

Era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over: Jaishankar 5

GOVT TAKING MEASURES AT POLICY LEVEL TO HELP FINTECH SECTOR: PM 8

Faria turns lyricist, singer and choreographer for Mathu VADALARA 2 P11

QUOTE OF THE DAY
Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has all the qualities to become the Chief Minister. He will become the CM in future. The high command would have given him the CM's post, he just missed it. I have moles on my tongue and my predictions will come true. I am not merely saying this. I will tell you what will happen in future. We will see Uttam as the CM very soon.
- Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, Munugode Congress MLA

DON'T MISS...
Govt will review Private...

Telangana Government will review the Private Security Agencies Act in due course, assured Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, here at ICSSC on Friday. Inaugurating the national summit on "Evolutionary Aspects of Physical Security in Digital Era", organised by the Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) in association with the Hyderabad Police here, Bhatti Vikramarka said, with the Private Security Agencies Act, government will also review the pending wage scale issue of the security forces in the State. "It is highly..."

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Centre has adopted 'One Nation, One...

The Indian government has adopted the policy of 'One Nation, One Policy' for organ donation and transplantation and has also started consultation process with the states in the matter, a senior health ministry official said on Friday. "Organ donation needs to become a way of life for us so that we can give a new lease of life to those suffering from organ failure," said L S Changan, Additional Secretary in the Union Health Ministry of Health. Changan made the remarks as she inaugurated a deliberation on..."

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Singapore Airlines' FDI cleared in AI..

The nearly 10-year-old Vistara will fly into the sunset on November 11 as part of the merger with Tata Group-owned Air India, with the deal moving closer to completion after the Indian government approved Singapore Airlines' Rs 2,058.5-crore foreign direct investment in Air India Group. The merger, announced in November 2022, will see Singapore Airlines snapping up a 25.1 per cent stake in the Air India Group, and will create one of the world's largest airline groups. On Friday, Singapore Airlines..."

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Abhinav Bindra says training...

Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra on Friday acknowledged training Indian athletes across sports on the aspect of mental health remains a "work in progress", while adding that benefits of the same must reach grassroots level. Bindra said mental health directly influences overall well-being of an athlete and sports administrators also share equal responsibility in it. "It's an area where there is work in progress — we all acknowledge that. We are a sporting ecosystem which is developing...."

-SPORTS

TTD-like board on anvil for Yadagirigutta temple

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed officials to formulate new policies for developing tourism spots across Telangana.

During a review of the SPEED (Smart Proactive Efficient and Effective Delivery) project on Friday at the secretariat, the CM emphasized the need to study the strategies adopted by leading states in tourism and adopt best practices that suit the state's requirements.

The key decisions taken during the meeting are the establishment of a new zoo park on approximately 1,000 acres outside Hyderabad. The park will have animals and birds from various regions, and trees will be planted around it.

Revanth cited the example of Anant Ambani's 3,000-acre wildlife sanctuary in Jamnagar and invited industrialists and organisations to contribute to set up a similar facility.

In Ananthagiri, known for its forest resources, the Chief Minister proposed using 200 acres of government land to develop health tourism. A nature wellness centre, like the Jindal Nature Cure Institute in Bengaluru was discussed with plans to invite prominent institutions in the field of naturopathy to set up facilities there.

He also announced the constitu-



Zoo Park planned on 1,000 acres outside Hyd. CM cites example of Anant Ambani's Vantara Zoo in Jamnagar
Nature cure centre to be established on 200 acres in Ananthagiri on the lines of Bengaluru's Jindal Nature Cure Institute
Health city on 1,000 acres in Fourth City with advanced facilities to attract international tourists

tion of a temple board for Yadagirigutta, modelled after the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). He said that the board should be granted autonomy with necessary amendments in law if required.

The Chief Minister ordered the initiation of gold plating for the Rajagopuram of the Yadagirigutta Temple and called for a comprehensive report within a week on development projects that have been

completed and those pending. He emphasised that the temple should be developed magnificently, with future needs to be met with donations and support from corporate entities.

In the case of the Keesaragutta Temple, Revanth decided to reconstruct the Ramalingeshwara Temple like the Ramappa Temple in Mulugu district.

5

Uttam will be CM very soon: Raj Gopal

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The Munugode Congress MLA, Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, said that Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has all the qualities to become the Chief Minister.

Speaking to the media on Friday, Raj Gopal predicted that Uttam will become CM one day. The high command would have given him the CM post, but he just missed it, Raj Gopal said.

"I have moles on my tongue and



my predictions come true. I am not merely saying this. I am telling you

what can happen in the future. We will address Uttam as CM Gaaru very soon," he said.

However, it is learnt that the Uttam group and the Raj Gopal group are happy with Raj Gopal's comments. But Revanth Reddy's faction is angry over Raj Gopal's comments. Another version going around among political observers is that Raj Gopal made these comments as he is frustrated waiting for a minister post. He has said several times that he had re-joined the Congress after quitting the BJP only to become a minister.

CM claims remarks on Kavitha's bail 'taken out of context'

'I am a firm believer in the judicial process'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A day after the Supreme Court slammed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over his reported remarks regarding the bail granted to BRS leader K. Kavitha, he stated on Friday that he has the highest regard for the judiciary.

He claimed that the remarks attributed to him in media reports were taken out of context.

"I have full faith in the Judiciary. I understand that some press reports dated August 29, 2024, containing comments attributed to me have given the impression that I am ques-

tioning the judicial wisdom of the court," Revanth posted on X.

"I reiterate that I am a firm believer in the judicial process. I unconditionally express my regret for the statements carried in press reports. The remarks attributed to me in such reports have been taken out of context. I have the greatest respect and the highest regard for the judiciary and its independence. As a firm believer in the Constitution and its ethos, I have and continue to hold the Judiciary with the highest esteem," the Chief Minister said.

Continued on Page 5

BRS dubs HYDRAA ops unconstitutional actions

Seeks transparent lake protection policy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader Dasoju Sravan Kumar has raised serious concerns over the recent actions of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA). In an open letter addressed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath, he accused the agency of engaging in unconstitutional actions in the name of lake protection, drawing parallels to the controversial 'Bulldozer Raj' seen in Uttar Pradesh. Dasoju emphasized the historical significance of lakes in Telangana, particularly in Hyderabad, and the need for sustainable efforts to preserve these vital ecosystems.

'Prevent 'Bulldozer Raj' in Telangana'

BRS working president KT Rama Rao called upon AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge to advise the Congress government in Telangana against becoming another 'Bulldozer Raj' in the country. In a pointed remark on X, KTR highlighted a recent incident in Mahbubnagar town where 75 houses belonging to the poor were demolished at 3 am without any prior notice, leaving 25 families, including those with physically disabled members destitute.

Continued on Page 5

'Singhvi sent to RS for favouring BRS'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Giving a call to BJP activists to enrol 77 lakh members during the membership drive, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Singhvi was sent to the Rajya Sabha as he had argued for Kavitha's bail.

He said that the Rajya Sabha seat was given to Singhvi as part of the agreement between the Congress and the BRS. Singhvi said the BRS will finally merge in the Congress and

that talks regarding that will take place in the US. Addressing a membership drive workshop for all Morchas on Friday at the Shubham

Sanjay said the BRS will finally merge in the Congress and that talks regarding that will take place in the US.



Convention, Sanjay said that the BJP and the BRS are not one. He said the BJP cannot forget the atrocities the BRS committed against BJP activists including him when it was in power and warned that the BJP will not let go of the BRS under any circum-

stance. He said the Congress is enacting dramas saying that the BJP and the BRS are one. The BJP will come to power in 2029 in Telangana, Sanjay added.

Is classic Congress-style politics coming back in TG?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

It looks like conventional Congress-style politics is returning to Telangana. The discussion about the Chief Minister's post, indecisiveness over appointing the new TPCC chief, delay in Cabinet expansion and AICC leaders not visiting Telangana

have raised eyebrows. On Friday, comments by Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy triggered a debate among Telangana's political observers, raising questions about whether typical Congress politics is making a comeback in the state.

In fact, on Thursday, during a chit-chat BRS MLA Harish Rao

questioned the absence of ministers at the Telangana Tali statue foundation stone laying ceremony and raised doubts whether everything was fine in the Congress. Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar who informed about the ceremony was missing.

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Sonia will open Devadula in Mar' 26

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme, a significant project launched by former AICC President Sonia Gandhi, is on track for completion by March 2026.

The Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, announced that the project would be completed and inaugurated by Sonia Gandhi herself, reaffirming the Congress party's commitment to transforming the agricultural landscape of erstwhile Warangal district.

This project, once operational, will provide 60 TMCs of water,



ensuring the fertility of the region's fields for 300 days a year. He highlighted the urgency with which the government is approaching the completion of the Devadula project, alongside the Palamuru-Rangareddy and Sitarama Sagar projects as per

time-bound programmes.

He pointed out the challenges posed by land acquisition, a significant obstacle that will now be addressed by appointing a dedicated IAS officer at the state level.

The minister also emphasized the use of modern technology for the de-silting of project areas that have been clogged with sand and silt, ensuring the longevity and efficiency of irrigation projects. Criticising the BRS government's handling of irrigation projects, he accused them of prioritising personal gains over public welfare, particularly in the case of the Kaleshwaram Project.

ELDER ABUSE

HC evicts daughter-in-law, son of 80-yr-old woman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Emphasising the necessity of safe, dignified and neglect-free living environment for senior citizens, the Delhi High Court has directed the son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren of an 80-year-old woman to vacate the house they were living together in after the octogenarian alleged harassment and ill-treatment at their hands.



The petitioner, who invoked the provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, said she was the sole

and registered owner of the property and neither her son nor the daughter-in-law provided any care to her or her husband.

She claimed that the ongoing marital discord between the son and the daughter-in-law was also a constant source of discomfort and stress, which was like a "slow death".

Justice Sanjeev Narula, in the judgement passed on August 27, noted that the residence of a daughter-in-law is not an inalienable right.

5

BRS banking on CM's missteps to boost its own chances

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS has predicted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would commit more mistakes and that his recent actions are just the beginning. BRS leaders like T. Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao (KTR) have repeatedly declared this to the media.

The implementation of the six guarantees, farm loan waiver, Rythu Bandhu and the differences between the stands of the AICC and that of Revanth are strengthening the BRS claim. "This is just the beginning. Revanth will commit blunders," the BRS brass said.

The BRS is well aware of the condition of the state's finances and is certain that current policy decisions won't fetch revenues. Harish said that



he had issued the resignation challenge as he was aware of the state's finances.

"When the BRS gave Dalit Bandhu to some people others were upset. But imagine when more Rythu Bandhu sops were promised with conditions how would people



react? Those who used to get money are now at a loss. Imagine if six lakh houses built on lake lands are demolished by HYDRAA. Will this govern-

Revanth's endorsement of Adani is being viewed by the BRS as a strategic blunder allowing them to paint the Congress as inconsistent and hypocritical which could weaken its public image in Telangana.

ment survive," said a BRS leader. BRS sources also point to Revanth's growing differences with the AICC on key national issues.

While the AICC has taken a strong stance against Adani's business deals, bulldozer politics and the liquor scam and has been a vocal advocate for caste census,

Revanth's contrasting positions are seen by the BRS as detrimental not just to his party but also as something that helps their political standing in the state. Revanth's recent signing of a deal with the Adani Group is a case in point while the AICC is demanding a probe against him. The AICC has condemned

the conglomerate's agreements as 'crony' capitalism at its worst.

However, Revanth's endorsement of Adani is being viewed by the BRS as a strategic blunder allowing them to paint the Congress as inconsistent and hypocritical which could weaken its public image in Telangana.

Similarly, Revanth's support for the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA) which has employed bulldozer tactics citing development, contrasts sharply with the AICC's stance against such steps as inhumane and unjust.

On the Delhi liquor scam, Revanth's remarks against Kavitha's involvement versus the AICC's support for Kejriwal is seen by the BRS as another mistake that will serve to discredit the Congress further.

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HYDRAA ops: Will Revanth be reckoned as Arjuna or Abhimanyu?

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy must take immediate action to dispel the narrative that the actions of HYDRAA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection) are high drama, enacted to divert voters' attention from the Congress government's inability to fulfil its Six guarantees.

Transparency in HYDRAA's activities is of utmost importance. The Chief Minister must ensure that HYDRAA publishes maps with geo-coordinates of all lakes, water bodies, nalas (drains), and government lands. The best way to achieve this is to create a web portal and publish all relevant data in a readily accessible format. Once the data is available on the portal, he should involve city residents in a crowd-sourcing effort to identify illegal occupations and constructions. HYDRAA

should provide the geo-coordinate data in KML (Keyhole Markup Language) file format to make it easy for the public to use popular tools like Google Earth to identify illegal constructions.

A second crucial step for HYDRAA is to publish all identified illegal occupations and constructions on the web portal. This knowledge will help people verify the fairness of HYDRAA's activities and empower innocent buyers to make informed decisions. By avoiding the purchase of homes and office spaces that HYDRAA is targeting to demolish, they can protect their investments.

Third, Revanth Reddy claimed that he was following Lord Krishna's advice to Arjuna and was doing his duty to preserve the city's water bodies. If that is the case, he would be aware that Lord Krishna's advice-encapsulated as the Bhagavad Gita-

Otherwise, Revanth Reddy, instead of being reckoned as Arjuna, will be seen as Abhimanyu caught up in the Padmavyuham made by the tentacles of Hydra - the multi-headed lake monster in Greek mythology whose breath, blood and even scent were considered deadly.

was delivered to persuade a reluctant Arjuna to take action against his brothers, relatives, friends and gurus who had strayed from dharma. If Revanth fancies himself as Arjuna, he should first act against his own. There have been significant allegations by the public and opposition parties that many Congress party leaders had encroached on public lands or constructed on prohibited lands adjacent to water bodies. HYDRAA should make it a priority to demolish illegal constructions and reclaim

public lands occupied by Congress leaders.

It is crucial that HYDRAA not only be apolitical and impartial but also be perceived as such to maintain public support. The recent outcry from people in the Old City through social media has highlighted the alleged occupation of Salakam Lake and the construction of huge buildings by the Owaisis of the All India Majlis-e-Muslimeen (AIMIM). It is a known fact that every party that came to power, either in combined Andhra Pradesh or



KISHORE POREDDY

today's Telangana, treated the Old City as the personal fiefdom of the Owaisis. No government could undertake any program in the Old City without the approval of the Owaisis. For instance, a veto by the Owaisis stopped the Metro's expansion to the Old City.

The brazenness with which the Owaisis allegedly con-

structed buildings within the lake makes this a litmus test for HYDRAA. The recent statements by the head of HYDRAA that since the illegal constructions host an educational institution, any demolition right now would affect students has already raised doubts among the public that even Revanth Reddy cannot touch the Owaisis. If the state government could make alternative arrangements and demolish the Secretariat -- the nerve-centre of the state's administration - then it could undoubtedly raze the buildings and make alternative arrangements for the students.

Fifth, HYDRAA's actions are ostensibly focused on demolishing illegal constructions. However, corrupt government officials had approved many of these illegal constructions. The government has taken no action

against these corrupt officials. In addition, the government sourced most of the HYDRAA staff from the same departments that provided these illegal approvals. The government cannot absolve itself of the crime of giving permissions for illegal constructions. Whenever HYDRAA identifies an illegal construction, the first step for the government should be to act against its corrupt officials who abetted the illegality by taking huge bribes. The only logical conclusion if the government does not act against itself (its officers) is that it has run an illegal permit scam as an official policy.

Finally, the most critical step Revanth Reddy needs to take is to differentiate between the wilful lawbreakers and the innocent. Many poor and lower middle-class people bought homes and shops with all permits built in

occupied or prohibited areas. The builders or original owners who sold the properties and the corrupt officials who gave the permissions are at fault-not the innocent buyers. But they are the ones who are losing their homes. Similarly, many poor have constructed homes in prohibited areas and will have nowhere to live when HYDRAA demolishes their dwellings. For the innocent buyers, the government needs to provide compensation, and for the poor, it needs to provide alternative housing. Otherwise, Revanth Reddy, instead of being reckoned as Arjuna, will be seen as Abhimanyu caught up in the Padmavyuham made by the tentacles of Hydra - the multi-headed lake monster in Greek mythology whose breath, blood and even scent were considered deadly.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

People urge govt to address 2BHK issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

People in poor housing urged the government to address 2BHK issues at least during monsoon. In all, 608 people submitted their grievances during Prajavani at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Prajabhavan on Friday, where many of the people attended with hopes for 2BHK issues. When asked, Murali from Mulugu said he has been coming to Prajavani for weeks about the 2BHK housing issue. Officials told him that his application is being processed but the government has not planned to sanction the housing scheme yet.

He said his agricultural land is suffering crop loss this season and noted that many Indiramma and 2BHK houses are vacant and locked up. According to officials, 215 applications were received for SC welfare department, 98 for electricity department, 94 for revenue-related issues, 90 for minority welfare, 64 for panchayat raj and rural development department and 119 for other departments.

Revanth lacks focus on edn issues: RSP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar (RSP) strongly criticised the Congress government's handling of the state's education sector.

He pointed out that Telangana did not have a Minister for Education during the last nine months and asked whether the Chief Minister, who also holds the education portfolio, has ever conducted a review of the department.

He said the Chief Minister lacks even a basic understanding of the state's educational issues. Praveen highlighted the declining enrolment in government schools, noting the absence of uniforms, winter clothing and footwear for students as winter approaches.



He expressed concern over the administration's approach towards residential schools (Gurukuls), which were a key initiative during KCR's tenure, aimed at enabling underprivileged students to achieve academic excellence, including admission to MBBS and IITs. "There seems to be a conspiracy to dismantle the centres of excellence established by the BRS government. Guest faculty at these centres have

not been paid for four months, which appears to be a deliberate attempt to force them out of their jobs," he said.

Praveen also criticised the government for delays in paying the teachers of sports schools and asked why the admin has not disbursed funds as per the Vidya Bharosa scheme which promised Rs 5 lakh per student.

"KCR expanded Gurukul schools to increase from 250 to 1,000, making them a national model. But now the Congress government is neglecting these institutions, despite their role in educating students from all sections of society," he said.

He also argued against the collaboration between educational institutions and organizations like the Akshaya Patra Foundation and Brahma Kumaris and said that their religious practices should not be imposed on students.

KCR looted state like a professional dacoit: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy looted the state like a professional dacoit using irrigation projects. Speaking to the media on Friday, Uttam said the BRS which was in power for nine and a half years, looted the state indiscriminately. The BRS government engineered scams worth thousands of crores using every project they launched, he said.

Moreover, the BRS government did not pay bills amounting to Rs 14,000 crore payable to various companies. The BRS government launched irrigation projects for the sake of commissions and destroyed the Kaleshwaram Project, he said.

Uttam said the Congress government will complete the Devadula Project by March 2026. The project will be inaugurated by Sonia Gandhi, who gave the Telangana state, he said.

'Report in 100 days on power sector irregularities'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Justice L. Narsimha Reddy said that he will submit a report within 100 days on irregularities that took place in the power sector in the state.

It may be recalled that the Congress government had appointed a Commission under the chairmanship of retired Justice L. Narsimha Reddy to probe the irregularities that took place in the power sector during BRS rule.

Justice Narsimha Reddy said that he launched the probe into the irregularities that took place in constructing the thermal power plant and in the PPAs signed with the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Companies and the Telangana government.

Narsimha said that he will conduct the probe irrespective of politics and will submit the report within 100 days.

On Sunday, Narsimha conducted a review meeting at the



BRK Bhavan with Transco and Genco CMD SAM Rizvi, Transco JMD Srinivasa Rao and other officials for two hours.

Later, speaking to the media, he said that there is a need to take the opinion of some officials about the agreements that were signed with Chhattisgarh power distribution companies and for the construction of the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant and the Bhadradi Thermal Power Plant.

Narsimha said that he will send letters to officials and public representatives who were there at that time.

Skill varsity: CM reviews designs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy reviewed the preliminary designs related to the proposed Skill University during a meeting at the Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by key officials and architects, who presented the initial design concepts. The Chief Minister offered several suggestions to the architects regarding the designs, emphasizing the importance of incorporating modern and practical elements that align with the university's objectives.

He also provided recommendations for the integrated residential schools' designs, urging for modifications to enhance the functionality and aesthetic appeal. Revanth Reddy directed the architects to incorporate the suggested changes and develop the final design models as quickly as possible.

Harish slams Congress for halting projects worth Rs 10,000 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao lambasted the Congress government for 'conspiring' against the state's progress by 'halting' development projects. He described these actions as "malicious" and accused the government of prioritizing political vendetta over public welfare.



In a strong statement, Harish highlighted the cancellation of approximately 34,511 projects valued at around Rs 10,000 crore across 33 districts

under the Special Development Fund (SDF).

He cited this as clear evidence of the Congress admin's 'bankrupt' politics and described it as the height of Revanth's desperate politics.

Details of these cancellations were disclosed by the Congress government in response to a question posed by the BRS during the last Assembly session.

Harish criticized the administration for stalling numerous approved works that aligned with the aspirations of the

people. He pointed out that ongoing projects have been told to stop until further orders and even payment for nearly completed projects has been halted.

This has disrupted development projects in almost all villages, affecting panchayat raj, municipal, roads and buildings and irrigation departments. The lack of progress has also led to job losses in rural and urban areas worsening the situation.

He accused the nine-month-old Congress government of pushing the state into decline with its "anti-development agenda."

'Very few people criticising HYDRAA'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister for Information Technology and Industries, Sridhar Babu, said that very few people are criticising the HYDRAA initiative launched to protect the state's water bodies. He was speaking at the Griha regional conclave in Hyderabad held on the issue of accelerating climate action in a built-up environment. He said that we had floods in 2021 in the Greater Hyderabad area and that made us review our equation with nature. Learning from the past, the Chief Minister launched HYDRAA to protect lakes and create space for natural streams, he added.

Natural streams were blocked and water bodies were occupied. So we launched a



drive to ensure that all impediments blocking the natural flow of water are removed. "We are dealing with this matter seriously," he added. He said that this is the greatest drive undertaken after we took charge. "We are into action. This is the biggest drive ever to conserve our lakes and natural streams," Sridhar said.

Cyberabad Police arrests 15 people, recovers pistols

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police has arrested 15 people for having country-made pistols and having opened fire in Gajularamaram area under Cyberabad Police Commissionerate on Friday.

Arrested people were identified as Chebrolu Poornima (35), Eerapogu Ajay Chandra (21), Chenduri Goutham (24), Mohammed Sohail Khan (23), Samson (23), Narendar (20), Ujwal (23), Palle Buggappa (32), Karan (18), Jaga Paik (19), Amith Ranujan (34), Shiva Mahanathi (33), Mandala

Srikanth, Sameer (27) and Mandala Naresh (32). Police have recovered country-made pistols with 87 live rounds and Mahindra Thar, Baleno and Skoda vehicles from the arrested people. Chebrolu Poornima, along with two persons known to her, Ajay Chandra and Gautham went from Mallampet to her house at Gajularamaram on August 28 on an Avenger bike. When Gautham tried to fill petrol from the bike in front of LN Bar & Restaurant, a fight started when a man named Akhilesh cursed Gautham.

Sometimes I worry about my wife & daughter: Robert Vadra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the safety of women has become a major issue in the country, AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi's husband Robert Vadra said that he sometimes worry about the safety of his wife and daughter.

"The day should come when all women, including my wife and daughter, feel safe. Women should be taught at home how to be safe. Rahul Gandhi and I are talking about the same thing. I and Rahul see the problems of the country from the same perspective. People want 'change.' In another five years, people will 'see' the change," Vadra said.

Speaking to the media at Hotel ITC Kohinoor on Friday after visiting the Peddamma Gudi Temple, Vadra said the future will decide whether he will be a power centre in the Congress.

BRS files complaint over defamatory posts against Kavitha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi leader Tunga Balu has filed a formal complaint with the Cyber Crime Cell of the Hyderabad Police on August 30, regarding the circulation of defamatory and derogatory posts targeting K. Kavitha, MLC of Telangana and a prominent member of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS).

The complaint specifically addresses posts that were shared on August 29, through the Telangana Congress WhatsApp Channel. Tunga Balu's complaint highlights the grave concern over the derogatory content, alleging that these posts were designed with the clear intention to malign Kavitha's public image

for political gain. He emphasised that such defamatory actions are not only an attack on her reputation but also deeply offensive, particularly as they are aimed at a woman holding a significant position in public office.

The complaint details how these actions constitute violations under various legal frameworks, including the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Balu has urged the authorities to conduct an immediate investigation to identify those behind these defamatory posts and to take appropriate legal action against them. He has also called for measures to ensure that such incidents are not repeated, particularly against women in public life.

Bhatti urges focus on revenue generation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has directed officials to focus on increasing revenue across all departments and to ensure that no additional tax burden is placed on the public. During a review held on Friday at the secretariat, he discussed strategies to boost the government's income. He emphasized the importance of devising an action plan with new ideas for presenting at the monthly review meetings chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Bhatti stated that, unlike the BRS government, the current administra-



tion has granted full freedom to officials and is encouraging them to make independent decisions to achieve results.

He urged mining department officials to ensure that sand is readily available by setting up sub-yards near major cities and stocking sand in market yards in all Assembly

constituencies. He also stressed the need to speed up the LRS scheme and inquired about the number of applications received, the revenue generated so far and the projected income from the scheme in this fiscal. Bhatti reviewed land pooling plans under the HMDA, assigned lands and ongoing court disputes and cautioned against repeating the mistakes made by the BRS government in land pooling.

GST, being one of the state's primary revenue sources, was also discussed. Bhatti asked officials to develop an action plan to curb leakages and to increase GST revenue.

TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
 Tithi: Trayodashi: Aug 31 02:25 AM to Sep 01 03:41 AM
 Chaturdashi: Sep 01 03:41 AM to Sep 02 05:22 AM

Nakshatram:
 Pushya: Aug 30 05:55 PM to Aug 31 07:39 PM
 Ashlesha: Aug 31 07:39 PM to Sep 01 09:48 PM

Rahukalam: 9:11 AM to 10:43 AM
 Yamagandam: 1:48 PM to 3:21 PM
 Varjyam: 09:36 AM to 11:21 AM
 Gulika: 6:05 AM to 7:38 AM
 Amritakalam: 12:48 PM to 02:30 PM
 Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:51 AM to 12:41 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Rain
 Temp: 25°
 Humidity: 91%
 Sunrise: 6:02 AM
 Sunset: 6:30 PM
 Updated: August 30, 2024 5:00 PM

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City Pioneer

Extension of first year Inter admissions up to Sept 7
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) on Tuesday has announced that the last date for admissions into first year intermediate for academic year 2024-25 will be extended up to September 7. The officials stated that all the principals of the junior colleges and composite degree colleges are hereby informed to make admissions to the candidates into Intermediate first year until the last date. Parents and students are informed to join only the affiliated junior colleges, as the list is provided on the official Websites of the TGBIE i.e., acadtgbie.cgg.gov.in and table.cgg.gov.in.

HYDERABAD SATURDAY | AUGUST 31, 2024 **03**

CITY EVENTS

Icon Bharat

International conference on uniting Vedic knowledge with modern technologies
Union Minister for Coal and Mines Kishan Reddy to be the chief guest.
Minister for IT and Industries D Sridhar Babu to be the guest of honour.

Venue

T-Hub, Gachibowli, August 31, 9.15 am

SAKHI - House of Kanchi Weaves

New Store launch at AS Rao Nagar

Venue

Plot No 10, Saket Road, Kapra Bhavani Nagar Colony Main Road, A S Rao Nagar, Hyderabad August 31st, 10:30 am

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

New plan to transform Hyd's property market

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MSN Realty is set to revolutionise Hyderabad's real estate sector with a new plan to develop 20 million sq. ft. of residential and commercial spaces over the next five years. Drawing on its legacy from the pharmaceutical industry, the company aims to bring quality, creativity and attention to detail to its projects.

The plan focuses on key locations such as Neopolis, Manchirevula, Tellapur, Patancheru and Isnapur, where MSN Realty will develop premium apartments and commercial spaces.

These projects are designed to meet world-class standards and cater to modern urban needs.

Founder Chairman and Managing Director of MSN Group, Dr MSN Reddy stated, "At MSN Realty, we aim to create spaces that not only meet high design standards but also enhance the lives of their occupants. Our commitment is to innovation, sustainability and understanding our clients needs to redefine urban living in Hyderabad."



HYDRAA demolishes illegal structures in Ramnagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Friday demolished two illegal temporary structures at Manema Galli, Ramnagar. These constructions were built by encroaching the public road.

After receiving the complaint, HYDRAA officials, along with the Deputy City Planner of Musheerabad Circle and revenue officials inspected the site.

During the inspection, the officials have noticed that specific land falls in Survey No 20 and 21, ward 155, Block A of Zamistanpur village and

boundaries are fixed on ground as per the revenue records. Further, officials observed that some unauthorised persons have occupied the road by constructing temporary structures, which are toddy compound, temporary shed and a two-floor building without permission from the competent authority.

Due to the encroachments, the existing drainage system was blocked. As such, the residents of Manemma Galli, Ramnagar have faced a lot of inconvenience caused by regular overflow of drainage though there is a sanction for the nala construction.

FTCCI holds interactive session on ESI benefits

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) organised an interactive meeting on ESI Benefits & Employee's Rights to Health at FTCCI premises at Red Hill on Thursday.

The programme addressed the rights and benefits for employees; the advantages of ESI Medical Services, ESIC Hospital and Services and the importance of screening. Experts including Dr Dwarakanatha Reddy, Chair; Dr Krishna Reddy Nallamalla, CEO of Access Health International; Yadagiri Shekhar Rao, State president of PRAJNA; Dr Shirishkumar G Chavan, Dean, ESIC Medical College & Hospital; Dr Abhijeet M Dashetwar, Prof at ESIC Super Speciality Hospital, Dr Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Senior



Specialist, ESIC, Super Speciality Hospital, participated in the event. Suresh Kumar Singhal said, "ESI stands for Employees' State Insurance, a social security scheme in India that provides medical care and financial support to employees. But many industrial workforces are familiar with its facilities. A programme like this will help create awareness about their rights and benefits."

Dr Shirishkumar G Chavan, Dean, ESIC Medical College & Hospital said, "ESIC Medical College and Hospital Sanathanagar along with its blood bank is NABH Accredited. It is the first ESI Blood Bank in the state to get NABH accreditation. ESIC Sanathanagar can boast of the latest and multi-disciplinary facilities on par with the best of the best corporate hospitals."

HC: Construction should be made according to sanctioned plan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Justice Vinod Kumar of the High Court said that construction of any building should not deviate from the sanctioned plan. While dealing with the Chitrapuri Colony's 225 building constructions show cause notice, the court said, "Construction of any building made in deviation of the sanctioned plan, nothing would be permitted."

The counsel for the petitioner said that there are two, three sanctioned plans.

"The revised second plan is not even approved. You did not wait. You simply submitted and proceeded with the

construction," said the court. "What they (officials) said is you have made constructions in deviations of the sanction plan," the court observed.

The court ordered Chitrapuri Colony residents to reply to the authorities within a week. On August 23, the Manikonda Municipality gave a notice to the president of Chitrapuri Colony over illegal floors of 225 row buildings. The notice mentioned that they have illegally deviated from the construction by adding extra built up area and also some illegal constructions were taken up over the permitted floors.



Sellers using HYDRAA to sell their products

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has been demolishing illegal structures in the city, some people are using the well-known name to market their products.

A container maker named Sai Teja from Bhadradi district advertised his business on social media by using HYDRAA. In the poster it is mentioned "Mee intini ekkadikaina tharalinchandi" (translocate your house wherever you want).

When the Pioneer asked Sai Teja about the advertisement, he said that it is currently trending all over Telangana. "I thought I would get more publicity and I am getting it."

"We make containers with iron sheets and pipes. We would arrange doors, windows and other facilities into containers and sell them. Based on the room size we make containers. The rate of those starts from Rs 1 lakh," he added.

PHYSICAL SECURITY IN DIGITAL ERA

Govt will review Private Security Agencies Act, says Deputy CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Government will review the Private Security Agencies Act in due course, assured Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, here at ICCO on Friday.

Inaugurating the national summit on 'Evolutionary Aspects of Physical Security in Digital era', organised by the Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) in association with the Hyderabad Police here, Bhatti Vikramarka said, with the Private Security Agencies Act, government will also review the pending wage scale issue of the security forces in the State.

"It is highly concerning that the wages are lower than the recommended minimum scale. The government will take measures to ensure that the wages are on par with the best minimum wages across India," Vikramarka said.

The current growth of Hyderabad city and the increasing urbanisation of Telangana, necessitates a foolproof physical security and technology, which will play a key role in it. The private security sector plays a major role in physical security which is depicted by the fact that about 4 lakh private security personnel operate in the State, the deputy CM said. Society can be truly safe only when its citizens take the onus to be conscious of their surroundings and be vigilant towards aspects related to safety and security. This national summit will help the citizens to enhance their consciousness towards safety and security of the State," said the deputy CM.

Vikramarka urged people to follow the recommendations made by this national summit to form safe and secure Telangana and safe India as well. "Our government is committed to develop and expand Hyderabad city. In this regard, private security agencies should get proper licence and hire rural youths and train them," Vikramarka added.

Speaking on the occasion, K Sreenivasa Reddy, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad and Chairman of HCSC, said that today each and every establishment needs security guards and security personnel to safeguard their establishments. Hyderabad city is growing every day, so there is an urgent need to know about the best global practices towards safety and security and to adopt relevant practices towards enhancing the overall safety and security in the society, the Commissioner added.



Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka lights the lamp at the inauguration of national summit on 'Evolutionary Aspects of Physical Security in Digital era' at ICCO on Friday

Government is committed to expand Hyderabad city. Private security agencies should get proper licence and hire rural youths and train them

Government will also review the pending wage scale issue of the security forces in the State.

UoH student secures Dinesh Memorial Award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Arya Agarwal, second year student of the MBA program in Healthcare and Hospital Management at the School of Management Studies, University of Hyderabad (UoH), received Dr Dinesh Memorial Award for Quality Excellence during the DATACON 2024 conference organised at Hytec City on Friday.

The event was organised in partnership with

IADHA, the Society for Emergency Medicine, India, and Raghava International Institute.

It highlighted innovative approaches to enhancing healthcare through data utilisation.

Dr Agarwal delivered a presentation on the significant topic of "Data-Driven Decision Making in Evidence-Based Practice."

Her presentation was acknowledged for its outstanding contribution to healthcare management, earning her a cash award of Rs 10,000.

Security measures discussed for upcoming Ganesh festival

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police department is working to ensure that the installation and immersion of Ganesh idols is carried out as per the plan, without any errors, said Sneha Mehra, DCP, South Zone, Hyderabad, here on Friday.

A coordination meeting was held by DCP Sneha Mehra with the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee, zonal officials, and Ganesh Utsav organisers at the Reddy Jana Sangham function hall under the jurisdiction of the Chatrinaka police station.

Addressing the gathering, Sneha Mehra urged the committee members to cooperate. The police are making tight security arrangements to ensure that there are no disruptions during the Ganesh processions. She appealed to the devotees to celebrate the festival peacefully and grandly. She



DCP Sneha Mehra addressing a coordination meeting with the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee, zonal officials and Ganesh Utsav organisers on Friday

also suggested taking precautions to prevent fires in the pandals and urged the organisers to maintain peace and order during the Ganesh festival.

She informed that volunteers must be present at the Ganesh mandapam throughout the day. At least three volunteers

should be present during the night. She also suggested that the organisers make arrangements for queues in the mandaps, keeping in view the visits of devotees. She advised that CCTV cameras be installed in the mandaps, even if it is on a temporary basis, until the end of the festival.

Mayor asks officials to prepare baby ponds

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi on Friday directed the officials to prepare baby ponds in lakes for Ganesh immersion with all facilities.

She inspected the arrangements of ponds at Kukatpally zone for Ganesh festival in the city along with the corporators. The Mayor inspected Hazmatpet lake, baby pond, Pragati Nagar lake, IDL Lake, Lingampet, Kotha Cheruvu, Vennela Gadda Cheruvu and arrangements of for Ganesh immersion.

Speaking on the occasion, she directed the authorities to com-



Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi inspecting lakes in Kukatpally zone of the GHMC on Friday

plete all the arrangements within a week so that all the facilities

are provided without any inconvenience to the devotees.

Safety measures should be taken to prevent untoward incidents at the ponds and suitable arrangements should be made for parking of vehicles. Barricades should be set up around the baby ponds. Sanitation management should be done properly, she added. She expressed anger over the Ramky Agency for not removing the water hyacinth from the ponds. It was made clear to the authorities that steps should be taken to remove such waste immediately. She expressed anger over the absence of police and electricity department officials from inspecting the arrangements for immersion of Ganesh idols.



Fruits of developmental works must reach people: Collector

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Collector Jitesh V Patil on Friday directed the officials to work in coordination to ensure that the fruits of developmental works and welfare schemes reach people.



He directed the officials of village panchayats to complete the Updating of voters' list on time in accordance with the instructions of the Election Commission.

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

Uttam: We will complete all irrigation projects

PNS YADADRIKOTHA

Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy has said the government will complete all irrigation projects in the State. He promised to ensure that irrigation projects in the Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency and undivided Nalgonda district are completed to turn the arid lands of Telangana into fertile soil.

He reviewed the Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency irrigation department works, along with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. The Ministers arrived here by helicopter. Later, they proceeded to Anajipuram under-skirts to inspect the Bunadigani irrigation canal.

district would be completed to turn the parched lands here into fertile soil.

The Minister said that Rs 269 crore was needed to complete the Bunadigani Canal, Rs 86 crore for Pillaipalli Canal, and Rs 133 crore for Dharmareddy Canal asking the MLAs to complete the land acquisition for the irrigation projects.

In an indirect reference to the BRS government, he said that the previous regime spent Rs 1,80,000 crore under irrigation, but failed to yield desired results.

The Congress regime would not show discrimination between new and old projects and would allocate funds to bring more and more ayacut under irrigation with minimum expenditure, he said.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is determined to ensure that the Musi River is cleaned.

He expressed the view that if the MLAs in the respective constituencies helped in acquiring land, the irrigation



Minister for Irrigation N Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, holding a review meeting in Bhongir on Friday

project can be completed speedily.

He said that the sinking of the piers of the Medigada project posed a question mark on the project.

Lift irrigation projects, and check dams would be built, he said warning the people against encroachment on tank beds. Ponguleti Srinivasa said that it was eight months since Indiramma Rajyam came to

power in Telangana. He, along with Uttam Kumar Reddy, went to Devadulaproject in Mulugu district for which Sonia Gandhi had laid the foundation stone 16 years ago. The project would be completed by March 2026 and it would be dedicated to the nation by Sonia Gandhi. The project has the potential to irrigate 6 lakh acres.



Whale of the Sky

'Whale of the Sky' Airbus Beluga lands at Shamshabad

PNS RANGAREDDY

The Airbus Beluga, one of the largest cargo planes in the world, also called the "Whale of the Sky," touched down at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad on the early hours of Friday.

The Airbus Beluga aircraft is on the way from Toulouse via France's Marseille, Cairo of Egypt, Muscat in Oman and landed at the local airport at 12:23 am.

port for a brief refueling stop, drawing significant attention from passengers and onlookers alike.

This marks the third time that a giant plane landed at Shamshabad airport. The aircraft is scheduled to continue its journey to Thailand later this afternoon.

Passengers at the airport were captivated by the arrival of the colossal plane, eagerly gathering to catch a glimpse of the engineering marvel as it made its brief stopover.

MLA highlights role of transport in regional development

PNS RANGAREDDY

Transport will play a vital role in the development of any region, said Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar at the inaugural ceremony of the new committee of the Lorry Owners Welfare Association for the joint mandals of Kondurgu and Chaudhari. The MLA lauded the continuous contributions of the lorry owners and workers, emphasising their indispensable role in public life.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar at the inaugural ceremony of new committee of the Lorry Owners Welfare Association

The event, attended by key community leaders, including former Market Committee Vice Chairman and Lorry Owners Association State Vice President Syed Sadiq, Kondurgu Mandal Party President Krishna Reddy, and Chaudhari President Raju, marked the official formation of the new committee. Other notable attendees

included PACS Chairman Chittam Damodar Reddy, Star Transport Head MD Khader Gori, former Sarpanch Yadaiah, and Youth Congress Leader Purushottam Reddy.

During his address, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar expressed his gratitude for the services of lorry workers, acknowledging the challenges they face in their daily operations. He assured them of his unwavering support on behalf of the

Collector, SP asked to resolve cases pending against SCs/ STs

PNS SANGAREDDY

Telangana State Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) chairman Bakki Venkataiah has asked the police to resolve pending cases related to the Dalits and tribal people as early as possible. The police should stop foisting cases on the SCs and STs and render justice to the SCs and STs as part of the friendly policing concept.

He was reviewing the pending cases on SCs and STs with collector Kranti

Valluru and SP Rupesh. District police officials, revenue officials and leaders of SC and ST association leaders took part in the meeting held on Friday.

He suggested that mandal-level officials to frequently inspect the SC and ST residential school hostels and take steps to provide quality food to the students. Stern action would be taken against the officials harassing the SCs and STs. He suggested to the Collector and SP that steps be taken for resolution of cases pending against the SCs and STs.



Mala Mahanadu district president Pula Ravinder addressing a meeting Bhadrachalam constituency on Friday

Mala Mahanadu opposes SC/ST sub-classification

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Mala Mahanadu district unit president Pula Ravinder demanded that the State government not implement the categorisation of Scheduled Castes. The Supreme Court upheld the Constitutional validity of classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Mala Mahanadu, district unit, launched a relay hunger strike in Kothagudem on Friday demanding that the government not implement the classification of the Scheduled Castes.

In Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Bhadrachalam constituency, under the leadership of Alladi Palraju, the leaders of anti-caste struggle committee, the Mala Mahanadu leaders started a relay hunger strike at Bhadrachalam Ambedkar Center.

People urged to go for eco-friendly Ganesh idols

PNS KHAMMAM

District Collector Muzammil Khan has called upon officials of all government departments to work in coordination in making arrangements for the celebration of Ganesh festival and immersion of Ganesh idols.

He reviewed the arrangements for the celebration of Ganesh festival with Stambhadi Utsava Committee members, officials of various government departments and the immersion of the idols.

He exhorted the participants of the meeting to give a wide publicity on the use of eco-friendly Ganesh idols made of Plaster of Paris would cause harm to the environment. He wanted them to sensitise the people on this. Further, he wanted organisers to obtain permission for pandals.

The Ganesh Utsav Committee representations should be instructed to take suitable precautions to maintain the sanitation near the Ganesh pandals, while electrification of the pandals. Near the places of immersion of the idols, barricades should be erected, public address system should be deployed, drinking water



Khammam district Collector Muzammil Khan holding a review meeting in Khammam on Friday

should be provided, illumination should be provided and mobile toilets should be kept ready. At the places of immersion of the idols, cranes should be deployed and expert swimmers should be appointed and their particulars should be furnished to the district administration, the collector said giving directions to the fisheries department official. At these points, 108 Ambulances should be kept ready. Medical camps should be conducted at these points at mandal headquarters towns and villages. The officials should hold meetings with Ganesh Utsav Committee members and ensure that the Ganesh festival and immersion of the idols pass off

smoothly.

Officials have been asked to undertake repairs to roads and precautions should be taken that the overhead electric cables hang dangerously. Moreover, there should be no interruption to power supply, he said seeking the cooperation of the Ganesh Utsav Committee members.

At the time of the installation of the Ganesh idols in the mandap, the police department would extend necessary assistance to the people. CCTV cameras should be installed at the idol immersion points. A control room should be set up in coordination of all government departments.

He asked the district officials to prepare a route plan for the Ganesh idol immersion procession and take all steps to complete the immersion of the idols on schedule. Security should be beefed up for the immersion, she said.

District Forest Officer Siddharth Vikram Singh, additional DCP Prasada Rao, district revenue officer M Rajeshwari, RDOs Ganesh, Rajender, Stambhadi Utsav Committee representatives, district officials and others took part in the meeting.

Special puja performed

PNS SIDDIPET

A large number of devotees thronged the Goddess Santoshimata temple here on Friday, the last Friday in the auspicious Telugu month of Sravanam.

Many devotees performed the Santoshimata Vratam and performs special pujas on the occasion.

The temple authorities arranged free food to the devotees.

The former governing body member of the temple, executive officer, Sri Santoshimata Seva Samiti member and Santoshimata Mandali members, volunteers and devotees took part in the event.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR (L.A.) (JLISP) JAWAHAR LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME PROJECT :: GADWAL JOGULAMBA GADWAL DISTRICT FORM - VI (NOTIFICATION) PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Jogulamba Gadwal that a total of Ac. 6.60 Cts Land is required in the village namely Musionododi Village of K.T.Doddi Mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal District for public purpose namely proposed Jawahar Lift Irrigation Scheme Project Package No.104 for formation of DRIR Minor Canal.

The said Land Acquisition for the project is exempted from the Chapter - II and Chapter - III of the LA Act 2013 i.e., Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Food Security as per Section 10 (A) of Right to Fair Compensation and Resettlement 2013, (Telangana Amendment) Act 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017)

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project the Village namely Musionododi Village of K.T.Doddi Mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal District and Division land measuring more less (Ac. 6.60 Cts) of standard measurement, whose detail description is as follows is proposed for acquisition.

SCHEDULE table with columns: S. No., Pt./Inam/PP or Govt., Wet / Dry, Extent in Acs/Gas, Name of the Paddar, and Remarks. Includes details of land acquisition for irrigation projects in Gadwal District.

Such advertisement relates to whomsoever it may concern under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Telangana Amendment), 2016 [Act 21 of 2017] amended from the Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Amended by the Telangana) Act 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and following an exemption as per the Section - 11(1) to inform the concerned people.

The plan related to the lands and other details can be inspected at the office of the District Collector, Jogulamba Gadwal and the Special Deputy Collector (L.A.), J.L.P. Gadwal. The Telangana Government / Collector and his Staff are authorized to enter into the land mentioned in the above schedule survey and take the measurements or to dig the land to check sub-soil and lay a bore to find out the quality of the land and are permitted to take up necessary steps under Section -12 of Act.

As per Section 11(4), no one is permitted to do any kind of transactions such as sale / purchase / mortgage with reference to such land in the above cited schedule without the notice of the District Collector, after the date of issuance of this notification. As per Section - (15) the owners of the land in the above mentioned schedule should bring to the notice of the Land Acquisition Officer / District Collector, Jogulamba Gadwal, or the official concerned, in writing, if they have any objections with regard to the acquisition of their land, duly submitting the necessary proofs within 60 (Sixty) days of the issuance of this preliminary notification.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM - F Notification by the District Collector (See rule 7 (c))

Collector's Office File No. G/1172/2024 Date: 19.08.2024. RDO Office File No. B/923/2024 Date: 14.08.2024. Gazette No. 09/2024 Date: 19.08.2024.

Where a notification was issued vide letter No. G/1172/2024 (Collector's Office File No.) and B/923/2024 (RDO Office File No.), dated: 06.07.2024 and published for acquisition of the land total extent Ac.40-09 gts., for the project for the public purpose, i.e., Establishment of College of Veterinary Science in Kodangal.

In response to the said notification, the following affected persons have come forward to settle their claims through negotiation over the land to an extent of Ac.35-60 gts., over the subject land. The details of the willing affected persons and other interested persons are as follows.

Table listing land owner/interested persons, Survey No., Extent (in Acs/Gas), and Remarks. Includes names like Koto Nagamma, Bodrayi Shankaranna, and others with their respective land details.

This is hereby notified for calling claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector within the seven days of publication of this notification. Sd/- Additional Sd/- Sd/- Tahsildar Sd/- Revenue Sd/- Collector (Rev) Collector, Kodangal (M) Divisional Officer, Vikarabad Vikarabad, Tandur Division, District District. Date: 08.08.2024 D.P.R. No.218/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

ACROSS THE STATES



Indian instructor jailed for molesting during yoga classes

Former Indian national yoga instructor was on Friday sentenced to 23 months in prison and four strokes of the cane for molesting three women while conducting classes with them. Rajpal Singh, 35, who worked at Trust Yoga in Telok Ayer Street at the time of the offences, no longer conducts lessons there. All three victims were members of the classes when he molested them. Before handing down the sentence, District Judge Sharmila Sripathy-Shanaz said Singh had abused the trust placed in him by the three women, whom she referred to as Ms C, Ms V and Ms R, according to a report by The Straits Times newspaper. The judge also said the trio had suffered emotional and psychological harm. The judge said Ms C has been receiving therapy from a counsellor, adding: "(She) testified that she had regarded yoga classes as 'a safe space' and had not expected to have been violated during a yoga class by a teacher who was in a position of authority in the room."



'WB govt protected accused in Kolkata medico's rape-murder'

Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur on Friday slammed the West Bengal government over the rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor at a government hospital in Kolkata, accusing it of protecting the accused in the case. Thakur said instead of taking strict action against the accused involved in the incident, the Mamata Banerjee-led government had protected them. "A woman doctor who saved lives was raped and murdered. This incident in Kolkata is unfortunate. Banerjee, as a woman chief minister, should have taken immediate steps, and strict action should have been taken against the accused. But the state government continued to protect them," she claimed. The Union Minister further alleged that the West Bengal government was complicit in the incident.

Is classic Congress-style politics..

Continued from page 1

Less than a year after the new Congress government took office in Telangana, the discussion over who will be the next Chief Minister has surfaced, bringing to light rifts within the party. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, a former minister in Revanth Reddy's cabinet, recently declared that Revanth would remain Chief Minister for the next 10 years. This statement was surprising, considering Venkat had earlier criticised Revanth but now firmly supports him. In contrast, Venkat's brother, MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, made headlines by proclaiming that Uttam Kumar Reddy is the best candidate for the Chief Minister's post and said that his prediction is bound to come true. Adding to the turmoil, Congress leaders are reportedly angered by the recent demolitions and the surfacing of their names

in connection with these incidents. These developments are bringing to light issues that had been hidden causing further unrest within the party. Sources said that Congress leaders are angry that details about their houses and those of their kin which were never under media scrutiny are now coming out. Rahul Gandhi's absence from Telangana has also added fuel to the fire. Crucial decisions regarding cabinet expansion and the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) remain pending despite repeated trips to New Delhi. Sources said that the TPCC chief's post is in a deadlock as there are disagreements inside the party. On several policy decisions, it is learnt that seniors have differed with Revanth. Highly placed sources said that for instance Jana Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka and other ministers wanted a quick caste census and to continue the BC commission but Revanth Reddy differs on that. Getting' of minorities in BJP-ruled states, declaring bulldozing as a tactic to instil fear among citizens as deeply troubling. Kharge asserted that such actions have no place in a society based on the rule of law and that offences should be tried in courts and not punished through state violence. He accused the BJP state governments of 'blatant disregard' for the Constitution.

HC evicts daughter-in-law..

Continued from page 1

and that this right must be considered in conjunction with the protection afforded to senior citizens under the Senior Citizens Act, which permits the eviction of occupants causing distress to them. "The case highlights a recurring social issue where matrimonial discord not

INDIA bloc parties patrons of the corrupt, rapists: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and other INDIA bloc parties have become patrons of corrupts and rapists in the states ruled by them, the BJP said on Friday, launching a fresh attack against the backdrop of alleged scams in Karnataka and rape-and-murder case of a medic in West Bengal.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party national spokesperson Prem Shukla slammed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over her "fire will spread" remarks and said that it is clearly visible that the "tukde-tukde gang" has penetrated deep into the INDIA bloc of the opposition parties.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had earlier issued a threat to set the



country on fire, he said. "The Congress and INDIA alliance governments have become masters of those who indulge in corruption, immoral acts and rape. Mamata Banerjee threatened common people and students in Bengal. She said this fire will reach Delhi travelling through Odisha, Assam and North East," Shukla said. He alleged that the INDIA bloc intends to burn the country. "Rahul Gandhi has already threatened to set the country on fire. Before Lok Sabha elections, Akhilesh Yadav had also threatened to set the country on fire..." "These INDI alliance leaders are repeatedly talking setting the country on fire to save cor-

rupts and rapists. This clearly shows that the 'tukde-tukde' gang has penetrated deep into them," he added.

Raising the issue of corruption, the BJP spokesperson alleged "scam" in allocation of a five-acre land to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's family in Karnataka and demanded a CBI probe into the matter.



Era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over: Jaishankar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said the "era of uninterrupted dialogue" with Pakistan is over even as he noted that India is "not passive" and whether events take a positive or negative direction, either way New Delhi will react. In his address at a book launch here, Jaishankar also said for any country in the world, neighbours are "always a conundrum", and so are "major powers". Major powers will be a conundrum because they are major, because of the breadth of their interests. They will always have an agenda, which

will overlap with us, but to differing degrees, also diverge, he said. In the case of China, you have a "double conundrum", because it's a neighbour and a major power. So, the challenges with China fits this double definition, he added.

The book "Strategic Conundrum: Reshaping India's Foreign Policy" by former diplomat Rajiv Sikri talks about India's relationship with its neighbouring countries and the accompanying challenges. Jaishankar also said there is debate in the neighbourhood about SAARC and BIMSTEC, and "all of you know the difference".

BJP leaders lock Women's Commission office

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Senior BJP women leaders and members of the party's Mahila morcha on Friday put up the giant-sized model of a lock on the gate of West Bengal State Women's Commission alleging it has failed to issue a single statement after the rape and murder of a woman doctor at a state-run hospital.



A five-member delegation, including BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul, former MP Locket Chatterjee and former union minister Debasree Choudhury, went inside the commission office after prolonged arguments with police. "We went inside the commission building at Karunamoyee, met commission officials including

Chairperson Leena Gangopadhyay to protest its deafening silence following the rape-murder of the sister doctor within a supposedly safe and secure R G Kar Hospital premises," Paul said. She said, "We put up the cardboard image of a lock

Indian national charged for carrying 58 Indian star tortoises

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

An Indian national was on Friday charged for allegedly possessing over 50 Indian star tortoises during his transit at the Changi Airport here.



File Photo

Abdul Jaffar Haji Ali, 40, was travelling from India to Jakarta when he made a transit halt here on Thursday morning when the authorities found 58 Indian star tortoises concealed -- sealed and not ventilated -- in his personal luggage. "A court here charged Ali Friday with unlawfully bringing the animals into Singapore

an offence under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act," The Straits Times reported.

He is accused of transporting them to the city-state without a valid permit or certificate. Ali was also handed a charge under the Animals and Birds Act for allegedly failing to take reasonable steps to ensure that the tortoises did not suffer unnecessarily. Court documents did not disclose the current state of the animals. Ali's case will be mentioned again in court on September 20, according to the report. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has put the Indian star tortoise in 'vulnerable' category.

ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

Centre has adopted 'One Nation, One Policy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian government has adopted the policy of 'One Nation, One Policy' for organ donation and transplantation and has also started consultation process with the states in the matter, a senior health ministry official said on Friday.

"Organ donation needs to become a way of life for us so that we can give a new lease of life to those suffering from organ failure," said L S Changans, Additional Secretary in the Union Health Ministry of Health. Changans made the remarks as she inaugurated a deliberation on "Reforms required for augmentation of organ and tissue donation and transplantation in terms of Technology, Processes and Legislation in India" here today.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted the importance of organ donation in his Mann Ki Baat programme and emphasised on the fact that one person donating organs after death can give a new lease of life to up to eight patients suffering from various organ failures," she said. She also stressed on the need to promote organ donation from the deceased persons to meet the huge need for organ donation in the country. Changans said that the ministry's focus is to improve availability of infrastructure and trained manpower for organ transplantation, especially in government institutions.

The Centre has already initiated Organ Donation Public Awareness Campaign under the title 'Angdaan Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan,' actively underway in several states and institutions. Dr Atul Goel, Director General Health Service (DGHS), said that the NOTTO has taken the lead in the field of organ and tissue transplant in India and the deliberation underway in the national capital provides an opportunity for introspection on putting systems in place. "In our nation we have had a tradition of giving i.e. altruism. While we have live donations, we need to encourage deceased donations as much as possible both in government and private hospitals," he said. The two-day Chintan Shivir will cover ten important themes concerning organ donation and transplantation and various sub-themes.

TTD-like board on anvil for Yadagirigutta temple..

Continued from page 1

He suggested using modern technology to replicate the grandeur of the Ramappa Temple and also cautioned against altering the original sand-box technology used in its construction. During the meeting, attended by Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari and other senior officials, it was decided to focus on creating separate policies for temple tourism, eco-tourism and health tourism.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of transforming ancient temples, historical sites, forests and medical facilities into major tourist attractions. He asked officials to ensure that tourism packages included all facilities like transportation and accommodation. He also suggested exploring the possibility of organising safaris in the Kaval and Amrabad forests and constructing cottages for overnight stays in select locations. The departments of tourism, endowments and forests were

urged to collaborate and identify the most promising areas for development. Highlighting the need for continuous maintenance to attract tourists, the Chief Minister advised that all new projects should be undertaken through public-private partnerships. He underlined that tourism development should not only create jobs but also contribute to the state's overall progress. He called for the creation of a new policy that would offer incentives to organizations interested in establishing centres there.

BRS dubs HYDRAA ops..

Continued from page 1

He criticised the encroachments that have destroyed the region's water bodies over the last seven decades and attributed it to the negligence of past administrations and crony capitalists. Acknowledging the efforts of the BRS government under K. Chandrasekhar Rao to revive lakes through initiatives like Mission Kakatiya, he expressed concern that HYDRAA's current approach is focused on political theatrics rather than genuine conservation. He highlighted recent demolitions in Mahabubnagar and Ramnagar as examples of unconstitutional actions taken without proper notice or adherence to legal procedures. Dasoju asked the government to frame a clear, comprehensive lake protection policy, emphasizing the need for transparency and community involvement. He questioned the lack of publicly available operational guidelines for HYDRAA and demanded detailed data on encroachments and the extent of illegal buildings around lakes. He urged the government to prioritize long-term environmental sustainability over short-term political gains, stressing that true leadership considers the impact of decisions on future generations.

BRS voices concern over ..

Continued from page 1

"Is it possible that such a large sum could be transferred to another state without the knowledge of our leaders?" he asked, questioning the Congress government's inability to retrieve the Rs 450 crore that was earlier transferred to Andhra Pradesh by mistake. He said that there is a hidden agenda between the BJP and the Congress aimed solely at weakening KCR politically. "The alliance between the BJP and the Congress exists only to damage KCR, but there is no friendship when it comes to bringing funds to the state," Karthik added. Turning to HYDRAA's demolitions, Karthik criticized the operations as merely a "gladiator movie-like script," arguing that these actions bring no tangible benefits for the state. He asked whether houses built inside ORR's lakes in the last few years, for which residents are now paying LRS, would also face demolition.

BRS banking on CM's ..

Continued from page 1

The delay in implementing the caste census under Revanth's leadership is yet another issue the BRS has seized upon. The AICC has made caste census a priority, arguing that it is 'essential' for addressing systemic inequalities, but Revanth's delays are being portrayed as a failure, something the BRS intends to exploit. Prashant Kishore's recent comments, criticising Congress leaders on the caste census have only added fuel to the BRS's narrative. "Rahul Gandhi should explain where his wisdom was during the last 60 years. During the last 60 years, your party was in power. You should have conducted a caste census and eradicated poverty. If we believe that now you have got this wisdom, you should at least conduct a caste census in Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal where you are in power," Prashant said.

CM claims remarks on..

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister made the reported remarks on the bail granted to BRS MLC K. Kavitha in the Delhi excise policy case on Tuesday. The Supreme Court on Thursday took note of the Chief Minister's reported remarks, and asked whether the court decides cases based on political considerations. A bench headed by Justice BR Gavai made the observation while hearing a petition to shift the trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote case against Revanth Reddy outside the state.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR (L.A.) (JLISP)
JAWAHAR LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME PROJECT :: GADWAL
JUGULAMBA GADWAL DISTRICT

FORM - VI (NOTIFICATION)
(SEE SUB - RULE (1) OF RULE-19 AND SECTION - 11(1) OF THE ACT-300(19))

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Collector Proceedings No. G/409/2024. Dt: 26.07.2024
Special Deputy Collector Lr. No. A/136/2023 Dt: 2024
Gazette No. 052824

Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Jugulamba Gadwal that a total of Ac.1.01 Cts Land is required in the village namely **leela Village of leela Mandal, Jugulamba Gadwal District** and Division for public purpose namely proposed Jawahar Lift Irrigation Scheme Project for S.M. GULSY/3/D/-1.

The said Land Acquisition for the project is exempted from the Chapter - II and Chapter - III of the LA Act 2013 i.e., Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Food Security as per Section 10 (A) of Right to Fair Compensation and Resettlement 2013, (Telangana Amendment) Act 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017).

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project the 'Village namely leela Village of leela Mandal, Jugulamba Gadwal District and Division land measuring more less (Ac.1.01 Cts.) of standard measurement, whose detail description is as follows is proposed for acquisition.

| SCHEDULE | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|---|---------------|
| S. No. | Patidar name / PP or Govt | Area in Hectares | Total area in Hectares | Category | Name of the Patidar | Value of land |
| 1 | 271a | 0.44 | | | 1) Mekala Govind S/o Yankanna 2) K. Mallesh S/o Ayanna 3) Mekala Radhamma W/o Govindu Enjoyers:- 1) Mekala Govindu S/o Yankanna 2) Smt. Mekala Radhamma W/o Govindu | |
| 2 | 272a | 0.03 | | | 1) Mekala Radhamma W/o Govindu Enjoyers:- 1) Mekala Govindu S/o Yankanna 2) Smt. Mekala Radhamma W/o Govindu | |
| 3 | 276a | 0.54 | | | 1) D. Vijay Kumar S/o Dasara Bheemanna 2) Parimala W/o Vijay Kumar 3) T. Radhamma W/o Srinivasulu 4) T. Venkateswarlu S/o T. Srinivasulu Enjoyers:- 1) T. Radhamma W/o T. Srinivasulu 2) T. Venkateswarlu S/o T. Srinivasulu | |
| | | | | 1.01 | | |

Such advertisement relates to whomsoever it may concern under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Telangana Amendment), 2016 (Act 21 of 2017) amended from the Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Amended by the Telangana) Act 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and following an exemption as per the Section - 11(1) to inform the concerned people.

The plan related to the lands and other details can be inspected at the office of the District Collector, Jugulamba Gadwal and the Special Deputy Collector (L.A.), J.L.P., Gadwal. The Telangana Government / Collector and his Staff are authorized to enter into the land mentioned in the above schedule survey and take the measurements or to dig the land to check sub-soil and lay a bore to find out the quality of the land and are permitted to take up necessary steps under Section - 12 of Act.

As per Section 11(4), no one is permitted to do any kind of transactions such as sales / purchases / mortgage with reference to such land in the above cited schedule without the notice of the District Collector, after the date of issuance of this notification. As per Section - (15) the owners of the land in the above mentioned schedule should bring to the notice of the Land Acquisition Officer / District Collector, Jugulamba Gadwal, or the official concerned, in writing, if they have any objections with regard to the acquisition of their land, duly submitting the necessary proofs within 60 (Sixty) days of the issuance of such preliminary notification.

Sd/- Spl. Deputy Collector (L.A.) J.L.P., Gadwal. Sd/- Addl. Collector, Jugulamba Gadwal. Sd/- Dist. Collector, Jugulamba Gadwal.

DIPR No. 224/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The dark side

Sexual exploitation in the Kerala film industry revealed by the Hema Committee report sends shockwaves across the country

It is a "me too" moment of the Kerala film industry. The image of the Kerala film industry has touched the rock bottom after Hema committee has reported rampant sexual abuse, lack of basic amenities for women and more. It is all the more shocking as it is happening in the state which has given the most progressive films to the country. The Kerala film industry, known for producing some of India's most critically acclaimed and beloved films, is now under the shadow of a severe crisis. A landmark report from the Hema Committee has exposed the deep-rooted gender issues and sexual exploitation that plague this vibrant film hub, revealing a shocking underbelly that contradicts the industry's artistic achievements. The 290-page report, prepared by a three-member panel headed by retired Kerala High Court Justice K. Hema, offers a scathing indictment of the Malayalam-language film industry. It paints a grim picture of a workplace where sexual harassment is rampant and systemic, and where a "mafia of powerful men" wields control, leaving women vulnerable to exploitation. The Hema Committee was established by the Kerala government in 2017, in the aftermath of a high-profile case that sent shockwaves through the industry. The Hema Committee's findings have laid bare the systemic problems that have long been ignored or downplayed. The report uncovers a litany of abuses, from the lack of basic amenities like toilets and changing rooms for junior artists to the frequent demands for sexual favors by powerful men in the industry. It describes the harrowing experiences of

women who have been forced to endure long hours without access to toilets, leading to severe health issues. The panel also found that sexual harassment is not only widespread but often goes unchecked and unreported due to the fear of retaliation. As expected, the Kerala film fraternity has vehemently denied all the allegations. Despite the damning findings, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), a prominent industry body, has denied the accusations. The organization's general secretary, Siddique, dismissed the claims, stating that conditions for women on film sets have improved in recent years and that the industry is not controlled by a small group of powerful men. However, the report's release has sparked widespread outrage, with activists and opposition leaders demanding immediate action against those implicated. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has vowed to take action if any woman who testified before the committee comes forward to file a complaint. As the industry grapples with these revelations, there is hope that this moment of reckoning will lead to lasting change. The Kerala film industry has long been celebrated for its artistic achievements; now, it must also become a beacon of respect, safety, and dignity for all who work within it.

PICTALK



Aukhara Nimbarika Peeth Mahanta Asthal, a 250-year-old Mutt in East Bardhaman

Automation vs authenticity: Can AI replace the writer's soul?

Will the essence of storytelling — the reflection of genuine human experience — be lost in the rise of machine-generated content?

Way back in the early 2000s, when I started writing my debut novel, it seemed like a daunting task that would take an entire lifetime to complete. Driven purely by my literary instincts and an eagerness to create something authentic, I took four years to finish the story and become an author. To be an author in those days meant a lot. Not many people ventured to do it given the time and effort that one had invested in the process. Cut to the new times, and becoming an author is as easy as blowing bubbles, thanks to the emergence of AI. Someone I know recently said that they have a target of publishing 10 books this year, and I wasn't surprised. But can AI-assisted writing be a patch on creative writing that comes from the inner realms of a writer filled with genuine emotions and subjective thoughts? As a creative writing coach for children, I have often wondered if children will ever need to learn to write in future, and if even readers will stop caring if a piece of writing has come from AI's backyard or the annals of original human contemplation and creativity. I have floated this question to people and the responses have been divided. Some believe that in a world that is pressed for time, the source of thought is not as important as the thought itself. If served in an easily, digestible manner, it doesn't matter where it comes from — man or machine. While this view has resulted in the spawning of authors around the world, what remains a cardinal truth is that a story or a piece of writing can be resonant with readers only when it is generated in human consciousness. The chief purpose of art and literature is to be able to strike a chord with readers and not to just disseminate information. The reader is



looking for a part of herself in the stories, a reflection of common human experiences and the books they read to be echo chambers of their own lives in parts or whole. Authentic storytelling brings with it a chunk of the writer's soul and it seeks to merge with the soul of the readers. Anything that is generated by a vast reservoir of ready-made ideas will be too perfect to evoke responses. Students may be able to produce perfect sentences and passages that will answer a question, but they will not reflect the personality and character of the writer. What makes a genuine piece of writing enduring and endearing is the voice of the writer and their ability to draw on personal experiences, intuition and a strong need to connect with the audience. No matter how the concepts are laid out in an artificial piece of story, they will be less distinctive and more formulaic and impersonal. Maybe, our hustling world needs only quick fixes, and as we discover newer methods to replicate human thought, our spirit will also capitulate and settle for

the synthetic form of writing. It's again about what the audience chooses that will determine the future of creativity. If AI can satiate the population, then why would original writers spend time and energy on creating something from the core of their hearts? It is a scary outlook to hold, as a writer and creative writing coach. While a part of me still refuses to believe the doomsday scenario, I am still betting on ethical and moral considerations to deter people from going all out and claiming themselves to be authors and writers without much intellectual investment. I am under no illusion that writing will remain sacrosanct as it used to be. It will soon become generic and predictable. Or maybe, going forward, AI will be able to generate styled texts that mimic the voice of a particular writer and erase the distinction between the real and the unreal. It's a scary and depressive scenario, but one that we, as authentic writers, must brace ourselves for. (The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Environment: A casualty of overtourism

The future of India's tourism sector depends on a delicate balance between ecological integrity and economic growth, but it needs to be addressed now



KOTA SRIRAJ

Recently the Mayor of the picturesque Santorini Island in Greece had to declare an emergency as 17000 tourists descended on the island in one day. The beleaguered residents of the island were advised to stay indoors as swarms of tourists took over the hapless location putting immense stress on infrastructure, accommodation and the local environment including the verdant beaches. This has triggered protests by the locals who took out rallies holding placards that read "no more mass tourism." Overtourism is characterised by increased pollution and strain on resources like water and energy in a destination that is overwhelmed by an excessive number of tourists, to a point where it negatively affects the local environment, biodiversity, and infrastructure. The telling impact of overtourism is evident in India too. Every year the popular hill stations of north India such as Kullu, Manali and Mussoorie witness serpentine tourist traffic jams that extend over many kilometres to gain entry to these towns. Thanks to this excess footfall the average ambient temperatures have gone up in many of the Himalayan tourist hot spots. The rising temperatures in these locations have in turn altered the weather patterns. Over the last two decades, the Indian Himalayan region has experienced a consistent decline in snowfall days, severely affecting destinations such as Gulmarg and Auli, which have seen a decrease in skiing tourists and shorter seasons, resulting in lower revenue and local economic strain. Even far-flung religious destinations such as Joshimath have not been immune to this heavy tourism torture with over 10 crore people visiting this revered Himalayan town every year resulting in ecological issues such as land subsidence and crumbling biodiversity. Down south popular tourist states such as Kerala are experiencing the painful consequences of rampant tourism. The above-normal rainfall combined with indiscriminate human activity in the form of



tourism resulted in a change in land use patterns in the plantation areas across Kerala. The God's Own Country became a victim of human greed as over-tourism led to increased demand for hotels, restaurants and related businesses. Consequently, indiscriminate building activity on hillsides, exploitation of land and deforestation took place leading to irreversible damage to the environment besides terrain instability issues. The recent tragedy in Wayanad is an unfortunate example that consumed 500 lives and left 400 people injured besides causing immense loss of property. The unfortunate impact of tourism is accurately captured by the findings of the French start-up Murruration specialising in monitoring the environmental impact of tourism using satellite data. The firm has stated that 80% of tourists visit just 10% of the world's tourist spots leading to bigger crowds in fewer locations. If this trend continues, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) estimates that by 2030, the number of world-wide tourists, which peaked at 1.5 billion in 2019, will reach 1.8 billion. Furthermore, by 2030 the transport-related carbon emissions from tourism are expected to grow by 25% from 2016 levels. Some countries like Australia have taken



THANKS TO THIS EXCESS FOOTFALL THE AVERAGE AMBIENT TEMPERATURES HAVE GONE UP IN MANY OF THE HIMALAYAN TOURIST HOT SPOTS. THE RISING TEMPERATURES IN THESE LOCATIONS HAVE IN TURN ALTERED THE WEATHER PATTERNS

broad steps to address the issue. The Australian eco-certification programme for instance promotes minimal environmental impact tourism, which helps tourists make responsible travel choices. South Africa on the other hand supports ethical tourism through its fair-trade tourism certification, which ensures fair wages and working conditions in tourism enterprises. Closer home, Bhutan has adopted a "high value, low volume" policy, which serves a dual purpose and involves a daily fee paid by tourists, which helps fund local community services and limits tourist numbers to prevent over-tourism. However, India has unique problems and needs more specific and aggressive measures to rein in the issue of over-tourism. The beginning point can be the tourism supply chain sector comprising travel companies, cruise companies, ticketing firms and package tour providers. These entities must bear a fair share of responsibility for ensuring a balanced tourist traffic flow across the destinations in India. This can be done by abstaining from overselling usual tourist destinations and redirecting travellers to other locations. This will prevent overcrowding of a few traditional tourist hot spots and bring

down environmental stress. The tourism ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of environment working in tandem can employ innovative initiatives to protect the ecology and biodiversity of popular tourist destinations. This partnership can start by first regulating the tour and ticketing companies. This can be ended by registering each tourist operator and weeding out illegal entities. The dual ministry partnership can usher in a new era of environmentally conscious tourism. As a part of this, both the ministries can provide unique and non-transferable registration IDs to tourism companies and then periodic workshops can be held for these bonafide members to sensitise them about ecology, biodiversity and climate change issues. As a part of this partnership, the ministries can also develop algorithm-based software for the tourism sector companies that helps in automatically limiting the tourist flow to popular destinations by limiting hotel and transport availability after a certain quota of tourists are accommodated. This can go a long way in reducing the tourist burden on the environment in these destinations. (The author is a policy analyst. The views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAN GENDER JUSTICE BE ENSURED

Madam — With the revelations of the Hema Committee, the masks of many prominent figures in the Malayalam film industry are falling apart. This is a good start. But are such degradations only in Malayalam cinema? Is this not the case in Kollywood and Bollywood? Aren't ordinary women more or less humiliated in many public places except in the government sector? Isn't this the reason for the age-old awareness of the society towards gender justice? How do organized religions treat their women? Do women have their own voice? After the Hema Committee's revelations, will the beleaguered creeps examine the condition of the women around them? It is not rituals and prayers that children should be taught from an early age. Rather, the ability to react like the heroine in Jaya Jaya Jaya jayaha should be developed. Only then will society, the society's copies and remakes of cinema and its workers, especially actresses, be saved. Which party will take the initiative? Which religion will come forward? Unnikrishnan Mangalasseri | Malappuram

ARE DOCTORS' PROTESTS PEACEFUL?

Madam— This is in response to the news report titled "Doctors on strike refuse to listen to Mamata" (August 29). Junior Doctors of government medical colleges of West Bengal, who are on cease-work for around 3 weeks, have not only condemned the violence and mayhem unleashed by a political outfit in the guise of "students" on the 27th day of August in Kolkata; but also gone to the hilarious extent of terming their own "protests" as "peaceful"! While goons and lumpens are directly tormenting the innocents through muscle-flexing and physical assaults resulting in wounds of the victims; the Doctors are tormenting the innocent vulnerable patients, suffering from "wounds" in heart lungs kidney brain liver stomach eyes through the "non-violent" path of refusal of medical

Let us have eco-friendly festivals



India is a country where festivals are celebrated with immense joy and enthusiasm. However, these celebrations also bring forth significant challenges. Every year, Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated with great fervor, and this year will be no different, with festivities reaching new heights. But alongside the excitement, one of the most pressing challenges we face is environmental health.

Our past experiences have shown that festivals often lead to severe water pollution, particularly due to the disposal of idols and ritual remains. These materials, often containing silicon dioxide and sodium carbonate, are harmful to aquatic life, leading to their deaths and causing significant water contamination. This, in turn, affects the quality of life, disrupts food chains, and threatens the balance of our ecosystems.

To address this issue, people across the country must adopt the practice of making idols from clay and soil. This eco-friendly approach could be a significant asset in preserving environmental health. With many species of flora and fauna already endangered or on the brink of extinction, it is crucial to embrace new, innovative methods to celebrate festivals. By doing so, we can protect life on Earth while maintaining the same energy and enthusiasm in our celebrations.

Sarthakj Sharma | Ujjain

treatment! Less said about the worst woes of patients, rushing from towns and villages several hundred kilometers away, suffering from cancer or requiring dialysis and operations the better! Yes, unlike the muscle-flexing stone-hurling violent goons, the "protests" by the "sacrosanct" Doctors are "peaceful" indeed

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

BENGAL GOING DOWN THE HILL

Madam — To the one of the kind gesture, recently the Indian Air Force launched the comic book to inspire youngster for joining Air Force. So far, joining the air force is been a sort of privilege for the men and women. But after the case of Agniveer is troled so much politically by the opposition parties and there were rumours of dismantling this particular scheme, one established in the governance, the craze of joining force got a little hurt. Although patriotism is always a biggest inspiration for all the young people to

serve their motherland with utmost honesty and integrity.

But the novel idea of comic book to share the valour and patriotism of our exuberant commanders and officers. The nation is safe on the clutches of brave hands, we hope that more and more valour loving people come from the society to serve the nation's cause. In conclusion, while the Agniveer scheme has faced political scrutiny, the spirit of patriotism remains a driving force for many young people eager to serve their motherland.

By showcasing the courage and dedication of our commanders and officers, this novel approach helps reignite the passion for joining the Air Force. The nation's safety lies in the hands of these brave individuals, and we hope to see more valiant citizens stepping forward to serve the nation with honor and integrity.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

RELATIONSHIPS AND SPIRITUALITY

We must learn to see others as souls like ourselves, worthy of respect and understanding



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Yes, spirituality can help in maintaining good relationships. I will cite several examples, where solutions are available in spirituality. Beginning with the common fault of seeing fault in others, don't we have faults? Therefore, others must have too. How should we deal with this problem? Lord Krishna guides in the Bhagavad-Geeta, "We should not cause confusion in the minds of ignorant persons, rather should pacify." (3.26) Let us assume that our assessment of other person is right.

Then, accept it and somehow manage the situation. We should be able to do so if we indeed are wise. Another common flaw is to get angry with someone and maintain anger. What benefit is there in doing so? All we will do is to cause harm to ourselves. The Geeta illuminates, "From anger, foolishness results; from foolishness, bewilderment results; from bewilderment, loss of intelligence occurs; and by the loss of intelligence, a person is doomed." (2.63) This sequence is repeated in the lives of all those who harbour anger. How does spirituality help? Forgive and be done with it. What benefit will be derived by harbouring anger?

Rather one can be a happy person. (5.23) Thoughts of illicit acts are another common problem. Who can claim that he or she doesn't get them: The only exceptions are highly advanced devotees like Swami Vivekananda. What is the spiritual solution? Lord Krishna has drawn the line when He stated, "I am passion in beings, according to religious principles." (7.11) Otherwise, get ready to burn as warned in this verse, "By this insatiable fire in the form of lust, which is the eternal enemy of a knowledgeable person knowledge is covered." (3.39) Close relationships



like marriage require special attention. In spiritual terms, we are packages with both good and bad. Our natures are parts of these. When we are born we bring them into our present lives. These are parts of our fate and don't change much in our lifetime, mainly the major factors. This is the solution for marriage partners. We must accept them as they are. Disliking would not help; acceptance will, as long as there is no violation of dharma like maintaining illicit relationships. From the Geeta we learn that even a man of knowledge endeavours according to his nature; persons follow nature. What will repression do? (3.33) God can help if we are determined, but it is a very slow process. Another major deterrent to good relationships is a clash of egos. Everyone is trying to prove his or her superiority, whereas there is only one superior, i.e. God. We are all small, ignorant and quite helpless really.

This is what ego means. Sooner we give up the false sense of superiority and become humble better we will be served. Humility is a great quality to achieve relationships. One will begin appreciating instead, which endears us to one and all. One will have no dearth of friends, which all egoists lack. Just like everyone has faults, everyone has some good qualities also. Look for them and you will find plenty.

Make a habit of thanking whenever some favour is done to us; this habit entitles us to more favours. Lord Krishna has asked us to see all others as souls just like us. (5.18) There must be basic regard for all human beings. We are judgemental, and, unfortunately, suffer due to our very limited knowledge. How much do we know about anything in its totality - the Big Picture? Only God knows. Therefore, our expectations are very high from others and, inevitably, very little from ourselves. If we are not so judgemental our relations with others will be conducive to dealing. We will appreciate that the circumstances of others may not be so favourable to them. We will be better served in dealing with others if we embrace spirituality. We will not step in the three doors to hell, which are lust, anger and greed. And if we can control our hateful tendencies, we will endear ourselves to others greatly.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views expressed are personal)

The crisis of residential colonies in Punjab



SUKHDEV SINGH

Despite repeated efforts to curb unauthorised development, the reality remains stark: unauthorised colonies have proliferated, and buyers still face numerous hurdles



In its meeting held on August 14, 2024, the Punjab cabinet decided to remove the requirement of PUDA NOC for the sale of plots in the unapproved residential colonies. But the stated objective "to save the buyers from their struggle for basic civic amenities in these colonies" is the same as used by the successive governments amending the PAPA Act 1995 from time to time while its hollowness is so obvious in the reality on the ground. Every time the law has been amended to make some of its provisions more stringent against the colonizers, it has served them more. For example, the PAPA Act 1995 was amended in 2014 to deal with the promoters or estate agents registered under the act but failing to comply with its provisions.

The amendment changed the punishment of imprisonment from up to three years to a minimum of three years extendable to seven years with a fine from ten thousand to a minimum of Rupees two lac extending to Rupees five lac. But it made the law ineffectual on the offending colonizers in the past. The cycle of stricter punishment and waiver of the offences in the past has been on since 1995 in the name of saving buyers from cheating and deceit. The notifications, issued in the years 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021, and 2022, amending or adding to the law(s) of PAPA instantiate the continuity in relief to the colonizers in the name of providing relief to the people.

The successive governments have been approving the schemes of instituting the need for a 'no objection certificate' NOC by paying some fee as development charges that the individual plot holders are circumstantially compelled to pay but the real estate agents remain immune to it waiting for the next the cut-off date for the waiver. Given the increased demand for housing and the unregulated activities of "some private colonizers" working with the sole "motive of profits" disregarding "the interests and rights of buyers of plots and flats", the stated objective for repealing the Punjab Regulation of



THE PAPA ACT 1995 WAS AMENDED IN 2014 TO DEAL WITH THE PROMOTERS OR ESTATE AGENTS REGISTERED UNDER THE ACT BUT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH ITS PROVISIONS

colonies Act, 1975 and the legislating Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act (PAPRA) 1995 was "to check, control and regulate effectively the activities of such private colonisers and protect the interest of the consumers".

The situation originated from the unpreparedness of the government to meet the rising need for housing and post-1990 privatisation policy without any regulating mechanisms. In hindsight, the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Act 1995 was legislated and the Punjab Urban Planning and Development Authority (PUDA) was established to register private colonizers and issue licenses to develop the housing colonies on the agricultural or other land after seeking change in land use (CLU) and approved plans as per rules in PAPRA Act 1995.

With a huge financial burden on salaries and infrastructure PUDA and its subsequent regional authorities were tasked to enforce 'obligations on promoters and estate agents' to create all civic amenities within a specified time-frame requiring them to hand over the colony to the respective urban local body after NOCs from all the concerned departments. The stated objective of the act (PAPRA) and the authority (PUDA) since then has been to check the growth of unauthorised colonies and enforce the development in the authorised colonies as per rules.

But unfortunately, it has miserably failed in its two-pronged objective: since 1995 the number of unauthorised colonies has risen to more than 15000 while the number of authorised colonies in comparison is much less.

Yet in the authorised colonies, the enforcement of time-bound assured development is too weak to act for anyone as a motivation to build houses there. The colonisers have sold all the plots in the name of legal colonies plotting a chunk of land on its sidelines without necessary approvals and without developing the approved section to the standards of seeking NOCs from the concerned departments to hand over the colonies to the local body; the irony is that the development authorities prefer not to take any suo moto notice of it. Neither the developer nor any government agency including PUDA undertakes the development responsibility although the rules prescribe stringent action against the coloniser and for PUDA to undertake development by confiscating the mortgaged properties and bank guarantees etc. But PUDA continues to grant extensions year after year while the plot buyer is not able to build the house on the 'legal' plot in a 'legal' colony because the PSPCL does not provide a power supply connection in the absence of NOC.

The officials appointed in PUDA and urban local body (ULB) to enforce and ensure time-bound development in the legal colonies by the licensed private developer finish off by saying that the public facilities in an authorised colony are the responsibility of the colonizer who doesn't give a damn to this responsibility because he understands that the enforcement agencies enforce the law on those who approach the law not on those who violate the law.

The plot buyers feel legally duped. The unauthorised colonies without change in land use or any

approved plan continued to mushroom where the colonisers created very little infrastructure and sold the plots leaving the plot holders to act as the vote bank approaching the political class for relief. Hence the need for NOCs and their waiver becomes a game of politics rather than a policy. Now that the cycle is complete by the Punjab cabinet decision to waive off the need for NOCs in the unauthorised colonies while the cabinet itself had legislated for the NOCs.

It doesn't matter to the common man which cabinet it was or is; what matters to them is a legal and easy-to-build house policy for them.

Therefore while the government notifies the waiver of NOCs in the unauthorised colonies, it should direct PUDA to confiscate mortgaged properties and bank guarantees to develop all more-than-ten-years colonies and ensure time-bound development of electricity LD systems, sewerage, water supply and roads before selling any plot in the authorised colonies to encourage the planned and legal development and strictly control the unauthorised development in future rather than approve policies to legalise the illegal.

The onus for ensured development should be on the regulator rather than on the buyer of a plot. Let the 2024 notification waiving off the condition of NOCs by the buyers be the last one! Let the common man experience the fundamental right to live a respectable life!

(The writer is a retired professor from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and a Member, of the Governing Council, INTACH; views are personal)

Seizing the opportunity in global defence supply gaps

With its growing defence manufacturing capabilities and strategic partnerships, India has the unique opportunity to address the emerging gaps in global defence supplies

The global defence landscape is rapidly evolving, marked by escalating geopolitical conflicts and the increasingly strategic use of denial tactics to restrict access to critical military hardware and technology. Many nations, including India's key strategic partners, are facing unprecedented challenges as essential defence stockpiles deplete, and sophisticated war machines become obsolete or vulnerable to new forms of subversion.



PADMALOCHAN DASH

In response, major defence suppliers, particularly those in first-world countries, are prioritizing the preservation of their stockpiles over external sales. Amid these challenges, a critical opportunity emerges for India. By adopting a strategically designed approach to filling these gaps and enhancing its strategic influence and partnerships, India can play a significant role in addressing the emerging deficits in the global defence supply chain.

Vulnerabilities in the Global Defence Supply Chain: The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with ongoing conflicts in regions like Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific, has exposed the fragility of global defence supply chains. As India seeks to position

itself as a reliable and diversified supplier of defence equipment, it is imperative to act promptly. Scaling these capabilities and implementing robust, resilient policies rooted in long-term strategic objectives is critical for India to emerge as a prominent player in the global defence marketplace.

Strengthening Strategic Alliances: India has bolstered its defence partnerships with major global powers, including the United States, Russia, France, and Israel. However, these alliances must evolve beyond transactional arrangements into enduring, reciprocal relationships. For India, every transaction or partnership should be leveraged to bolster the country's ability to produce surpluses

and emerge as a key provider for other nations' defence needs. These strategic alliances should not only enhance India's position as a global player but also provide it with a sustainable competitive edge in the global defence market.

Advancing Indigenous Production Capacity: India has made considerable strides in Indigenous defence production, exemplified by achievements such as the Arjun main battle tank, BrahMos missile, and Tejas fighter jet. However, to meet the increasing demands of the global defence market, India must expand its production capabilities into areas such as military-class UAVs, advanced missile defence sys-



tems, and cutting-edge cyber defence technologies. Additionally, integrating advanced maritime reconnaissance aircraft, anti-submarine warfare systems, and comprehensive surveillance infrastructure into its production portfolio is essential. India's Indigenous defence production capacity must be enhanced to meet international benchmarks, positioning the country as a dominant

player in filling global defence requirements.

Enhancing Strategic-Critical Manufacturing Projects: India's ambitions to become a leading, self-sufficient defence producer are underscored by initiatives like "Make in India" and Atmanirbhar Bharat. However, the true measure of success will be how well these products align with international demands and address the expanding gaps in the global defence supply chain. India must swiftly adapt to global requirements, ensuring that its products are compatible with international platforms and standards.

To achieve this, the country's policies must prioritize attracting investments in advanced manufacturing infrastructure, supporting defence production

systems, and upgrading critical production expertise. Additionally, enforcing rigorous quality control and fostering an innovation-driven, high-quality production foundation is essential to meeting global defence demands.

Diversification and Global Competitiveness: Diversification and transformation within India's defence sector are vital for achieving global competitiveness. A diversified manufacturing base that strategically incorporates public sector units with private enterprises must be developed to create a more adaptable and responsive supply chain. As India aims to become a major defence supplier, success will depend on developing a sustainable innovation ecosystem that produces tangible

outcomes.

Path Forward: India as a Leading Defense Supplier India's ambition to emerge as a leading defence supplier demands decisive action and strategic focus. To realize this vision, India must enhance its export capabilities, target key markets, and align with international standards. Success in this arena depends on establishing a firm policy commitment to consistently deliver high-quality, adaptable, and precise defence products tailored to the needs of diverse conflicts, theatres, and warfare requirements.

The author is an ICSSR-Post Doctoral Fellow, School of National Security Studies, Central University of Gujarat. The views expressed are personal)

IN BRIEF



Forex kitty swells by \$7 bn to hit record high of \$ 681.69 bn

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 7.023 billion to touch a new high of USD 681.688 billion in the week ended August 23, the RBI said on Friday. The overall reserves had jumped by USD 4.546 billion to USD 674.664 billion in the previous reporting week. The previous all-time high for the overall reserves was recorded at USD 674.919 billion on August 2. For the week ended August 23, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 5.983 billion to USD 597.552 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by USD 893 million to USD 60.997 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 118 million to USD 18.459 billion, the apex bank said.



Sensex, Nifty extend gains to scale fresh peaks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty marched higher to scale fresh lifetime closing peaks on Friday, tracking a largely firm trend in global markets and renewed foreign fund inflows amid the US rate cut hopes gathering momentum. Buying in index majors Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank and Infosys also fuelled the rally in domestic equities. Rallying for the ninth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 231.16 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,365.77. During the day, it jumped 502.42 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a record intra-day peak of 82,637.03. A total of 2,228 stocks advanced, while 1,701 declined and 116 remained

unchanged on the BSE. In its best winning streak since its launch in 1996, the NSE Nifty soared 83.95 points or 0.33 per cent to hit a new lifetime closing high of 25,235.90, taking its victorious run to the 12th day in a row. During the day, it surged 116.4 points or 0.46 per cent to hit a new record intra-day peak of 25,268.35. "Global markets are...resonating with the US Fed's pledges of a rate cut in September. The US and Indian markets have regained the recent highs, reflecting the continuation of this optimism," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,279.56 points or 1.57 per cent, and the Nifty soared 412.75 points or 1.66 per cent.

Govt taking measures at policy level to help fintech sector: PM

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the government is taking various measures at the policy level to promote the fintech sector, which attracted over USD 31 billion investments in the last 10 years, and the abolition of the Angel Tax is also a step towards the growth of the segment. Addressing the Global Fintech Fest 2024 here, the Prime Minister also asked the regulators to take more measures to stop cyber frauds and further increase digital literacy among people. "Fintech has played a significant role in democratising financial services," he said, and expressed confidence that it will help in improving the quality of life for Indians. Modi emphasised that adoption of fintech by Indians is "unmatched in speed and scale" and no such example can be found anywhere else in the world. He said the transformation brought about by the fintech sector in India is not just limited to technology, but its social impact is far-reaching.



He also stressed that fintech has dented the parallel economy and is bridging the gap between villages and cities on the financial services front. The Prime Minister also said that in the last 10 years, the fintech space has attracted investments of more than USD 31 billion and fintech startups have grown by 500 per cent. He said it is festive season in India, there is also festivity in the economy and markets, in an apparent reference to the robust GDP growth and capital market scaling new highs. Modi also informed the gathering that loans worth over Rs 27 lakh crore have

been disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, world's largest micro-finance scheme. Speaking at the event, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, digital technologies have been instrumental in expanding financial inclusion, improving efficiency and enabling real time services across the country. "Today, India stands as a global leader in digital payments, a feat achieved by combining proactive policy making with innovation and technological advancements. Collaboration between policy makers, regulators and innovators is the defining element of India's Fintech journey," Das said. "The Reserve Bank's regulatory frameworks have facilitated new and innovative businesses to grow in an orderly manner, he said. "These regulatory initiatives reflect our commitment to support innovation with prudence. Our collaborative approach is visible in the fact that we have held a large number of interactions over the last one year with the Fintech sector players," he said.



'Before 2017, UP lacked enviro for businesses'

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Friday Uttar Pradesh lacked the environment to set up businesses before his government came to power in 2017. The previous governments had limited interests and also lacked the vision for the growth of the state, he alleged. "It is true that before 2017, Uttar Pradesh did not have an environment where we could ask an entrepreneur to set up an industry here. The government also did not have a vision," Adityanath said, addressing a function here to distribute cash incentives for industrial units in the state. The chief minister distributed incentives worth Rs 1,333 crore to 32 industrial units and Letters of Comfort to 10 for investments of over Rs 4,500 crore during the programme organised at Lok Bhawan, according to an official statement. Adityanath also claimed that the previous governments were only concerned about staying in power.

RBI imposes Rs 2.68 cr fine on UCO Bank

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.68 crore on UCO Bank for contravention of certain provisions, including on opening of current accounts, interest rate on deposits and frauds classification. The RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 2.1 lakh on Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of Know Your Customer (KYC) directions. In both cases, the central bank said penalties are based on regulatory compliance and are not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

SC terms bank recovery agents 'group of goons' for not returning vehicle despite loan settlement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming a recovery agent firm of a bank as a "group of goons" who did not return the vehicle seized from a man despite one time settlement of the loan amount, the Supreme Court has directed the West Bengal Police to file charge sheet against the company within two months. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, which directed for payment of compensation to one Debasish Bosu Roy Chowdhury who took a loan of Rs 15.15 lakh for purchasing a bus for plying in Kolkata, directed Bank of India to recover the amount from the recovery agent. "Given the observations made by the high court and the plea taken by the petitioners, we find that respondent No. 4, a recovery agent, in actuality appears to be a group

of goons, who use their muscle power to harass loanees on behalf of the petitioner-bank," the bench said in its recent order. It noted an FIR was lodged against the recovery agent firm M/s City Investigation and Detective for failing to return the vehicle in proper condition and said, "The Commissioner of Police of the concerned area is directed to ensure that investigation of FIR dated July 5, 2023, registered at Police Station Sodepur in West Bengal, under Sections 406, 420 and 471 of the IPC, is taken to its logical conclusion without any delay, and charge sheet is filed within a period of two months." The recovery agent firm, however, later returned the vehicle but in a damaged condition, with chassis and engine numbers changed.

Sebi approves IHL's acquisition of Invesco's PMS business

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital market regulator Sebi has granted its approval to Hinduja Group firm IndusInd International Holdings for the acquisition of Invesco AMC's portfolio management services business. According to sources, Sebi's approval marks the completion of a crucial phase in IndusInd International Holdings Limited's (IHL) 60 per cent acquisition of Invesco AMC, leaving only one final regulatory approval before the transaction can be completed. An application seeking the Securities and Exchange Board of India's green signal for grant of sponsor approval to IHL is in process and upon receipt, IHL will proceed with consummation of the transaction, sources said. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has already granted its consent to IHL for



acquiring 60 per cent share-holding in each of Invesco Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd and Invesco Trustee Pvt Ltd. IHL will be holding the investment through its wholly-owned and controlled subsidiary. The company had earlier bid and emerged

successful suitor for the acquisition of Reliance Capital Ltd and its subsidiaries that operate in the life insurance, health and general insurance sectors as well as asset reconstruction, research and securities broking. IHL's resolution plan has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal. IHL's ownership will benefit Invesco to expand into more Indian cities and towns due to the presence of a strong domestic partner. Invesco Asset Management began its India operations in 2008 with the acquisition of Lotus India Asset Management Company.



Paytm shares surge 13 pc; extend previous day's rally

Shares of fintech firm One97 Communications -- the owner of Paytm brand -- surged nearly 13 per cent on Friday, continuing to rally for the second day in a row. Extending its previous day's rally, the stock jumped 12.15 per cent to settle at Rs 621.80 on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 13.86 per cent to Rs 631.30. On the NSE, it surged 12.69 per cent to Rs 624.90 apiece. Shares of the fintech firm had ended over 3 per cent higher on Thursday after the company received the government's approval for downstream investment in wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Payments Services Ltd. The company will reapply for a payment aggregator (PA) licence, a regulatory filing said on Wednesday. "...PPSL has received approval from the government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, vide its letter dated August 27, 2024, for downstream investment from the company into PPSL. "With this approval in place, PPSL will proceed to resubmit its PA application.

Vadhvan Port to generate 12 L jobs for youth, women: Sonowal

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The proposed Vadhvan Port in the Palghar district of Maharashtra will generate 12 lakh jobs for the local youth and women besides creating multiple facilities for the people of the area once it becomes operational, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Friday. Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the port project at CIDCO ground in Palghar, Sonowal also said that India has earned a name as a maritime nation in the world under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has taken a slew of initiatives for the maritime sector in the last 10 years. Modi laid the foundation stone for the mega project in the presence of Maharashtra



Governor C P Radhakrishnan, state chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar. The prime minister during his visit to the state also inaugurated, laid foundation stone for 218 fisheries projects worth Rs 1,560-crore in Palghar besides addressing the 2024 edition of three-day Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, which

culminated here on Friday. To be built as an all-weather, greenfield deep draft port 150 km from Mumbai, which got the Union Cabinet's nod in June this year, the maritime project will see an investment of Rs 76,200 crore, which includes the development of core infrastructure, terminals and other commercial infrastructure in public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

Key infra sectors' growth slows down to 6.1 pc in July

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The growth in production of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to 6.1 per cent in July this year due to a decline in the output of crude oil and natural gas, according to official data released on Friday. The growth rate, however, is up from 5.1 per cent in June. The growth of core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 8.5 per cent in July 2023. During April-July this fiscal, the output of core sectors rose by 6.1 per cent against 6.6 per cent in the same period last fiscal. The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which measures overall industrial growth. Crude oil and natural gas output contracted by (-) 2.9 per cent and (-) 1.3 per cent, respectively, in July.

FORM VI (See Sub-rule(1) of rule-19) and Section - 11(1) of the Act-30(2013) GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT

Collector/Joint Collector Preliminary Notification
File No: GJ 508/2024 Dated: 22.08.2024
Gazette No. 32/2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that Structures in Annekhapally Village of Bijinepally Mandal, Nagarkurnool Division Nagarkurnool District, for public purpose, namely for formation of Vattam Balancing Reservoir at Annekhapally Village of Bijinepally Mandal.

Therefore it is notified that the Structures to acquire for formation of Vattam Balancing Reservoir at Annekhapally Village of Bijinepally Mandal under Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme of Annekhapally Village of Bijinepally Mandal, Nagarkurnool Division Nagarkurnool District, a piece of whose detailed description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition.

| Sl. No. | S. No. of Title | Type of Land | Name of the Structures and owner | Boundaries | | | | Tree | Structures |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|--|------------|-------|------|------|------|---------------|
| | | | | North | South | East | West | | |
| 1 | 76 | Gauhar | Dry MAISAMMA TEMPLE Maintained by president Societe of Maisamma Temple as per Reg.No.50 of 2023 | 76 | 76 | 76 | 76 | NIL | WATER STONES |
| 2 | 76 | Gauhar | Dry SHIMALAYAM TEMPLE Maintained by president Societe of Shivlayam Temple as per Reg.No.50 of 2023 | 76 | 76 | 76 | 76 | NIL | RCC Structure |

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Nagarkurnool & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nagarkurnool on any working day during the working hours. The District Collector, Nagarkurnool is pleased to authorize the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nagarkurnool and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for formation of surplus weir for Vattam Balancing Reservoir of Palamuru Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme at Annekhapally Village of Bijinepally Mandal for their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transactions or cause any transactions of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

As per G.O.Ms.No.37 Irrigation and CAD (LA R&A/2) Dept. dated 30.06.2017 the provisions of Chapter II i.e. (Determination of Social Impact and Public Purpose and Chapter No.II (e) (Social provision to safe guard Food Security) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 are exempted in the Land Acquisition of Palamuru Ranganadhy Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the persons interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under section (15) of the Act before the District Collector.

Sd/- Spl.Dy. Collector, Sd/- Addl. Collector, Sd/- Dist. Collector, LA PRLIS Unit - II (Revenue) Nagarkurnool Nagarkurnool
DIPR No.226/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

VISTARA TO FLY INTO SUNSET ON NOV 11

Singapore Airlines' FDI cleared in AI Group

The nearly 10-year-old Vistara will fly into the sunset on November 11 as part of the merger with Tata Group-owned Air India, with the deal moving closer to completion after the Indian government approved Singapore Airlines' Rs 2,058.5-crore foreign direct investment in Air India Group. The merger, announced in November 2022, will see Singapore Airlines snapping up a 25.1 per cent stake in the Air India Group, and will create one of the world's largest airline groups.

On Friday, Singapore Airlines (SIA) said the Indian government has approved its proposed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the enlarged Air India Group as part of the ongoing merger of Air India and Vistara. The approval marks a significant development towards the completion of the merger, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year, SIA said in a release. Vistara is a 51:49 joint venture between Tatas and SIA. With regulatory approvals in place, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson told the employees on Friday that



November 12 has been set as the date for the movement of aircraft and crew of Vistara to Air India. Loss-making Vistara, which has a fleet of 70 planes and flies to 50 destinations, will be operating the last flight under its brand on November 11. It had a domestic market share of 10 per cent in July. "Starting 03 September 2024, customers will, progres-

sively, no longer be able to make bookings with Vistara for travel on or after 12 November 2024," Vistara said in a release. Thereafter, Vistara aircraft will be operated by Air India and bookings for the routes operated by these planes will be redirected to Air India's website. "Vistara will continue to take bookings and operate flights as usual till 11 November 2024," the release said. The government's approval for SIA's Rs 2,058.5-crore FDI is the last major clearance for the merger that was announced in November 2022.

'Public sector units must prioritise MSMEs when purchasing raw materials'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for MSMEs Shobha Karandlaje on Friday emphasised that public sector industries must prioritise MSMEs when purchasing spare parts and raw materials. "A memorandum to that effect will be submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Karandlaje. The minister inaugurated a two-day conclave on MSME, organised by the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru. Karandlaje said small, micro, and medium sector industries play a vital role in the industrial development of the country.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Short NIT No. 22/SE (M)/Sec-bad Zone/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 29.08.2024
No. of Works: 01 Work, Estimated amount: Rs. 169.70 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 30.08.2024 @ 1.00 PM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 06.09.2024 @ 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
R.O.No: 3484-PNCLADVT/2024-25, Dt: 30.08.2024
Secunderabad Zone, GHMC

Business development officer to Mrs South India 2024

Originally from the city renowned for its long-standing tales, Anantapur, the newly crowned Mrs South India 2024, Varsha Ramesh Reddy attributes her successes to Hyderabad. In a special interview with *The Pioneer*, she warmly expresses her fascination for the city

TEJAL SINHA

Two crowns, one mission—enrapturing hearts has been the motto of the newly crowned Mrs South India 2024, Mrs Varsha Ramesh Reddy. Getting the crown back to the state and the city, for that matter, was no less than an honour for her. Her inclination dates back to over 12 years ago, when she had participated in the Miss South India pageant. Back then, without the separation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, she had represented Andhra Pradesh as a whole.

Though she couldn't get the crown, she was in the top 6 and also won Miss Congeniality. Nevertheless, this didn't make her lower her confidence; rather, the zeal to win the crown kept growing. Now 12 years later, not Miss South India, but rather she's won the title of Mrs South India. Honoured to have her on board for our special segment of Hyderabad, we rang her a call and she gleefully begins, "The journey from competing at the Miss South India pageant to being crowned as the Mrs South India 2024. Things have changed and a lot has evolved. There were many hurdles, but isn't that what teaches you? It was challenging yet; there was a lot of learning."

Varsha hails from Anantapur, Rayalaseema. Because her father was in the Indian Air Force, they had to relocate to Shillong for his new assignment. She lived in Northern India until she was almost in her 12th grade, then returned to Hyderabad to pursue engineering at Mallareddy University. After obtaining her double master's in Australia, she returned to Hyderabad. Basically, for all the obvious reasons, she and her family, especially after her dad's retirement, had settled in Hyderabad. "Hyderabad is a home," shares Varsha, who was also crowned as Mrs Telangana Global 2024. "Though I had got very good job opportunities in Australia, deep down I knew I had to come back home, to Hyderabad. The people of Hyderabad, I think, make the city so



THOUGH I HAD GOT VERY GOOD JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA, DEEP DOWN I KNEW I HAD TO COME BACK HOME, TO HYDERABAD. THE PEOPLE OF HYDERABAD MAKE THE CITY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST

much different from the rest. They're so warm and welcoming. Hyderabad is a mix of everything: different cultures, different personalities and it gives you that space to grow. It's not too crowded. People can breathe here peacefully. We can enjoy the rich heritage and the beautiful food that it has to offer with the beautiful people. I always have that attachment to the city. I'm in one of the most brilliant cities around the globe. The satisfaction and that peace from within will come only in Hyderabad."

So as we discuss the pageant, she goes on to share a memorable moment she recalls of in the city: "My journey in pageants began 12 years ago, participating in the Miss Hyderabad competition. The true story is that they were holding auditions for girls and invited us to come the following day because they were only auditioning the first 50 girls that day. The numbers were assigned according to our names, with mine starting with 'V' towards the end. The auditions were held for 2 days and I believed I wouldn't have an opportunity. There were approximately 200 to 350 girls present. I participated in the audition and surprisingly, among all the lovely, talented girls, my name was selected and I made it to the top 18. I was chosen for the beauty contest and the large feature article included a photo of me. This memory is so touching and will forever remain etched in my mind."

One thing that comes to mind every time she thinks of Hyderabad is her mom. With immense regards, she enthuses, "Hyderabad, as I said, is my home and again, home to me is my mom. But again, if I really have to think of that one thing, then that would be the people. Hyderabad is known for its Biryani, but I'm not quite a fan of it; rather, I enjoy Pista House's Haleem, which I always enjoy in Ramzan."

In addition to her pageant, she landed her initial position in Hyderabad as a business development manager. Since that time, she claims to have only witnessed expansion. Today, she attributes her position as vice president of operations in 5 companies to the city's strong support.

However, even though she hadn't pursued pageantry as a career, it was a hobby that she was eager to continue. Having won Mrs South India 2024, she is eagerly anticipating what else lies ahead on her journey.

"I've seen the modelling culture in Hyderabad evolve drastically," shares Varsha with great exhilaration as she further continues, "I'm seeing a lot of local pageants coming up. People have been pretty supportive and it's just not the girls; even the older women or the married ones are so enthusiastic about participating. People now understand that it isn't about being pretty and stuff like that but bringing up their talent and making a stand for themselves. Their participation has shown the world what a strong woman she is. The women of Hyderabad have always been strong, independent and welcoming."

While she considers people and food to be the highlights of the city, she believes that Hyderabad's traffic is becoming just as challenging as that of Bangalore.

So now, as we head towards the end of this segment this week, our interviewee signs off with her allure for the city, saying, "Hyderabad is a 'ghar'. Be it from starting my job to making a mark in the pageant world, being crowned now, there's no place like Hyderabad where I could even feel to stay."

Zakir Hussain on personating 'bad person' in the world of *Murshid*

AARTI SREENATH

The latest gangster drama *Murshid* sees actor Zakir Hussain taking on the role of Farid, a complex antagonist driven by conflicting motivations and raw ambition. In an exclusive interaction with *The Pioneer*, the actor discusses portraying an antagonist, working with his co-stars and more

Zakir Hussain, a celebrated actor known for his nuanced performances, steps into the complex world of *Murshid*, a gritty gangster drama set in Mumbai's underworld. He portrays the character Farid, an antagonist, who isn't just a mere villain but a disciple-turned-adversary in a high-stakes game of power, revenge and survival.

In a candid interview, Hussain sheds light on the character of Farid, his approach to the role, and the dynamic interplay between Farid and his mentor, *Murshid* Pathan, played by Kay Kay Menon. He reveals that Farid's character is built around a deep internal conflict. Farid, once nurtured by *Murshid* in the underworld, turns against his mentor, sparking a confrontation that shakes the foundations of their relationship. "There is a conflict, but it's like the 'guru and chela's' conflict," Hussain explains. "*Murshid* was the boss of this premise and his chela Farid, whom *Murshid* nurtures and teaches the underworld business, eventually betrays him."

Farid's betrayal is not a simple act of defiance; it is a calculated move in a world where loyalty is fleeting. As *Murshid* comes out of retirement to protect his family and settle scores, the stage is set for a gripping battle.

"People like *Murshid* never retire from their connections and networks," he notes, adding a layer of suspense to the upcoming face-off. While discussing Farid's aggressive nature and ambition, he emphasises

the challenge of creating a multi-dimensional character. "As an actor, I feel whenever we play a role, we usually see different perspectives—if it's a politician or another character, everyone thinks differently," he reflects. Farid is unique in his approach—fueled by rage and a strict "do or die" business philosophy. Yet, there is an underlying sense of fairness, albeit twisted, that governs his actions. Hussain credits his co-actors, particularly Kay Kay Menon and Tanuj Virwani, for helping him bring out the best in his performance. "It's easier if you know the actor even before acting with them. Kay Kay Menon is a friend of mine and Tanuj Virwani is a new friend. Since we have worked before, it's not that difficult to act with them or face any difficulty," he shares. This familiarity allowed for a more natural flow of emotions and reactions on set, enhancing the authenticity of Farid's character.

In *Murshid*, the two central characters, Farid and *Murshid* Pathan, are positioned as polar opposites in their approach to life and crime. "*Murshid* is a good man in a bad world, but Farid is a bad person in a bad world," the *Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani* fame describes. While *Murshid* operates with a set of principles that guide his actions, Farid is driven purely by self-interest and survival, unconcerned with the broader consequences. Farid's portrayal challenges the traditional depiction of antagonists in gangster dramas. Unlike *Murshid*, who believes in societal norms to some extent, Farid has his own set of rules but isn't religiously bound by them. "He goes by 'I want to do it by hook or crook; I'll do it.' Farid is money-minded and wants his profit—that's all," the *Darna Zoroori Hai* actor explains, underscoring the stark contrast between the two. One of the unique aspects of filming *Murshid* was the decision to shoot in real locations across Mumbai. While this choice added

authenticity, it also presented significant challenges. "In sets and studios, the premises are under our control, but even in real locations, we try to make things in a controlled environment," the *Paan Singh Tomar* actor shares. However, external factors, such as interruptions from onlookers, often disrupted the flow. "Sometimes, when there's a shot going on, if somebody laughs or

shouts, our concentration breaks, but we can't even be mad at them since they are common people," he adds, highlighting the unpredictable nature of shooting in a bustling city.

Despite being friends off-screen, the on-screen chemistry between Hussain's Farid and Menon's *Murshid* Pathan is electric and intense. "There is no challenge as such, but while doing the scene and reading it, depending on the kind of reactions you get, the rivalry is portrayed," Hussain explains. Their familiarity allowed them to craft a believable narrative of conflict and rivalry. "If I'm doing a South Indian movie and I don't know the artists at all, the trend I don't know, you face more challenges. Here, it was easier," he notes, emphasising how shared history helps in delivering compelling performances.

Hussain, who has previously played refined versions of underworld characters in films like *Sarkar*, sees *Murshid* as a more down-to-earth portrayal of Mumbai's crime world. "This was purely an old gait Mumbai in old times—that is kind of the look," he describes. Unlike the international-level villains of other films, *Murshid* deals with small-time criminals and their localised conflicts. The setting is gritty, with narrow lanes and small factories serving as backdrops to the story. This grounded portrayal of the underworld is what sets *Murshid* apart. "It's like one is a five-star hotel; the other is a two-star hotel. They have their differences. This is a guest house in the dark area," Hussain elaborates, providing insight into the show's unique atmosphere and setting. Hussain draws parallels between Farid's ambition and the real world of power and authority. "The real world of authority and ambition is cutthroat, although we can't see them, but they do exist," he says, pointing out how the hidden power struggles in *Murshid* mirror actual societal dynamics. Farid's character is raw and realistic, embodying the roughness of an "iron, so rustic that you think this is the 1960s or 1970s."

The defining factor for *Murshid* is its exploration of legacy and the inescapable pull of one's past. *Murshid*'s decision to retire from the underworld is rare for a gangster narrative, but the return to his old ways under threat adds depth to his character. "There must have been such people who, while doing bad things, must have realized that this is not okay," Hussain reflects. However, the work they've done and the choices they've made continue to haunt them. On the other hand, Farid's character stands in stark contrast. "Farid is someone who will never retire. This is the only work I know," the *Badlapur* fame emphasises. His refusal to step away from the world of crime, driven by his addiction to power and status, highlights the diverse character arcs within the series. As *Murshid* premieres, audiences are in for an intense journey through the underbelly of Mumbai, filled with nuanced characters, unrelenting ambition, and the eternal conflict between a mentor and his prodigal disciple.



UNDERSTANDING MECHANICAL VS. CHEMICAL EXFOLIATION

Exfoliation is a skincare cornerstone and process of any skincare routine that involves sloughing away dead skin from the surface of the skin to reveal fresher, brighter and a more radiant complexion. Whether you're battling dullness, clogged pores, or looking to smooth out your skin's texture, exfoliation can help—but which method is best for you: mechanical or chemical?

Mechanical exfoliation: Scrub your way to smooth skin

Mechanical exfoliation involves the physical removal of dead skin cells using scrubs or tools like brushes and silicone gloves. Common exfoliating agents include sugar, salt, and apricot shells, which physically buff away the outermost layer of the skin.

Perfect for:

- **Immediate texture improvement:** Scrubs provide instant smoothness and a glowing complexion by clearing the surface of dead skin.
- **Decongesting pores:** Great for removing debris and impurities like blackheads and whiteheads.
- **Tough spots:** Ideal for thicker skin areas like heels, elbows, and knees, where daily use may be beneficial.
- **Ingrown hairs:** Helps prevent and treat ingrown hairs from shaving or waxing.

Watch out for:

- **Sensitivity risks:** Harsh scrubbing can cause micro-tears and irritation, so use gentle pressure and limit to once a week.

Chemical exfoliation: The science of smooth

Chemical exfoliants, including Alpha Hydroxy Acids (AHAs) and Beta Hydroxy Acids (BHAs), dissolve the bonds holding dead skin cells together, allowing them to shed more easily. AHAs like glycolic and lactic acid are water-soluble and work on the skin's surface, making them perfect for addressing dullness and fine lines. BHAs, such as salicylic acid, are oil-soluble, penetrating deeper into pores, making them ideal for oily and acne-prone skin.

Best For:

- **Deep exfoliation:** AHAs and BHAs penetrate deeper into the skin, can promote cell turnover, targeting concerns like aging, tanning, and pigmentation.
- **Oily and acne-prone skin:** BHAs and LHAs (Lipo Hydroxy Acids) are excellent for dissolving sebum and preventing breakouts.
- **Sensitive skin options:** Enzyme exfoliants derived from fruits like papaya offer gentler alternatives.

Latest in exfoliation: Hybrid techniques

Combining mechanical and chemical exfoliants—like a gentle scrub infused with AHAs—offers a two-fold action, boosting effectiveness while being kind to the skin. Additives like Vitamin C brighten and firm, while hydrating agents prevent dryness and support the skin's barrier.

Tips for effective exfoliation

- **Don't overdo it:** Stick to exfoliating 1-2 times per week. Over-exfoliation can lead to sensitivity and irritation.
- **Moisturise immediately:** Exfoliation can strip natural oils, so always follow up with a good moisturizer to restore hydration.
- **Consider professional treatments:** For chemical peels, consult a professional to avoid adverse reactions and get personalized advice.
- **Patch test first:** Especially with chemical exfoliants, always test on a small area to ensure compatibility.
- **Protect your skin:** Use sunscreen daily as exfoliation increases sun sensitivity. This helps prevent further damage and protects your fresh new skin.
- **Avoid eye area:** The skin around your eyes is delicate; stick to products formulated for this sensitive zone.

Exfoliation can dramatically improve your skin's appearance, but the key is finding the right method that suits your specific needs. Whether you're reaching for a mechanical or chemical peel, remember that consistency and care will lead you to that glowing, smooth skin you desire.

(The author, Oscar Pereira, founder and skincare formulator of CodeSkin.)

what's brewing?



● Hitha and Prateek

MLA Raj Thakur and Manali Thakur, celebrated their daughter-in-law, Hitha's first Vara Mahalakshmi Vratam, at their residence, which was attended by Deputy Chief Minister's wife Bhatti Nandini Mallu, along with other dignitaries.



● Batti Nandini and Manali

● Manasa

PARTY



K. Haribabu Governor of Mizoram, launched the Book, *Shomie Das--The Man Who Saw Tomorrow* in a function held on Thursday's late night held at Oakridge School in Gachibowli. The protagonist Shomie Das was also present on the occasion



FICCI Ladies Organization (YFLO) hosted a roundtable conversation on sustainable fashion on Friday at The Quorum Club, Madhapur. It was organised in collaboration with #ConsciousEffort which brought together India's most prominent designers and advocates of Indian art and craft heritage.



PBPartners organised a press meet, which focused on key developments in the insurance industry in Hyderabad. Abhimanyu Sharma-Business Head, Motor Insurance and Amit Bhadoria-Associate Director & Sales Head, Motor Business Unit, were present at the event.



Photos by- SV Chary



● Sridevi

● Srimai

● Taruna Reddy

● Neelima

● Sirisha

● Nikhila

● Padma



The first edition of the Junior Model United Nations Conference, hosted by Meru International School, Tallapur Branch, was an immensely enriching event that brought together students from Grades 4 to 8 from around 20 different schools across Hyderabad. This colloquium fostered inclusivity, diversity, critical thinking, and individuality.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- Use these for cutting paper
- A smelly vegetable
- Rest and take it easy
- Stop working because you are too old or ill
- You will find a judge and jury in here
- Swapped
- Machines for lifting things
- Not working; out of order
- A keyboard instrument
- An offer of marriage
- You will find a judge and jury in here
- Swapped
- Machines for lifting things
- A sweetener
- Rest on your knees
- Break in two

DOWN

- Move
- Take no notice of
- Painful to touch
- Measuring stick



GINGER MEGGS





FARIA TURNS LYRICIST, SINGER AND CHOREOGRAPHER FOR MATHU VADALARA 2

In the upcoming film *Mathu Vadalaru 2*, actress Faria Abdullah not only sings a song, but also has written the lyrics. In an event, the actress revealed that she has also choreographed the song!

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Actress Faria Abdullah will next be seen playing the leading actress in the upcoming film *Mathu Vadalaru 2*, starring opposite Simha Koduri. The film, directed by Ritesh Rana, is the sequel to the 2019 released film *Mathu Vadalaru*, which was a blockbuster hit. The teaser of the sequel was released on Friday, which hints that the film is going to tickle your funny bones.

Faria, speaking at the event revealed a surprising insight that she would not just be a part of the film as the lead actress, but also a lot more. "The makers of this film had given me an opportunity to not just sing my own song but also to write it," enthused Faria.

Well, not just this! We've all been aware of the preference that she has for dance. Guess what? In this song, which is a rap song, she also shared, "I have also choreographed it." The music for this film is being provided by Kalabhairava.

Going ahead, she reveals, it's a fun film. "This is the best team that I have ever worked and has also been the most entertaining film to date," said the *Jathi Ratnalu* fame. She further went on to express her gratitude to the director and producer for casting her in this film. When asked if she's got to do any action in the film, she revealed that indeed she is doing a few action scenes. She is confident that this film will turn out to be a big hit. She also hopes that *Mathu Vadalaru 2* is going to bring her much-needed success. Meanwhile, she is super excited for the song, which is going to be out soon. The film is going to hit the screens on September 13. Faria made her debut with *Jathi Ratnalu* in 2021, which brought her into the limelight so much that people started to know her by the character 'Chitti' in the film. However, following that, she did a few films, which weren't much successful at the box office.

Priya Atlee ventures into clothing line

Priya Atlee, an acclaimed actress, film producer and entrepreneur, announced the launch of her new designer clothing brand, 'Red Knot', marking her foray into the fashion industry. "Fashion is an extension of one's personality and creativity," said Priya Atlee. "I wanted to create a brand that resonates with modern individuals who are not afraid to stand out and make a statement. Every piece in this collection reflects my passion for design and my belief in celebrating individuality through fashion."

Known for her impeccable style and trendsetting fashion choices, Priya has consistently dazzled with her sophisticated and fashion-forward looks. Drawing from her artistic background, Priya has personally designed every piece in the collection with meticulous attention to detail, reflecting her passion for design and her commitment to a unique expression of contemporary style and elegance.

The launch marks Priya's transition from film to fashion, showcasing her ability to infuse artistry into every aspect of her work.



Balakrishna completes 50 years as an actor!

Nandamuri Balakrishna, aka Balayya, completed his 50 years as an actor. He made his debut into the Telugu cinema with *Tatamma Kala*, directed by his father and legendary actor Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao. The film was released on August 30, 1974 and ran successfully in the theatres for 50 days.

"There are many actors who began their career by playing negative roles and later transitioned into lead actors. In fact, there have been many lead actors who have also portrayed character roles. However, Balakrishna has been the only actor to have played the lead role. It is not easy for an actor to play back-to-back lead characters for five decades straight," said T Prasanna Kumar, Producer and Secretary to the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce.

Interestingly, Balakrishna's first film had landed into controversy. Late NTR had started his own production house, Ramakrishna Cine Studios. The film portrayed a story against government policy back then. The government had implemented a family planning scheme, limiting two children allowed in a family. "Though the film ran for 50 days, the government had actually banned this film initially," said Prasanna Kumar. That's how his debut film was banned for a reason and later released a second time. Later, NTR made a few changes as per the policy and then later released the film on January 8, 1975. "When it was released for the second time, the film ran 50 days. For this film, NTR also won the Nandi Award as a story writer," revealed Prasanna. He further revealed that ever since then, Balakrishna has been continuously playing the lead actor. In this film, NTR played dual roles: as grandfather and also as grandson. The film also starred Balakrishna's elder brother, Hari Krishna.



Mythri Movie Makers discuss their high budget films

Mythri Movie Makers are producing some of the high-budget films, out of which a few will be releasing in the coming days. The first release would be of the Allu Arjun and Sukumar combination *Pushpa 2*. "There have been speculations about the *Pushpa 2* release date, but I want to confirm once again that the film will be releasing on December 6 at any cost," confirmed Ravi Shankar, one of the producers from the production house. He also shared that the first half of the film will be ready by September 2. He further revealed, "The second part will be ready by October 6 and we will be ready with the first copy by November 30."

He added that they are planning to get the censor formalities done by November 25 and as informed, the main output will be out by December 1st week. The premiere show is expected to be on December 5. For the upcoming *Vinayaka Chavithi*, the makers have not been planning to release any film.

Meanwhile, speaking about the negativity around the Allu Arjun-starrer, he said that it would certainly mellow down once the film gets released. A few days back, AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan

Kalyan stated that in earlier days heroes played characters where they were protecting forests from poachers and smugglers, but nowadays actors are playing the characters of smugglers and destroying forests. When asked if he targeted Allu Arjun with the comments, Ravi Shankar said, "These comments come in a flow and do not target anyone." Pawan Kalyan is a man of dignity and doesn't generally comment, keeping any particular actor in mind. "It is certainly not about Allu Arjun," clarified Ravi Shankar.

Going ahead, speaking of Pawan Kalyan's upcoming film, *Ustad Bhagath Singh*, directed by Harish Shankar. "We will be coming up with an interesting update on September 2 on the occasion of Pawan Kalyan's birthday," he said, adding that the team had met Pawan Kalyan a few days back and the shooting of this film will begin soon. "We are trying to complete it by January," he said.

The next on the list is the Jr NTR and Prashanth Neel film and he shared, "We are planning to begin shooting in October or November and NTR will be joining the shoot from December onwards," he clarified.

Priyadarshi's Court starts rolling

Nani is thrilled with the success of his new film, *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* and is presenting another film called *Court - State vs A Nobody*. On Friday, the film was officially announced by Nani during a pooja ceremony.

Nani had previously produced films like *Awe*, *Hit: The First Case* and *Hit: The Second Case* through his banner, Wall Poster Cinema. Supporting this movie is the cast comprised of Priyadarshi, Sai Kumar and Sivaji. The movie represents Ram Jagadeesh's directorial first and is

produced by Prashanti Tipirneni. The title poster shows Lady Justice standing in the witness box, which effectively captures the film's themes of justice and conflict. The story centers on a legal battle for a boy who is wrongly accused in a case. In this, Priyadarshi will portray the role of a lawyer. The shooting will begin in September, as confirmed by the producers. Sivaji, Sai Kumar, Rohini, Harshavardhan, Harsh Roshan and Sri Devi are among the top actors in the movie.

Chiyaan Vikram on playing three different characters in Thangalaan

Thangalaan is a one-of-a-kind phenomenon in the entertainment world. Well-studded with a gripping story, captivating plot, mesmerising canvas and mind-blowing performances, the film started to create waves ever since its release in other languages and has now been released in Hindi. While the film perfectly holds the audience's attention in every scene, it's Chiyaan Vikram's outstanding performance that emerges as the most crucial factor in making *Thangalaan* what it is. The actor has given his heart and soul to perfect his character on the screen as he played three different roles.

In an interview, Chiyaan Vikram talks about his three different characters that he played and had three different looks for the same. He says "One is a great-great-grandfather, his portion is a little lengthy. You have to show travel through time and the different generations of *Thangalaan*. He had to look like me but how different can we make him look? Ranjith was always there to inspire me and give me guidelines of what the person could look like."

Chiyaan Vikram was seen playing three different roles in *Thangalaan*, and he indeed performed his best in all. He portrayed *Thangalaan* Muni, Kaadaiyan, *Thangalaan's*

great-grandfather and Arasan "Aaran" (The protector of Gold). Remarkably, the actor underwent major physical transformations for his roles. For one of the roles, he lost weight and only wore a langot as the character's costume, which is a very rare thing for any actor to attempt. He also went half-bald for another role. For yet another role, he had to sit for 4 to 5 hours of makeup before reaching the set and starting the shoot. Moreover, to maintain the film's raw and authentic feel, the actors had to drench themselves in mud, making it very difficult to shoot in the real outdoor locations. This indeed speaks volumes about Chiyaan Vikram's dedication and perseverance, which is clearly evident in his fabulous performance in the film.

Directed by Pa. Ranjith, *Thangalaan* starring Chiyaan Vikram and Malavika Mohanan in prominent roles, was released worldwide on August 15, 2024, in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. The film released in Hindi on August 30. The music of the film is composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar.



Pradeep Raparti introduced as Mama

Directed by Viplav, who also takes on the lead role, *Eesaraina* is set against the rural backdrop of a jobless young man preparing for a government job and his journey towards finding love.

On Friday, the makers released the first look poster of actor Pradeep, introducing his character as Mama. The movie includes music by Tej, whose compositions are enhancing the storyline. Sankeerth Konda co-produced the film with Ashwini Ayaluru in the lead role, creating a highly anticipated project that is receiving a lot of attention. Paired with a captivating title, *Eesaraina* is quickly gaining buzz as a highly anticipated indie film.



Nayan Sarika: Allu Arjun sir and NTR sir appreciated my performance in Aay

Nayan Sarika is currently basking in the glory of *Aay's* super success. She is thrilled that her role Pallavi has struck a chord with the audience. The actress expressed her gratitude to the Telugu audience for showering love on her. "It's overwhelming to see so much love being poured by the Telugu audience. I am so grateful to them and I cannot ask for a better start in Tollywood. This success is a result of a collaborative effort, it means a lot to me personally. I wanted to thank the prestigious Geetha Arts and director Anji Sir for giving me the opportunity to be part of the film," says Nayan. Nayan always wanted to become an actress; she was active in dramatics during her school and college. When she was approached for the role in *Aay*, she was excited to fulfil her dream of becoming an actress. "Narne Nithiin and I have done a few workshops and rehearsed before shooting as part of preparation. I have also received training for my

Telugu and my team too had helped me in getting my lines right," the actress said.

Having begun her career very young, Nayan didn't want to compromise on her education. She always prioritised finishing her degrees on time. In fact, she shot for *Aay* while simultaneously giving her final exams. "I used to carry books and study material to film sets. While I was shooting for *Aay* I was giving my final year exams, so I studied in a caravan, it was indeed challenging to balance studies and films," she recalls.

As a part of *Aay's* success, Nayan, along with the film team, met superstars Allu Arjun and Jr NTR. Both the stars congratulated the team on the success, and also complimented her. "Jr NTR sir said that I carried my character with ease, and Allu Arjun sir said that he was surprised to know that I am not a South Indian. Allu Arvind sir also said that I have expressive eyes. Compliments from such big stars is a great validation," says Nayan Sarika.

ABHINAV BINDRA SAYS TRAINING INDIAN ATHLETES ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES A 'WORK IN PROGRESS'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra on Friday acknowledged training Indian athletes across sports on the aspect of mental health remains a "work in progress", while adding that benefits of the same must reach grassroots level. Bindra said mental health directly influences overall well-being of an athlete and sports administrators also share equal responsibility in it. "It's an area where there is work in progress — we all acknowledge that. We are a sporting ecosystem which is developing. It is slowly maturing," he said during a virtual interaction organised by Mpower to launch AMP: A Sports Psychology Division to Elevate Athlete Performance. "This is an aspect that not just from a shooting athlete's point of view, but across the board, which needs to be prioritised. It is something which has a direct influence on the performance of the athlete. "It has a direct influence on the well-being of an athlete. Sports organisations and everybody involved in governance has to also ensure that our athletes perform well, but their well-being is of equal importance," he added.



Bindra highlighted the presence of a mental health expert with the Indian contingent in Paris Olympics as a step in the right direction. "We've seen progress made even during the Olympics in Paris. It was the first time there was a mental health expert who was with the team. There (also) was somebody for sleep," he said. "There are things that are happening. But we need to keep working with intensity to make sure that this perpetuates down to the grassroots level," he added. Bindra rejected the notion that athletes today are "softer" than those in the past. "I completely disagree. If that is

the notion to be believed, then the softer ones are winning more than the tougher ones because that's what our results and our history tell us," he said. Bindra revealed how a meditation course, while planning to quit shooting, helped him find "love for the process" after winning the Olympic gold in 2008. "When I did win that gold medal at the Olympics, my energy was completely drained in the sense that I was physically, emotionally (and) mentally drained. It also required a period of time to just let go and then to recharge my batteries and that wasn't easy," he said. "I decided to go on a vipassana

meditation course and it was interesting because I was wanting to actually leave the sport and move on to the next calling. That was my primary drive, to find my new calling. "I had to meditate for eight nine hours a day in complete silence for 10 days and all I did in that course was to think back to my sport and think back to how I loved the process of what I was doing," he said. Bindra said he was guilty of not realising his full potential since he judged himself on outcomes of tournaments. "For far too long, perhaps, I too was guilty in putting myself worth to wear my name, equating myself worth to where my name would appear on the ranking list of a sports competition and that was very silly," he said. "I became an Olympic champion, (a) world champion, I won many many championships but I failed in achieving my fullest and truest potential and now that I have a chance to look back I would attribute that failure to this lack of balance that I had in my life as an athlete. "I did not humanise my effort enough and I think that was while it helped me achieve goals it didn't help me get to my very best ability," he added.



Jurgen Klopp joins the crowd at the Paralympics

CHEERING ON LONG TIME FRIEND PLAYING BADMINTON

AP ■ PARIS

Former Liverpool coach Jürgen Klopp is used to being at the center of attention. On Thursday he was more than happy to be on the sidelines, cheering for his longtime friend Wojtek Czzyz as he competed in badminton at the Paris Paralympics. "I stood next to Elena, his incredible wife, and we both had tears in our eyes," Klopp said after watching Czzyz lose to Britain's Daniel Bethell in the men's singles. "I couldn't be prouder of him. I know sports are all about results, but just seeing him on the court was so touching, and I couldn't get my head around that." Their friendship began about 20 years ago when Czzyz, a promising soccer player, suffered a devastating injury in a collision with a goalkeeper that led to the amputation of his lower left leg. During his rehabilitation Czzyz met Klopp, who was managing FSV Mainz 05, a second-division German club at the time. They made an immediate connection that grew deeper over the years. Klopp, who stepped down as Liverpool coach this year after more than eight seasons, often uses Czzyz's story as a source of inspiration for others. "Wojtek is constantly doing things I'm not brave enough to do," Klopp said at the La Chapelle Arena in the north of Paris. "Yesterday, he was telling me how easy it is to swim with sharks," he added, referring to Czzyz's experience as a licensed diving instructor. Following his injury, Czzyz started competing in para athletics, winning gold medals for Germany in the 100 meters, 200 meters and long jump at the 2004 Paralympics. After he quit the sport in 2013 he and his wife Elena Brambilla-Czyz bought a catamaran and sailed around the world, helping amputees living on remote islands to get prosthetics. They arrived in New Zealand in 2019 where Czzyz decided to take up badminton. After just a few years, he got so skilled at the sport that he earned a spot at the Paris Paralympics, competing for New Zealand. However, Bethell, the No. 2 seed, proved to be difficult for the 44-year-old Czzyz in the SL3 category for players who practice standing and have a disability in one or both legs. Bethell won in straight sets 21-5, 21-2. Still, Czzyz said Klopp's support meant a lot. "Jurgen is family to me," Czzyz said. "It was great having him in my corner, despite the tough loss today. We need people like Jurgen putting the spotlight on us." It was a special movement also for Bethell who received a thumbs-up and a "Great job, Dan" from Klopp. "That was surreal, seeing him (Klopp) in the stands," Bethell said. Despite the loss, Czzyz's journey in Paris is not over. He will face Ukraine's Oleksandr Chyrkov in a decisive second group stage match. Will he invite Klopp to watch again? "Given my performance today, I'll have to think about it," Czzyz joked.

Ronaldo included in Portugal's first squad after scoreless Euro 2024

AP ■ LISBON (PORTUGAL)

Portugal coach Roberto Martínez has included Cristiano Ronaldo in his squad list for the first two Nations League matches following the veteran forward's disappointing European Championship. Martínez announced the squad on Friday for its home games against Croatia on Sept. 5 and Scotland on Sept. 8. The 39-year-old Ronaldo holds the record of 130 goals for international men's soccer. But he went scoreless in all five of Portugal's games at Euro 2024 before it was eliminated in a penalty shootout by France in the quarterfinals. Martínez said after Euro 2024 his team is starting "a new cycle for the 2026 World Cup." Ronaldo would be 41 by the time that tournament in North America kicks off. Martínez restored Ronaldo to his place in the starting lineup after predecessor Fernando Santos had stunned his team, and nation, by benching him midway through the 2022 World Cup, where he scored in an opening win over Ghana but then went scoreless over the next four games including a quarterfinal upset loss to Morocco.



Defenders: Rúben Dias (Manchester City), António Silva (Benfica), Renato Veiga (Chelsea), Gonçalo Inácio (Sporting), Tiago Santos (Lille), Diogo Dalot (Manchester United), Nuno Mendes (Paris Saint-Germain), Néson Semedo (Wolverhampton). **Midfielders:** João Palhinha (Bayern Munich), João Neves (Paris Saint-Germain), Vitinha (Paris Saint-Germain), Bruno Fernandes (Manchester United), Bernardo Silva (Manchester City), Rúben Neves (Al-Hilal), João Félix (Chelsea), Francisco Trincão (Sporting), Pedro Gonçalves (Sporting). **Forwards:** Rafael Leão (AC Milan), Geovany Quenda (Sporting), Pedro Neto (Chelsea), Cristiano Ronaldo (Al Nassr), Diogo Jota (Liverpool).

Nitesh seals semifinal spot; Manasi, Manoj out

PTI ■ PARIS

India's Nitesh Kumar dished out a superlative performance, thrashing China's Yang Jianyuan in straight games in his second men's singles SL3 group A match to qualify for the semifinals in para badminton competition at Paris Paralympics on Friday. A 29-year-old IIT Mandi graduate, Nitesh, who had suffered a permanent damage to his leg due to an accident in 2009, outclassed Yang 21-5 21-11 in a dominating show. With his second consecutive win, Nitesh is assured of a top-2 finish in the four-man group. The top two ranked players from each of the two groups qualify for the semifinals. Nitesh, who hails from Karnal district in Haryana, will next face Thailand's Bunsun Mongkhon in his last group A match. Manasi Joshi and Manoj Sarkar, however, suffered their second successive defeats to end their hopes of making it to the semifinals from their respective groups. Manasi, a 2019 World Champion, faltered at the finishing line to go down narrowly 21-10 15-21 21-23 to Ukraine's Oksana Kozyna in her second women's singles SL3 Group A match. She had lost her opening match to Indonesia's Qonitah Ikhtiar Syakuroh on Thursday. Tokyo bronze medallist Manoj also suffered yet



another loss, this time going down 19-21 8-21 to Bunsun in his second Group A match. He had lost to compatriot Nitesh on Thursday and will meet Yang on Friday. SL3 class is for those players with more severe lower limb disabilities, requiring play on a half-width court. On Thursday night, Nitesh and Thulasimathi Murugesan had lost to Indonesian combination of Ramdani Hikmat and Oktilia Iani Ratri 15-21 8-21 in their second mixed doubles SL3-SU5 group stage match. Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli also suffered a 15-21 9-21 loss to Francés Lucas Mazur and Faustine Noel in their second group A mixed doubles match. SU5 class includes athletes with upper limb impairments.

Carlos Alcaraz's 15-match Grand Slam win streak ends in loss to Botic van de Zandschulp

AP ■ NEW YORK

After double-faulting to fall behind two sets to none - a deficit he's never overcome - in the second round of the U.S. Open, Carlos Alcaraz slung his equipment bag over a shoulder and trudged toward the locker room. Glancing in the direction of his coach, 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, Alcaraz pointed his right index finger at his temple, then wagged that finger, as if to say, "I'm not thinking straight!" He might have been excused for being confused by what was transpiring under the closed retractable roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium on a chilly evening, and one set later, Alcaraz's 15-match Grand Slam unbeaten streak was over with a sloppy 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 loss to 74th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp. "It was a fight against myself, in my mind, during the match. In tennis, you are playing against someone that wants the same as you - to win the match - and you have to be as... Calm as you can, just to think better in the match and try to do good things," Alcaraz said. "Today I was playing against the opponent, and I was playing against myself, in my mind. A lot of emotions that I couldn't control." The result eliminated the pre-tournament men's favorite and certainly was hard to predict beforehand, given the No. 3-seeded Alcaraz's standing in the game, his excellence of late and his opponent's far-lesser resume. It followed another exit in Ashe for a past U.S. Open champion,



Naomi Osaka, who was sent home Thursday by Karolina Muchova 6-3, 7-6 (5). That one, though, was not nearly as out-of-nowhere as what happened to Alcaraz. He won the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July to raise his career total to four major championships, including taking the title at Flushing Meadows in 2022. Then, in early August, Alcaraz won a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, losing to Novak Djokovic in the final. Maybe, Alcaraz acknowledged, a tennis schedule he called "so tight" drained him too much. "Probably, I came here with not as much energy as I thought that I was going to (have)," he said. "But, I mean, I don't want to put that as excuse."

What's clear is he never found his footing against van de Zandschulp, a 28-year-old from the Netherlands. Alcaraz was way off, repeatedly missing the sorts of shots he usually makes routinely. The 21-year-old from Spain came in with a 16-2 record at the U.S. Open, where he never lost before the quarterfinals in three previous appearances. This also was Alcaraz's earliest defeat at any major tournament since bowing out in the second round of Wimbledon in 2021 as a teenager; he's never been beaten in the first round at a Slam event. In contrast, van de Zandschulp only once has been to a Grand Slam quarterfinal, getting that far at the U.S. Open in 2021. Otherwise, though, he is not

someone most folks would have expected to pull off this sort of monumental upset. Consider: van de Zandschulp was just 11-18 for the season at the start of this week and hadn't won consecutive matches at a four-level event in 2024 until now. "Actually, I am a little bit at a loss for words," he said. "It's been an incredible evening for me." The key stat probably was that van de Zandschulp won the point on 28 of his 35 trips to the net. The opening set was unbelievably lopsided. With van de Zandschulp's powerful forehands and serves at up to 132 mph finding their marks, Alcaraz never seemed to get comfortable. He did not produce a single

winner in that set and was nearly doubled up in total points, 24-13. The second set was a bit better for him, but not enough so, and a double-fault gift-wrapped a service break that put van de Zandschulp up 6-5. When Alcaraz pushed a forehand wide to end the next game, van de Zandschulp finished off a hold at love that gave him the initial two sets after 1 1/2 hours of action. Didn't take long for Alcaraz to fall behind by a break in the third, too, at 3-2, but he made a stand immediately - well, with some help, because van de Zandschulp's double-fault ceded a break that made it 3-all. Alcaraz then held at love and smiled as he strutted to the changeover.

New track, new colors, new confidence for Ferrari heading into home race at Italian GP

AP ■ MONZA (ITALY)

New track, new colours and renewed confidence for Ferrari as the Formula One team heads into its home race at Monza. Ferrari did better than expected at last weekend's Dutch Grand Prix, with Charles Leclerc earning a second straight podium finish and teammate Carlos Sainz Jr. Surging from 10th on the grid to place fifth. That was a surprise in what was expected to be a weekend of damage limitation before planned car upgrades at the Italian Grand Prix. Although it was a well-timed morale boost for a team which started 2024 fighting for wins but had dropped out of contention, Leclerc was quick to temper expectations. "I don't let the last two races change our expectations," he said. "We are in a difficult moment for the team. We are struggling a little bit with pace at the moment. "I think we understood quite a few things since Zandvoort ... it was a good race. In Spa, it was good as well. "Here, it should be a bit more in the direction of Spa, so hopefully we'll be a bit more in the fight for the podium. However, for the win, I don't think we quite have that yet." Indeed, Ferrari has only won one of the past 13 editions of the Italian Grand Prix, with Leclerc delighting the passionate red-clad fans in 2019. Since then, the famed Italian Scuderia's only two podium finishes have been Leclerc's second place in 2022 before he was beaten to third place by Sainz last year. "I wouldn't say the feeling is that we must do better," Leclerc said. "However, there's definitely a huge motivation because it's not only a normal weekend that starts from the Thursday to the Sunday, but it starts already from Monday in Maranello where we have so many tifosi (fans), and that obviously motivates everybody. "It seems and it looks like we've had a pretty strong car with a very low-downforce package even in the last few years where performance was not as good. That's positive because it's our home race and as



much as it's giving exactly the same amount of points as other races, emotionally speaking and for the whole team it's definitely a special one." **NEW LOOKS:** Monza is one of the oldest and most historic circuits on the F1 calendar, but there have been considerable changes to the Temple of Speed this year. Modernisation works cost more than 20 million euros (USD 22 million), and the track has completely resurfaced for the first time since 1922 and will have a much darker appearance. Moreover, some of the iconic kerbs have been modified - much to the dismay of several drivers. "They've changed the kerbs," Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo said on Thursday after inspecting the new look by bicycle. "I went around the track this morning. I can't say I'm that impressed because some elements have lost some of the character of the circuit. "Maybe, it's just as a driver, because we drive it and experience it, but kerbs and things like this make a circuit unique ... Part of Monza is that it was old school, and now that's gone. The resurfacing looks great, the asphalt looks really nice, but the kerbs, I'm a bit disappointed in."