoy the hospitality and

love of the wonderful people of Srinagar." The organisers stated that the league attracted a massive audience of 180 million across India during the previous season, spanning 19 matches. "With an extended schedule and a star-studded lineup, including the recently retired Dhawan and Karthik, the upcoming season is poised to surpass previous records," the organisers stated. In the previous edition held in India, former international stalwarts such as Suresh Raina, Aaron Finch, Martin Guptill, current India head coach Gautam Gambhir, Chris Gayle, Hashim Amla, Ross Taylor, and many others played alongside 110 other legendary cricketers. The league will kick off in Jodhpur and then make its way to the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat. The third leg will be played at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu. The players' auction for the event will be held here on Thursday.

Dawid Malan, former top-ranked T20 batter, retires from England cricket

AP ■ LONDON

Dawid Malan, the former top-ranked T20 batter who scored centuries for England in all formats, has announced his retirement from the international arena. The 36-year-old Malan told British newspaper The Times of London that he exceeded expectations with his success in the white-ball game but was disappointed that he couldn't

handle the intensity of Test cricket. Malan, a top-order batter, played 22 Tests as well as 30 ODIs and 62 T20 internationals. It was in the T20 game where he excelled, becoming No. 1 in the batting rankings in 2020 and winning the T20 World Cup in 2022. Malan was left out of the squad for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia and hasn't played for England in any format since the 50-over



World Cup last year. It was his inability to forge a career as a Test batter that leaves him with most regrets. "I took all three formats extremely seriously but the intensity of test cricket was something else - five days plus the days building up," Malan told the Times. "I'm a big trainer; I love hitting lots of balls and I'd train hard in the build-up, and then the days were long and intense. You can't switch off. "I found it very mentally draining, especially the long test series that I played, where my performances dropped off from the third or fourth test onwards.

Impact Player rule gives little more value for strategy and makes game fairer: Ashwin



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seasoned India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin feels that the IPL's Impact Player rule has made the game fairer and added "value for strategy" in the event. Senior India players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have been critical of the rule as they feel it holds back development of Indian all-rounders and upsets the balance between bat and ball. However, Ashwin feels the rule, introduced in the 2023 season which allows all IPL teams to substitute a player -- batter or bowler -- during their respective innings as per the demands of the match, makes the game fairer. "Why I think the Impact Player rule is not so bad is because it gives a little more value for

strategy," 'ESPNcricinfo' quoted Ashwin as saying on former India captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth's YouTube show, which is in Tamil. "The other side of that argument is it doesn't encourage all-rounders. But no one is stopping them. In this generation, they don't do it (batters bowling and vice-versa). "It's not like they're discouraged because of the Impact Player rule. Look at Venkatesh Iyer, he's currently rocking for Lancashire. There's an opportunity for innovation and it makes the game fairer," Ashwin added. The 37-year-old backed his stance by citing the Qualifier 2 match in which Sunrisers Hyderabad replaced opener Travis Head with spinner

Shahbaz Ahmed against Rajasthan Royals at this year's IPL. Ahmed went on to become the player of the match, claiming three wickets including Ashwin's. "Sunrisers brought in Shahbaz Ahmed as an Impact Player (after hitting 175 for 9 batting first). He went on to become a match-winner. Ashwin argued that the rule can play a significant role in balancing matches when there is dew. "When dew has the potential to make games one-sided, teams bowling second get an extra option as a counter. If you're batting second, you can tactically make a substitution by off-loading the extra bowler for a batter," he said. "Games are tighter, an extra player is getting to play. Barring Kolkata or Mumbai, where scores skyrocketed, they haven't been a drastic change elsewhere. Like at Punjab Kings' home venue (Mullanpur), they were all 160-170 games." On the other hand, the rule has helped several players advance in their careers, even earning spots in the national team, reckoned Ashwin. "Shahbaz Ahmed, Shivam Dube most importantly, Dhruv Jurel... If not for the Impact Player rule, he may have never gotten the chance. So the emergence of a lot of players has happened. I'm not saying that's the only way for players to emerge, but it's not so bad," he said.

Five-wicket burst from Aayush secures Purani Dilli 6's win over North Delhi Strikers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pacer Aayush Thakur's five-wicket haul powered Purani Dilli 6 to a 20-run win over North Delhi Strikers at the Delhi Premier League here. Aayush (5/27) wreaked havoc, blowing away NDS's top-order as they were restricted for 172/7 in their chase of 193. Aayush struck in his first over dismissing opener Sarthak Ranjan for a duck. He returned to get rid of Yash Dabas in the third over followed by Kshitiz Sharma in the fifth over. Opener Vaibhav Kandpal (57) and Yajas Sharma (41) stitched a 55-run partnership for the fourth wicket and looked on course to chase the target but the latter was run out.



Kandpal along with Vaibhav Rawal then took on the responsibility of chasing the target. The duo started finding boundaries at regular intervals keeping the run rate in their control.

However, Purani Dilli 6 got back in the game as Rawal was run out at a crucial time leaving NDS needing 58 runs off 32 balls. But Aayush swung into action get the key wicket of Kandpal. Aayush completed his five-wicket haul, dismissing Pranshu for a duck. Earlier, Purani Dilli 6 captain Arpit Rana (42) and Sanat Sangwan (47) put up a 94-run opening stand. With Rana back in the pavilion, Sangwan was next to take the long walk back as he was dismissed by Manan Bhardwaj. Arnav Bugga (39) and Lalit Yadav (9) stitched a 38-run partnership before Mayank Gusain helped away to 40 off just 12 balls with the blaze of one boundary and five sixes to provide the final flourish.



Zaheer Khan set to join LSG as team mentor

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Lucknow Super Giants are set to appoint former India speedster Zaheer Khan as their mentor ahead of the IPL mega auction. The appointment marks the return of the 45-year-old left-arm pacer to the IPL fold after two years, having been associated with five-time champions Mumbai Indians from 2018-2022. A formal unveiling is scheduled at the RPSG Group Headquarters here on Wednesday. "Zaheer has been appointed as team mentor and the unveiling will happen later today," sources told PTI. Zaheer will thus take up the role left vacant by Gautam Gambhir last year when he went to join his former franchise Kolkata Knight Riders and guided them to the IPL title in 2024. Gambhir is now the Indian head coach. At Mumbai Indians, Zaheer first served as the director of cricket before taking on the role of head of global development. LSG currently do not have a bowling coach after the departure of South African speedster Morne Morkel, who has joined Gambhir's coaching staff. It is learnt that Zaheer will also be involved in scouting and player-development programme during the off season. Before his coaching career, Zaheer played for three IPL teams -- Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Delhi Daredevils. Over 10 seasons, Zaheer appeared in 100 matches for these teams, claiming 102 wickets with an economy rate of 7.58. His final appearance in the IPL was in 2017 when he captained the Delhi Daredevils, after which he retired from all forms of cricket. LSG have Justin Langer as head coach with the Australian replacing Andy Flower before the last IPL as he is set to continue with his deputies Lance Klusener and Adam Voges.

Will ensure Test cricket remains priority as it forms bedrock of game: ICC chairman Jay Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Newly-elected ICC Chairman Jay Shah says he will look to ensure that Test cricket forms the "bedrock" of the game in his tenure during which he will also try to "dismantle barriers that have hindered cricket's progress". The 35-year-old will relinquish his current position of BCCI secretary to succeed incumbent Greg Barclay on December 1 as the youngest ICC Chairman for a term of two years. "While the T20 is a naturally exciting format, it is equally important that Test cricket

remains a priority for everyone as it forms the bedrock of our game," Shah said in a statement issued by the BCCI on Tuesday. "We must see to it that cricketers are driven to longer format and our efforts will be channelised towards this goal," he added. Shah said he would also like to work towards setting up a separate program for talent search. He emphasised on lifting the standard of the game across the globe. "I want to assure you that I will do everything possible to elevate the standard of our game across the globe. As I



step into this pivotal role, I am resolutely committed to meeting your high expectations and dedicating myself to the beautiful game of cricket," he said. Shah, who is the son of union home minister Amit Shah, will

relinquish his position as the BCCI secretary at the board's Annual General Meeting likely to be held towards the end of next month or in October. Shah became the fifth Indian after the late Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar to be elected for the high-profile job. "With cricket poised to make its historic debut at the Olympics in 2028, we stand at the precipice of a transformative era. This juncture is not merely a milestone, it's a clarion call for all of us involved in this magnificent sport.

West Indies beat South Africa by 8 wickets in 3rd T20, sweep series 3-0

AP ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

Nicholas Pooran blasted 35 runs from 13 balls to lead the West Indies to an eight-wicket win over South Africa in the rain-shortened third Twenty20 cricket international, securing a 3-0 series sweep. Rain delayed the start of play by an hour and returned in the fifth over of the South Africa innings, reducing the match to 13 overs per innings. South Africa was 23-0 when the rain started and Tristan Stubbs dashed 40 from 15 balls to help the visitors post 108-4 after a slow start. Stubbs hit five fours and three sixes for 38 runs from boundaries. He finished the series with 144 runs at a strike-rate of 178. Pooran almost matched him, hitting two fours and four sixes. The West Indies was 60-2 when Pooran was out to the fifth ball of the fourth over and coasted to victory with 22 balls remaining.

Shai Hope made an unbeaten 42 from 24 balls and Shimron Hetmeyer scored 31 from 17 deliveries in an unbroken partnership of 56 for the third wicket. "Obviously coming out on top is what we wanted. We wanted to win the series 3-0," West Indies captain Roston Chase said in a television interview. "Before the match, at the team meeting after everyone had spoken, I just asked the boys to give me the victory because you want to start well and I just want to thank the guys for the support and the way they played with their heart today." No overs were lost when rain delayed the toss. The West Indies eventually won the toss and chose to bowl, with an eye on the threat of further rain. South Africa began cautiously in humid conditions and the first boundary of its innings didn't come until the fourth over, hit by Ryan Rickelton from the bowling of Matthew Forde. The first six of the innings came from the next



ball. The rain returned and forced the players from the field for 70 minutes, leaving South Africa on the back foot when

it resumed. Reeza Hendricks was out three balls after the resumption, but that brought Stubbs to the crease and he did his best to blast South

Africa to a competitive total. Stubbs hit 6, 4, 6 from consecutive balls in the 11th over bowled by Obed McCoy and 4, 6, 4 in the final over

bowled by Forde. He was out with two balls left in the innings. Pooran then blasted the West Indies into an winning

position with his brilliant 13-ball cameo. He finished with a strike rate of 269. Hope hit four sixes in his innings and Hetmeyer hit four fours and a six as the West Indies completed a comprehensive win. The West Indies beat South Africa 3-0 in a Twenty20 series prior to this year's T20 World Cup, which it co-hosted with the United States, and now has swept South Africa again. But in between, South Africa eliminated the West Indies from the World Cup. "It was a tough one today. Obviously it was stop-start with the rain which hurt us quite a bit," South Africa captain Aiden Markram said. "Conditions changed quite a bit throughout the game as well. "I think we got the tougher of the conditions. That being said I think there are several areas we can improve on as a team to play better cricket in tough conditions.