

It has come to the government's notice that revenue, municipal, and irrigation officials are demanding money by intimidating people in the name of HYDRRA by using old notices and complaints filed two or three years ago. Strict action will be taken against those involved in such acts. The ACB and Vigilance have been asked to check this and ensure that those responsible are held accountable



- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

## National interest vital: SC

5

## RELIANCE NOT

BUILT ON LARGESSE; NOT HOARDING WEALTH: MUKESH AMBANI

8

## Saripodhaa Sanivaaram

Nani's film is a bit lengthy, making it a one-time WATCH

PTI

### DON'T MISS...

#### OGH, Gandhi Hospital better...

In a surprising turn of events, the recent large-scale transfer of 40% of long-serving staff working in Hyderabad's major hospitals, including Osmania and Gandhi Hospitals has led to these institutions getting better equipped with medical professionals, officials said. They said that despite initial apprehensions regarding potential disruptions to healthcare services the hospitals have not only maintained operational efficiency but have also seen a significant increase in staffing. The transfers ordered as...

-PAGE: 2

#### Give more power to...

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRRA) must be given more power and personnel in regard to issuing notices under the Outer Ring Road (ORR), said Santhi Kumari, Chief Secretary of Telangana on Thursday. The Chief Secretary held a high-level meeting to formulate a comprehensive action plan on the orders issued by the State High Court during the last few days on the removal of encroachments on ponds and preservation...

-PAGE: 3

#### Two-wheeler industry expects...

The two-wheeler industry is expected to witness robust sales in the upcoming festive season, riding on the back of strong revival in rural demand and bountiful monsoon so far, according to TVS Motor Company Senior Vice President - Head Commuter Business Aniruddha Halder. In an interaction with PTI, he noted that the growth in the two-wheeler industry is also being driven by rising acceptance of scooters in the rural areas. "In the first few months of this fiscal, we have seen the two-wheeler..."

-PAGE: 8

#### India's chances of winning in...

Former Australia coach John Buchanan believes India's chances of completing a hat-trick of Test series wins Down Under will hinge on how the visiting batters, including "ageing" stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, tackle the hosts' battery of pace bowlers. For the first time since 1991-92, India will tour Australia for a five-match Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with the opening game scheduled to be played at Perth from November 22. Buchanan, who presided over Australia's golden run in all...

-SPORTS

## Mosquitoes becoming resistant to fogging P2



## Kavitha turns emotional Meets KCR at his Erravelli home

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 As soon as he saw his daughter Kavitha KCR turned emotional. Kavitha respectfully bowed at her father's feet and KCR affectionately embraced his daughter. Kavitha, accompanied by her husband and son visited the Erravelli residence of KCR on Thursday afternoon. Kavitha was welcomed with a traditional evil-eye removal ceremony. The joy on KCR's face was evident as he saw his daughter who was recently released from detention. After a long time, KCR was seen in high spirits. BRS leaders and staff shared the joy of their leader. The arrival of Kavitha brought happiness to KCR's Erravelli residence.



Continued on Page 5

## 'CASH-FOR-VOTE CASE' TAKES CURIOUS TURN

# SC pulls up CM Revanth

Linking of Kavitha's bail to BRS-BJP 'deal' by the CM irks apex court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's reported tendentious comments on the bail granted to Bharat Rashtira Samithi leader and MLC K Kavitha seem to have landed him in a soup with regard to the 'cash-for-vote scam' case, in which the CM is the prime accused and which has now taken a curious turn with the apex court having second thoughts on appointing a special public prosecutor for trying the case in Telangana itself, instead of moving it to Madhya Pradesh as sought by the petitioners.

The Supreme Court strongly objected to Revanth Reddy's reported comments following the bail granted to Kavitha. As per media reports, during his interaction with the media on Tuesday, Revanth said there were doubts about how Kavitha had secured bail within five months when Manish Sisodia, a former deputy chief minister of Delhi,



Having considered appointment of a special public prosecutor to try the cash-for-vote case in TG itself; the Court observes the trial in the case could be held elsewhere if the CM does not have respect for the Supreme Court

While taking note of the insinuations made through the foregoing comments, the Supreme Court asked on Thursday: "Do we pass orders after consultations with political parties?"

got it after remaining behind bars for 15 months and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is yet to get the relief. "It is a fact that BRS worked for the victory of the BJP in the 2024 LS polls. There is also talk that Kavitha got bail because of the deal between BRS and BJP," the Chief Minister reportedly alleged. While taking note of the insinuations made through the foregoing

comments, the Supreme Court asked on Thursday: "Do we pass orders after consultations with political parties?" The top court said such statements might create apprehensions in the minds of people. "Have you read in the newspaper what he said? Just read what he has stated. What sort of statement is this by a responsible chief minister? That might rightly create apprehension in the minds of people. Is this a kind of statement which should be made by a chief minister? A constitutional functionary is speaking in this manner.

## Bhatti for action plan to implement SC/ST Sub-Plan law

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 The Finance Department is focusing on implementing the SC/ST Sub-Plan Law by appointing a special officer to ensure its enforcement. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized the necessity to coordinate with all departments. "The law clearly says that a special officer must be appointed to oversee the implementation of this law by coordinating with all relevant departments," he said. During the review held at the secretariat, Bhatti discussed the allocation and planning of SC/ST Sub-Plan funds with senior officials. He highlighted the importance of prioritizing the establishment of integrated residential schools using Sub-Plan funds. He also urged officials to focus on developing community halls, internal roads, drainage systems and other essential infrastructure in Dalit and tribal colonies.

Continued on Page 5

## HYDRRA to prosecute officials who permitted buildings in FTL areas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRRA) has decided to file criminal cases against officials who gave permission to construct buildings inside the Full Tank Level (FTL) of lakes. HYDRRA asked the Cyberabad Police Commissioner to register criminal cases against six officials. The officials are the Bachupalli Tahsildar, the Deputy Commissioner of GHMC Chandanagar, the Assistant Planning Officer of HMDA and the Nizampet Municipal Commissioner. HYDRRA has razed three buildings that were being constructed illegally in Bachupalli recently. There are accusations against the authorities that despite receiving several complaints from locals about those buildings they did not pay attention to them. Officials in HYDRRA found out that along with the evidence the complaints were kept aside. Commissioner AV Ranganath, who examined the complaints of locals and the charges against the officials, razed the illegal buildings.

## Fourth City meant for grabbing land, says Harish, challenges CM on waiver

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and accused him of engaging in a 'cheat chat' rather than a genuine dialogue. Harish's comments come in response to the CM's statements on a range of issues including collecting electricity dues in the Old City and the farm loan waiver programme. He said that Revanth while chatting in New Delhi with journalists, had claimed that the collection of Old City electricity dues would be handed over to Adani. "Revanth is not engaging in chit-chat. It's cheat chat," Harish said, adding that the CM was spreading lies like Nazi propaganda minister Goebbels.



Continued on Page 5



## Devadula project to be fully ready by Dec

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 The Devadula Project, a key priority of the state government, is set to become fully operational by December 2025, providing irrigation to an additional 89,312 acres. The project, which spans the seven districts of Warangal, Hanamkonda, Karimnagar, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulug, Jangaon and Suryapet will improve irrigation facilities in these areas. The government has expedited work on this project, emphasizing the need to deliver water to the increased command area at the lowest possible cost. The third phase of the project, currently in its final stage, has already received the green signal for the acquisition of 2,947 acres. With the completion of 20 pump houses and the construction of five new tanks, along with the renovation of nine others, the project is well on its way to achieving targets. A review meeting is scheduled to be held on August 30 at the Devadula project pumping station. The meeting will be chaired by Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, with district in-charge Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Ministers Konda Surekha and Seethakka attending. MLAs and MLCs from the erstwhile Warangal district, along with members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, will also be present. Launched in 2004-2005 by the then Congress government with an initial estimate of Rs 6,016 crore, the project has since seen its budget expand to Rs 17,500 crore due to its phased expansion. To date, Rs 14,188 crore has been spent and the project is nearing completion.

## Junior officials using HYDRRA for extortion: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has responded to complaints that some junior officials in Hyderabad have been engaging in corruption by intimidating people using the name of HYDRRA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority). He said that it has come to the government's attention that revenue, municipal and irrigation officials are demanding money by using old notices and complaints filed two to three years ago. He warned that strong action would be taken against those involved in such extortion attempts. The Chief Minister alerted ACB and Vigilance and has asked them to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

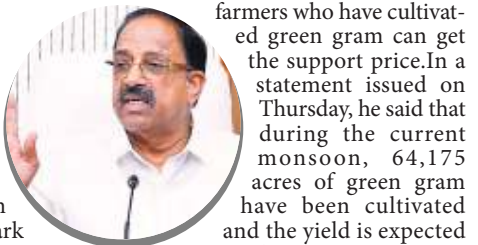
## HYDRRA must not touch poor: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 Describing HYDRRA as a drama, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would have known the pain of the poor if he had worked as a minister or as an MP for five years. He said that he would not remain silent if the government demolishes the houses of the poor using HYDRRA. Eatala visited the Cantonment Hasmathpet Lake area residents who received notices from the Revenue Department on Thursday. The residents explained their trouble to Eatala Rajender. Speaking on the occasion, he asked the government to explain how justifiable it is to issue notices to the poor stating that their houses are in a buffer zone after 40 years of staying there.



## Open green gram procurement centres today: Tummala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao directed Mark Fed to open green gram procurement centres across the state from Friday. He directed Mark Fed officials to set up purchase centres through Mark Fed and purchase green gram so that farmers who have cultivated green gram can get the support price. In a statement issued on Thursday, he said that during the current monsoon, 64,175 acres of green gram have been cultivated and the yield is expected to reach 17,841 tons.



Continued on Page 5

## TG DISCOMs meet record demand of 15,573 MW

PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
 Telangana DISCOMs achieved a significant milestone on Thursday by meeting the peak power demand of 15,573 MW at 7:30 am, marking the highest demand met during the 2024-2025 period. This demand is 5.11% higher than the previous year's demand of 14,816 MW for the same period. The previous all-time high was recorded at 15,623 MW on March 8, 2024, at around 10 am, with the highest energy supply reaching 308.54 million units on March 14, 2024. As of August 2024, the average energy supplied is 266.14 million units, showing a 6.35% increase compared to the 250.25 million units supplied during the same period in August 2023.

## TG prepares for monkeypox cases amidst AP concerns

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD  
 With reports surfacing about a possible suspected monkeypox case in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Telangana government has ramped up its preparedness to handle any potential outbreak. The State's health authorities have designated Gandhi Government Hospital in Secunderabad as the referral hospital for any suspected cases of monkeypox. In conversation with The Pioneer, B Ravinder Nayak, Director of Public Health and Family Welfare, emphasised that there is no need for public panic. He clarified, "Until we receive official confirmation from Central Health Agencies, we cannot verify whether Andhra Pradesh has reported a confirmed case. However, Telangana is fully prepared with precautionary measures. Gandhi Hospital has been designated as the referral hospital for any suspected monkeypox cases. We have established isolation wards with seven beds each for male and female patients. Additionally, the hospital is equipped with the necessary testing facilities-RT-PCR kit."



Continued on Page 5

## Wealthiest Indian with a networth of Rs 11.6 lakh cr Adani replaces Ambani

PNS ■ MUMBAI  
 Recouping the dent caused by the Hindenburg Research report, Gautam Adani's networth shot up 95 per cent to Rs 11.6 lakh crore last year, which helped him replace Mukesh Ambani to become the richest Indian, a report said on Thursday. Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Ambani's overall networth increased by 25 per cent to Rs 10.14 lakh crore.



Continued on Page 5



# Sept 17 crucial day for TG

CM asks officials to prepare for Ganesh Fest, Hyd Liberation Day, Milad-un-Nabi

NAVEENA GHANATE  
naveena.ghanate@gmail.com  
HYDERABAD



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has declared September 17 as an important day for Telangana and has asked officials to prepare comprehensively for the day as both Hyderabad Liberation Day and Ganesh immersion are scheduled on that day.

During a review at the secretariat that focused on arrangements for Ganesh Navratri Utsav and Milad-un-Nabi, the CM emphasized that this day has both historical and political importance.

BJP MP Konda Vishveswar Reddy and MLC AVN Reddy also attended the meeting. With Milad-un-Nabi falling on September 16 and political parties planning events on September 17, Revanth stressed the need for meticulous planning.

In response to a request from the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samiti for free electric-

ity for Ganesh pandals, Revanth asked pandal organizers to apply in advance for free electricity.

The Chief Minister also addressed the proposal to allow DJs in pandals stating that the government would adhere to Supreme Court guidelines.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Ganesh festival enhances Hyderabad's image and ensures peace.

During a review held at the secretariat on Thursday, Revanth highlighted three key areas that require attention, that is, the installation of pandals, the nine-day celebrations

and the immersion of Ganesh idols. The CM noted that last year around 1.50 lakh Ganesh idols were installed within the Outer Ring Road area. He

urged pandal organizers to obtain permissions online or offline in advance which would help in avoiding security and traffic problems.

## SCR extends 60 special trains for festivals

In order to clear the rush of passengers during Dussehra, Diwali and Chhat festivals, South Central Railways (SCR) has extended to run 60 special trains on Thursday. Train No 07695 (Secunderabad - Ramanathapuram) will be extended from October 2 to December 25 on Wednesdays only. The total number of trips is 13. Train No. 07696 (Ramanathapuram-Secunderabad) will be extended from October 4 to December 27 on Fridays only. The total number of trips is 13. Train No. 07191 (Kacheguda-Madurai) will be extended from October 7 to December 30 on Mondays only. The total number of trips is 13. Train No. 07192 (Madurai-Kacheguda) will be extended from October 9 to January 1 on Wednesdays only. The total number of trips is 13.

## BRS plea to Cong on statue controversy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Sravan Dasoju, a senior leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has written an open letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, urging immediate intervention in the controversy surrounding the Telangana Thalli statue at the State Secretariat.

The issue arose following Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's decision to replace the Telangana Thalli statue with a statue of Bharat Ratna late Rajiv Gandhi. In his letter, Sravan expressed deep concern over the move, describing it as an insult to the cultural identity and the historic struggle of the people of Telangana.

He emphasised that Telangana Thalli is not merely a statue but a symbol that represents the struggles, sacrifices and aspirations of the millions who fought for the creation of the State.

## Disaster management system being strengthened: Ponguleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The disaster management system of the state is being strengthened to tackle disasters and to reduce the loss of life and property, Revenue, Housing, Information and PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

Participating in a review meeting of nine departments on the flood action plan on Thursday at the secretariat along with Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, Revenue (Disaster Management) Joint Secretary S. Harish, HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath and others, Ponguleti said that for the first time, an action plan has been prepared to tackle floods.

He said all departments connected to flood relief have been directed to prepare action plans at the state and district levels. Plans should also be made to reduce the threat of floods in the



Godavari and Krishna basins. He also suggested providing a toll-free number for disaster management at the state level.

He advised officials to procure advanced equipment to overcome any situation to tackle floods. The Minister said that all departments should prepare plans to deal with the threat of flood and that a meeting will be held soon. HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath said that HYDRAA is taking steps to strengthen disaster management. He said that while earlier there were 30 teams, they have been increased to 70 and the number of personnel has been increased from 1800 to 3500.

Responding, the Minister said that he would provide full support to HYDRAA for tackling disasters and that proposals to procure the advanced equipment needed by HYDRAA should be sent by the HYDRAA Commissioner.

## HYDRAA can demolish my house if it is illegal: Tirupati

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother Tirupati Reddy said that HYDRAA can demolish his house if it is not built as per rules. He said that he would leave the house after taking his goods if time is given to him.

Reacting to notices issued by officials, Tirupati said that Serilingampally revenue officials had issued notices. However, no officer had met him, he said.

"I purchased one residence in Amar Society in 2016-17. The owner of the house constructed it after securing all permissions. However, the house owner did not tell me that the house is in the buffer zone. Officials issued notices as per law stating that my house is in a buffer zone. This layout got permission in 1995. BRS leaders are politicking in the name of my house forgetting the fact that they committed many illegal acts in the last 10 years. BRS leaders are troubling Amar Society residents targeting me. Others would not have suffered if they had not targeted me," Tirupati said.

Reacting to the demolitions, Tirupati said the Chief Minister is doing good for the sake of the people and added that his cooperation will be there for all things good done



### 'Issuing notices to CM's brother welcome'

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas said that issuing notices to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother Tirupati Reddy is a welcome decision. The Chief Minister also said that if Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's residence violated rules HYDRAA can demolish it, he recalled. "HYDRAA does not consider political parties, castes or religions. Buildings built illegally will be demolished. Issuing notices to the CM's brother is a welcome decision. The CM said that if Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's building violated rules it must be demolished."

by the Chief Minister.

On Thursday, HYDRAA officials pasted notices on Tirupati Reddy's residence. They also issued notices to the residents of Kavuri Hills, Nectors Colony and Amar Society near Durgam Cheruvu. The notices said that illegal buildings would be demolished within a month.

## RS MP Anil gives Rs 25 lakh to HYDRAA

Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav allocated Rs 25 lakh to HYDRAA from his MPLADS funds on Thursday. He handed over the funds to help HYDRAA which is demolishing illegal buildings. Rs 25 lakh was handed over to HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath from the MPLADS funds of Anil. Speaking on the occasion, MP Anil Kumar said the performance of HYDRAA was good and hoped that HYDRAA would become more active. The MP said that Revanth established HYDRAA to save the ponds and lakes of Hyderabad. KCR, who had been in power for 10 years, said that he would make Hyderabad a metropolis, but he did the opposite, Anil said. He said that all ponds in Hyderabad were seized during KCR's rule and KCR could not save even a single pond.

## KCR family must observe silence to atone for its mistakes: Niranjan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan said that it would be good for the KCR family if it observes a few days of silence to atone for the mistakes it committed during its 10 years in power. Otherwise, they will become more undesirable in the eyes of the public, he said.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Niranjan said that as of now the KCR family has lost power and his daughter (BRS MLC Kavitha) is trapped in the Delhi liquor scam case.

Stating that the people dislike BRS Working President KT Rama Rao as he arrogantly declared that the BRS would remove the statue of Rajiv Gandhi as soon as they come back to power, Niranjan said that it is not right for him and his party to say so.

Rajiv Gandhi was a great



leader who 'sacrificed' his life for the country at the hands of terrorists. Let's not forget that May 21, the day Rajiv Gandhi died, is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day across the country.

"In our state also the Chief Secretary takes a pledge along with the staff every year on May 21 to counter terrorism. The people of Telangana will not tolerate any move to remove the statue of Rajiv Gandhi, an icon of sacrifice," he said.

## Quota for BCs in local body elections sought

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rajya Sabha MP and National BC Welfare Association president R Krishnaiah criticised the government for not initiating the caste census and for failing to take any steps toward implementing 42 per cent reservations for BCs in the past eight months since coming to power.

During a meeting held here on Thursday, he demanded an immediate all-party meeting to address these issues. With the term of Vakulabharanam Krishna Mohan as Chairman of the BC Commission ending this month, Krishnaiah stressed the need for his continuation to produce comprehensive reports on these matters. He urged the Congress government to take swift action to fulfill the promises made to the BCs.

## HYDRAA chief a police officer or a politician? Questions BJLP leader Alleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said that former Chief Minister KCR had offered Siddipet Collector Venkatrama Reddy an MLC post if he acquired land from farmers for the Mallanna Sagar project and KCR made him an MLC. Now Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is also following the path of KCR. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath might be offered an MLC or MP post and that is why Ranganath is now acting to the tunes of the CM, Maheshwar said.

Speaking to the media at the Assembly Media Hall on Thursday, BJLP leader Maheshwar said that the case of HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath is a case of more publicity and less work. The BJLP Leader questioned HYDRAA Commissioner



BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy addressing the media at Assembly Media Hall on Thursday

Ranganath whether he is a police officer or a political leader?

"IPS officers can speak to the media as part of their profession. But Ranganath is giving interviews to promote his image. But it is not right to comment about me. I said that ponds in the old city have been encroached on and asked him when will HYDRAA demolish the buildings built by Owaisi in the Salkam Pond," Maheshwar said.

"In my case, Ranganath acted beyond his limits.

## Two UoH faculty members receive Khorana fellowship

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr M Shyam Lal, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Biology, and Dr Manjari Kiran, Assistant Professor, Department of Systems and Computational Biology, School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad (UoH), have been awarded the esteemed Har Gobind Khorana Innovative Young Biotechnologist Fellowship (IYBF) for 2023-24 by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India on Thursday.

The DBT established the 'Har Gobind Khorana Innovative Young



Biotechnologist Fellowship' (IYBF) to recognise and support exceptional young scientists with innovative ideas and a passion for research in cutting-edge biotechnology fields. This fellowship provides both research grant support and a cash award to the recipients. This year, the fellowship has been granted to nine scientists from across the nation. Dr Shyam Lal's research focuses on leveraging advancements in

nanotechnology and drug delivery for biomedical applications. His team at UoH is working to address challenges in treatments for varicose veins, wound healing, and antibiotic resistance.

Dr Manjari Kiran's research group is dedicated to characterising various types of non-coding RNAs and understanding the role of RNA modifications in their regulation. The group is also involved in developing user-friendly, publicly available scientific tools for next-generation sequencing data analysis, bioinformatics prediction, and computational characterization of molecular players in human health and disease.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha  
Tithi: Dwadashi: Aug 30 01:37 AM to Aug 31 02:25 AM  
Trayodashi: Aug 31 02:25 AM to Sep 01 03:41 AM  
Nakshatram: Punarvasu: Aug 29 04:39 PM to Aug 30 05:55 PM  
Pushya: Aug 30 05:55 PM to Aug 31 07:39 PM  
Rahukalam: 10:43 AM to 12:16 PM  
Yamagandam: 3:22 PM to 4:54 PM  
Varjyam: 02:30 AM to 04:13 AM  
Gulika: 7:38 AM to 9:11 AM  
Amritakalam: 03:24 PM to 05:05 PM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:51 AM to 12:41 PM  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Showers  
Temp: 26°C  
Humidity: 82%  
Sunrise: 6:02 AM  
Sunset: 6:31 PM  
Updated: August 29, 2024 5:00 PM

## OGH, Gandhi Hospital better after transfers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a surprising turn of events, the recent large-scale transfer of 40% of long-serving staff working in Hyderabad's major hospitals, including Osmania and Gandhi Hospitals has led to these institutions getting better equipped with medical professionals, officials said. They said that despite initial apprehensions regarding potential disruptions to healthcare services the hospitals have not only maintained operational efficiency but have also seen a significant increase in staffing. The transfers ordered as per GO RT. NO: 80 dated July 3, 2024, was part of an

administrative shake-up aimed at redistributing medical personnel to ensure a more balanced allocation of resources across the state. The Directorate of Medical Education reported that these transfers have not adversely affected hospital performance in any noticeable way. On the contrary, Osmania and Gandhi Hospitals, two of the city's largest and most critical healthcare providers, appear to be better staffed than before. As of August 7, 2024, data shows a marked increase in the number of doctors and nursing officers at both Osmania and Gandhi Hospitals compared to the same period last year.

## Rs 90 crore released under 'Netannaku Cheyutha': Tummala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said that Rs 90 crore has been released on Thursday for the 'Netannaku Cheyutha' scheme without any arrears as per an initiative of the Chief Minister.



This is in addition to the funds owed by the BRS admin in connection with the 'Netannaku Cheyutha' scheme which was introduced to increase savings among handloom workers.

He said the scheme started in September 2021 and ended in August 2024 and 36,133 handloom workers will benefit by the release of funds.

He said that if weavers and allied workers deposit eight per cent of their wages in this scheme, the government will deposit 16 per cent as its share in the savings account, and these amounts along with interest will be paid to the beneficiaries after three years.

Due to this, after three years,

## Measures undertaken by GHMC

- Special initiatives launched to prevent dengue with strong steps implemented before monsoon.
- Anti-larval operations carried out in 27,608 locations.
- These operations covered 9,680 locked houses, 767 halls, 6,157 laying areas and open spaces, 4,635 cellars, 6,370 construction sites, 3,045 schools, 427 colleges and 554 hostels where IEC programmes were also conducted.
- Pinpoint fogging was carried out in slums where positive cases were recorded.
- IEC programmes were held in 4,846 colonies along with house-to-house visits. A dry day initiative was launched on Fridays.
- 2,751 school students were selected as volunteers and trained to fight dengue.



## CHIKUNGUNYA & DENGUE CASES INCREASE

# Mosquitoes becoming resistant to fogging

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is witnessing a significant rise in chikungunya and dengue cases as mosquitoes become increasingly resistant to conventional control methods. Officials said the virulence of viruses responsible for these diseases has also increased posing a severe challenge. Telangana saw around 152 chikungunya cases more than in previous years.

Experts pointed out that fogging, a commonly employed measure to control mosquito populations, is proving to be ineffective.

"Fogging mainly targets malarial mosquitoes which are

active between 6 pm and 8 pm but fails to check mosquitoes responsible for spreading dengue and chikungunya. Fogging only kills mosquitoes that come out during the evening, primarily those responsible for malaria," an official said.

However, the mosquitoes which spread dengue and chikungunya are day-biters. The only effective measure against them is the elimination of stagnant water where they breed, the official said.

Health officials are asking residents to focus on cleaning local water bodies and ensuring that there is no stagnant water in and around their homes.

## CM enacting dramas using HYDRAA, says Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is enacting dramas in the name of HYDRAA and leaving governance to the wind, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay said. The Congress is doing this to deflect public attention from its six guarantees and side-track it, he added.

He said the CM had forgotten the assurances he had given to weavers. The CM is now showing the movie HYDRAA to the public. If the rich occupy lands and construct buildings, the government should take it from them and give it to the poor, but if the government takes it from



the poor too, where will they go, Sanjay asked.

He asked the CM to explain why the government is not showing its capability on the Janwada farmhouse or the buildings built in the Salkam Pond.

Revanth also knows that farm loan waiver has not been done comprehensively and HYDRAA was introduced to escape from it, he said.



## CITY EVENTS

### Roundtable Conversation on Sustainable Fashion

Young FICCI Ladies Organisation (YFLO) Panelists  
Pinky Reddy  
Entrepreneur and Philanthropist  
Gaurang Shah  
Textile & Fashion Designer  
Shivam Punjya  
Founder, Behno New York  
Saachi Bahl  
Founder, Saahra & #ConsciousEffort

#### Venue

The Quorum  
Hyderabad, Gate 6,  
Elixer Tower, 5th & 6th  
Floor, Knowledge City  
Rd, Madhapur,  
Hyderabad  
Date August 30, 2024;  
Time: 10.30 am

### 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

### 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 Kylash, Deepika Reddy, Gopika Varma and Viabhav Arekar, across the styles of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Mohiniattam.

#### Venue

Ravindra Bharati,  
Hyderabad  
August 31, 7 pm

### Pause and reflect

Featuring fascinating world of art curated by Annapurna Madipadiga. Featured artists: Dhruv Patel, Dushyant Patel, C Raghu and Mukhtar Ahmed Sardar.

#### Venue

State Art Gallery  
Hyderabad  
September 1 to 8.

### Jam Junxion

Hyderabad's biggest musical night  
6 bands, 6 individual stages, 7 rounds, jamming at once

#### Venue

HITEX Hall, No. 4,  
Sept. 6

## Stone to be laid for Osmania, Gandhi medical college hostels

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Foundation stone will be laid for the newly sanctioned hostels at Osmania and Gandhi medical colleges by September first week. An order with an amount of Rs 80 crore and Rs 35 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of these hostels.

According to sources, the officials of these colleges are preparing plans for the foundation stone event and the health department is yet to allot a date for the programme. As for the Gandhi Medical College (GMC), Secunderabad, one hostel each for ladies and men will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 42 crore and Rs 23 crore respectively.

In Gandhi Medical College, currently they have one UG girl's hostel, one UG boy's hostel and a PG hostel in the Out-Patient block-3, 4, 5 floors as hostels. They might lay the foundation stone for three newly sanctioned hostels, added the source.

# City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | AUGUST 30, 2024

03

ALL EVICTION NOTICES TO BE ISSUED BY HYDRAA WITHIN ORR LIMITS

## Give more power to HYDRAA: CS



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) must be given more power and personnel in regard to issuing notices under the Outer Ring Road (ORR), said Santhi Kumari, Chief Secretary of Telangana on Thursday.

The Chief Secretary held a high-level meeting to formulate a comprehensive action plan on the orders issued by the State High Court during the last few days on the removal of encroachments on ponds and preservation of government property.

"Guidelines are being readied to fully hand over the responsibilities of the protection of all the lakes, parks, canals and all govern-

ment places under the ORR to HYDRAA."

The meeting discussed the measures to hand over more powers and personnel to HYDRAA for the protection of government sites, lakes and government property.

CS Santhi Kumari said that at present the Irrigation Department, GHMC, Panchayat Raj and other departments are issuing different notices regarding the removal of encroachments on ponds, lakes, parks and government places, and this is causing some kind of confusion.

To avoid this, the Principal Secretary of the Municipal Administration Department Dana Kishore has been directed to finalise procedures for all eviction

● Dana Kishore has been directed to finalise procedures for all eviction notices to be issued by HYDRAA within ORR limits

● FTL, nala encroachment, government vacant plots and conservation of parks will also be brought under the purview of HYDRAA along with conservation of Gandipet and Himayat Sagar lakes

notices to be issued by HYDRAA within ORR limits. All notices and evictions issued by GHMC, Land Encroachment Act, Land Grabbing Act, Irrigation Department Act will be completely brought under the jurisdiction of HYDRAA.

Officers and staff needed by

that 72 teams have been formed under HYDRAA and officers and staff from Police, Survey and Irrigation Departments will be assigned quickly to strengthen them. DG Intelligence Shivdhar Reddy, Additional DG Law and Order Mahesh Bhagwat, Principal Secretary Municipal Administration Department Dana Kishore, Secretary Irrigation Department Rahul Bojja, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, Additional Advocate General Rajinikanth Reddy, ACB Director Tarun Joshi, Hyderabad Collector Anudeep, Rangareddy Collector Shashanka, Medchal Malkajiri Collector Gowtham Potru and Sangareddy Collector Valluru Kranti participated in this meeting.

HYDRAA will be allotted soon, she said.

FTL, nala encroachment, government vacant plots and conservation of parks will also be brought under the purview of HYDRAA along with conservation of Gandipet and Himayat Sagar lakes. The Chief Secretary said

## Human trafficking is the biggest menace: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"Human trafficking is the biggest menace in the world and there is need to create awareness about this issue and find solutions to eradicate it," said Women and Children Welfare Minister D Anasuya Seethakka here on Thursday.

After inaugurating a two-day seminar titled "National Consultation on Emerging Trends in Human Trafficking and Strategies to Combat Them", hosted by the Women Safety Wing of the Telangana Police Department and International Justice Mission (IJM) at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) on Thursday, Minister Seethakka said women and kids are badly affected by human trafficking. Strategies to combat human trafficking and the new trends emerging in it will be discussed at the two-day national technical consultation seminar, said the Minister.



Women and Children Welfare Minister D Anasuya Seethakka presenting an award to Telangana Women Safety Wing DGP Shikha Goel at the HICC on Thursday

Referring to the recent Kolkata rape case, Minister Seethakka said, "A doctor was brutally raped in her workplace. Women should be respected in society as well as in their workplace. We should teach our kids to respect women and if necessary we should include these kinds of chapters at the primary school level." The Minister lauded Telangana Women Safety Wing DGP Shikha Goel for taking steps to eradicate crimes against women and safeguarding them. "First, we need to

eradicate drug menace in the society to control crimes against women. Then only we can form a safe and secured society for the women and children, said the Minister.

In her opening remarks, DGP Shikha Goel emphasised the need to "shine a light in the darkness" and explore strategies that empower collective action against trafficking. She highlighted the importance of stronger legislation, effective law enforcement, grassroots initiatives and survivor support.

## National Sports Day celebrated in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

National Sports Day was celebrated at Gachibowli Stadium on Thursday, with Ministers Sridhar Babu and Seethakka, and Sports Advisor Jitender Reddy as the chief guests. The ministers garlanded the statue of Dhyan Chand on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, State IT Minister D Sridhar Babu spoke about the government's commitment to supporting sports and athletes. He mentioned that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is focused on promoting sports and plans to create a new sports policy. The Chief Minister has studied successful sports programmes in countries like South Korea to implement similar ideas in the State.

Sridhar Babu also announced

that sports schools will be connected to the upcoming Sports University to provide professional training to young athletes. He emphasised that the government has given jobs to athletes who have earned recognition at national and international levels.

Sports Advisor Jitender Reddy noted that the government has allocated Rs 364 crore for sports development. He highlighted that the Chief Minister is giving priority to sports, which has been overlooked in the past decade.

The event was also attended by State Sports Authority president N Shiv Sena Reddy and Youth, Sports & Culture Department Principal Secretary Vani Prasad. Prominent athletes and union leaders were honoured during the celebration.



## 8-member gang arrested in loan fraud case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Cyber Security Bureau, Wanaparthy and Kothakota Police, in a joint operation, arrested a gang of eight members involved in a large scale loan fraud case here on Thursday.

Arrested people have been identified as Varthiyavath Narsingh (32), Rathlavath Ramesh (32), Pothulapally Kurumurthy (28), Eslavath Ramulu (32), Kothapally Umesh (25), Boya Veeresh (24), Eslavath Suraj (18) and Varthiyavath Praveen (18).

Victims have lodged complaints against these people. The Cyber Security Bureau's data analysis team detected numerous complaints reported on the NCRP portal against several mobile numbers, revealing that the fraudsters were deceiving victims under the guise of providing loans. The team focused on this issue and discovered that many FIRs had been registered at various police stations across Telangana and other states regarding these fraudsters, who were using the names Mudra and Dhani loans to scam people.

## SUBMIT REPORT ON SEASONAL DISEASES DAILY: HM

## Focus on curbing seasonal diseases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Medical, Health and Family Welfare Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha conducted a comprehensive video conference on Thursday with the District Medical Officers (DMHOs) of all districts at the Arogyashri Health Care Trust office in Hyderabad and instructed that a daily report on seasonal diseases be submitted to the control room established by 6 pm every day.

The focus was on the control and prevention of seasonal diseases, including dengue, across the State. He instructed DMHOs and Heads of Departments (HoDs) to submit detailed reports on the measures being implemented at the district level to control seasonal diseases and dengue.

The Minister directed officials to monitor and counteract false propaganda related to dengue, ensuring the public receives accurate information. A house-to-house fever survey is being conducted as part of the seasonal disease control strategy.

The Minister called for the identification of high-risk areas where cases of seasonal diseases and dengue are prevalent.

Officials were instructed to implement preventive measures such as placing oil balls in stagnant water bodies to curb the spread of diseases.

Minister Rajanarasimha reassured the public that government hospitals are fully equipped with necessary tests, medicines, staff and doctors for diagnosing and treating seasonal diseases, including dengue.

The Minister warned that strict action would be taken against any medical department official found negligent in preventing seasonal diseases.

Minister Rajanarasimha also reviewed the provision of advanced equipment and infrastructure in government medical and nursing colleges.

He directed TGMSIDC Managing Director Hemant Vasudeva Rao to prioritise the supply of modern equipment to newly established colleges.



Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha during a video conference with the District Medical Officers on Thursday

## Preparation of voters' list for panchayat polls reviewed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Election Commissioner C.Parthasarathy conducted a review meeting via video conference on the progress of preparation and publication of voter lists ward-wise and gram panchayat-wise for the upcoming election for gram panchayats on Thursday with all district collectors (except Hyderabad), additional collectors (local bodies), zilla panchayat officers, divisional panchayat officers and electoral registration officers of Assembly constituencies.

The State Election Commissioner said that after taking into consideration the voter lists of the Assembly constituencies pre-

pared by the Election Commission of India, ward-wise and gram panchayat-wise voter lists were prepared and the draft list was ordered to be published in the gram panchayats on September 6, 2024. Later, he said that a meeting of representatives of political parties should be organised at mandal level and their suggestions should be taken.

If there are any mistakes in arranging the electors, the Mandal Parishad officials or Zilla Panchayat officials were directed to be informed in writing by September 13 to

publish the revised final voter list on September 21.

Even if there are objections, they should apply to the Electoral Registration Officer of the respective Assembly constituency in the prescribed forms and will be considered in the voter list of the Gram Panchayat after the inclusion or removal of that voter. He also explained about appointment of assistant returning officers, training of polling staff etc. Later, details were collected from the District Collector regarding the progress and difficulties in the preparation of

voter lists being done district-wise.

Finally, the Commissioner unveiled the "Grievances Module" prepared in collaboration with the Centre for Good Governance. He said that citizens can also complain about irregularities in the election process through this module. The details of the complainant will be kept confidential and the district collector will take appropriate action and inform the complainant.

Lokesh Kumar, Secretary Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, Anita Rama Chandran, Commissioner, Panchayat Raj and State Election Authority, participated in the video conference.



## Arrangements for Ganesh Festival inspected by Mayor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi directed officials to complete the arrangements for the upcoming Ganesh Utsav celebrations and immersion with advance planning. On Thursday, she inspected various areas in the Serilingampally zone, checking the sanitation, roads and ponds.

She emphasised the importance of coordinating with authorities concerned to ensure the festivities from September 7 to 17 are held in a pleasant atmosphere. The Mayor stressed the need for smooth sanitation operations with no complaints and instructed sanitation officers to monitor the area closely.

During her visit, the Mayor inspected Malkam Cheruvu, Gopi Cheruvu, Nalla Ganga Cheruvu, Raya Samudram, Saki Cheruvu, Gangaram

Cheruvu, Gautham Baby Pond, Kadiyamkunta, Durgam tank and roads. She ordered the preparation of a baby pond at Saki Cheruvu for Ganesh immersion and directed to post a security guard at the ponds.

Noting dengue cases around Gangaram pond, the Mayor instructed the Entomology Department to take measures for its control. She also ordered the removal of silt and waste from the Gangaram tank within a week.

Police were asked to maintain strict night vigilance to prevent any incidents. Roads on the idol rally route are to be repaired, with DDM layer work on BT roads prioritised. Basic facilities for devotees at immersion sites must be ensured.

Mayor Vijayalakshmi was accompanied by Zonal Commissioner Upendar Reddy in the inspection.



## ACB arrests Assistant Registrar for graft

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Bommala Srinivasa Raju, Assistant Registrar and Arbitrator at the Office of Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Medchal Malkajiri district, for accepting a bribe of Rs 1,00,000 to be favorable in previous cases filed.

Srinivasa Raju was caught red-handed by the ACB while accepting the bribe from a complainant. The bribe was allegedly demanded in exchange for favourable action in cases filed by Navabharat Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Hyderabad,

against the complainant's family members and a friend.

Following the arrest, the ACB recovered the bribe amount from Srinivasa Raju. A chemical test on the contact portion of the car's dashboard, where the bribe money was hidden, yielded positive results, confirming the bribery act.

Srinivasa Raju has been charged with performing his public duties improperly and dishonestly.

He will be produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases at Nampally, Hyderabad. The case is under investigation.





Dr Venkateshwarlu, RR District Medical and Health Officer, addressing a keynote at the HIV/AIDS prevention training programme for the Anganwadi teachers in Shadnagar on Thursday

## Stress on curbing mother-to-child HIV transmission

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a major initiative aimed at combating HIV/AIDS, the Telangana State AIDS Control Society, in collaboration with the District Medical and Health Department and District Women and Child Welfare Department, has launched a comprehensive training programme for Anganwadi teachers in Rangareddy District.

The programme, which is part of the district's integrated strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention, focuses on educating Anganwadi teachers on the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, human trafficking, and women's empowerment.

Dr Venkateshwarlu, the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) of Rangareddy District, participated as chief guest for the programme's inaugural session. He emphasised the critical role that Anganwadi teachers play in preventing HIV transmission from pregnant women to their children. He urged the teachers to ensure that all pregnant women under their care are informed about the necessary precautions to prevent the transmission of HIV

to their unborn children. Additional DMHO Dr Paparao highlighted the importance of routine HIV testing for pregnant women, stressing that it should be conducted alongside other standard prenatal tests. He also encouraged the Anganwadi teachers to guide pregnant women to HIV testing centres throughout the district and to educate those infected with HIV about the regular use of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) drugs.

District Welfare Officer Padmaja also addressed the gathering, underscoring the importance of providing comprehensive services to pregnant women and children. She encouraged the Anganwadi teachers to actively participate in programs related to drug awareness, human trafficking, and STI prevention, in addition to their HIV/AIDS-related duties.

The training session, which was attended by 300 Anganwadi teachers as part of the first batch, also featured contributions from Disha Cluster Manager Ch Narendar, Disha Clinical Services Officer G. Ramesh, Divisional Assistant Nageswara Rao, and Councillor Ashok Reddy.

## Four dies as car rams into station lorry

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Four people died and four others were injured when the car they were travelling in crashed into a stationary lorry in Mahabubnagar district on Thursday morning, police said. The incident took place when eight people from Hyderabad including one NRI from UK, after offering

prayers in Tirupati were returning in the car to Hyderabad, they said.

The speeding car hit the rear side of the lorry parked on the roadside, resulting in the death of four people and injuries to four other occupants, who were admitted to a hospital in Hyderabad, they added.

A probe is on.

## Minors found driving vehicles will be prosecuted: ACP

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Traffic ACP Srinivasulu has expressed concern over minors getting caught driving vehicles on roads and advised them against driving the vehicles on roads.

He conducted an awareness programme for students of Harvest School on Motor Vehicles' Act. The ACP expressed concern over a large number of minors getting caught by the police driving rashly during extensive police checking. City police commissioner Sunil Dutt ordered extensive checkings in the city in view of increasing road accidents.

The ACP noted with concern that minors are getting involved in accidents driving motor cycles and cars. The traffic police took it seriously



Traffic Assistant Commissioner of Police Srinivasulu addressing students at a school in Khammam on Thursday

and conducted checking daily. Earlier, when minors caught red-handed, the police used to impose fine on them and used to be released after counselling their parents. From now onwards, the minors would be presented in court along with their parents for rash driving. The court will impose them either fine or punishment. Therefore, he

## Woman performs wedding of hubby with specially-abled girl

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

Yielding to the wish of a mentally challenged girl, a woman performed the second marriage of her husband with the specially-abled woman

It took everyone by surprise. Dasari Suresh and Sarita of Uggampalli village of Chinnaguduru mandal have been happily married for the past several years. The couple has a son and a daughter. They have been living in harmony.

Sandhya, the youngest daughter of Laka Padma and Veeraswamy who live in Bhakta Markandeya Temple street in Mahabubabad town, is related to Suresh. The mentally challenged girl nursed an ambition to marry Suresh.

Her parents, who learnt about the wish of their daughter, approached Sarita and conveyed the matter that their daughter wanted to marry Suresh and moved the marriage proposal. Sarita immediately agreed to the proposal.

On Wednesday, the marriage of Sandhya with her cousin Suresh took place in the presence of invitees and near and dear on a grand scale. However, the wife performing the marriage of her husband to a mentally challenged girl soon became the talk of the town. The media covered the marriage.

Talking about the marriage,



Suresh and Sandhya during marriage ceremony

Sarita said that she solemnised the wedding of Sandhya as she developed a liking for her husband and offered to take good care of Sandhya, treating her as her own younger sister. Since she is mentally challenged she is not able to do her chores independently, she said emphasising nursing her like a baby.

Before the marriage, there ensued a high drama at the venue with Sandhya's eldest sister's husband Nagaraju trying to stop the marriage by complaining about it to the police.

He contended that his sister-in-law is mentally challenged and it is

a crime to marry her off with a person who is already married.

Responding to the complaint, the police reached the venue and checked the Aadhaar card of the girl.

The police confirmed that the bride is a major and that too the marriage is taking place as per her wish. So they said that they had no authority to stall the marriage. They reprimanded Nagaraju, who earlier called up the police control room dialling 100, and sent him away from there.

The million-dollar question is how can the police support the second marriage?

## Police crack burglary case, arrest four

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a significant breakthrough, the Shadnagar police have apprehended a four-member gang allegedly involved in a series of thefts, including the recent burglary at GR Mobiles in Shadnagar town square.

The arrests were made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Shadnagar and Bangalore police, who utilised advanced technology to track down the culprits.

At a press conference held on Thursday, Shadnagar Assistant Commissioner of Police Rangaswamy gave details of events leading to the arrests. The theft occurred on the night of August 19 when a six-member gang targeted closed shops along the road, forcibly lifting shutters and stealing cash and valuable goods. The gang, led by Gangadhar, operated with precision, using a vehicle to facilitate the crime. The gang's



Shadnagar ACP Rangaswamy, flanked by Inspector P Vijay Kumar and other key officers, addresses the media in Shadnagar on Thursday

modus operandi involved parking the vehicle at a safe distance while some members broke into the shops, and others kept watch to ensure they were not caught.

After the burglary at GR Mobiles, the gang proceeded to rob four more shops in Shadnagar as well as two shops in Shabad and one in Moinabad. The stolen money was allegedly used for their personal expenses.

The breakthrough came

when Bangalore police managed to arrest two of the accused with Shadnagar police subsequently arresting two more. However, two gang members still remain at large.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Gangadhar, Anil, Hanumanth Raju, and Pridviraju, while the absconding members are Abhi and Sashi.

The ACP Rangaswamy revealed that the police recov-

ered Rs. 10,000 in cash from the accused and filed a case under Crime Number 640/2024, U/Sec 331(4), 305 BNS. The arrested individuals will be produced in court shortly. The investigation is being closely monitored by the Cyberabad Commissioner of Police, along with the Shamsabad DCP and Additional DCP.

The arrests were made under the supervision of ACP Shadnagar, with Inspector P. Vijay Kumar, CCS Inspector Pawan, Sub Inspector Avinash, Detective Sub Inspector C. Sarath Kumar, and constable staff Narendar, Krishna, Shankaraiah, Mahesh, Rajesh, and Rafi playing key roles in the operation. ACP Rangaswamy commended the officers for their swift and effective action and announced that they would be felicitated and rewarded by higher authorities for their exemplary



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, along with local MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, watering a plant at the wellness centre in Rangareddy district on Thursday

## Bhatti emphasises importance of meditation

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised the need for collective efforts to establish global peace, while inaugurating the Kanha Shanti Vanam Wellness Centre at Chegur under Nandigama Mandal in Shadnagar constituency on Thursday.

The Deputy Chief Minister also launched holistic wellness centre, 'Wellness by Heartfulness,' during his visit, marking a significant stride towards promoting health and well-being in the region.

The Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the Kanha Shanti Vanam Wellness Centre on Thursday by lighting a ceremonial lamp, where he stressed the role of meditation in achieving mental transformation and global peace. He lauded the centre for its focus on meditation, describing it as a vital resource for the local community, offering comprehensive facilities for those seeking spiritual solace.

Vikramarka praised the centre's efforts to make meditation accessible to everyone, particularly those unable to afford long

journeys or high expenses. He noted the centre's dormitory facilities, which allow individuals from all backgrounds to meditate free of charge, regardless of caste or religion. The centre also offers training in agriculture on scientific lines and the cultivation of medicinal plants, providing visitors the opportunity to learn sustainable farming practices.

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, along with former MLA Choulapalli Pratap Reddy and other local leaders, submitted a petition to Deputy Chief Minister. The petition urged the immediate initiation of work on a reservoir at Lakshmidvipalle village, Jillade Chowdergudem mandal as part of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation project.

Acharya Dr Srivarma, Chief Medical Director of Wellness by Heartfulness, highlighted the centre's focus on holistic medicine, which is essential for addressing various health issues. The facility offers a variety of treatments, including Polarity Healing, Quantum Healing, and AYUSH therapies, all provided in a luxurious, eco-friendly setting.



A partly demolished house

## Demolition of houses triggers tension in Mahabunagar

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Thursday accused Municipal authorities of demolishing 75 houses in the early hours. It left the several families devastated.

Mahabubnagar municipality demolished 75 houses at Adarsh Nagar and Christianpally in the early hours on Thursday without giving any notice.

The affected families said that they had built houses on the lands distributed by the government. But, the municipal authorities alleged the houses were built on the lands encroached upon by them.

The BRS has criticised Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his gov-

ernment for allegedly demolishing the houses of 75 poor families in Mahabunagar. The BRS claimed that municipal authorities carried out the demolitions in the middle of the night without warning, leaving the families, including many with children, in distress.

Officials suddenly brought bulldozers between 2 am and 3 am and demolished the walls of the houses from the outside while the poor were sleeping.

The BRS also alleged that officials had previously started demolishing illegal constructions without adhering to government instructions.

Police were deployed to ensure that no untoward takes place.

## Police launch search using sniffer dogs for drugs

PNS ■ GODAVARIKHANI

Under the community contact programme, the Godavarikhani one town police in the early hours of Thursday conducted extensive searches in houses on the outskirts of the town using sniffer dogs to detect narcotics.

The searches in the early hours sent shivers down the spines of the residents of the outskirts. Godavarikhani ACP Ramesh and Circle Inspector of Police Indrasena Reddy led the searches conducted in Babuji Nagar, Sanivaram Santa Market area colony, RCOA Club and gathered details of families living there. The police focused on these colonies in conducting the searches, as the daily wage workers mostly live in these areas.

## Maoist surrenders to police in Warangal

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A member of the CPI-Maoist surrendered before the Warangal Commissioner of Police Ambar Kishor Jha on Thursday evening.

Disclosing this to the media persons, the Commissioner of Police Ambar Kishor Jha stated that as a part of the surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy of the government, CPI Maoist area committee member Bujagundla Anil alias Kranthi Kiran, will be rehabilitated. He surrendered in order to join the mainstream and lead a normal and peaceful life.

Bujagundla Anil (31) is a native of Arshanapalli village under Nallabally mandal in Warangal district. He worked as an area committee

member under the leadership of late Katukam Sudershan alias Anand and Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Abhay alias Sonu Dada.

His father, Bujagundla Shanker, and mother, Nara Laxmi, alias Hyma, also worked in the CPI (ML) Peoples War Group (PWG), and both died. He was brought up by his grandparents and pursued studies with

an UG cadre in the month of November 2021.

He was involved in several crimes. Ambar Kishor Jha also stated that the surrendered Maoist was carrying a reward of Rs 4 lakh on his head.

He appealed to the CPI Maoist armed underground cadres to join the mainstream and take part in the advancement of the State through constructive participation and benefit from the rehabilitation process of Telangana State government.

## Industrial pollution high in Gundlamachnur

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Residents of Gundlamachnur village of Hatnuramandal of Sangareddy district have been severely affected by industrial pollution as four pharma companies located on the village outskirts have been releasing excessive toxic discharge into atmosphere causing water and air pollution. The foul smell

emanated from these four pharma units, established on an area of one acre to four acres, has been causing breathing problems to the residents of the village. These units, as part of their business success, expanded operations and came closer to the village.

The villagers do not know whom to turn to at the dead of the night. However, the offi-

cialists who are supposed to regulate the pollution levels have allegedly turned a blind eye to the goings on. The managements have violated rules and continued to release industrial waste more than the permitted limit. The waste fluid from these companies are being preserved in huge tanks and later releasing it into water into the adjacent NakkaVagu canal pol-

luting the water body.

The villagers have complained of suffocation and breathlessness due to the toxic fumes. They say that they are not able to come out of their homes. The relatives are not able to stay in their homes because of the pollution. The agricultural workers are not willing to work in the fields close to the pharma industries.

**GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
TENDER NOTICE  
Tender Notice No: SE/GMCC/CTN 08-Procurement/2024-25 Dated: 28.08.2024  
1. Fresh Works:- 1) 01 No Building Work for an amount of Rs. 100.00 Lakhs at Ernagattu gudda Hanamkonda in GWMC Limits.  
2) Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 2 No's Truck Mounted Chalmers Road Sweeping Machines for a period of one year costing Rs. 91.00 Lakhs.  
Start & Last Date of receipt of bids: 30-08-2024 from 5.00 PM Onwards & 06-09-2024 upto 4.00 PM  
II. Repair Works:- 02 No's BT Road Works Costing Rs. 173.80 Lakhs at (i) Kalaji Jn. to KUDJA Complex Road, Hanamkonda (ii) KUDJA Complex to Ashoka Jn., Hanamkonda in GWMC Limits  
Start & Last Date of receipt of bids: 30-08-2024 from 5.00 PM Onwards & 02-09-2024 upto 4.00 PM  
NOTE: Further details can be seen at "e" procurement market place @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Commissioner  
B.O.No: 3416/PKCL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 29-08-2024 Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT  
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
On line tenders are invited in the following districts vide the Chief Engineer (R&B), State Roads & CRN: NIT No. 1696-40CE/R/EE-R/DDE-II/AIE-V/2024-25, Dt. 28.08.2024 for an amount of Rs. 77.50 Crores  
Name of the works: 1) Widening and Strengthening of (R&B) PWD road to Pagidamri (via) Road Kothapally, Anantharam, Vemireddygudem, Deepavargudem from Km 0/0 to 6/7, ii) Pagidamri to Madhanapuram road from Km 0/0 to 3/0 and iii) Pagidamri road to Khudavapur road from Km 0/0 to 3/0 (including construction of HLB at Km 8/2-4 on Somannaragu) in Naigonda District. Estimate Amount: Rs. 37.50 Crores.  
2) Widening and Strengthening to Bhongir Chitaly PWD Road to Katalpally via Goligudem, Surkishala from Km 0/0 to 15/0 in Yadadri Bhongir Dist. Estimate Amount: Rs. 36.00 Crores.  
3) Improvements to the road from Hashtpur to Kothelagudem in Vikarabad District. Estimate Amount: Rs. 5.00 Crores. Total: 77.50 Crores  
Tenderers can download the tender schedules and further details at http://tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders is 12.09.2024 up to 4.00 PM for above works under Plan-MDR Scheme. Sd/- Chief Engineer (R&B)  
B.O.No: 348/PKCL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 29-08-2024



ACROSS THE STATES



SC gets bigger creche facility for children of staff

The Supreme Court on Thursday unveiled a bigger creche facility on its premises which can accommodate around 100 children of the apex court staff and lawyers. As soon as a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud assembled to hear an arbitration related matter, he informed the advocates about the facility. "Today, we dedicated the new creche. The earlier creche was about 200 square metre and it could accommodate about 30 children. Now, we have a 450 square metre creche which accommodates close to 100 children for our staff and for the members of the bar," he said. The CJ suggested the members of the bar to visit the creche in the administrative building complex of the top court. "It is a beautiful creche facility," he said. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was present in the court, said the bar members can contribute by donating toys and other such things to the creche. The CJ said the creche has a play area and sleeping area for children, bathrooms have been redesigned for the kids.



Days after joining BJP, Delhi councillor returns to AAP

One of the five Delhi councillors who quit the Aam Aadmi Party earlier this week to join the BJP returned to the AAP fold on Thursday, saying it was a mistake and he wanted to rectify it. Ramchandra, councillor from ward number 28, is a former MLA from the Bawana assembly constituency. In an official statement, the councillor said that he realised he took a wrong decision and met with senior leaders of AAP, including former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Members of Parliament Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak. Ramchandra said that joining the BJP was a big mistake, but now he wants to return to his family and rectify the error. In a post in Hindi on X, Sisodia said, "I met Aam Aadmi Party colleague and former Bawana Vidhan Sabha MLA Ramchandra. Today, he has returned to his Aam Aadmi family."



SIT for in-camera hearing of Prajwal's bail pleas

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday requested the Karnataka High Court to conduct an in-camera hearing for the bail and anticipatory bail applications of former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who faces accusations of rape and sexual assault of several women. During the hearing, Special Public Prosecutor Ravivarman Kumar, representing the SIT, sought in-camera proceedings to protect the identity of the prosecutrix. Justice M Nagaprasanna said a decision on the plea must be taken by the Chief Justice. Prajwal's legal counsel also sought more time. Consequently, the court adjourned the hearing to September 5, while observing that this was not a case where leniency could be granted. Prajwal Revanna is in judicial custody since May 31 on charges of sexual assault following his return from Germany. Recently the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Criminal Investigation Department filed a charge sheet against former MP Prajwal Revanna for rape and his father and MLA H D Revanna for sexual harassment.

Bhatti for action plan to implement..

Continued on Page 1

He stressed the need for officials to work in a manner that honours the spirit of the law introduced by the Congress, which aimed to bring light into the lives of SC/ST communities.

"The SC/ST Sub-Plan Law, brought forward in the unified state by a Congress government, must be implemented fully for its intended purpose," he told officials. He called for a comprehensive understanding and strict adherence to the law ensuring that funds are utilized exclu-

sively for SC/ST communities. Bhatti pointed out the importance of implementing the SC/ST Sub-Plan Law under the Indiramma Rajya People's Government. He directed officials to develop an action plan emphasizing that the law's goal would be fulfilled only by bringing about a meaningful change in the lives of Dalits and tribals. After preparing the action plan, officials from all departments will be informed about fund allocation and expenditure. Bhatti also urged officials to create an action plan for implementing the Indira Jal

Prabha scheme aimed at developing SC/ST lands. He recommended that Minor Irrigation Department officials should ensure water for Dalit and tribal farmers by drilling borewells and constructing check dams to raise groundwater levels. For tribal farmers practising shifting cultivation, Bhatti suggested designing schemes that generate income while preserving the forest such as promoting palm oil and fruit orchards. He inquired about the allocation and expenditure of SC/ST Sub-Plan funds under

the BRS government and urged officials to ensure that 24% of the funds are mandatorily spent on SC/STs. After conducting awareness programs with all departmental officials, he recommended monthly review meetings to monitor the implementation of the Sub-Plan Law and the expenditure from the Finance Department. He asked officials to come prepared with comprehensive action plans for the next meeting which would be held in a week by the Finance Department.

FAIR PROCESS OF ARBITRATION

National interest vital: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said there was a vital national interest in ensuring that process of arbitration was fair and private sector has faith in the alternative dispute resolution mechanism for making investments in the country. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud observed that governmental interest was not only in getting favourable outcomes in arbitrations.

The bench, also comprising justices Hrishikesh Roy, P S Narasimha, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, is hearing arguments on the vexed legal question of whether a person ineligible to become an arbitrator can nominate another as one. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that the government was interested in ensuring that arbitration as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism grows and whatever were the hindrances or what was preventing people from going into arbitration, especially the government agencies, was taken care of.

"One perspective which the government must also bear in mind is, if we are now today in an economy where we feel that private investment is crucial for the growth of the nation... there is a vital public interest or national interest in ensuring that the process of arbitration is



fair," the CJ observed. "Equally the government, representing the nation, has to be concerned of the fact that you must have the faith of the private sector in the arbitration process to invest. It is not just foreign investors, but domestic investors also," the bench said. At the outset, the solicitor general said arbitration has necessarily its roots in the contract and contract, by necessary definition, is an act of volition. The bench observed there were some wonderful and amazing arbitrators "but we also have both ends of the spectrum today."

"Would you be therefore

contemplating a situation where the Government of India prepares a panel (of arbitrators) for all undertakings of the Government of India...," the bench observed. Mehta responded, "My personal answer is yes. I will take instructions." Giving example of public procurement, the solicitor general said the Centre makes the policy which was binding on all public sector undertakings (PSUs).

The day-long arguments in the matter remained inconclusive and would continue on Friday. The apex court had on

Wednesday commenced hearing arguments on the legal issue.

It had heard submissions relating to provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, including the one on appointment of arbitrators.

Two references were made by three-judge apex court benches in 2021 for constitution of a larger bench to consider the issue.

The apex court had in 2017 and 2020 held that a person not eligible to become an arbitrator cannot nominate another person as one. However, in another matter in 2020, the top court had allowed the appointment made by a person who was ineligible to become an arbitrator.

The top court is now adjudicating the knotty issue.

The CJ had in June last year constituted a five-judge constitution bench to examine it. On February 21, the Centre had told the apex court that an expert committee headed by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan has submitted its report on proposed reforms in the arbitration sector to the law ministry.

Amid a push for making India a hub of international arbitration, the government had set up an expert panel led by Vishwanathan to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act in order to reduce the burden on courts.



'Taking hard stand to fight climate change not always practical'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many initiatives to combat climate change rely heavily on public support and taking a hard stand may not always be very practical in a democratic country, Union minister Kirti Vardhan Singh said on Thursday.

Addressing ASSOCHAM's Environment and Carbon Conference here, Singh -- the minister of state for environment -- said a forward-thinking chief minister of Karnataka was promptly voted out after he decided to put a tax on "water usage for the farmers". "A lot of initiatives to prevent climate change are heavily dependant on people and being a democracy, you know what it means... Sometimes, taking the right stand, taking

the hard stand may not be very practical in terms of being a democratic country," the minister said.

He said farmers in his home state of Uttar Pradesh were very happy because they had "all the power to pump out as much water as they want".

"In the recent elections, this was the topic to talk about in a positive way because you need votes. So, we would say we have so much irrigation resources today that our farmer just turns on the pump, goes home to sleep... and in the morning when he comes back to the farm, he has not only irrigated his fields but flooded the fields of his neighbours. And this was very appreciated when actually it's a sheer waste of our water resources," Singh said.

Part of Delhi BJP calls for 'CM face' for upcoming polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the February assembly election, a section of the Delhi BJP has been advocating for putting up a party face to challenge the Aam Aadmi Party led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

In the 2020 assembly election, the BJP contested against AAP without a leader as the CM face of the party.

In the election, the BJP was routed by the AAP, which emerged victorious on 62 of the 70 seats in the assembly. "The debate over the issue

has already begun with several senior leaders thinking that the BJP will benefit if it goes to poll with a face to challenge Kejriwal and AAP. They have already conveyed their sentiments to the national leaders in this regard," said a top leader of Delhi BJP.

Other leaders proposed several names who could be flagbearers of the party's agenda.

"It could be anyone of the prominent leaders of the party like the MPs Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Bansuri Swaraj or Manoj Tiwari, or state president Virendra Sachdeva, for-



"The debate over the issue has already begun with several senior leaders thinking that the BJP will benefit if it goes to poll with a face to challenge Kejriwal and AAP. They have already conveyed their sentiments to the national leaders in this regard," said a top leader of Delhi BJP.

mer MP Parvesh Verma or Assembly Vijender Gupta,"

said another senior Delhi BJP leader. The entire party rally-

ing behind one leader will

give a message of "unity" and also streamline campaigning for the polls, he claimed.

The BJP fought the 2015 Delhi Assembly polls with Kiran Bedi as its Chief Ministerial candidate but failed miserably, a Delhi BJP leader opposed to the idea pointed out. Not only Bedi lost from Krishna Nagar seat, but the party also was "crushed" by the AAP, which won 67 of 70 seats.

According to the section, the debate is still open and the national leadership will take a decision on later on.

Devadula project to be..

Continued on Page 1

Of the total land of 33,224 acres required, 30,268 acres have already been acquired and the state government has recently approved the acquisition of the remaining 2,957 acres. The first phase of the project, which includes three reservoirs and four pump houses, is already delivering water to 1,24,000 acres at the rate of 350 cusecs. The second phase, featuring nine reser-

voirs and seven pump houses, supplies water to 1,93,000 acres. Once the third phase is completed, the project will provide water to 2,40,000 acres with the help of 10 pump houses, delivering 1,750 cusecs of water.

The project, which pumps water from the Godavari at an elevation of 469 meters, is designed to pump 39.16 TMCs of water for around 170 days every year, utilizing 499 MWs of power.

SC pulls up CM Revanth..

Continued on Page 1

Do we pass orders on political considerations?" the bench, also comprising Justices P K Mishra and KV Viswanathan, said. The observations by the top court came while hearing a petition seeking transfer of the trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote case, in which Reddy is an accused, from Telangana to Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal.

Earlier in the morning, the top court had said it would appoint a special prosecutor to conduct the trial in the case to

inspire confidence among the parties involved. When the matter was taken up in the afternoon, the apex court discussed the names of lawyers Surendra Rao and E Uma Maheshwar Rao as possible contenders.

The counsel appearing for the petitioners in the case referred to the statements made by Reddy and said the bench should ask the police to report directly to the court and not the chief minister about the progress in their investigation in the cash-for-vote case. Reddy also holds the home portfolio.

Fourth City meant for grabbing..

Continued on Page 1

"When we ask in the Assembly, they pretend as if they don't know anything. But outside, they are speaking blatant lies," he said.

On farm loan waiver, Harish said, "The less Revanth talks about loan waivers, the better. He has cheated farmers by promising 100% loan waiver, but his ministers and MLAs now admit that the process is incomplete. Even Congress MLAs have thrown papers at officials in frustration over the non-implementation of loan waiver." "Why couldn't they complete the loan waiver by August 15? That's my challenge to them," he said.

Harish concluded by stating that he would expose all details of land-grabbing schemes under the guise of the 'Fourth City' project when the time is right. "In Kandukur, 385 acres

of government land in Survey Number 9 is being grabbed. In Tukkguda, 25 acres of land belonging to poor farmers in Survey Number 895 are being taken through proxy transactions. In Mucherla, government officials' PAs are buying lands in the name of bigwigs," he said, promising to reveal details soon.

He also took a jibe at Revanth Reddy's involvement in the Valmiki scam, a major controversy in Telangana. "Why are Congress leaders silent on the Valmiki scam? Why are they not calling for an ED investigation?" he asked. He went on to challenge Revanth to join him in demanding an ED inquiry into the scam. "Does the Congress have the guts to ask for an investigation?" he asked.

He also accused Revanth of misleading Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Telangana issues. "Rahul is being misled by

Revanth in Delhi. Let Revanth tell us when Rahul is coming to Hyderabad, so I can take him to the Chief Minister's village and show him whether the loan waiver has been implemented or not," he said. Regarding the Telangana government, he accused the Congress of being a "demolition government," stating that they had demolished the brand image of Hyderabad, the KCR Kit scheme, and the Rythu Bandhu programme.

He also alleged that the government was demolishing public confidence by going back on its promises and targeting the livelihoods of shepherds by dismantling their support structures. Touching on the contentious issue of illegal buildings, Harish asked, "Will they demolish the HYDRAA office, which is over the Buddha Bhavan drain? Will Ranganath demolish his own office before targeting others?"

Open green gram procurement..

Continued on Page 1

Officials informed the minister that harvest has come in 12 areas and there is a possibility of the green gram crop being sold in the market and ordered to set up purchase centres in those areas immediately.

Officials of Mark Fed have been ordered to complete preparations to open purchasing centres in Khammam, Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Suryapet, Narayanpet, Mahbubabad and Kamareddy districts from Friday. Similarly, it was ordered to provide facilities to farmers at the purchase centres through Mark Fed. Farmers have to follow quality standards. The government support price for green gram is Rs 8,682, the Minister said.

Wealthiest Indian with a network..

Continued on Page 1

as per the 2024 Hurun India Rich List.

In 2023's report, Adani's wealth declined by 57 per cent to Rs 4.74 lakh crore, and Ambani was way ahead with a fortune of Rs 8.08 lakh crore. It can be noted that Adani's network declined sharply following various allegations levelled by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research. The conglomerate has denied all the allegations.

In the 2014 edition, Hurun had pegged Adani's fortunes at Rs 44,000 crore, which made him the tenth richest Indian then. Shiv Nadar and family of HCL gained one spot to be the third richest with a network of Rs 3.14 lakh crore, while Serum Institute of India's Cyrus Poonawalla slipped by one notch to the fourth position with a network of Rs 2.89 lakh crore in 2024. Sun Pharmaceuticals' Dilip

Shangvi continued his ascent on the list, securing the fifth richest tag against sixth last year with a network of Rs 2.50 lakh crore.

Radha Vembu of Zoho was the wealthiest among self-made women with a fortune of Rs 47,500 crore, while Zepto's co-founders Kaivalya Vohra and Aadit Palicha, who are in their early 20s, were the youngest on the list with a network of Rs 3,600 crore and Rs 4,300 crore, respectively.

The list, which captures Indians having a network of over Rs 1,000 crore, grew by 220 individuals to 1,539 people in 2024. The cumulative wealth has seen a 46 per cent jump in the year.

Actor Shah Rukh Khan made his debut on the list with a fortune estimated at Rs 7,300 crore, which was much higher than business partner Juhi Chawla with Rs 4,600 crore network secured second place among the entertainers.

TG prepares for monkeypox..

Continued on Page 1

In addition, medicines and an isolation ward with nearly 15 beds have also been arranged at the Fever Hospital. If required, further more evaluation, the sample will be sent to Pune Institute of Nephro Urology (PINU), he added.

According to World Health Organisation, the common symptoms of monkeypox (mpox) include a skin rash or mucosal lesions, which typically last between 2 to 4 weeks. These symptoms are often accompanied by fever,

headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy and swollen lymph nodes.

Mpox is primarily transmitted through close contact with an infected individual, contact with contaminated materials, or through infected animals. The virus can also be passed to a fetus during pregnancy or to a newborn during or after birth. While the situation is being closely monitored, Telangana's health department urges citizens to stay vigilant and report any suspicious symptoms to Gandhi Hospital.

TG DISCOMs meet record..

Continued on Page 1

DISCOMs are prepared to handle further increases in demand with the capability to meet up to 17,000 MW during the peak Kharif season in September and October.

They have assured continuous power supply to agriculture and other consumer categories across the state. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti congratulated all power utilities for ensuring uninterrupted power supply in Telangana.





www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

### A close contest!

The rural-urban divide and the Jat-non-Jat paradigm could be crucial in deciding the Haryana assembly elections

As Haryana gears up for its upcoming elections, the state's political landscape is rife with complexities that reflect broader societal divides. Central to this is the rural-urban divide and the Jat-non-Jat paradigm, both of which are poised to play a crucial role in determining the electoral outcome. The recent request by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to change the polling date has added another layer of intrigue to an already charged atmosphere. Haryana's political fabric is deeply influenced by the rural-urban divide, a reflection of the state's socio-economic disparities. The urban areas, particularly key centres like Gurugram, Faridabad, and Rohtak, have traditionally been BJP strongholds. These cities, with their high migrant populations, represent a significant voter base for the BJP. However, the upcoming election is complicated by the timing of the polling date. Scheduled for October 1, the date falls within a period that could easily be extended into a six-day holiday, thanks to overlapping weekends and public holidays. The BJP fears that urban voters, particularly those in the NCR, may choose to use this extended break to travel, thereby potentially lowering voter turnout in areas where the party has a stronghold. Historically, rural turnout in Haryana has been higher than urban turnout, which could tilt the scales against the BJP if urban voters are absent.



Another crucial factor in the upcoming elections is the Jat-non-Jat divide. Jats, who form a dominant social group in Haryana, have traditionally been aligned with the Congress, especially in rural areas. The BJP, on the other hand, has found support among the non-Jat communities, particularly in urban regions. This division was evident in the 2024 general elections, where the BJP won all five Lok Sabha seats in non-Jat dominated areas. The BJP's support base in rural areas has been eroded, particularly among Jats, who have been disillusioned by the central government's response to their protests. The Congress is working to capitalise on this discontent by consolidating a Jat-Dalit-Muslim alliance in rural areas, which could pose a significant challenge to the BJP. In light of these challenges, the BJP's request to change the polling date has sparked controversy. The party argues that the potential for a long weekend could lead to lower voter turnout, particularly in urban areas where it has a strong base. The Congress has dismissed the BJP's request for date change as a sign of nervousness. The Election Commission's decision on the date change will be crucial, as it could influence the electoral outcome in a state where every vote counts. With ten years of incumbency and a narrowing margin of victory, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to secure a favourable result. Whether the ECI will accommodate the BJP's request remains to be seen, but the upcoming elections in Haryana are shaping up to be a closely contested battle.

Jat communities, particularly in urban regions. This division was evident in the 2024 general elections, where the BJP won all five Lok Sabha seats in non-Jat dominated areas. The BJP's support base in rural areas has been eroded, particularly among Jats, who have been disillusioned by the central government's response to their protests. The Congress is working to capitalise on this discontent by consolidating a Jat-Dalit-Muslim alliance in rural areas, which could pose a significant challenge to the BJP. In light of these challenges, the BJP's request to change the polling date has sparked controversy. The party argues that the potential for a long weekend could lead to lower voter turnout, particularly in urban areas where it has a strong base. The Congress has dismissed the BJP's request for date change as a sign of nervousness. The Election Commission's decision on the date change will be crucial, as it could influence the electoral outcome in a state where every vote counts. With ten years of incumbency and a narrowing margin of victory, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to secure a favourable result. Whether the ECI will accommodate the BJP's request remains to be seen, but the upcoming elections in Haryana are shaping up to be a closely contested battle.

### PICTALK



Visitors at India Gate enjoy the rains in New Delhi

RANJAN DIMRI

# How media shapes public perception

In a world where sensationalism often trumps substance, it's time to rethink how we engage with the news and what it says about the society we've built.



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The last few weeks have seen some major convulsions at the basic level of the Indian society. The listing can be long, depending upon the predisposition and values of the person making a list, or indeed brief if this person wants to strike a judgmental posture on what he considers important. This debate can merit its own resolution but the common-sense approach would make it obvious that the NEET examination and the Kolkata rape and murder episode have touched a very large number of minds and people who are in touch with the media. This itself raises another basic question. That has to do with the role of the media in attributing to an episode both circulation and importance. The reach and mode of the media become critical in identifying an issue and formulating it. One of the farthest reach of a media is through the radio. By and large, the radio is controlled by governmental agencies. This is followed by television, which is controlled both by the government and by some powerful private media houses. Both clusters claim a popular following, and both are accused of biases. Hence, to a fairly complicated question on what constitutes much of the news, there is a plausible answer: that which the media of the day decides to project and sustain as news. Thus it is that the role of governance/ownership of the mode of the media, in the identification of news, and sustaining it becomes critical. This brings us to a basic question: what constitutes news and how is it maintained at the frontlines? What is projected in so-called news is impossible for a private citizen to verify. That raises the question of the credibility of a channel. The credibility of the channel is itself a matter of popular perception, and it is also nurtured by reputation and conviction. To understand the gravity and implications of the statements and exposures above, one has to realize that news is both essential and dependent



upon the larger intellectual culture of the community where the news circulates. If the community is mature, it has developed safe parameters of credibility and conviction, and therefore one can be reasonably sure that what is being circulated is true. By and large, globally, the media, also, has its methods of checks and balances, standards and credibility, of reach and sustenance. Hence, whereas it may be a worthwhile debate to consider what constitutes news: origin, sustenance, and dissemination of news has certain standards across the globe. These, are like many things in life, having largely acknowledged standards without much vagueness. These are considered givens of a civil society. Hence the conclusion that if the general media projects something, it must be the truth, or at least the truth in good faith. Reference has been made above to the NEET episode and the Kolkata murder and rape case. The jury is out on both cases, and a conclusions are awaited. The civil society is maintained on such pillars. However, two questions emerge: given the attention which both of these cases have received, is this the only news which affected



THE BASIC TRUTH IS ALSO THAT IT IS NOT SOME INTRANSIENT STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS OF THE MEDIA THAT SUSTAINS ITS LIFE BUT THE ECONOMIC FORCES WHICH NURTURE ITS EXISTENCE

the wellbeing of the people, and is there a question of the proportion and inter-se importance of news? To debate the importance of both of the two episodes mentioned above would be a pointless exercise. However, by the same token, it is true that there are other activities effecting every-day living and have been, in a manner of speaking, overlooked. Hence, after resolving the concerns related to credibility arises an issue of the relative importance of the items being reported. It would be a common place to say that sensational news spreads faster and catches more attention than routine news, no matter how important it may be. Good news travels slower and catches less attention. The healthiness of a society needs to be assessed against objective indicators of health, and clearly one of them would be how much mileage does a positive news get as compared to the mileage a negative news gets. The strength of a society comes not only from handling the unhappy episodes which lead to news but also from giving positive news the importance that it deserves. It is here again that the media need continuous help in introspection. The basic truth

is also that it is not some intransient strength and weakness of the media that sustains its life but the economic forces which nurture its existence. As indicated above, if the media disseminates sensational information, it is because that kind of information is read more widely and followed more avidly. The problem therefore originates not just with the media but with the people who use the media. Further, it becomes a question of mass contact and mobilization of mass opinion. The time has come when one needs to revisit what constitutes a civil society and how a civil society exercises its choices and preferences. The economic and financial flows merely run in the channels which have been created with such efforts. Essentially, therefore, a question is: what is the kind of society which one has given to oneself and how do its norms get modified and operated, also, through the media? As indicated above, this is merely the sub-structure to a much larger edifice that the society has built for itself. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A STATUE OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

Madam — The recently collapsed statue of Shivaji in Maharashtra, is a grim reflection of political expediency. That a statue of one of the most revered and respected figures of Maharashtra has collapsed barely nine months after its inauguration, speaks volumes about the malpractices that must have gone into the installation of a statue that was expected to last a good part of a century.

Instead of expressing remorse and regret, the political class is doing what it knows best — ducking responsibility and pointing fingers. The pedestal and all that remains of the statue ought to be cordoned off, and preserved as a reminder of the gross failure of the present day dispensation. Near it, a stone plaque should read — This site is an admission of the government's failure to do justice to the memory of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, whose statue collapsed just nine months after it was dedicated to the people of Maharashtra.

We promise that this will never happen again. We hope to be forgiven by the people of the state with whose money the statue project was commissioned. To atone for our grave mistake, another statue is being constructed nearby. We assure you that it will last many many years and be a fitting tribute to a historical figure who is so dear to our hearts. I know too well that the shameful episode will soon be forgotten by our netas as well as the public.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

### IMPLEMENT MISSION SHAKTI

Madam — Many people are prone to depression due to the harsh realities of life like low income, pollution, bad relationships, lack of education, etc. During this post-depression, if a person does not hope to become well, then it is a sign of mental illness. The consequences of inaction are dire. Without effective support systems, women in the country are left vulnerable to violence, harass-

### The logic of Changing election date



Haryana BJP's State Election Management Committee has logically put forward the view that there is a weekend holiday before the assembly election date on October 1 and there are some holidays after that. INLD has also agreed to postpone the assembly elections. Opposition parties are hell-bent on condemning every aspect of the ruling party. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has expressed concern over low voting percentage where people use long weekend holidays on the day of polling. Shifting the election dates will definitely help in increasing the voting percentage. Earlier also, the dates of elections were changed in Rajasthan, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, the change of date is not important but the change of mind of voters will be more meaningful. The election Commission is a statutory independent body and should remain firm on its stand rather than bowing to the political pressure which often times is self serving than for the public good.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

ment and exploitation. Every day, stories emerge of women who have been failed by the very systems that were supposed to protect them. These are not just isolated incidents; they are symptoms of a much larger problem — a systemic failure to prioritise women's safety. It's time that the country wakes up to the harsh realities and takes a hard look at where we stand and acknowledge that we are failing our women. The outrage over the incident in Kolkata should serve as a wake-up call for the nation. We cannot afford to delay any longer. We need immediate action to fully implement Mission Shakti in a broader sense and the narrow minded approach of neglecting women must be a priority. In conclusion, addressing the root causes of depression and systemic failures is crucial to ensuring the safety and well-being of women in our country. The recent incident in Kolkata is a stark reminder that we cannot continue to ignore the harsh realities faced by women daily. It's time for collective action to fully implement initiatives like

Mission Shakti and move beyond narrow-minded neglect. Only by prioritizing women's safety and mental health can we hope to create a society where every woman is protected, respected, and empowered. The time for change is now.

K Subramaniam | Mumbai

### REVIVAL OF VIVACITY

Madam — As an avid reader of The Pioneer, I am delighted to see that Vivacity is being published regularly for the past few months. I always enjoy reading Vivacity and Agenda, the reviews about art exhibitions, culture and movies being my personal favourites. Your past few features have been great, especially the Rakshbandhan one. Today, I read about the Heritage Walk and I will definitely visit Purana Qila now. The food review section is and has always been great!!!

Atharv Singh | Delhi

## Emotional intelligence: The secret of outstanding leadership

As the next era of leadership unfolds, the demand for emotionally intelligent leaders has never been clearer—are you ready to rise to the challenge?

Today's corporate climate is fast-paced and continually evolving. Emotional intelligence (EI) is the secret weapon that distinguishes great pioneers from average ones; it is accompanied by a long list of excellent technical qualifications. But what precisely is this elusive talent, and why is it becoming a defining characteristic of outstanding leaders? It is the ability to control our emotions and understand and empathise with others. It forms a link between self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management. To speak more specifically to leaders, emotional intelligence is not only desirable but even more crucial for leaders than the desire to influence others and inspire their teams to greatness. This is where EI comes into play, somewhat like the oil that keeps the motor of leadership running. Emotionally intelligent leaders express ideas with clarity and empathy, make judgements based on both logic and emotion and maintain strong team morale and productivity. They prefer to ride out the



storm rather than be tossed by it, and instead look to harness it for growth and innovation. But how do aspiring leaders cultivate this crucial ability? It begins with reflection. Frequent self-analytical practices, such as journaling or meditation, may promote insight. Encouraging feedback—even the difficult kind—and viewing failures as opportunities for improvement are also important components. The most critical aspect is empathy and listening to others rather than simply hearing them. This final trait will propel a good leader to new heights. Take, for example, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. Since the beginning of his term in 2014, he has been considered as the driving

force behind the company's cultural shift from fierce competitiveness to collaborative innovation. So, what's the magic? A leadership style relies mostly on emotional intelligence. Empathy-driven continuous learning and development mindset not only rebuilt Microsoft's reputation but also its financial performance to unprecedented heights. Another excellent example is Jacinda Ardern, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand. Ardern's leadership style, which includes speaking with compassion, making clear tough decisions, and uniting the country in the face of tragedy, highlights the importance of emotional intelligence in political leadership. Looking ahead, it is clear that one aspect of good lead-

ership will remain central: emotional intelligence. While the next wave of technology will undoubtedly replace occupations in the future, leaders in any area will need to possess increasingly humane qualities such as empathy, self-awareness, and emotional regulation. The message is clear: to be an effective leader in the twenty-first century, we must continue to improve our emotional intelligence alongside our technical proficiency. Whether you aspire to be an established CEO or a team leader, investing in your emotional intelligence can pay you in terms of career success and personal fulfilment. Remember that developing emotional intelligence is a lifetime journey that promises to improve not only your leadership style but also your overall approach to life and relationships. As leaders, we commit to leaving a legacy based on how we make others feel and the relationships we build. The future of leadership is in emotional intelligence: isn't it time you took the initiative? (The author is a freelance writer, views are personal)



RACHNA LAKHPATRI





## FIRST COLUMN

### UKRAINE: INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC TIGHTROPE

#### PM Modi's historic Ukraine visit signals new foreign policy approach



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ukraine, last week, comes at an interesting churn of events on the geopolitical landscape. The visit, a first, by any Indian PM since Ukraine was first carved out as an independent sovereign nation, had many layers of interpretations regarding India's new foreign policy approach. The timing was significant as this trip came barely six weeks after PM Modi's state visit to Moscow. The Russia trip was widely criticised by India's strategic ally US, primarily due to the timing. Even as PM Modi was in Moscow, the NATO leaders were huddled together in Washington, discussing military aid for Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russia bombed a children's hospital in Ukraine leading to the loss of lives for civilians and children. President Zelenskyy had condemned India's PM's first visit to Russia during his third term and the US State Department had also issued stern statements regarding the trip. Indian PM had also avoided participating in the Peace Summit organised in June, to find a political solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. The recent visit by PM Modi to Ukraine, even as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was in Washington DC was a statement regarding India's fine balance diplomacy in times of war. President Biden, called up the Indian PM soon after his visit to Ukraine to apprise him of the prevailing situation. The readout released from the White House read "President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke today with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to discuss the Prime Minister's recent trip to Poland and Ukraine, as well as the United Nations General Assembly meetings in September. The



President commended the Prime Minister for his historic visits to Poland and Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in decades, and for his message of peace and ongoing humanitarian support for Ukraine, including its energy sector. The Leaders affirmed their continued support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict by international law, on the basis of the UN Charter." Interestingly, the Indian PM also spoke to President Biden regarding the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh and expressed concern regarding the safety of minorities, especially Hindus, which was highlighted in the Indian statement after the telephone conversation. The Bangladesh situation omission from the White House readout did create some murmurs across Delhi corridors. India is now making efforts to have its own Europe policy, which is not curated with a Russia factor in mind. For several decades post-independence, the Cold War era, the block approach mostly guided India's foreign policy, especially where Russia was involved. Russia has been a long-standing ally of India and is also one of the biggest exporters of defence equipment. While maintaining silence on sensitive Russia-related topics has been India's long-standing approach, things began to change in the past few years. There is a growing sense of having an independent need-based foreign policy, amongst the top policymakers. PM Modi initiated the concept of "not a time for war" at multilateral platforms such as G20, which started finding global resonance when vocalising concerns regarding Ukraine and Russia. He upped the narrative with his clear message to Russia during his Moscow visit that permanent solutions could not be found on the battlefield. The joint statement issued post PM Modi's meeting with President Zelenskyy read "The Indian side reiterated its principled position and focus on peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy. Prime Minister Modi reiterated the need for sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that will have broad acceptability and contribute towards early restoration of peace." The message to global leaders, particularly the US and Russia that the recent PM Modi visit highlighted was that India is willing to engage with any nation, even if they may be in opposite camps, to find the best possible outcomes for itself.

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

# Prospects of privatisation of PSUs are bleak



UTTAM GUPTA

### As the Modi government shifts its strategy towards 'prudent public wealth management' the prospect of privatising PSBs are increasingly unlikely.



Announcing Modi - government's policy on disinvestment of central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) in her Budget speech for FY 2021-22 the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman had talked of privatizing two public sector banks (PSBs) and one insurance company. A CPSU is an undertaking in which the Central government has majority share holding of more than 50 percent. Disinvestment refers to sale of its shares to private investors. When, such sale results in reduction of the government's shareholding in the CPSU to below 50 percent and concomitant transfer of ownership and management control to private entity, this is termed as privatization. The disinvestment plans have met with disappointing results so far. During 2021-22, against a target of Rs 175,000 crore, the actual proceeds from share sale of CPSUs were a meager Rs 15,440 crore. During 2022-23, against a target of Rs 65,000 crore, the actual was Rs 31,059 crore. For 2023-24, the actual was Rs 14,564 crore against a target of Rs 30,000 crore which itself was watered down from the budget estimate (BE) of Rs 51,000 crore. As for privatization, except for the sale of Air India to the Tata Group during 2021-22, the government has little to show. Apart from offloading 3.5 percent of its shareholding in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), it is selling its stake in the IDBI Bank. The process of selling the latter that started in May 2021 is likely to get consummated during the current FY. However, it can't be termed as privatization as already the bank was operating as a private lender even as the Centre became its passive shareholder consequent to capital infusions to manage former's bad debt losses. Currently, the government and the LIC collectively own 94.72 percent of IDBI Bank with shareholding of 45.48 percent and 49.24 percent respectively (the remaining 5.28 percent is with Public shareholders). Of this, the Centre plans to sell a 60.7 percent stake, comprising 30.5 percent of its own and 30.2 percent of LIC's. Will the Centre take up selling of PSBs and an insurance company - as promised in the 2021-22 budget? It seems unlikely. If, that were to be the case,



AS FOR PRIVATISATION, EXCEPT FOR THE SALE OF AIR INDIA TO THE TATA GROUP DURING 2021-22, THE GOVERNMENT HAS LITTLE TO SHOW. APART FROM OFFLOADING 3.5 PERCENT OF ITS SHAREHOLDING IN THE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION (LIC), IT IS SELLING ITS STAKE IN THE IDBI BANK.

the government ought to have set a target for receipts from disinvestment in its budget for 2024-25. But, it hasn't even as the FM has made a provision for Rs 50,000 crore under the head "miscellaneous capital receipts". This has happened for the first time in a decade. Second, Team Modi is reviewing its strategy to shift its focus from selling CPSUs to what it euphemistically describes as 'prudent public wealth management (PWM), supporting not-for-profit enterprises, and ensuring strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors'. Banking, insurance and financial services (BIFS) were one of the four strategic sectors mentioned by Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech for 2021-22. BIFS also qualifies for not-for-profit enterprises categorization especially when it comes to PSBs which are expected to contribute to realizing social objectives such as reaching out banking services to remote and inaccessible areas; making concessional credit available to small and marginal farmers and other vulnerable/deprived sections of the society; funding infrastructure development particularly in areas (for instance, rural roads, housing for the poor etc) where private banks may not be so keen to come. Modi - government's commitment to a strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors juxtaposed with support for not-for-profit enterprises clearly signals that it has lost interest in privatizing PSBs and insurance companies. Third, unlike the previous two terms when BJP had an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha on its own, in the third term, it depends on the support from its major allies namely TDP and JD (U) for implementing far reaching decisions such as privatization. Moreover, in the current political environment wherein even a small move such as 'lateral entry' of specialists from the private sector (the sole intent

behind this step was to deliver more effective governance in sync with contemporary challenges) is opposed by the opposition parties forcing the government to retreat, it wouldn't be inclined to make a big move such as privatization of PSBs. About a decade back, many of PSBs were on the brink. The present dispensation has made a lot of efforts to them pull back. These included amongst others capital infusion, enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for expeditious resolution of non-performing assets (NPAs), banks consolidation into fewer entities for achieving scale and greater efficiencies, computerization of bank branches and so on. Today, they are robust and healthy even as the performance of some of them is even better than private banks. But, we shouldn't miss the big picture. Fundamentally, most of the ills associated with the functioning of CPSUs including PSBs have a lot to do with their continued majority ownership (share holding of more than 50 percent) and control by the government. This brings them under a plethora of controls and monitoring/surveillance/vigilance and has the effect of shackling its management. Armed with it, the political establishment makes all board level appointments viz. CMD/MD etc and deposes bureaucratic on a bank's board to represent its overwhelming ownership. In other words, the entire board is geared to listen to his master's voice (read the political bosses) when it comes to taking policy decisions or even in its day-to-day running. In the past, meddling in the affairs of PSBs took the form of what came to be known as the cult of 'crony capitalism'. The businessmen patronized by the ruling class managed loans on considerations other than merit and got them ever-greened (taking

a new loan to payback the earlier one). Neither, the banks insisted on repayment, nor the defaulters had any sense of fear as those who were expected to take action, chose not to. In the past, the political brass also rode piggy back on PSBs for absorbing losses/liabilities created by populist policies such as supplying power to farmers and households at subsidized rates, (or even free in some states). Be it a spate of bail-outs given to power distribution companies (discoms) or loan waivers given to farmers etc, these inflicted heavy loss on PSBs. The idea of disinvesting PSBs should be seen as a befitting response to the dire need for reducing bureaucratic interference and granting autonomy to their management for speedy decisions and improved functioning. It was first mooted by the NDA - dispensation under the then, prime minister Vajpayee (1999-2004). It had proposed reduction in government's shareholding in PSBs to less than 50 percent initially and eventually to 33 percent. In 2015, a RBI committee headed by P Nayak recommended setting up of a bank investment company (BIC) where all government shares in PSBs will be vested and divested of its shareholding in all PSBs to below 50 percent. It also proposed setting up of an autonomous Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) to select their top management. In 2020, the RBI recommended reduction in the shareholding of the government in six top PSBs to 51 percent. In a follow up meeting, it went a step further to recommend reduction in government's stake to 26 percent. The 2021-22 budget announcement to privatize two PSBs was a good step forward, though belated. To put it on the backburner now doesn't bode well for banks' health in the long-term. (The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

# Global interference and India's economic sovereignty

### As India rises to become a global superpower, it faces challenges not only from within but also from international entities that aim to disrupt its economic and political stability

The prosperity and progress of a nation hinge on the efficiency of its governance, particularly in upholding the rule of law by those in top constitutional, administrative, and judicial positions. This also involves the transparency and accountability of regulatory regimes across various sectors of law and economy. In our modern era, characterized by freedom, equality, and democracy, many developing countries have emerged from the shadows of colonialism. Despite independence, the remnants of colonialism persist in governance and social structures, and former colonial powers often carry a lingering sense of superiority. This is evident in their interventions in other countries, where they create



V K BAHUGUNA

political and economic crises under the guise of promoting cosmopolitan values. These interventions are particularly harmful to independent and dynamic leaders in Third World countries. A recent example is the destabilization of the Hasina Wazed government in Bangladesh, fueled by agitation with foreign backing. In recent years, such external forces have formed an international cartel, often

referred to as the "deep state." This group, supported by a segment of religious extremists and a political elite, acts against their own country's interests for selfish reasons. This insidious influence is spreading to stable democracies like India. Direct military intervention is difficult in modern times, so these forces resort to destabilizing social, political, and economic fabrics with the help of internal collaborators. They present themselves as the arbiters of morality, creating narratives to discredit certain groups, undermine social harmony, and ultimately destabilize economies. Their goal is to generate public unrest and overthrow democratically elected governments by eroding the state's capacity to man-

age public welfare. This is a fallout of globalization and an attempt to reassert hegemonic control. One prominent example is the Hindenburg Research firm, which targeted Adani Enterprises last year, leading to a severe crash in the Indian stock market and a major political storm just before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress party seized the opportunity, and the Supreme Court ordered an inquiry, which eventually discredited Hindenburg's report. However, this month, Hindenburg targeted the SEBI Chairperson, accusing her of investing in Adani companies abroad. Both SEBI and Adani Group denied any wrongdoing, explaining that the investments were made before she took on her



role at SEBI. Similar uproar was seen when the Rafale aircraft deal was signed in 2015. When Hindenburg first targeted Adani, it made a profit of \$4 million, while Adani lost \$153 million in market value. However, this time, the public saw through the ruse, dismissing it as the tantrum of a disgruntled entity. It is common for companies to

establish subsidiaries abroad, and such activities are always under regulatory surveillance, operating within the law. Historically, India lacked a robust private sector, with Tata being the only notable corporate entity during the era of the "license raj." However, thanks to economic liberalization under the Narsimha Rao government, the private sector has grown significantly and now contributes around 27% of the country's GDP. The Indian private sector is now a crucial engine for employment, service delivery, capital flow, and industrial growth. The public sector, on the other hand, focuses on activities serving the general public, funded by tax revenues. Gautam Adani's conglomerate plays a central role in India's ambition to

become the third-largest economy, with its involvement in key sectors like electricity, port management, mining, natural gas, and infrastructure. Among the top taxpayers in 2022-2023, only the State Bank of India (SBI) was a public sector entity, with Reliance Industries leading the list, followed by SBI and HDFC. The GDP at constant prices in May 2024 was tentatively estimated by the Indian Statistical Office at Rs173.82 lakh crore, with real Gross Value Added at Rs158.74 lakh crore for 2023-24, marking an 8% increase over the previous year. Various private sector industries played a pivotal role in this growth. Adani Group dominated the list of top value gainers in 2022, adding Rs 8.42 lakh crore to investor wealth.

When any country challenges the supremacy of these foreign powers, they attempt to destroy it by spending vast sums of money. The 'Make in India' initiative is gradually positioning Adani as a global industrial leader, alongside other Indian giants like Ambani, Tata, and Mahindra. India's technological advancements and the societal contributions of companies like Tata are gaining recognition. This is precisely why foreign forces forge alliances with frustrated leaders and anti-national elements, funding them to gain control over governance. The current government must take stronger actions rather than merely offering rhetoric. (The writer is a former civil servant; views are personal)



IN BRIEF



Gold slips Rs 100; silver plunges Rs 600

Gold prices slipped Rs 100 to Rs 74,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had ended at Rs 74,350 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver prices also plunged by Rs 600 to Rs 87,200 per kilogram, extending the losses in the second straight session on Thursday from the previous close of Rs 87,800 per kg. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also declined Rs 100 to Rs 73,900 per 10 grams on Thursday. It had settled at Rs 74,000 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Traders attributed fall in the gold prices due to reduced demand by jewellers in the local markets. On the global front, comex gold is trading at USD 2,555.10 per ounce, higher by USD 17.30 per ounce or 0.68 per cent. "Gold prices rose on Thursday and traded within a range as traders remained cautious ahead of the release of key US macro data, including US unemployment claims and GDP data," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.



Retail inflation rates for farm, rural workers ease

Retail inflation rates for farm and rural workers eased to 6.17 per cent and 6.20 per cent, respectively, in July. The retail inflation rates for farm and rural workers were 7.02 per cent and 7.04 per cent, respectively, in June this year. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and for rural labourers (CPI-RL) registered an increase of 10 points each in July, reaching 1,290 and 1,302, respectively, a labour ministry statement said. The CPI-AL and CPI-RL were 1,280 points and 1,292 points, respectively, a year ago. According to the statement, year-on-year inflation rates based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL for July were recorded at 6.17 per cent and 6.20 per cent, compared to 7.43 per cent and 7.26 per cent in July, 2023. The corresponding figures for June 2024 were 7.02 per cent for CPI-AL and 7.04 per cent for CPI-RL.



Eicher to incentivise customers scrapping old vehicles

Eicher Trucks and Buses, a business unit of VE Commercial Vehicles, on Thursday said it has launched a programme to incentivise customers for scrapping old vehicles to purchase new trucks and buses. Under the terms of the scheme, buyers of new vehicles holding a valid 'Certificate of Deposit' from any recognised scrappage centre can receive incentives ranging between 1.25 per cent to 3 per cent of the base vehicle cost of a vehicle with payload or seat capacity equivalent to the scrapped unit, the company said in a statement. In case equivalent vehicles are not available, it would be possible for customers to purchase trucks or buses with immediate higher or lower tonnage or seating capacity, it added. The programme is valid from September 1, 2024, and will run for a period of 2 years or until further notice, the company stated. "The forward-looking Vehicle Scrappage Policy by the government represents a transformative step towards promoting a circular economy."

Moody's ups India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 pc

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Ratings on Thursday raised India's GDP growth forecast for 2024 and 2025 calendar year to 7.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, on strong broad-based growth.

The ratings agency said that the growth could be higher if the cyclical momentum, especially for private consumption, gains more traction.

"From a macroeconomic perspective, the Indian economy is in a sweet spot, with the mix of solid growth and moderating inflation," Moody's Ratings said in its August update of Global Macro Outlook 2024-25.

As per the projections, India's GDP growth would be 7.2 per cent in 2024, up from 6.8 per cent previously. In 2025, the growth is estimated at 6.6 per cent versus our earlier estimate of 6.4 per cent.

"We have raised our real GDP growth projections for the Indian economy for 2024 and 2025... These forecast changes assume strong broad-based growth," Moody's said.

The economy expanded 7.8 per cent year-over-year in the first quarter of 2024 despite the



Fitch retains India rating

Global rating agency Fitch on Thursday affirmed India's 'BBB-' rating with a stable outlook on strong growth outlook and fiscal credibility. Fitch said India is set to remain among the fastest-growing sovereigns globally with GDP growth of 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal year and 6.5 per cent in FY24. Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default

Rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a Stable Outlook," the global rating agency said in a statement. Fitch has kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, since August 2006. Earlier in May, US-based S&P Global Ratings upped India's rating outlook to positive from stable, while affirming the 'BBB-' rating on improved quality of government expenditure and robust GDP growth.

persistence of tight monetary policy and demonstrated progress on fiscal consolidation.

Moody's said signs of a revival in rural demand are already emerging, on the back of improving prospects for agricultural output amid above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season.

Non-financial corporate and bank balance sheets are significantly healthier than before the pandemic, and firms are increasingly tapping equity and bond markets to raise capital. Moody's said a recent paper by the RBI also projects a 54 per cent jump in private capex in the current financial year.

The capex cycle should continue to gain steam amid rising capacity utilisation, upbeat business sentiment and the government's continued thrust on infrastructure spending.

Supporting the growth dynamics is rapid and widespread digitalisation of the economy, driven by the government's investments to build digital public infrastructure (a trid of identity, payments and data management solutions), growing telecom and internet penetration and low data usage costs.

Reliance not built on largesse; not hoarding wealth: Mukesh Ambani

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man, on Thursday said each of his sprawling conglomerate's businesses was built from scratch and were not received as largesse, as he laid out growth plans at India's most valuable company.



Ambani, 67, also said his Reliance Industries, which has interests in oil refining, oil and gas production, petrochemicals, telecom, retail, and media, was not pursuing short-term profits or hoarding wealth but instead is creating wealth and working to provide energy security to the nation.

He went on to add that personal or family wealth holds no importance to him and is working to pass on the baton at Reliance to the next generation.

Ambani, whose three children are on board of Reliance and look after different verticals - Isha, 32, for retail, twin brother Akash for telecom and youngest Anant, 29, for new energy - has most of his net worth of USD 112 billion com-

ing from his 42 per cent stake in Reliance.

He took over Reliance after the death of his father and legendary industrialist Dhirubhai and transformed what was a textile and petrochemical company into a USD 250 billion conglomerate that also owns the world's largest single-location oil refinery.

After a split with younger brother Anil, he grew its petroleum operations and branched into new areas, such as retail, telecom and media.

"We have built each of our businesses from scratch and grown them to a global scale. We did not receive them as largesse," Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd, said at the company's annual shareholder meeting.

The richest man in Asia and, for a brief time in 2008, a contender for the title of the wealthiest man in the world, said Reliance stood for wealth creation and not short-term profiteering.

Cos with potential to move goods fast can set up e-comm export hubs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A company with the potential to aggregate fast moving goods like textiles, handloom, handicrafts, gems, jewellery and ship those items on demand can set up e-commerce export hubs in the country, an official said.

The official said that companies having a good sourcing network, logistics backup and good warehousing new port of exit can also set up these hubs.

The directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT), under the commerce ministry, will soon meet companies that are interested in setting up e-commerce export hubs (ECEH) in the country, the official said.

The DGFT has invited proposals from the industry to set up these hubs for examination, support and hand-holding.

Based on the proposal, further details, including software requirements for ECEH, to facilitate seamless and expeditious export clearances will be firmed up.

RALLY IN RELIANCE, TATA MOTORS SHARES

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time high levels

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit their all-time high levels on Thursday, driven by a fag-end rally in index majors Reliance Industries and Tata Motors.

Robust buying in energy and FMCG stocks also supported the domestic equities, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 349.05 points or 0.43 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,134.61,

extending its winning momentum to the eighth day in a row. During the day, it soared 500.27 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a lifetime intra-day peak of 82,285.83.

The BSE gauge has surged 1,709.93 points or 2.12 per cent in eight straight trading sessions.

Rallying for the 11th straight session, the NSE Nifty surged 99.60 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 25,151.95. During the

trade, the benchmark climbed 140.55 points or 0.56 per cent to hit a fresh record intra-day peak of 25,192.90.

In 11 trading days, the NSE Nifty has jumped 1,012.95 points or 4.19 per cent.

"Nifty ended on a strong note on Thursday aided by buying across frontline stocks in the last hour of trade,"

said Deepak Jaisani, Head of Retail Research, H D F C Securities.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tata Motors jumped over 4 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, HCL Technologies, ITC, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, Maruti and State Bank of India.

Final guidelines on project loans likely in 2-3 months: RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The final project loan guidelines are likely to be announced in the next two to three months, a senior RBI official said on Thursday.

The norms regarding the Expected Credit Loss (ECL)-based provisioning are in an advanced stage of discussion, the official told reporters here.

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to set aside 5 per cent of the total exposure to a project till the construction of the project is on.

Fearing a hit to profits, banks have been asking for a relook into it, as per reports.

The RBI official said up to 60 responses have been received on the project loans draft, and the central bank is going through all the suggestions.

When asked about the timelines by which the final guidelines will come in, the

official said it will take "at least 2-3 months", but did not give a specific answer on whether the guidelines will be implemented from April 1 next year onwards.

To a question on the ECL framework, the official said the norms are in the 'advance stages' of discussion.

The official admitted that there is an "overlap" on both the ECL and project finance norms, but seemed non-committal on whether both the guidelines will come in together.

RBI permits foreign investors in IFSC to invest in sovereign green bonds

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Thursday introduced a scheme to permit foreign investors in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) to invest in sovereign green bonds to facilitate wider non-resident participation in such instruments. The government issued sovereign green bonds (SGrBs) in January 2023.

SGrBs were also issued as part of the government borrowing calendar in FY2023-24. At present, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) registered with Sebi are permitted to invest in SGrBs under the different routes available for investment by FPIs in government securities.

Earlier in April, the Reserve Bank announced the plan -- Scheme for Trading and Settlement of Sovereign Green Bonds in the International Financial Services Centre in India -- to facilitate wider non-resident participation in SGrBs.

On Thursday, the RBI issued a circular permitting eligible foreign investors in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) to invest in such bonds.

Govt identifies 38 priority rail projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday said it has identified 38 priority rail projects under the coal logistics plan that will be fast-tracked in close coordination with the Ministry of Railways.

These projects are important for improving rail connectivity, ensuring timely coal supply and reducing logistics costs, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of coal transporta-

tion across the country. Among these projects, the government has recently approved two significant rail projects in Odisha - the Sardega-Bhalumuda double line and the Bargarh Road - Nawapara Road single line -- the coal ministry said in a statement.



The 37.24-km Sardega-Bhalumuda new double line, passing through various coal

blocks of the IB Valley and Mand-Raigarh Coalfield, will help in the evacuation of coal from mines operated by Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd and several private mines.

The project is strategic as it reduces the transportation distance to power plants in the northern part of the country from Sardega,

thereby enhancing efficiency. Similarly, the 138.32-km long Bargarh Road - Nawapara Road new single line will significantly improve coal evacuation from the Talcher Coalfield, providing a direct and shorter route towards Nagpur and the western regions.

This project is likely to substantially reduce logistics costs and improve the overall efficiency of coal transportation from the Talcher region.

Reliance aims to enter luxury jewellery segment

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The country's leading retailer, Reliance Retail, which crossed the Rs 3 lakh crore-revenue mark in FY24, is aiming to double its business in the next 3-4 years, Reliance Industries Director Isha Ambani said on Thursday while addressing the company's AGM.

Now, three of Reliance Retail's private labels have crossed Rs 2,000 crore in annual sales, and a few are lined up above Rs 1,000 crore, Isha said, adding that its registered customer base crossed a milestone of 300 million.

Reliance Retail, which crossed a valuation of USD 100 billion, has plans to enter the "luxury jewellery segment with a curated, design-led experience and is exploring

the fashion jewellery and accessories segment", she said. "With strong foundation we have built, I am confident that we will achieve our goal of doubling our retail business in the next 3-4 years," Isha said.

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani said Reliance Retail, which operates over 18,836 stores, has become among the top-5 global retailers in terms of the number of stores.

In terms of market capitalisation, Reliance Retail is among the top-10 retailers globally and top-30 in terms of revenues, he added.

It has a unique operating model, which has been the foundation of the competitive advantage and leadership position.

UPCOMING FESTIVE SEASON

Two-wheeler industry expects robust growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The two-wheeler industry is expected to witness robust sales in the upcoming festive season, riding on the back of strong revival in rural demand and bountiful monsoon so far, according to TVS Motor Company Senior Vice President - Head Commuter Business Aniruddha Haldar.

In an interaction with PTI, he noted that the growth in the two-wheeler industry is also being driven by rising acceptance of scooters in the rural areas.

"In the first few months of this fiscal, we have seen the

two-wheeler industry growing at 13 per cent, which is higher than what we have seen in the recent years. "Even more heartening is the fact that in recent times we are seeing the rural demand starting to outstrip urban areas," Haldar said.

When rural demand starts outstripping urban demand it is a very good sign for the two-wheeler industry as a whole, Haldar noted.

"Given these indicators and the fact that monsoon this year, while it has given us excessive blessings in some areas, on the whole it has been bountiful. We are confident that the overall two-



wheeler industry going into the festive season will exceed current growth rates," he said.

TVS is confident of outperforming the industry growth

and becoming relatively stronger, he added.

Elaborating on the factors helping the two-wheeler segment revive after years of muted growth, Haldar said:

"What we see happening is that the acceptance of scooters has increased even among rural markets."

The scooter segment now accounts for 32 per cent of the total two-wheeler industry and it is set to grow further, he said.

"I think moving forward, there will be a greater share of the market that will move towards scooters. And you see that because there was a time when the cost of switching between a motorcycle and a scooter meant a reasonable amount of loss in terms of mileage, which, thanks to technology, that gap has narrowed considerably," Haldar said.

Rooftop solar capacity growth in India rises 26 pc to 1.1 GW

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country added 1.1 GW of rooftop solar capacity in January-June, up 26 per cent year-over-year over 873 MW in the year-ago period, according to a report.

In the second quarter of the 2024 calendar year, 731 MW of rooftop solar systems were installed, an increase of 89 per cent from 388 MW in April-June last year, US-based research firm Mercom Capital said in report released on Thursday.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
Dated: 29-08-2024  
Name of work: Various works under Division - 14, KZ, GHMC. Estimated Amount: ₹51,000.00. Start date / Last date & time for receipt of Bids: 30-08-2024 @ 11.00 AM / 02-09-2024 @ 11.00 AM. Name & Address officer: Executive Engineer-14, GHMC, 5th floor, Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad.  
For further details can be seen at e-procurement website www.tender.telangana.gov.in  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division - 14, GHMC.  
R.O.No: 3401-PVCLADVT/112024-25, Dt: 29-08-2024

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
Dated: 28-08-2024  
Short NIT No: 21/SE (M) /Sec-bad Zone/GHMC/2024-25  
No. of Works: 04 Works. Estimated amount: Rs. 384.50 Lakhs. Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 29.08.2024 @ 1.00 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 02.09.2024 @ 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, Secunderabad Zone, GHMC.  
R.O.No: 3393-PVCLADVT/112024-25, Dt: 28-08-2024





## 'Austria's less crowded streets offer a peaceful retreat'

The talented actor Anushka Sen, who celebrated her 22nd birthday travelling through the scenic beauty of Amsterdam, Munich, Prague and Austria, takes *The Pioneer* through her travel diaries from the trip



"Mumbai is a city that never truly sleeps. Landing back after an international trip felt like stepping into a city alive with activity, even at 2 a.m. The relentless enthusiasm and dreams of its people make Mumbai special. Living here, I appreciate the city's vibrant spirit and drive." Hotels are more than just a place to rest for the *Dil Dosti Dilemma* fame as they add a unique touch to the journey. She further explains, "From the Renaissance hotel in Amsterdam to the Hilton stays in Prague, I value accommodations that reflect local culture and aesthetics, transforming a simple stay into an integral part of her adventure."

Travelling serves as her ultimate escape from stress. Exploring a new place, she says, is invigorating. "While Italy's beauty and tranquility are special, the excitement of discovering a new culture recharges me. Goa offers a quick respite, where I can unwind at a luxurious resort and enjoy the beach." One of her most exhilarating experiences was skydiving in America. "It wasn't on my itinerary, but I decided to go for it," she recalls with excitement adding, "It was terrifying yet thrilling. My time on *Khatron Ke Khiladi* gave me the courage for such daring feats. The feeling of freefalling was liberating and I'd love to repeat it in another country." For her, travelling is not just a passion but a dream come true. "Travelling has always been at the top of my wish list," she reveals. "Being an actor has allowed me to pursue a career I love and share these experiences with my family." Her diverse palate reflects her love for various cuisines. "I adore pasta and biryani, but Korean cuisine, with its depth and unique dishes like *tteokbokki*, had surprised me," she says. Her travels are also filled with memorable adventures, from walking 16,000 steps a day to trying skydiving and range shooting. Anushka's travels have also left her with a collection of cherished souvenirs, including tote bags from over 20 countries and a special Henri Willig cheese. Her packing strategy includes using mini products for efficiency and organisation. Her playlist, a vibrant reflection of her musical tastes, features songs by KK, Mohit Chauhan and The Weeknd. Enrique music plays a significant role in her travels, with playlists created to match her characters and destinations. "I also switch to punjabi songs, regional music sometimes spanish too" she said. Anushka's musical preferences are as dynamic as her travels. "Whenever I get a new character role, I create a playlist that reflects what that character would listen to," she explains. "Music plays such an important role in my life; it's like a soundtrack to my journey. I'm listening to music 24/7 and it really impacts and enriches my experiences." Her travel experiences have even led to amusing cultural misunderstandings, such as a humorous moment in Korea involving a gesture she initially misunderstood. Her travels are a treasure trove of memories, each journey enriching her life and broadening her outlook. "I was shopping and came across this elderly lady who seemed to be trying to communicate with me," recalls the actor adding, "I didn't understand what she was saying and before my translator could kick in, she started making a fist and holding it up towards me. I thought, 'Oh no, is she about to punch me? Is she angry?' I was genuinely scared!" It wasn't until later that Anushka learned the true meaning behind the gesture. "In Korea, making a fist and showing it is actually a big compliment," she explains with a laugh. "It means that your face is as small as a fist, which is a way of saying you're cute or pretty. The whole situation was a hilarious and enlightening moment, reminding me just how important it is to understand and embrace different cultural nuances."

She has cultivated a remarkable collection of souvenirs from her global adventures, reflecting her deep appreciation for the unique and extraordinary. Her travels have yielded an impressive array of keepsakes, from tote bags collected in Paris, Korea and Amsterdam to miniature landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and Burj Khalifa.

AARTI SREENATH

Anushka Sen, known for her captivating performances and vibrant personality, at just 22, is not just a rising star in the world of entertainment—she's a passionate globetrotter with an insatiable curiosity for the world. Her latest European escapade, where she celebrated her birthday amidst the historic and cultural grandeur of Amsterdam, Munich, Prague and Austria, reveals a side of her that's deeply intertwined with adventure and self-discovery. Celebrating her 22nd birthday amidst these four diverse cities, Anushka found herself enchanted by the seamless dance of history and modernity. In Austria, she discovered a place that truly stole her heart. "Austria was absolutely mesmerising," she recalls. "The country's landscapes are like scenes from a dream. Hallstatt, in particular, stood out, a village so beautiful it felt like it's been lifted from a fairy tale. The serene lakes, stunning mountain backdrops and charming boutiques created an atmosphere of pure magic. I would love to return there soon. Austria's less crowded streets offer a peaceful retreat, making it a perfect escape for rejuvenation. It's now one of my favourite places ever." Amsterdam, with its unique vibe, lived up to all her expectations. Inspired by the film *Queen*, she had longed to visit the city and it didn't disappoint. "Amsterdam was everything I had imagined and more," she shares. "The late sunsets during summer gave a sense of endless possibilities. My birthday celebration there was simple yet perfect—I spent the day strolling through the city, indulging in shopping and savouring a coffee and croissant at a quaint café. The boat rides through the canals were breathtaking, offering a unique perspective of the city's beauty." Fashion played a significant role in her Amsterdam adventure. "Amsterdam was a playground for experimentation," she says. "I tried out different styles and my blue satin skirt paired with a tee turned heads. The feedback on my outfits was fantastic. In Prague, I picked up a stunning blue dress and a chic leather jacket, which has become a staple in my wardrobe. European boutiques are full of unique, one-of-a-kind pieces that truly stand out." In Germany, she immersed herself in cultural and historical discoveries. "I was fascinated to learn that the fairy-tale castles in Germany inspired Disneyland's iconic castle designs. A special moment was visiting Salzburg back again, the same place where I had performed *The Sound of Music* with the Shiamak Davar troupe, when I was like about 7 years old. Standing in the locations where the film was shot brought back cherished memories and offered a profound connection to the past." Her voyage also led her to a hidden gem in the Netherlands—Giethoorn. "Imagine stepping into a scene from a fairy tale," she describes. "Giethoorn was a tranquil paradise with picturesque canals and charming paths. Renting a boat and drifting along the waterways with my family was magical. The experience of navigating the canals, surrounded by swans and exploring quaint boutiques, was unforgettable." Back in Mumbai, she reflects on the city's unique energy, as she shares

TEJAL SINHA

Following a series of heartfelt songs, singer Prateeksha

Srivastava has been grabbing attention with her latest track *Galtiyan*. This track is a welcomed change from her typical style, as she adopts a lively, hyper-pop sound, presenting a fun anthem that delves into the sometimes ignored perspective of a woman in love. Hailing from a musical familial background, she had her Indian classical training ever since her childhood. What really began with Kathak and Tabla, eventually turned into playback singing. The Lucknow-native later shifted to Mumbai to try out her luck, during which she began composing her own songs.

"Ironically, I never won prizes in singing," recalls the *Jogi Ho Gaya* singer in an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*. "I always used to win prizes in Tabla or in Kathak dancing. However, I think when I was in high school, it was then that I started singing a lot of Bollywood songs. Before that, trust me, I never even listened to Bollywood songs and listened only to Indian classical music. When I actually started singing that, I realised this is something that I think I am good at and I can take it further professionally as well." For the unversed, Prateeksha was into the top 5 finalists in *Zee Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs* in 2009, which turned out to be a good exposure and experience for the studious person that she was. However, the decision-making of getting into playback singing was only after her high-school.

Coming to her latest track, *Galtiyan*, the *Tumse Dil Lagakar* singer says that she was tired of making sad songs. "I used to love making sad songs, I still do. But I realised that I was only manifesting sadness in my life. My friends used to tell me 'you should make something fun so that something good starts happening in your life'. So I'm this single kind of a person. No dating, nothing, whatever heartbreaks I had was years back. Thus, this time I was like why not let's do something fun."

Until then, she did not know this side of her and as she started writing *Galtiyan*, she realised she has a lot of fun things to write about. "I definitely wanted to explore this. I am extremely drawn to hyperpop, which is not that popular in India but it is very popular in the West and everywhere. I really wanted someone to be on board for this hyperpop soundscape and I just met Asad on Instagram. It just happened very naturally. So *Galtiyan* is like one of the most natural songwriting processes that happened and shaped."

With this song, she had a certain loop in mind and as she went live on Instagram, she made the first half tune of *Galtiyan* and sent it over to Asad. Later, he produced some music around it and that's when she started writing the lyrics. "I wanted it to be a melodic rap kind of a song. So that's when I started using a lot of easygoing words in the song, a lot more than what a regular song has. I started experimenting and then I posted a video on Instagram singing that and the response was really nice. People still go back to that even now after the release of the song. It was then that I completed the second half of the song and sent it to Asad again, we met and rapped the song," enthuses the *Naina* singer, who further goes on to recall the story behind the video was different behind the scenes altogether. "I've never danced or done any of these pop piece stuff in the video. However, I was like I have learnt Kathak so why not? I got my friend Suneha Chauhan on board. She's a choreographer and she did the job beautifully. The videographer put this entire thought into action. I'm a relatively shy person, so I was really uncomfortable with the thought that I can make and write lyrics around flirting but can't really flirt in real life or in the music video. So they made me dance and now the song is out for you all to watch."

Talking of the emotions that we get to see in the song, she brings a whole new world with it. "It's all about how a girl is attracted to a guy and how she has that craving to chase that guy, flirt with him and follow-up with him, tease him and embarrass him. I really want to make a lot of songs about this, about a woman's perspective." So what's more on the plate with Prateeksha is definitely a lot of songs, in the space of a woman's perspective and love, starting from flirting to going up till maybe a proposal, fights, ups and downs and a lot more. "I would like to explore different genres because I don't confine myself based on a genre. I'm looking forward to exploring more of hyperpop and dance beats," signs off the adroit singer on a concluding note.

Heading towards the end of this interesting Travelogue with the popular star, we get to hear, "I love picking up interesting items that capture the essence of each place I visit. My collection of tote bags now spans over 20 countries and I have a variety of magnets that are a staple for any traveller. But this time, I stumbled upon something truly exceptional—Henri Willig cheese. It's not just any cheese; it's a special variety that can stay fresh for up to 30 days, if stored correctly. I was so excited to bring it back because it's one of my favourite cheeses. It's a rare and delightful souvenir that brings a taste of my travels right to my home."

## 'GALTIYAN IS A MELODIC RAP WITH A PLAYFUL ROMANCE'

SINGER PRATEEKSHA SRIVASTAVA, WHO IS CURRENTLY ENJOYING THE RESPONSE SHE HAS BEEN RECEIVING FOR HER LATEST TRACK GALTIYAN, SPEAKS TO THE PIONEER ABOUT THE SONG AND ALSO TAKES US THROUGH THE MAKING OF IT.



## BUSTING MYTHS AROUND CHOLESTROL

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for 32 percent of deaths annually, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Among these, 85 percent CSD related deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes. Risk factors such as obesity and high cholesterol contribute to heart-related conditions, which require lifestyle modifications and proper diet plans. However, there are misconceptions about cholesterol, which need to be busted to help people adopt healthier practices to tackle it. Dr. Ravishankar Polisetty, the pioneer in Polyscientific Ayurveda (PSA), emphasises the importance of understanding the differences between HDL and LDL cholesterol. He decodes misconceptions surrounding good and bad cholesterol, which combine traditional wisdom with modern technology.

**Myth 1: Only bad cholesterol causes heart attack**  
There are good and bad types of ghee, depending on your choice and the same applies to cholesterol. Though High-density Lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol is often referred to as 'good' cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) as 'bad' cholesterol, variations in both can be reasons for cardiovascular diseases. Scientific studies suggest that having very high levels of HDL and very low levels of LDL can also increase the risk of heart attacks. This means that the impact of cholesterol on heart health depends on an individual's body condition.



**Myth 2: Allopathy can only address LDL levels**  
In allopathy, statin-based drugs are among the most commonly used treatments for lowering LDL cholesterol. However, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is equally important for managing cholesterol levels. This can be achieved by integrating traditional Ayurvedic knowledge with modern technologies. Ayurveda focuses on disease prevention and addresses the root causes rather than just treating symptoms. Since Ayurvedic methods require individuals to actively commit to their health through lifestyle modifications, dietary changes and fitness regimens, they

complement allopathic treatments for lifestyle diseases effectively.

**Myth 3: Avoiding certain food items will lower LDL**

It is your body that decides which fats are beneficial for it. Therefore, depending on your body type, you need to choose your diet appropriately. Ayurvedic texts state that the three doshas—*Vata*, *Pitta*, and *Kapha*—are responsible for a person's physiological, mental, and emotional health. For example, if you are predominantly Pitta-dominant, you should select cow ghee. Conversely, if you are a *Vata* type, then buffalo ghee is more suitable. An experienced Ayurvedic practitioner can assess your doshas with the help of modern PSA techniques and recommend the types of fats that will be best for you. He can also suggest a diet plan suitable for your physical constitution.

**Myth 4: Medicinal intake alone lowers cholesterol levels**

Medicinal intake, along with a tailor-made fitness regimen, will help achieve the desired results. Physical exercise to balance doshas based on an individual's unique constitution and requirements can ensure optimal health. The recommended activities include walking, running, cycling, and swimming. Often, these exercises can also help raise a person's HDL cholesterol levels. Meanwhile, practices like Yoga can help lower stress levels, which in turn contributes to better heart health.

## 'The Diary of West Bengal explores stories that many shy away from'

The film industry is set to be rocked by the release of *The Diary of West Bengal*, a daring and unflinching portrayal of one of India's most contentious and polarizing issues. Produced by Jitendra Narayan Singh (Waseem Rizvi) and crafted by the fearless Writer and Director Sanoj Mishra, this film promises to be an unmissable event that will ignite discussions and challenge perceptions. *The Diary of West Bengal* delves deep into the heart of darkness, presenting a raw and unvarnished look at the plight of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and the rampant illegal infiltration from Bangladesh. Central to the narrative is the incendiary issue of *love jihad*, a topic that has sparked fierce debates and widespread media coverage. This film offers a gripping and provocative exploration of how interfaith relationships can become battlegrounds in a larger socio-political conflict. The formidable cast, including Yajur Marwah, Arshin Mehta, Ramendra Chakarwari, Gauri Shankar,

Avadh Ashwini and Ashish Kumar, Neet Mahal, delivers performances that are nothing short of explosive. Each actor imbues their role with a depth and intensity that brings this charged narrative to life, ensuring that audiences are both captivated and challenged. Producer Jitendra Narayan Singh (Waseem Rizvi) shares, "*The Diary of West Bengal* is a statement. It dares to tell the stories that many shy away from, shining a light on the harsh realities and complex dynamics of our society." Meanwhile, Writer and Director Sanoj Mishra goes on to add, "This film is a bold examination of the forces shaping West Bengal today. It is meant to provoke thought, spark debate, and inspire change. We are not here to offer easy answers, but to ask the difficult questions." The film also has G.S. Kishore, Marcelina DCosta Garikapati, Santosh Fernandes, Sanjay Gupta as the associate producers while, Chhatrapal Suryavanshi, Sanjay Kumar, Arjun Singh are the co-producers.





## Jewellery trends for the upcoming festive season

Jewellery lovers, prepare to elevate your accessory game this season with a trend that's truly swoon-worthy. Picture this: a stunning fusion of timeless elegance and contemporary chic, inspired by the hottest runways and the most Instagrammable celebrity styles. Inspired by the hottest runways and the most Instagram-famous celebrity styles, these pieces are perfect for unleashing your inner fashionista, whether you're dazzling at festive soirées or rocking wedding glam. Vedanshee Patel, founder of Vedanshee Patel shares the insider scoop on the trends set to dominate this season.

**Layered luxe:** Layering necklaces remains a major trend, and for good reason. The key is to play with different lengths and styles, like mixing pearls with diamonds and different coloured gemstones. This creates a rich, textured look that's bursting with personality. Plus, the versatility of this trend allows you to mix and match your existing pieces with new finds, making it easy to update your collection without breaking the bank.

**Essential dainty pieces:** Dainty pieces are an essential addition to your jewellery collection, perfectly embodying the current fashion trends. These versatile pieces seamlessly transition from daywear to cocktail attire, making them an ideal choice for any occasion. Whether you're looking to elevate your everyday look with a touch of elegance or make a subtle yet sophisticated statement at an evening event, dainty jewellery offers the perfect

**A colourful affair:** This season's jewellery palette is all about opulent richness, with deep rubies, brilliant sapphires and elegant emeralds taking centre stage. Gold takes on new forms with intricate carvings, while uncut diamonds add a touch of rustic charm. Multi-stone designs are further accentuated by vibrant gemstones like rubies, emeralds, and sapphires. Get ready to embrace a world of colour and texture!

The best of these trends is that they are all about maximising your existing collection. Breathe new life into heirloom pieces by pairing them with modern must-haves, and don't be afraid to experiment with layering! By mixing and matching textures and lengths, you can effortlessly turn classic favourites into fashion-forward statements, ensuring your jewellery collection remains as versatile and stylish as you are.

**Chokers with attitude:** This season's chokers are all about bold statements with intricate designs. Think oversized pieces like those spotted by Bollywood actresses, which beautifully accentuate the neckline and effortlessly blend classic patterns with fresh trends. The best part? These statement chokers elevate both traditional and modern attire, adding an

undeniable boost of style.

balance of simplicity and style.

## Raghav Juyal vs Siddhant Chaturvedi in action-packed Yudhra



Excel Entertainment, after teasing the audience with striking character posters, has now unveiled the much-anticipated trailer of *Yudhra*. This high-octane trailer showcases Siddhant Chaturvedi as the fierce Yudhra, Malavika Mohanan as the captivating Nikhat and Raghav Juyal as the menacing villain Shafiq. The trailer promises a thrilling action drama with stylish action sequences and drama. The trailer features jaw-dropping action scenes and a gripping story that keeps you on the edge of your seat. Siddhant Chaturvedi takes on a bold new role, Malavika Mohanan's compelling performance adds significant

depth to the film. Director Ravi Udyawar, known for his exceptional work on *MOM*, brings a fresh and exciting vision to the film. Excel Entertainment, co-founded by the dynamic duo Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, has consistently delivered iconic films such as *Lakshya*, *Don*, the *Fukrey* franchise, *Gully Boy* and the hit series *Mirzapur*. They are a major name in Indian cinema, renowned for their exceptional storytelling. Produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar and Sudha Anukta, and directed by Ravi Udyawar, *Yudhra* will hit theaters on September 20.

### Mission Brain Attack well received in Hyderabad

Mission Brain Attack, a nation-wide campaign, focussed on end-to-end care for strokes that was launched by the Indian Stroke Association (ISA), received an overwhelming response in Hyderabad. It begins with addressing prevention and moves on to acute management and rehabilitation. Global statistics reveal that one among every four individuals may suffer from stroke. The aim of 'Mission Brain Attack' is to create awareness on brain stroke and provide end-to-end care on three fronts- Primary prevention which is to control risk factors, acute treatment including thrombolysis and mechanical thrombectomy in golden hour, and so also to provide long term rehabilitation for those with disability.

### Welspun announces partnership with Jeremiah Brent

Welspun Living Ltd. announced a new partnership with Jeremiah Brent, designer and cast member of the upcoming Season Nine of *Queer Eye*, to launch a collection of home textile furnishings. The collection blends modern and traditional elements in a range of products for the primary bed and bath suite. The full product line will be unveiled to the trade from September 16 to 19, 2024, at The Home Fashion Products Association (HFPA) market week in New York City. The collection seeks to bridge the gap between artistry and accessibility and it sources Welspun Living's sustainable manufacturing capabilities to create home solutions that meet the needs of design- and environmentally-conscious consumers.

## LISTENINGS

### 'Gracia treated seedlings can benefit nursery owners'

Chilli crops, making up 42% of the nation's spice exports, are crucial for the economy and farmer welfare. Healthy seedlings are key to successful cultivation. Rajavelu N.K., CEO of Godrej Agrovet, highlights that Gracia-treated seedlings boost business for nurseries by ensuring healthier plants. Gracia controls pests like thrips and caterpillars, providing extended effectiveness and rainfastness, leading to better seedling establishment. Godrej Agrovet recommends starting the chilli season with Gracia to enhance seedling health and crop profitability.

### Roff boosts production and distribution in AP, TG

Roff, a leading tile adhesive brand from Pidilite Industries, has launched its new manufacturing facility in Jadcherla, near Hyderabad. This facility will be key to meeting the growing demands for high quality tile adhesive products in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Northeastern Karnataka markets. Aligned with Pidilite Industries' sustainability goals, the facility operates as a zero-waste plant and runs on 80% solar power, setting new standards for eco-friendly manufacturing in the construction chemicals sector. Equipped with advanced automation, the plant ensures high precision, consistency, quality, and efficiency in production. Its strategic location will enhance supply chain efficiency, catering to the increasing demand for specialized, high-quality tile adhesive products.

## PARTY

Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd. launched a new digital, women-led sales distribution channel- 'Women in Insurance' (WIN). Aimed at revolutionising the life insurance sector, the WIN channel will enlist young, digitally-savvy Gen Z women into its sales force.



MONIN has concluded its MONIN Cup 2024 National Finale in Hyderabad. The contest encouraged new, young bartenders aged 18-27 years from across the world to highlight their talent as mixologists by creating original serves using MONIN products. Hemanshu Badola took the top spot, earning a paid trip to the MONIN Cup Grand Finale in Bourges, France this December.

## FUN

### ARCHIE

REG IS HAVING ME VIDEOTAPE HIS GAME SO HE CAN IMPROVE HIS FORM!

THAT'S USELESS!

THE LAST PERSON REGGIE FINDS FAULT WITH IS HIMSELF!

THE CAMERA WAS VERY SHAKY HERE! AND THE LIGHTING IS ALL WRONG! AND YOUR ANGLE--

SEE?

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

I HAD NO IDEA BINOCULARS WERE SO EXPENSIVE! WE'RE DOOMED!

"NE"?

WHY IN THE WORLD DID DAD LET ME USE ANYTHING SO VALUABLE? HE SHOULD'VE KNOWN I'D BREAK THEM! WE MUST'VE BEEN OUT OF HIS MIND! THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT!

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD JUST TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED--

...AND MAKE MY GETAWAY WHEN THE CORONARY WITS? SAY, THAT'S AN IDEA!

### GARFIELD

I LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE A QUEEN

A QUEEN? SERIOUSLY?

I KNOW WHERE THERE'S A FISH

YOUR MAJESTY!

### NANCY

YOUR CELL-PHONE, YOUR COMPUTER: TECHNOLOGY IS ALL AROUND US

IT CAN BE HARD TO REMEMBER WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE THE INTERNET

GOOD THING WE CAN ALWAYS GOOGLE TO FIND OUT

### GINGER MEGGS

SURPRISE, MR. C! ALL OF US CHIPPED IN AND GOT YOU A RETIREMENT GIFT!

I'M NOT RETIRING, MEGGS.

SEE, I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T WORK!

### REALITY CHECK

I AM DOG

I AM GOD

### SPEED BUMP

I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S CGI ANYMORE.

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**ACROSS**

- A happy sound
- This supports your head
- Goes rotten
- Tiny mark
- A liquid measure
- A house made of hard snow
- This makes dough rise
- Follows seventh
- Final
- A long strip of paper used as a decoration

**DOWN**

- Avalanche
- A male relation
- Neat
- Take delivery of

**SOLUTION 633**

S	S	O	B	A
G	L	A	S	E
S	T	A	G	N
T	R	A	N	S
A	O	N	I	T
T	R	A	V	E
E	T	T	E	



REVIEW

SARIPODHA SANIVAARAM

Nani's film is a bit lengthy, making it a one-time watch

SURESH KAVIRAYANI  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Nani has been one of the bankable actors in the Telugu cinema, who's much-awaited film *Saripodha Sanivaaram* has hit the theatres now. The film which is directed by Vivek Athreya stars Priyanka Arul Mohan as the female lead. Nani has extensively been promoting this film and also believes that this is going to be another super-hit film for him. In his previous interviews ahead of the release, the actor shared that this is an action film with a racy screenplay. The film has Tamil actor SJ Suryah playing another important role in it. Jakes Bejoy has provided the music and expectations have been high on this film.

Story:

Surya (played by Nani) works as an LIC agent and has got anger issues right from his childhood. Meanwhile, his mother, Chayadevi (played by Abhirami) takes a promise from him, before she dies that he would only show his expires on Saturday. So Surya writes down the names of the people who had got him pissed in a book and later, as Saturday arrives, he punishes them. Due to his anger issues, both his father (played by Sai

Kumar) and sister (played by Aditi Balan) are the ones, who suffer a lot. On the other hand, a police Circle Inspector Daya (played by SJ Surya), who is the head of the Sokula Puram Police Station, beats the people of Sokula Puram, everytime that he gets angry, without any reason. Charulatha (played by Priyanka Mohan) a constable, who has newly joined the police station, works with Daya. Kurmanand (played Murali Sharma), a politician, who is also the brother of Daya, are rivals and fighting for their own properties. Why Daya's name has been added in Surya's book and what is Surya's connection to Sokula Puram? What is Charulatha's role between these people and what more has happened in the end is the crux of the story.

Analysis

Director Vivek has begun the story with the sentiments of a mother and Surya's anger issues. The beginning of the film has already justified the title. The initial story starts with introducing the characters, Surya's family, his father, sister and the bond between them. When Daya's character enters, the story picks up. The reason behind Daya's anger is his brother and whenever he gets angry, he beats up Sokula Puram people. Then comes the female lead Charulatha, who joins as



constable in Sokula Puram police station and her romantic scenes with Surya in the most adorable way. The *Eega* story between Surya and Charulatha is hilarious.

The chemistry between the lead pair is good. Up until the interval the story is interesting, especially when Surya wants to take up for the Sokula Puram people. Director

Vivek has created a curiosity about how Surya is going to fight against Daya. However, coming to the second half, there are a few scenes that seem to be heaving. Coming to the action scenes, they do not seem too realistic, especially the climax. Some scenes between Daya and Kurmanand has also prolonged a bit. But what's the good thing about the

film is that the director has given every character equal importance in the film.

Though the 'Sokula Puram' is a fictional place, some logical issues have certainly been there. When a cop is beating people in an entire village, no one is heard talking about it. Though there are a few hiccups in the film, if you look at the over-

all output, the director comes out with an interesting action drama.

Performance:

When it comes to the performance, Nani who played the role of an LIC agent has been perfect. In this film, we get to see two different shades of his character; one is a normal employee and on the other side is an angry person. He once again comes up with flying colours in his role. Tamil actor SJ Suryah has done a good job with his role as Daya. One can see the anger on his face, because of his performance. He's the perfect choice for Daya and steals the show. Priyanka gets an important role of Charulatha; she is cute and beautiful. The chemistry between her and Nani is just perfect. Murali Sharma as Kurmanand is just okay. Sai Kumar, Abhirami, Aditi, Harsha Vardhan, Ajay have also done a good job. Music is by Jakes Bejoy especially the background score is the highlight of the film. G Murali's cinematography is good. Some of the dialogues are good and entertaining.

Finally, *Saripodha Sanivaaram* showcases Nani in a mass avatar and he succeeded in it. There are few scenes which really come out well. Nani and SJ Surya's performances are the highlight, but the length is a bit of a problem. When you look at it overall you can watch it once.

**Cast:** Nani, Priyanka Arul Mohan, SJ Suryah, Sai Kumar, Aditi Balan, Murali Sharma, Abhirami, Harsha Vardhan, Ajay, Ajay Ghosh, Subhalekha Sudhakar and others  
**Music:** Jakes Bejoy  
**Cinematographer:** G Murali  
**Producers:** DVV Danayya, Kalyan Dasari  
**Writer and director:** Vivek Athreya  
**Rating:** 3/5



TFI's solidarity to Kolkata rape victim family

The horrifying incident of rape and murder of the Kolkata doctor has shook the nation. People from different corners condemn the way the young doctor was assaulted and murdered in Kolkata. Many medics expressed their solidarity. In this background, Telugu film celebrities held a walk on Wednesday evening and expressed solidarity with the victim's family.

Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC) President Bharat Bhushan, Secretary Damodar Prasad, Prasanna Kumar, Director Association President Veera Shankar, Producer SKN, director, actress Jeevita Rajasekhar, actress Kamakshi Bhaskarala, Ammiraju and many other personalities from industry participated in this event.

"Looking at the attacks on women in today's society, it seems that women do not get equal respect. We all have a responsibility to protect women. For that, instead of looking at the government, we should think about how to protect women in our organisations and around us," said Writer's Association Secretary Anu Radha.

TFCC President Damodar Prasad further said that he was speechless. "It is very painful to see the incident. Before we blame the government, we should think about how we are bringing up our children. We have decided to put a women protection cell in all unions. We will take appropriate measures to respect

women," he said Jeevita Rajasekhar said that she has been in the industry for 30 years and she gets a lot of respect. "However, it hurts to think about the girls. Many of them are excelling in all fields with the intention of running the family along with housework. If someone around us does not behave properly, the girls immediately sense it and stay at home. We have to be careful when such issues are happening. As a mother, it hurts to think what happened to that girl in Kolkata," said Jeevitha.

Directors Association President Veera Shankar said, parents should take proper care of their children. "Apart from holding meetings like this, all the industry people that include actors and directors should write letters and emails to the Prime Minister and the CBI about the careless attitude of the Mamata Banerjee government," said Veerashankar.

Movie Artists Association Vice President Madala Ravi said, keeping in mind the safety of the women members of their association, 'Women Security Cell' was established. Women members can contact that mobile number and register their complaints. He added that the details of the member will be kept confidential. "I urge all women to use existing technology, the police's She-Team apps," said Madala Ravi.

Jana Sena leader threatens to boycott Allu's Pushpa 2

Earlier, Jana Sena Party MLA Bolisetty Srinivas criticised Allu Arjun saying that he doesn't have any fans of his own and there are only Mega Fans. He also criticised Allu Arjun for campaigning for his friend and YSRCP candidate at Nandyal. Though the MLA said that he did not wish to talk further about Allu Arjun, now another Jana Sena leader speaks against Allu Arjun! Ramesh Babu, a Jana Sena leader from Hanuman Junction near Vijayawada, has shared that they will boycott Allu Arjun's upcoming film. "We will not allow the screening of Allu Arjun's film *Pushpa 2* here and no flexi or poster of Allu Arjun will be put up in our region," said Ramesh Babu. *Pushpa 2* is releasing on December 6 and it is directed by Sukumar. The Jana Sena leader hails Chiranjeevi as the main pillar of Mega Family and also worked towards the betterment of the society. He added that many people from different corners of different places became fans of Chiranjeevi. He warned Allu Arjun stating that if he wouldn't apologise to Chiranjeevi and Pawan Kalyan, they will not allow the actor's film screening in their respective areas.

Nag's stylish poster from Kubera on his birthday

National-award-winning director Sekhar Kammula is helming *Kubera* with Akkineni Nagarjuna and Dhanush in the lead actors. The film's shooting is in progress and on Thursday, on the occasion of Nag's birthday, the makers released a stylish poster of the actor. Generally, Sekhar Kammula's films have always been interesting and this film, creates even more curiosity because of the two lead actors. More than that the film is releasing in multi-languages, which is first of its kind for Sekhar Kammula.

The poster features Nagarjuna in a dashing new look, sporting a stylish beard and raising his hand in a warm greeting to someone across from him. Usually Nagarjuna looks handsome and in this poster he looks even more elegant. Jim Sarbh plays a pivotal role in the movie being mounted prestigiously on a grand scale with a high budget. This film is produced by Suniel Narang and Puskur Ram Mohan Rao and releasing in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi.



Rao ramesh now being approached for lead roles



Rao Ramesh, was seen as the lead character in the latest film *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*, which released last week and has received a good response. The film also did good business especially in the overseas market which has surprised all. The film doesn't have big stars and the only name people know is Rao Ramesh. This film's success allowed many directors and producers to make small films with Rao Ramesh.

According to a source, Rao Ramesh is now being approached by a few directors for their films as the lead actor. Lakshman Karya is the director and popular director Sukumar's wife Thabitha Sukumar has taken over the film. She has taken the film to another level with the support of her husband. The film's story revolves around Rs 10 lakh rupees credited to Subramanyam's account played by Rao Ramesh. The director was inspired from the

real incidents and wrote this story in a hilarious way. With this film many feel that an actor like Rao Ramesh has the prowess to pull the audience to theatres with his trademark performance and dialogues. Earlier he used to play character roles, but now he is in big demand for lengthy characters, added the source. The actor shared, "The film gave me great confidence and I am choosy about my roles in the coming days."

Viduthalai part 2 in cinemas on Dec 20

The highly anticipated second installment *Viduthalai Part 2*, helmed by renowned director Vetri Maaran and featuring Vijay Sethupathi, will hit theaters on December 20, 2024. Supporters of the director and lead actor have been eagerly anticipating this declaration.

Vijay Sethupathi posted this announcement on X and wrote, "Mark your calendars! Maverick director #VetriMaaran's #ViduthalaiPart2 is coming to theatres on December 20, 2024 #ViduthalaiPart2FromDec20. An @ilaiyaraaja Musical (sic)."

Following the success of the initial installment, Vetri Maaran presents the second part of *Viduthalai* on the silver screen, showcasing his captivating storytelling and impactful narratives. The highly anticipated movie will showcase music created by the renowned Ilaiyaraaja, further building excitement for its premiere. Actor Soori will also be

featured in the film, alongside Vijay Sethupathi. With the release date nearing, fans and the film industry are getting increasingly excited for *Viduthalai Part 2*, which is anticipated to be a huge success at the box office. The movie's arrival on December 20 is expected to be one of the standout moments in cinema this year.



PIC TALK ALLU ARJUN TO ATTEND BALAYYA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Nandamuri Balakrishna's 50 years of entering the film industry, a grand celebration has been planned by the Telugu film industry at Hyderabad Hiltex Novotel Hotel on September 1. The Film Chamber of Commerce, along with its President Bharat Bhushan, Secretary Damodar Prasad, Producers Council Secretary Prasanna Kumar, among the other dignitaries, invited the National Award winner Icon Star Allu Arjun on behalf of the Telugu film industry. On this occasion, Allu Arjun has responded positively to the film personalities who came to invite him and shared his connection with Balakrishna.



R Madhavan rejects huge offer of endorsing paan masala brand

It just seems of late that R Madhavan has the Midas touch, which is turning every project he takes on into a box office gold. But his popularity isn't limited to box office, his back-to-back successes have also made him a highly desirable figure in the world of endorsements. The actor was not long ago offered a huge amount of money to become brand ambassador of a paan masala brand. However, Madhavan rejected the offer, staying true to his personality and keeping in mind his responsibility towards the audiences.

According to sources, a big paan masala company is looking to cast a domestic face to increase reach of their brand. With Madhavan rejecting the offer, the brand is still on the look out for a new face. Previously, several celebrities such as Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, Mahesh Babu and Ajay Devgn among others endorsed paan masala brands and were highly criticised by their respective audiences. With Madhavan rejecting the offer, he has proven how he is making sure to associate himself with brands he



believes in. On the work front, Madhavan kick-started 2024 with *Shaitaan*, which received immense love. Now, he is gearing up for several upcoming releases, including *Dhurandhar*, *De De Pyaar De 2* and *Shankaran* among others. In Tamil, he has *Test* and *Adhirshitasali* to his credit. The actor is currently shooting for a project titled *Bridge* in London.



# INDIA'S CHANCES OF WINNING IN AUSTRALIA WILL DEPEND ON BATTERS: JOHN BUCHANAN

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Australia coach John Buchanan believes India's chances of completing a hat-trick of Test series wins Down Under will hinge on how the visiting batters, including "ageing" stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, tackle the hosts' battery of pace bowlers.

For the first time since 1991-92, India will tour Australia for a five-match Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with the opening game scheduled to be played at Perth from November 22.

Buchanan, who presided over Australia's golden run in all forms in the first decade of this millennium as head coach, said both India and Australia have plenty of ageing players at disposal but that will not be a deterrent to the competition between the sides.

"Australia (has), since losing to India in the last series, the pace bowling attack with (off-spinner Nathan) Lyon, backed up now by Cameron Green or Mitch Marsh, is just a really, really powerful bowling lineup," Buchanan told PTI on Thursday after the launch of 'Ready Steady Go Kids' multi-sport program for the CP Goenka International School.

"India's top order, (Yashasvi) Jaiswal, (Rohit) Sharma himself, (Virat) Kohli, possibly Iyer... they've got to bat really well to establish totals and then the likes of (Jasprit) Bumrah, (Mohammed) Shami, (Mohammed) Siraj will come



into their own," he said. Buchanan said there won't be much of a psychological impact of India's wins in Australia on the previous two tours given that two of the mainstays then - Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane - are not likely to be a part of the touring squad for the upcoming series. "The previous series that India won - important from both, Indian perspective and an Australian perspective - a little bit of the mind games will go into the pre-series," he said. "But for all that, those games have passed, those players are gone and the current players we have both in the Australian side and the Indian side, they're at a stage of their careers where they all want to perform." "I looked at the ages and India

has got some aging players in that side notably Rohit who's 37 and Kohli is 35, (Ravichandran) Ashwin, if he tours, he's 37 and you look at the Australian side, there's only one or two players who are under 30.

"It'll be very much a battle again between the very good pace bowling attacks of both sides and how well the top order players of both sides can deal with the ball that will bounce, seam and probably swing a little bit more in the day-night game in Adelaide," he said.

**BATTING FOR LONGER PERIODS:** Buchanan said it will be key for India to bat for longer periods in Australia and fire out their bowling attack, something that Pujara executed to perfection in 2018-19 facing 1,258 balls. Two years

later, Pujara faced 928 balls as India once again won the series 2-1.

"Why Australia plays well at home is they do bat well, they understand their conditions, but that lineup of (Pat) Cummins, (Mitchell) Starc, (Josh) Hazlewood, backed up by Lyon, is just one of the all-time best all-round attacks that world cricket has seen," he said. "Albeit that, Starc is (nearly) 35, Hazlewood is 33, and Cummins is 31 - it's a five-Test series - so if India can not only bat well, but bat for long periods of time, then it will test the physical capacities of that Australian bowling attack and therein potentially lies a little bit of a key to how India can look at winning the series," he said.

Buchanan said the lack of preparation among travelling

teams will be a hindrance that India will face as well.

India will play a two-day pink-ball match against the Prime Minister's XI on November 30 and December 1 ahead of the day-night Test.

"Australia is favourite going into the series right at this stage. When you look around world cricket these days - and it has been (the case) for some time - it's very difficult to tour other countries," he told reporters later.

"(The) travelling teams no longer have that preparation in a country. They don't play two or three games prior to playing the first Test match to adjust to a country, because nobody wants to tour for that long.

"That makes it very difficult when you go to Perth, when it's fast and bouncy, for a side that's coming from, they will have played Bangladesh (and New Zealand) obviously, but Bangladesh at home isn't it?"

"The wickets are going to be completely different, albeit it's fantastic lead-in that they're playing some Test cricket, but it's going to be quite difficult to go to Perth to start with," he said. Buchanan added that he was also not in favour of Steve Smith continuing as Australia's opener.

"Not personally. He's made his mark at No 4. But I'm not a selector, and I'm not the captain, and I'm not Steve Smith and so those three people will end up making the decision that they think best fits the make-up of that side," he said.



# Paralympic Games opening ceremony starts the final chapter on a long summer of sport in Paris

AP ■ PARIS

Just weeks after hosting the Olympics, Paris inaugurated the 2024 Paralympics on Wednesday with a nearly four-hour-long opening ceremony in the heart of the city.

Against the backdrop of a setting sun, thousands of athletes paraded down the famed Champs-Élysées avenue to Place de la Concorde in central Paris where French President Emmanuel Macron officially declared the Paralympic Games open.

About 50,000 people watched the ceremony in stands built around the iconic square, which is the biggest in Paris and is visible from afar because of its ancient Egyptian Obelisk. Accessibility for athletes in wheelchairs was facilitated with strips of asphalt laid along the avenue and placed over the square. More than 4,000 athletes with physical, visual and intellectual impairments will compete in 22 sports from Thursday until Sept. 8.

Organizers say more than 2 million of the 2.8 million tickets have been sold for the various Paralympic events. The opening ceremony was

held outside the confines of a stadium, just like when the Olympics opened in the city on July 26. Fighter planes flew overhead, leaving red-white and blue vapors in the colors of the French national flag, before the delegations entered the square in alphabetical order.

Some delegations were huge - more than 250 athletes from Brazil - and some were tiny - less than a handful from Barbados and just three from Myanmar. Ukraine's delegation got a loud cheer and some of the crowd stood to applaud them.

Flag bearers Steve Serio and Nicky Nieves led the U.S. Team's delegation. The French arrived last and to roars from the crowd, which then sang along to popular French songs, including "Que Je T'aime" by late rocker Johnny Hallyday. Throughout the show, directed by Thomas Jolly who also led the Olympic opening ceremony, singers, dancers and musicians with and without disabilities performed on stage together seamlessly, projecting a theme of inclusion and overcoming physical differences. Lucky Love, a French singer who lost his left

arm at birth, was joined by performers in wheelchairs. Other acts featured dancers with crutches.

International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons said he hoped the Paris Paralympics would start an "inclusion revolution" beyond the field of sport.

"The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will show what persons with disabilities can achieve at the highest level when the barriers to succeed are removed," he said in a speech. "The fact these opportunities largely exist only in sport in the year 2024 is shocking. It is proof we can and must do more to advance disability inclusion - whether on the field of play, in the classroom, concert hall or in the boardroom."

As the ceremony concluded, the Paralympic torch was carried into the area by former Olympic wheelchair tennis gold medalist Michaël Jérémiasz, who was surrounded on stage by dozens of torchbearers. Five French Paralympians lit the Olympic cauldron, which is designed to look like a hot air balloon and glowed gold-like in the night.



# Nitish-Thulasimathi duo makes winning start in Paralympics

PTI ■ PARIS

India's Nitish Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan had little difficulty overcoming country-mates Subhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli in the opening group stage match of badminton mixed doubles (SL3-SU5) at the Paralympic Games here on Thursday.

However, mixed doubles duo of Sivarajan Solaimalai and Nithya Sre, seeded second, lost their SH6 group play stage match in straight games to the American pair of Miles Krajewski and Jayci Simon.

The Nitish-Thulasimathi duo won the Group A contest 21-14, 21-17 in 31 minutes.

Nitish, 29, who hails from Karnal district in Haryana, and young Thulasimathi, a veterinary science student from Tamil Nadu who had won the mixed bronze at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, encountered little challenge in the first game and at one stage they were leading by seven points. Unable to counter the pair's net play and deep tosses, Subhas and Palak quickly

found themselves trailing, losing the game in just 14 minutes.

The second game too went on similar lines with Palak clearly not able to match the prowess of her senior partner on court and giving away points.

SL3 players have moderate impairment on one side of the body, affecting either both legs or the absence of limbs, while SU5 players have significant impairments in their upper limbs. In Group B, Sivarajan and Nithya gave a tough challenge to the American pair before going down 21-23, 11-21 in 35 minutes in SH6 category. SH6 is for badminton players with short stature.

Sivarajan, who trains at the Pullala Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad, and partner Nithya were equal to the task in the opening game and also took a slender one-point lead but the young American pair, who are both in their late teens, were too agile on court and fought for every point.

The second game turned out to be one-sided with the tiring Indians losing in just 14 minutes.

# Wimbledon champion Krejckikova out of US Open

AP ■ NEW YORK

Frances Tiafoe is getting the rematch he wants, a second shot at Ben Shelton at the U.S. Open.

But there won't be a second straight Grand Slam title for Barbora Krejckikova.

The Wimbledon champion was knocked out of the U.S. Open in the second round on Wednesday, defeated by Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-4, 7-5.

The No. 8-seeded Krejckikova won her second Grand Slam singles title this summer, but then she didn't play any matches after the Paris Olympics. She acknowledged last week not knowing where her level of play was.

Turns out, it wasn't good enough. "I mean, winning Wimbledon is amazing. It's a great, great, great result,

I'm very proud about it and how I was able to handle everything there," said Krejckikova, who hadn't played a tournament on hard courts since February.

"I think I was playing quite well, definitely better than in the first match. I think my game was improving, but it just wasn't enough." No woman has won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in the same year since Serena Williams in 2012.

Tiafoe had short work on the steamiest day of the tournament thus far, with temperatures in New York surpassing 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). Three men's matches ended when an opponent stopped playing, the last one sending defending champion Novak Djokovic to the third round when Laslo Djere retired early in the third set with what



appeared to be pain near his hip after they played for more than two hours across the first two sets.

"You know, in the end, not the kind of finish that we players or crowd wants to see, but I think it's probably due to that physical battle that we had in the opening two sets," the No. 2-seeded Djokovic said.

Tiafoe, the No. 20 seed, won the first two sets before his opponent, Alexander Shevchenko, retired after the first game of the third set.

Shelton, the No. 13 seed, later beat Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. He ousted Tiafoe last year in the quarterfinals, stopping Tiafoe from what would have been a second straight trip to the U.S. Open semifinals.

"Obviously he's very much like me in how excited and energetic he is on the

court," Tiafoe said, "and has such a big game and big shots and serves big and gets the crowd going."

Well, maybe not quite as well as Tiafoe does.

"I know that the people love him here. Probably more than me. He's electric here, and his crowds are electric here," the 21-year-old Shelton said.

"It will be a battle. It will be a war just like the last two times we've played. Yeah, I'm more than excited to be out there with him again."

They were two of the four American men to reach the third round in the bottom half of the draw. No. 12 Taylor Fritz got there by beating Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-1, while Brandon Nakashima beat Arthur Cazaux and will next play No. 18 Lorenzo Musetti, the bronze medalist at the Olympics.

# Novak Djokovic reaches US Open third round

AP ■ NEW YORK

A U.S. Open match that Novak Djokovic already expected to be difficult was threatening to become a toss-up as he struggled with his serve.

Missing more than he made, Djokovic couldn't get many quick points Wednesday night. He acknowledged that he should have lost the second set, and if his opponent didn't get injured and have to stop, maybe he wouldn't even have won that match.

Once he had, the defending champion was only looking ahead.

"The matches are only going to get tougher from here. I know that, but I'm fine," Djokovic said. "I'll find my way, as I have done many times in my career."

Djokovic reached the third round when Laslo Djere had to retire with the No. 2 seed leading his Serbian countryman 6-4, 6-4, 2-0.

Djere was leading 4-2 in the second set when he appeared to be troubled by pain near his hip and was visited by a trainer later in the set. He finished that



set, which lasted 69 minutes after the first one went 60, but didn't last much longer.

"In the end, not the kind of finish that we players or crowd wants to see, but I think it's probably due to that physical battle that we had in the opening two sets," Djokovic said.

It was the 90th win at the U.S. Open for Djokovic, making him the first man to reach that total at all four Grand Slams. The 24-time major champion will play No. 28 seed Alexei Popyrin on Friday. Djere was the only player to win a set against Djokovic at last year's U.S. Open, grabbing the first two in their

third-round encounter before Djokovic rallied.

"So I knew coming into the match that if I don't serve well, which was the case, I'm going to have to really grind and work for my points a lot," Djokovic said. "That's what I guess caused the two sets to be played over two hours."

Djokovic made only 47% of his first serves and appeared to be struggling physically himself earlier in the match, which was just his second since winning the gold medal in the Olympics. Djere had two chances to break Djokovic's serve for would have given him a 5-2 lead in the second set. Instead, he wouldn't win another game, with Djokovic breaking to win the set when Djere yanked a forehand out of bounds.

"All in all, of course, I have to be happy with the win," Djokovic said, "and happy that in important moments I managed to play one ball more than him over the net, I guess find the right shots or anticipate well as I did in the set point in the second set."



# Kush Maini completes second Formula 1 test at Imola

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kush Maini, India's sole representative in Formula 2 series, has completed his second Formula 1 test at Italy's Imola circuit as a member of Alpine's junior driver program.

Maini had driven Alpine's 2022 car for the first time at the Red Bull Ring in June.

The two-day test at Imola, a track renowned for its challenging layout and rich motorsport history, saw Maini behind the wheel of the Alpine A522, the 2022 season race car.

Maini was a part of a two-day testing event for the Alpine team alongside Jack Doohan, who recently secured a promotion to Formula 1.

This latest test comes at a crucial time, as the team's reserve driver spot opened up earlier last week, presenting a significant opportunity for Maini.

After 99 laps and close to 500 Km of high speed and adrenaline, the 23-year-old shared his thoughts.

"Can't thank Alpine enough for this opportunity. Very strong day, both qualification and race pace looked very good. Can't wait for the next one."

Representing Invicta in Formula 2, Maini will return to action at Monza over the weekend. In his second season in the F1 feeder series, Maini is ninth in the standings with 74 points. He bagged his first ever Formula 2 win by topping the sprint race at the Hungarian GP.

# Messi joins group training with Inter Miami

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (FLORIDA)

Lionel Messi returned to group training with Inter Miami on Wednesday, more than six weeks after the Argentina captain left the Copa America final with a badly sprained right ankle.

There is still no official timetable for when Messi, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, will play again for Inter Miami - which has the best record in Major League Soccer so far this season. Inter Miami visits Chicago on Saturday, then doesn't return to MLS play until a Sept. 14 match with Philadelphia.

If Messi doesn't play this weekend, that means he'd have two more weeks to continue rehabbing before returning to game action. Messi was not selected by Argentina to play in World Cup

qualifiers in early September.

"To see him on the field is great," Inter Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender said after the Wednesday workout. "I know he's been getting treatment every single day, training every single day. He's dealt with things before. He's been there, done that and he's still doing it at the highest level. To see him recoup from the kind of injury we saw at Copa America and be available for us this season, it goes to show the quality of care we have here."

Messi has 12 goals and 13 assists in 12 MLS games with Inter Miami this season. He's missed 14 of the club's league matches, including each of the last eight either because he was playing for Argentina or recovering from the ankle injury. Also missed by Messi in that span: all four of Inter

## ANOTHER STEP TOWARD HIS RETURN AFTER ANKLE INJURY

