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'Akshav Kumar made no for adjustments in *Sarfira* 





QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer As the CM is saying there was no mention of the word Telangana in the Union Budget, can the state government reveal whether they are spending the revenue generated in the GHMC area only in GHMC limits. The state government has been constructing CC roads with Central funds. How can the Chief Minister say that the Centre is not giving funds when many Central projects are being executed in the state?. - Katipally Venkatramana Reddy,

BJP MLA, Kamareddy, Telangana

#### DON'T MISS...

#### **GENCO** to develop 1,350 MW ...

In a virtual meeting on Saturday, KVN Chakradhar Babu, Managing Director of APGENCO, directed officials to devise a comprehensive action plan for the swift implementation of a 1,350 MW (9X150 MW) pumped storage project. This initiative, valued at approximately Rs 7,380 crore, is part of the Prime Minister's 100day programme and aims to meet the State's increasing energy demand by providing 10 million units per day during peak hours. Chakradhar Babu

#### Focus on promoting ...

Union Minister Ramnath Thakur said on Saturday that the Centre is focusing on limiting the use of chemical fertilisers in agriculture and promoting organic farming, especially in the northeastern states. He maintained that budgetary allocation for the agriculture sector has increased manifold under the BJP-led NDA government, with special attention on minimising problems faced by farmers. Addressing a press conference on the provisions of Union Budget 2024-25 ..

-NATION

#### BSNL subscribers on rise, homegrown ...

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday claimed that the subscriber base for the government-run BSNL has been increasing, while a homegrown 4G network is also ready and work is reporters here, the Union minister for communications said under Atmanirbhar Bharat, a 4G network with indigenous technology is ready and, in a few months, its services will be available across the country through the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

#### Watch, savour & indulge ...

TG's The Oriental Grill at the Hyatt Hyderabad Gachibowli is more than just a restaurant; it's an immersive culinary theatre. The moment one steps into this elegant space, a harmonious blend of contemporary sophistication and traditional charm envelops you. The restaurant's signature "Eat what you see" philosophy is brought to life at the Teppanyaki counter, where skilled chefs transform the art of cooking into a captivating performance. Tepayanki, also known as teppanyaki, is a captivating Japanese dining experience where a chef transforms fresh ingredients into a culinary masterpiece on a sizzling iron griddle. The term derives from 'Teppan' (iron plate) and 'Yaki' (grilling), .

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#### 'END OF AN ERA'

# doyenne Yamini passess away



# Bharatanatyam Wave of donations amid plaints

# Many people request help with illegal cases filed by the previous govt

**CM ADDRESSES PUBLIC GRIEVANCES** 

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday addressed grievances from the public at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, prioritising their resolution. A significant number of complaints were directed at the revenue department.

Many attendees appealed to the Chief Minister to intervene in illegal cases filed against them by the previous government. Others sought help in reclaiming lands allegedly seized by YSRCP leaders over the past five years.

Several people donated funds for the construction of Amaravati and the reopening of Anna Canteens. Notably, an elderly woman from Vijayawada, Manikyamma, donated her gold bangles for the rebuilding of Amaravati. With a large crowd from across the state, Chandrababu Naidu spent over three hours meeting with people and receiving their

appeals.

Villagers from Bonthu and Mahasingi in Saravakota mandal, Srikakulam district, complained about 47 acres of their land being forcibly occupied by YSRCP leaders from Bonthu village.



 A large number of complaints were directed at the Revenue Department

Appeals were made for reclaiming lands allegedly seized by

 An elderly woman from Vijayawada, Manikyamma, donated her gold bangles for Amaravati.

Villagers from Srikakulam district complained about land forcibly

significant amounts for Amaravati and Anna Canteens.

Chandrababu Naidu expressed gratitude for the donations.

## Naidu promises overhaul of Revenue dept

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has issued a stern warning to officials engaged in irregularities, promising severe action against them. Speaking on Saturday, Naidu highlighted that the majority of public complaints are directed at the Revenue Department and assured that

a major overhaul would be completed within 100 days. Addressing concerns at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Naidu emphasised his administration's commitment to resolving all public grievances, particularly those related to revenue issues. He vowed that officials

responsible for these problems would be held accountable. Naidu also criticised the previous YSRCP government, alleging that land scandals and tampering with revenue records have become prevalent across

Continued on Page 2

#### CM announces Rs 10 L ex gratia to survivor of house collapse

at Hauz Khas -- at 9 am on Sunday.

Krishnamurti is survived by

The details of her last rites are yet to

PNS VIJAYAWADA

be finalised.

two sisters.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced a Rs 10 lakh ex gratia payment to the lone survivor of a tragic house collapse in Chinna Vangali village Chagalamarri mandal district. The incident occurred two days ago, claiming the lives of four family members.

T Gurusekhar, his wife, and their two daughters perished in the collapse. Fortunately, their other daughter, 15-year-old Guru Prasanna, was away at her hostel in Proddatur, where she is studying in the 10th grade. Currently, Guru Prasanna is under the care of her 70-year-old paternal grandmother, Nagamma. Moved by the girl's plight, the Chief Minister announced the ex gratia payment and an additional Rs 2 lakh in financial assistance for Nagamma.

CM has instructed the Nandyal District Collector to offer support and assure Guru Prasanna that the government will continue to assist her. Furthermore, the Chief Minister stated that the Telugu Desam Party will provide the necessary support for the girl's education and future.

#### Sreedhar appointed as TTD CV & SO

PNS VIJAYAWADA

S Sreedhar was appointed as the Chief Vigilance & Security Officer (CV & SO), Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Saturday.

Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad appointed Sreedhar, who was waiting for posting, through GO Rt No 1342 on Saturday as the Chief Vigilance & Security Officer, TirumalaTirupati Devasthanams, in the existing vacancy.

# Centre's nod for new flyover & bypass road in Vijayawada

Eastern bypass to be developed with Rs 2,500 cr, says MP Chinni

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath has announced that the Ministry of National Highways has approved plans for a six-lane flyover extending from Mahanadu Road to the Nidamanuru Railway Bridge, as well as the Eastern Bypass, thanks to the efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu

Addressing a media conference at NTR Bhavan in Vijayawada on Saturday, the MP revealed that work on the flyover will soon commence. month, National Highway authorities He explained that within the next



will coordinate with relevant depart-

ments to finalize the flyover's design. (DPR) is already prepared, a revised version must be submitted within the same timeframe. The tendering process is expected to start in two months, with construction slated to begin around February or March 2025. The project is projected to be completed in two years. Additionally, radial roads from Ramavarappadu to Gannavaram will be constructed before the flyover work begins. An allocation of approximately Rs 800 crore has been designated for this flyover.

#### NDA govt to implement new Tenant Act the NDA government's commitment

Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture,

Cooperative, Marketing, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, and Fisheries. Atchannaidu, has announced the implementation of a to replace the 2019 legislation with the previous 2016 Act. This move aims to enhance support for tenant farmers (Koulu Rythulu) by

integrating them into Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) and facilitating access to crop

During a review meeting with the Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank Limited (APCOB) on Saturday, Minister Atchannaidu emphasised

to revitalising the cooperative sector and improving agricultural support. The new Act is designed to address the challenges tenant farmers have faced under the previous

administration's regulations, particularly concerning the issuance of agricultural cards. parency and efficiency, the government will implement an e-KYC

system for tenant farmers and work to avoid past mistakes. Minister Atchannaidu called for enhanced services from APCOB officials and urged them to extend their support to farmers effec-

Special Chief Secretary B. Rajasekhar, APCOB MD R.S. Reddy, Chairman A. Babu, and other officials were present at the meeting.

#### **CASCADE OF WATER**

# Thousands flock to Srisailam Dam; traffic hit

PNS KURNOOL

The Srisailam Dam has become a major tourist attraction following the lifting of 10 radium crest gates to release over 400,000 cusecs of water downstream to the Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP).

With such a rare event occurring infrequently, thousands of visitors have gathered to witness the impressive cascade of water flowing from the crest gates. The Srisailam Dam, one of the largest projects in the country, is currently experiencing a heavy inflow of water from upstream sources.

The lifting of the crest gates began a couple of days ago due to the substantial inflow. As a result, traffic has



of vehicles getting stuck for about 4 km on the road leading to the dam. Despite the congestion, many cars continued to head towards the site.

Tourists, eager to capture the moment, were seen taking selfies



panoramic view of the water cascading from the gates. Most visitors have come from

nearby areas including Kurnool, Nandyal, Tirupati, Hyderabad, and Bangalore. Many also visited the been heavily impacted, with hundreds from the hilltop, enjoying the renowned Mallikharnuna Swamy

temple at Srisailam.

According to Srisailam project engineers, the 10 radium crest gates were lifted on Saturday to release 464,740 cusecs of water downstream to the Nagarjuna Sagar project.

#### CRDA cracks down on illegal layouts

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) is cracking down on unauthorised layouts in the Amaravati region. Recently, CRDA officials took action against several plots in Tadikonda village that had been illegally converted from agricultural land into real estate ventures. Unauthorised fences and boundary stones were removed, and internal roads within these unlicensed layouts were dismantled. The CRDA warns that purchasing plots from such unapproved developments could lead to future complications and advises potential buyers to exercise caution and ensure proper permits are in

#### OBTUSE ANGL



# Working to find solutions to global food security: PM

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India has become a food surplus country and is also working to provide solutions for global food and nutritional security. The Prime Minister said agricul-

ture is at the centre of India's economic policies, and the Union Budget 2024-25 has given a big push to sustainable and climateresilient farming and developing a complete ecosystem to support Indian farmers.



He was addressing the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), second-largest producer of food-

which is being organised in India after 65 years. Recalling the last International

Conference of Agricultural Economists, Modi mentioned that India was then a newly Independent nation, and it was a challenging time for the country's agriculture and food "Now, India is a food surplus coun-

try," he said, adding that the country is the number one producer of milk, pulses and spices in the world. Also, the country has become the

grains, fruits, vegetables, cotton, as a 'Vishwa Bandhu'. He highlightsugar and tea. "There was a time when India's food security was a concern for the world. Now, India is working to provide solutions for global food security and global nutritional security," he said at the conference, attended by about 1,000 delegates from around 70 countries.

Therefore, Modi said, India's experience is valuable for discussions on food system transformation and will

benefit the global south. The Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to global welfare

ed various mantras put forward by India on various fora, including 'One Earth, One Family and One Future', 'Mission LiFE' and 'One Earth One Health'.

He underlined India's approach of not viewing the health of humans, plants and animals in silos.

"Challenges before sustainable agriculture and food systems can only be tackled under the holistic approach of One Earth, One Family

and One Future," he said.



# Revanth's fashion choices get noticed

to mingle with their counterparts in other states and leaders of nations as well as some of the people living there. This explains why Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's attire and accessories, at times pricey, are drawing attention. Since he is in power, everything on his person gets noticed. Recently he was seen wearing a Balmain Paris sweatshirt which costs Rs 66,000. His Gucci footwear is around Rs 50,000. His Louis Vuitton footwear is over one lakh rupees. He has MBT shoes which are around Rs 30,000. Revanth prefers Hublot watch which costs around Rs 30 lakh. During his

last US trip, he was seen Armani wearing Exchange cardigan. He is a football freak and even the footballs he uses to

play are imported. For fashionistas, Revanth, relatively young and energetic, is definitely surprising with his style quotient. A typical attire of any Telangana politician these days is white shirt, black pant and Birkenstock footwear. Most of the MLAs are seen sporting Birkenstock footwear, including Revanth Reddy.

#### STRONG SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE ELUDES BHATTI **VIKRAMARKA**

Whenever there is rivalry for the CM's gaddi, the one who has an edge in social media presence will ultimately make it. This is the impression one would get from the unsolicited opinion of certain Bharat Rashtra Samithi legislators, who, much to the liking of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, told him that had he been 'strong' on social media, he would have definitely become the chief minister of Telangana, instead of A Revanth Reddy. The Deputy Chief Minister, while speaking about social media in the Telangana Legislative Assembly during the recent Budget session, conceded that he was "not very strong" on social media. Taking him at his word, BRS MLAs in the House commented: "Anna, if you were strong, you would have been CM". A legislator who shared this detail said that everyone in

In 'Praja palana', palakulu can afford to stand out in matters of fashion because, all said and done, they need to stand out in matters of fashion about it. Although Bhatti's leaders could not be expiated easily. He social media persona may not be strong recalled that the BRS government had yet, his team has been putting all efforts to post videos of high quality, some of which are better than the ones relating to Revanth posted by the CM's team.

#### WHY TSAT CEO LETS HIS PREDECESSOR'S TEAM RUN THE SHOW

When there is a regime change, those appointed by the previous government are usually sent packing. The new incumbent of the department will then

staff it preferably with people handpicked

by him. However, Bodanapally

Venugopal Reddy, CEO, T-SAT has not

changed even one employee. Asked

about this abnormal retention of staff, he

observed: "The role of the government

is to help facilitate employment, not deprive people of jobs". In the same

building, however, there is We-Hub,

which saw a near total revamp after the

new CEO took charge. Many of the erst-

while government's appointees were

removed summarily without even the elemental courtesy of being given the rea-

CM SEES KARMIC LINK TO

**WOES OF BRS LEADERS** 

Leaders are dislodged from power for non-performance, venality or, to put it in politically expedient terms, "due the anti-incumbency factor". If, even after

losing power, a political leader is pow-

erless as a father or as an individual, could there be reason that is not appar-

ent ordinary mortals? Well, at least

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy sees a

karmic link to the woes of the brass of

Bharat Rashtra Samithi. During the

recent Budget session, Revanth, while

responding to BRS working president KT

Rama Rao's charge that the Congress government had been 'harassing' journal-

arrested one woman journalist for not aligning her ways with the tune of BRS daughters do not go away...Sins commit-ted do not go away easily ... That is why (members are) going to jail from your house". He then recalled

in his impromptu discourse on karma.

#### FOOD, HYGIENE AND **SERVICE QUALITY**

ulated refugee camps. Things had taken a turn for the worse about two years back

Naveena Ghanate and K Venkateshwarlu)

party's 'dictators'. The previous government filed a case under The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in the Banjara Hills Police Station and sent her to jail for one month, after having cracked down on her channel. Alluding to jailed MLC Kavitha, the Chief Minister remarked: "Sins committed on other's

> that the previous BRS government kept him in jail for 16 days. "That also will not go easily," the CM warned BRS leaders

Of late, media houses in Telangana have been frequently putting out reports of unhygienic conditions in popular hotels and other eateries, citing findings following appreciable raids by the food safety authorities. Of course, lawmakers need time to fix all those problems once and for all. But what beats scribes is that these days the 'lunch' that is provided to them during the Assembly session is served in a shed that is unhygienic and outside the pretty decent enclosure where lunch used to be served in good old days. Even the quality of food served leaves much to be desired. Scribes are equating it with what is served in ill-regunder the BRS regime which literally 'threw out' scribes. Caught unawares, the present Congress regime has been continuing it, while incurring the displeasure of journalists. The worst part is that security personnel gatecrash into this shed for having their lunch.

(With inputs from

# Ex-MP Margani Bharat slams TDP for inadequate flood relief

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former YSRCP MP Margani Bharat strongly criticised the TDP coalition government for its ineffectiveness in flood relief operations in the Godavari flood-affected regions. Speaking to the media here on Saturday, the former MP highlighted the stark contrast bet rent government's response and the swift actions taken by the previous YSRCP administration under the then Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

He stated that during past

Regarding the Eastern Bypass, MP Sivanath

indicated that funds will be allocated in the next

two months, with ongoing alignment assessments.

Both the state and central governments are work-

ing to initiate the bypass construction before

March. The Eastern Bypass is anticipated to be

operational in about three-and-a-half years,

In the Parliament sessions, MP Sivanath has

Krishna Paksha

Aug 03 03:50 PM

Aug 04 04:42 PM

Aug 03 11:59 AM

Aug 04 01:26 PM

to Aug 04 01:26 PM

to Aug 05 03:21 PM

5:08 PM to 6:44 PM

12:22 PM to 1:57 PM

03:15 AM to 04:59 AM

06:39 AM to 08:20 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM

**Updated:** August 3, 2024 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

3:33 PM to 5:08 PM

to Aug 05 06:03 PM

to Aug 04 04:42 PM

raised various issues concerning Andhra Pradesh.

with a total investment of Rs 2,500 crore.

Continued from Page 1

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 

Month & Paksham

Tithi: Amavasya:

Sukla Paksha

Nakshatram:

Ashlesha:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 94°° Humidity: 69%

Sunset: 6:38 PM



Centre's nod for new flyover & bypass road ...

floods, the government had promptly initiated relief efforts and provided immediate aid, including ration supplies and compensation to the victims and added that the present TDP government is full of neglect, with ministers and MLAs merely using the situation for photo opportunities

He also pointed out that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has not even conducted an aerial survey of the affected areas, showing a lack of concern for the suffering of the people.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu recently met

Union Road and National Highways Minister

Nitin Gadkari in Delhi to discuss Vijayawada's

traffic issues and submitted a proposal for the

Mahanadu Junction to Nidamanuru Railway

Bridge flyover, aiming to alleviate traffic conges-

ernment is supportive of the State's development.

Plans are underway to transform Vijayawada rail-

way station under the Amrit Bharat scheme to

cater to passenger needs for the next 50 years.

The MP also highlighted that the NDA gov-

Despite the severity of the current flood being less than that of previous years, the government's response has been inadequate, he added.

With the floodwaters receding, the former MP warned of the potential spread of diseases and urged authorities to commence sanitation works and affected villages. He lamented that the absence of volunteers, who were effectively mobilised during the previous administration, is hampering relief efforts.

#### Thousands ...

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, 62,668 cusecs of water is being released for hydropower generation for the left and right canals. The Srisailam project is currently receiving 481,246 cusecs of water from the upstream Jurala and Sungakesula projects. As of 4 p.m. on Saturday, the water level stood at 882.80 feet, with 203.490 TMC of water impounded in the reservoir.

Naidu promises...

Continued from Page 1

# **Wave of donations ...**

Continued from Page 1

They appealed to the Chief Minister for action to reclaim their land. Machineni Mohan Rao of Nagiripadu village in Chitvelu mandal, Annamayya district, reported that YSRCP leader Kiran had filed illegal police cases against him for refusing to sell his land at the offered price.

Donations for building Amaravati and reopening Anna Canteens were also received. N Prabhakar Rao, a farmer from Kankipadu, donated Rs 10 lakh, while GV Manikayamma from Vijayawada donated her gold bangles. Nirmala from the Bhagavad Gita group donated Rs 3.42 lakh, a differently-abled person from Perumalla, Chandragiri Assembly segment, donated Rs 25,000, and Valleru Venkatesh Naidu from Chittoor donated Rs 1 lakh.

Additionally, Parchuri Rajababiah and Kamala Kumari from Ayyappanagar in Vijayawada donated Rs 2 lakh for Anna Canteens. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed profound gratitude for the generous donations supporting these noble causes.

Naidu acknowledged the problems caused by the ongoing resurvey and pledged to prioritise complaints related to revenue matters from all districts. He condemned the weakening of the revenue department under the previous YSRCP administration, citing the Madanapalle incident as a case in point. The Chief Minister promised to restore the department to full functionality within 100 days, ensuring strict action against land grabbers and a comprehensive

cleansing of the system. To streamline the grievance redressal process, Naidu announced plans to receive complaints in constituencies and districts, eliminating the need for people to travel to Amaravati.

He also assured that his tours would not disrupt the process and noted that departmental reviews are yielding positive results.

#### **COPING UP INCREASING ENERGY DEMAND**

# **GENCO** to develop 1,350 MW pumped storage project in AP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a virtual meeting on Saturday, KVN Chakradhar Babu, Managing Director of APGENCO, directed officials to devise a comprehensive action plan for the swift implementation of a 1,350 MW (9X150 MW) pumped storage project. This initiative, valued at approximately Rs 7,380 crore, is part of the Prime Minister's 100-day programme and aims to meet the State's increasing energy demand by providing 10 million units per day during peak hours.

Chakradhar Babu expressed gratitude to Special Chief Secretary Energy K Vijayanand for his crucial support in ini-



tiating the project and commended the efforts of the APGENCO and Upper Sileru teams. He emphasised the need for meticulous planning and execution to make this one of the best-pumped storage projects in the country, under the guidance of Chief Minister

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar.

The project has received techno-economic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), and APGENCO has submitted necessary proposals to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for environmental clearance. Chakradhar Babu highlighted that the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MoEF&CC was briefed on the project's importance in meeting Andhra Pradesh's peak demand of about 260 MU/day. Senior engineers from

APGENCO, including M Sujaya Kumar, In-charge Director/Hydel, Y Koteswara

Engineer/Civil/Hydel, GM Vasudeva Rao, Chief Engineer/O&M/LSHES, P Ravindra Reddy, SE/Civil/Hydel, L Swamy Naidu, SE/Elec/Hydel, and B Chandrasekhara Reddy, SE/Civil/USPSP, participated in the meeting. The MD also acknowledged the support

in advancing the project.
The development of this pumped storage project is expected to significantly bolster the state's energy infrastructure, ensuring a reliable power supply during peak hours and contributing to the overall energy security of Andhra Pradesh.

from the CEA and MoEF&CC



#### Jagan expresses grief over Yamini's death

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former chief minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has expressed grief over the demise of the esteemed classical dancer Padma Vibhushan Dr Yamini Krishnamurthy, who displayed unparalleled talent in Bharatanatyam Kuchipudi and rose to the highest echelons of these classical dance forms.

In his message of condo-lence, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy remarked that Yamini Krishnamurthy left an indelible mark in the realm of classical dance with her unique style and extraordinary talent. He stated that her demise is an irreplaceable loss to the field of classical dance and that all Telugu people can take pride in her achieveto rest in peace.

## AP Chambers' roadmap for growth submitted to govt PNS VIJAYAWADA A delegation from the Andhra

Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), led by president Potluri Bhaskara Rao, met with Minister for Industries & Commerce, TG Bharath, Minister for MSME, Kondapalli Srinivas, and Secretary to Government (Industries & Commerce), Dr.

N Yuvaraj, in Vijayawada. AP Chambers presented a comprehensive 'Roadmap (2024-29) for the Rapid Economic Development of Andhra Pradesh,' which includes sector-wise suggestions addressing 28 major areas. The delegation briefed both Ministers and the Secretary on the key aspects of the roadmap. The Ministers and the Secretary appreciated the initiative and efforts of AP Chambers in identifying sectoral issues and providing detailed suggestions for their resolution. They assured that the inputs would be considered while drafting new poli-

The delegation highlighted



detailing various virtual and physical meetings held a month ago to showcase the strengths and potential of Andhra Pradesh. They noted that around 400 NRIs participated in these meetings and expressed keen interest in investing in the state. AP Chambers emphasized its crucial role in channelling these investments. AP Chambers requested the

cancellation of GO MS No. 5 & 6, related to auto nagars in AP, to protect the interests of investments from the USA, Additionally, they urged the districts.

Gazette Notifications issued in September and October 2022 by the Director General of Fire Services, which have streamlined procedures as part of Ease of Doing Business without compromising fire safety. TG Bharath agreed to address these issues promptly.

Furthermore, AP Chambers suggested the establishment of another MSME-DI office in Vijavawada, in addition to the existing one in Visakhapatnam. to better serve the MSMEs in

## Working to find solutions to ...

Continued from Page 1

Modi emphasised the importance of the agriculture sector in the Indian economy and highlighted the work done by his government in the last 10 years for the growth of the farm sector in a sustainable manner.

"Agriculture is at the centre of India's economic policies," he said.

In Indian agriculture, 90 per cent of farmers own very . little land, and these small farmers are the biggest strength of India's food security, Modi

He pointed out that a similar situation is prevalent in several developing countries in Asia, making India's model

applicable. The Prime Minister also said India has provided 1,900 new climate-resilient varieties of crops in the last 10 years. India is promoting chemical-free natural farming, he

He also said the country is moving towards achieving the 20 per cent ethanol blending

target in petrol. The conference will highlight India's proactive approach to global agricultural challenges and showcase the nation's advancements in agricultural research and policy.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the seriousness of the nutrition challenge, along with water scarcity and climate change. He presented Shri Anna, Millet, as a solution given the superfood's quality of minimum water and maximum production. Modi expressed India's will-

ingness to share India's millet basket with the world. In his speech, he also talked about how India is leveraging digital technology in the agriculture sector. He also mentioned the PM

Kisan Samman Nidhi, where money is transferred to the bank accounts of 10 crore farmers with a single click, and a digital public infrastructure for digital crop survey that provides real-time information to farmers and enables them to make data-driven decisions.

He emphasised that crores of farmers will benefit from the initiative and improve their economic condition.

Modi also spoke about a huge campaign for the digiti-sation of land, where farmers will be given a digital identification number for their land and the promotion of drones in farming, where 'drone didis' are trained to operate them.

These steps will not only benefit the farmers of India but also strengthen global food security, he added.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Member of NITI Aayog Ramesh Chand, Conference President Matin Qaim and Secretary of DARE and DG, ICA Himanshu Pathak were also present on the occasion. The conference will provide a platform for young researchers and leading professionals to present their work and network with global peers.

# Bharatanatyam doyenne ...

Continued from Page 1

Born on December 20, 1940 in Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district to scholar M Krishnamurti, she took to dance at the tender age of five at the Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai under the tutelage of legendary Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale.

Also proficient in the form of Kuchipudi, Krishnamurti expanded her horizon by learning Odissi from the likes of Pankaj Charan Das and Kelucharan Mohapatra.

Besides learning the various dance forms, Krishnamurti was trained in Carnatic vocals and the veena. Krishnamurti received Padma Shri at the young age of 28 in 1968, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016. She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.

Speaking about her contribution to Bharatanatyam, veteran dancer and one of her first students, Rama Vaidyanathan, said she brought "power, beauty and glamour" to the dance form.

"Bharatanatyam is not going to be the same without her.... She was so focused and dedicated to classical dance. I am so fortunate to have been her first student almost 40 years ago. She added the star quality to the dance form," Vaidyanathan said.

Krishnamurti only thought about dance, as if she was "haunted by the dance inside her", she added.

Vaidyanathan remembered a train journey she shared with Krishnamurti and being sur-

prised at seeing her sitting in the dark, as everyone else slept around her, thinking about a dance composition.

"I remember once we were travelling by train. I was in the upper berth and she was in the lower berth. In the middle of the night, I woke up. Everyone was sleeping and I could see her sitting there in the darkness, composing something. She was doggedly and feverishly dedicated to Bharatanatyam," the 57year-old said.

Condolence messages poured in on X.

Former Rajya Sabha MP and Bharatanatyam dancer Sonal Mansingh said Krishnamurti "blazed like a meteor in the sky".

"Just got the sad news of the passing away of India's great dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy, Padmabhushan and Padma Vibhushan awardee. She blazed like a meteor across the sky, the firmament of the Indian dance art. She was my senior. We all looked up to her," Mansingh said in a post on the microblogging platform.

Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy also took to X to pay tributes to Krishnamurti.

"I'm deeply saddened to hear of the demise of Yamini Krishnamurthy garu, the celebrated exponent of Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam. My thoughts and prayers are with her family in these difficult times," he said.

Famous Kuchipudi couple Raja and Radha Reddy said Krishnamurti has "attained the moksham at the feet of Nataraja".

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## Ways to enhance digital communication in focus

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Department of English at Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering & Technology (ALIET) here hosted a guest lecture on 'Digital Communication and Literacy Skills' on Saturday, attracting enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty Dr. Candy De Cunha,

Professor of English at ALIET, served as the resource person for the event.

Dr. De Cunha delivered a comprehensive lecture, underscoring the importance of information literacy, technology literacy, and digital literacy skills in the modern digital age. She stressed the significance of critical thinking, effective communication, and responsible online behaviour in navigating the digital landscape. The lecture covered various aspects of digital literacy, including online safety, cyberbullying, and digital etiquette. Dr. De Cunha also shared practical tips and strategies for enhancing digital communication skills, such as crafting effective emails, creating engaging social media content, and participating in online discussions.

The interactive session saw Dr. De Cunha encouraging students to share their experiences and insights on digital

# **Govt will fulfil tribals' dream** of having their own house

#### NTR District Collector Srijana hands over cheques to beneficiaries

PNS VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr G Srijana has said that the government would pay the share to be paid by the tribal beneficiaries in the allotment of houses and fulfil the dream of owning a house.

Collector G Srujana along with Tribal Welfare Department Officer J Sunitha presented the cheques to the beneficiaries at the collector's chamber on the premises of the Collectorate in Vijayawada on On this occasion, the

District Collector said that the government has granted houses in Rajarajeshwaripet under the JNNURM scheme to Palaparthi Gouri, a transgender belonging to the tribal community (Erukula), and Mindyala Mariamma, a multitalented woman, who are living at Ajithsingh Nagar in



Further, she said that after recognising the condition of the beneficiaries, financial assistance of Rs.66,000 was granted to each of them from the tribal welfare department and the construction of houses was done

Vijayawada. She said that the financial condition are unable

beneficiaries who are in poor to pay the amount to be paid

under the beneficiary's share to get the houses and requested financial assistance from the government.

Further, she said that after recognising the condition of the beneficiaries, financial assistance of Rs.66,000 was granted to each of them from the tribal welfare department and the construction of houses was done.

Meanwhile, District Collector G Srujana said that by paying the financial assistance granted by the government under the share to be paid by the beneficiaries directly to the municipal corporation and allowing a house in Rajarajeshwaripet, the dream of owning a house has been fulfilled. NTR collector Dr Srijana and Tribal Welfare Officer Sunitha handed cheques to tribal beneficiaries at the collectorate in Vijayawada on Saturday.



# Training in Australia for sports tourism

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Amid lifestyle changes, Australian company Hop On Kangaroo has launched an initiative to strengthen students mentally and physically through Sports Tourism training Collaborating with Real Madrid Sports Club, Carlos Alcaraz Club, Cricket Victoria. and Melbourne University, Indian students will receive specialized training in Australia

Harish Risam, founder of Hon On Kangaroo, announced this program in Vijavawada. highlighting its positive

The training includes sessions with Melbourne University professors, Cricket Victoria. and interactions between Indian and Australian students.Participants will earn certificates from renowned institutions, enhancing their

This unique "Leadership Through Sport" program offers a 15-day digital detox and comprehensive travel package.

Interested students can register via email at registrations@hokangaroo.c om.au or visit https: //www.hokangaroo.com.au.

# DC calls for increased organ donation amid severe shortage



**PNS** ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad has urged people to overcome misconceptions about organ donation and become lifesavers. Speaking at the inauguration of an organ donation fest, the collector highlighted the alarming statistics of organ donation in the state. Despite a staggering 90,000 people requiring trans-

plants in the last five years, only 923 have received them, resulting in an estimated 5 lakh deaths due to the lack of timely donations. The collector expressed deep sorrow over this loss of life and called for collective action to address the crisis.

The organ donation fest, organized by the All India Body & Donors Association in partnership with the Savitribai

Poole Educational Charitable Trust, will run until August 15. The event kicked off with a flag hoisting ceremony at the Gandhi statue near the GVMC park. Addressing the gathering, the collector emphasized the importance of addressing donor concerns and providing adequate counseling. He assured donors of transparency and fairness in the organ donation process, promising to address any indifference. The collector also appealed to doctors to extend full support to organ donors, especially in emergency situations.

Acknowledging past issues with kidney transplants in private hospitals, the collector assured the public that government hospitals adhere to strict standards and have a clean record. He explained the streamlined process of organ donation through the Jeevana Dhan organization, emphasizing its transparency and efficiency.

#### TDP govt filing false cases against YSRCP workers: Perni

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former minister and Krishna district YSRCP president Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) has alleged that the TDP-led NDA government has been registering false cases against YSRCP leaders and activists across the State to demoralise the cadre since coming to

Nani, along with former Pamarru MLA Kaile Anil Kumar, visited Gannavaram Sub Jail on Saturday to console four persons who were remanded in connection with the Gannavaram TDP office

Speaking to the media, Nani claimed that the police are filing cases against indi-viduals unrelated to the incident. He stated that the number of accused had been increased from 7 to 71.

# Govt committed to disabled welfare: Union Minister

PNS SRIKAKULAM

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of disabled individuals during a significant event on Saturday. Speaking during an event organised by the Department of Disabled and Elderly Welfare, the Union Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment, and the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIN CO), Rammohan Naidu expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the disabled community, acknowledging their blessings as instrumental in his rise to Union Minister at a young age. He expressed his delight at organizing his first program as a Union Minister for this esteemed group. "Their support and blessings have been my dri-ving force," Naidu stated.



In a substantial move to aid the disabled, Naidu announced the distribution of 823 assistive devices worth Rs. 73.32 lakh to approximately 479 individuals across the district in a single day. He emphasized the government's dedication to providing essential assistive devices and highlighted the recent increase in pensions for disabled individuals to Rs 6,000. "We are committed to being at

the forefront, ready to assist whenever needed," he assured. District Collector Swapnil

Dinkar Pundkar added to the commitment by announcing enhanced facilities for easy travel in RTC buses for disabled individuals. He revealed that a circular would be issued to all government departments, mandating the allocation of at least 3 per cent of their funds for the development of disabled

Praising Chief Minister Nara Chandra Babu Naidu, Vizianagaram MLAs Kalishetti Appalanaidu, Srikakulam MLA Gondu Shankar, and Narasannapet MLA Baggu Ramanamurthy highlighted the increase in the disability pension from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000. They stressed that the government is not only providing financial support but also focusing on skill development and self-employment opportunities for disabled individuals.

The event saw the presence of several dignitaries, including Disabled Welfare Department AD Kavitha, Nehru Yuva Kendra Coordinator Ujwal, Mepma PD Kiran Kumar, District Employment Officer Sudha, Tourism Officer Narayana Rao, ALINCO Coordinator Ravi Shankar, and District President of Disabled Welfare Association Raman Murthy.

## VMRDA faces public backlash for lack of transparency

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) is under intense scrutiny as it faces severe criticism for its drastic shift from transparency to secrecy in recent years. Once celebrated for its open governance, the Authority's website has devolved into a static display of names, photos, and tender announcements for new officials, a far cry from its previous practice of publishing board decisions and conducting press conferences to keep the public informed.

The erosion of transparency began in the wake of the 2019 elections and the subsequent change in government. Since the YSRCP administration took over, VMRDA has increasingly classified public information, including gov-



ernment orders (GOs), officer transfers, and board meetings, effectively obstructing public access to crucial updates.

During Commissioner Koteswara Rao's tenure, the secrecy reached unprecedented levels. Rao was instrumental in the transfer of Amaravati officials and in formulating the VMRDA Master Plan-2040. This plan, which includes road proposals rumoured to favour YSRCP-linked real estate interests, faced considerable public backlash. Despite the uproar, these proposals remained unaltered. Rao's successor, K Venkataramana Reddy, made minimal changes before his departure, and Collector Mallikarjuna, who took on the ad hoc role of Commissioner, has continued the trend of information suppression. The public is left in the dark regarding board decisions and meeting details, with transparency becoming an increasingly elusive goal. Historically, board meetings were held at Udyog Bhavan in Visakhapatnam, where Collectors and Joint Collectors from neighbouring districts would engage in transparent discussions about local issues. This practice has since disappeared, creating a significant void in governance and accountability.

The VMRDA website, once a vital resource for information on layout approvals by VUDA up to 2018, has not been updated since then. This lack of transparency obscures details about new developments, layout sizes, and plot numbers. Officials have become increasingly unre-sponsive, and Right to Information Act requests have often been met with inadequate responses.



# inaugurated

**PNS** ■ NELLORE

General and vascular surgeon and president of Tamil Nadu Medical Practitioners Association Prof CMK Reddy inaugurated Rela Hospital in Nellore on Saturday.

The guest of honour at the event was 8-year-old Gyana Sai from Chittoor district, who overcame a life-threatening liver disease in infancy. Gyana Sai received a life-saving liver transplant at Rela Hospital in 2016, performed by Prof Mohamed Rela when she was just nine months old.

In his address, Prof Mohamed Rela, said.

# SRM Group Chancellor Paarivendhar meets CM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Founder Chancellor of SRM Group and former Member of Parliament, Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar, along with the Pro-Chancellor of SRM University-AP, Dr P. Sathyanarayanan, and other university leaders, met with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, on Saturday. This marks their second visit to the Chief Minister's Office, following an initial visit to congratulate him on his fourth tenure as the head of the state government. During the meeting, Dr. Paarivendhar briefed Chief Minister Naidu on the development and planned expan-

sion projects of SRM



University-AP in Amaravati. "As a premier institution providing tertiary education across the country, we urge the government under Chandrababu Naidu's leader-ship to support SRM University-AP's upcoming projects aimed at delivering

empowering the youth," said Dr. Paarivendhar.

Dr. Sathyanarayanan emphasized the importance of educating the youth in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence and enhancing 21st-century skills.

## MP vows to resolve issues in V'wada West segment

Kesineni Chinni celebrates birthday at Buddha Venkanna's office

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), has pledged to tackle all issues within the Vijayawada West assembly constituency. He made this commitment alongside Vijayawada West MLA Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary, former MLC Buddha Venkanna, and TDO Official

Spokesperson Nagul Meera.

During his birthday celebrations held at Buddha Venkanna's office in Vijayawada on Saturday, Chinni cut a cake to mark the

In his address, MP Chinni reminisced about the start of his political career in the Vijayawada Constituency and expressed his ded-

ication to its development. He emphasised his intention to collaborate with local leaders and representatives to drive

progress. Additionally, Chinni announced that the central government has committed to providing Rs. 100 crore in financial assistance for the development of the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam. He stated that these funds would be disbursed in phases.

# 'Brahmotsavams' from Oct 4 to 12

GEAR UP FOR THE BIG FETE, TTD ADDL EO TELLS OFFICIALS

PNS TIRUMALA

As the annual Brahmotsavams at Tirumala are exactly two months to go, TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdhary has directed all the officials to gear up for the mega religious festival.

A detailed first review meet-Salakatla on Brahmotsavams with the officers concerned was held at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on the Engineering works, checking the fitness of 'vahanam's, 'laddu' stock, 'Annaprasadam', 'Darshan' and accommodation, security arrangements of TTD Vigilance and Security wing in coordination with police, Kalyanakatta, Transport,



HDPP, Garden, Medical, Health, Paraphernalia, Srivari Sevaks etc. were discussed.

The important days in Annual Brahmotsavam include Dhwajarohanam on October 4, Garuda Seva on October 8, Golden Chariot on October 9, Rathotsavam on 'Chakrasnanam' on

October 12. The morning 'vahanams' will commence at 8 am and the evening 'vahanams' by 7 pm.

As a heavy pilgrim rush is being anticipated for Garuda Seva, the ban on the plying of two-wheelers will come into force from 11 pm of October 7 till midnight on October 8.

As a heavy pilgrim rush is being anticipated for Garuda Seva, the ban on the plying of two-wheelers will come into force from 11 pm of October 7 till midnight on October 8

TTD has cancelled all Arjita Sevas and privilege darshans including senior citizens-dis-abled, NRIs, and parents with infants stands cancelled during that period. CEO SVBC Shanmukh Kumar, CE Nageswara Rao and other heads of various departments were also present.

## NGT holds govt officials responsible for pollution in Vizag water bodies

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a landmark decision, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Southern Zone has taken decisive action against officials responsible for the severe water pollution crisis in Visakhapatnam. This order follows a suo motu case initiated by the NGT in 2021, triggered by disturbing reports of contamination in key reservoirs serving the city.

The tribunal's intervention came after a news report highlighted dangerously high pollution levels in the Meghadri Gedda, Raiwada, Mudasarlova, Tatipudi, and Gambhiram

reservoirs. The NGT has held

the Chief Secretary, the Department of Environment, Forests, Science and Technology, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), and the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) accountable for the environmental crisis.

NGT investigations revealed alarmingly high levels of coliform bacteria in the reservoir water, presenting a serious public health risk. Despite claims of corrective actions by the APPCB and GVMC, the tribunal found these measures insufficient, citing inadequate testing and unclear pollution source identification.



**CARING FOR LIVESTOCK** 

# **'111 tonnes of fodder being distributed in flood-hit areas'**

Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Ramanaidu has said that 111 tonnes of fodder is being distributed to the floodaffected farmers in the district. The Minister distributed 10 tonnes of fodder worth Rs 3 lakh to the flood-affected farmers at Abbirajupalem village in Yelamanchili mandal.

The minister listened to the problems of the farmers and assured them of extending all required help to them. Speaking on the occasion the Minister said: "There are 4,202 cattle in the district for which 111 tonnes of fodder, worth Rs 17.53 lakh, is being distributed to 1,475 farmers." Minister Ramanaidu reiterated that Chandrababu Naidu's headed government is a pro-farmer government and committed to protecting their interests, adding that the Jagan Mohan Reddy-headed regime did not



The minister listened to the problems of the farmers and assured them of extending all required help to them. Speaking on the occasion the Minister said: "There are 4,202 cattle in the district for which 111 tonnes of fodder, worth Rs 17.53 lakh, is being distributed to 1,475 farmers."

do anything for the farmers. Consequently, the farmers faced a crisis as they were unable to raise their crops due to huge losses, he flayed.

The Minister alleged that Jagan Reddy headed the previous government had put the state into debt and mortgaged the precious lands of the govridden under the erstwhile regime, he lamented.

He highlighted that on the first day of the month, a total of Rs 8,300 crore was disbursed as the salaries of government employees and pensions of retired government employees. "The Chandrababu Naidu headed government has disbursed social security penaisoursed social security pensions to the old aged people, widows, differently-abled people and other eligible people on one day. Unable to digest the achievement of the Naidu-led government, false news and lies are being spread by the Jagan Mohan Reddy-owned Sakshi daily," the Minister lambasted.

The Minister reiterated that essential commodities including rice, oil and vegetables were distributed to the flood victims and Rs 3000 financial help was also extended. The fodder is also being distributed for the cattle in the flood-hit mandals, he stated.

# Land-grabbing cases by YSRCP flood 'Jana Darbar' at JSP office

The 'Jana Darbar' held at the Jana Sena Party (JSP) state office in Mangalagiri saw a flood of grievances from people across the region.

Most complaints centred around allegations of land grabbing by leaders and fol-lowers of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Victims sought justice from the JSP leaders, hoping for resolution after enduring five years of suffering under YSRCP rule.

A significant crowd gathered to present their issues, with a majority focusing on land disputes involving YSRCP leaders. JSP leaders, including Nellimarla MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi, spent the entire day listening to and addressing complaints. Some leaders even took immediate action by contacting relevant officials over the phone to resolve issues on the spot. One of the major concerns raised involved YSRCP MP Y. Vijayasai Reddy. Complainants alleged that Reddy's associates purchased over 5,000 acres of land along the Bhimili corridor on the



Bhogapuram airport route. A new master plan proposed by YSRCP, featuring a 90-foot road, reportedly threatened the properties of over 20,000 middle-class landowners in the area. Victims claimed the master plan was designed to benefit Reddy's associates at their expense and urged JSP leaders to intervene.

T. Narasimha Raju from Yarrapalem village in Jaggampeta constituency reported that officials had manipulated records of his 3.56 acres of land, placing it under the 22A prohibition list. He accused former YSRCP MLAs Dwaramapudi Chandrasekhar Reddy and Jyotula Chantibabu of demanding 50 per cent of his land to resolve the issue.

Similarly, Ch Srinivasa Rao alleged that followers of former minister Gudiwada Amarnath grabbed his 0.84 acres of land. A Siva reported that his 4.50 acres of D Patta land were taken by the government for house site distribution, but he had yet to receive compensation. These individuals, along with many others, came to the JSP office in the hope of receiving justice and seeing their grievances addressed by the

#### 500 star tortoises found in 2 bags, freed in forest

PNS TIRUPATI

The police found over 500 star tortoises in two bags at Alipiri bus station here on Saturday. conducting a check at the bus stations, some smugglers, noticing the police, left the bags containing over 500 star tortoises in the bus station and fled. The police suspect that some smugglers were transporting the tortoises illegally but after seeing the police they left the two bags at the bus stations. The police informed the forest official. The forest officials freed the tortoises in the Seshachal forest There is a huge demand for the star tortoises at the international market, the forest officials said



# Minister flags off 17 new APSRTC buses in chittoor

PNS CHITTOOR

Minister for Transport and Youth Affairs M Ramprasad Reddy flagged off 17 new APSRTC buses in the bus depot here on Saturday. The Minister, flanked by Collector Sumit Kumar, MLA G Jagan Mohan and Mayor K Murali Mohan, flagged off the newly inducted 17 buses.

On the occasion, the Minister regretted that during the last five years of the YSRCP regime, the State Road Transport Corporation has become weak. "After N Chandrababu Naidu became the Chief Minister, about 1400 buses have come under the purview of APSRTC and about 400 buses have come on the roads," the Minister stated.

The Minister said that the Chief Minister is taking steps to put the APSRTC on the right path as the organization was crippled during the five years previous regime. He reiterated that the Chief Minister



is taking steps to ensure that all the promises are promptly fulfilled to the people.

said that the state RTC is very useful for the people and the RTC bus has become a part of life to the common man as the RTC buses go to villages as

"The government is making efforts to provide free bus travel to women as per the

Chandrababu Naidu. The government will announce the Minister Ramprasad Reddy good news on the free travel to women very soon," the Minister announced.

The Transport Minister also emphasized the need to induct more electronic buses into the RTC. TDP leaders Dorababu, CK Babu, K Hemalatha and RTC DM Roopsri were among those who were present.

# Rajahmundry Railway Station to undergo worldclass transformation: MP

PNS RAJAHMUNDRY

Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari has announced plans to transform the Rajahmundry railway station into a world-class facility with an investment of Rs 250 crore. Accompanied by MLA Gorantla Butchaiah

MLA N Ramakrishna Reddy, and local leaders, Purandeswari visited the station on Saturday.

Speaking to the media, Purandeswari revealed that the redevelopment is scheduled for completion by the Godavari Pushkaram in 2027. She also noted that Union Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw had responded positively to the proposal. Additionally, Purandeswari has requested that some express trains make stops at Kovvuru and Anaparthy. Railway DRM Patil con-

ministry.



media, Purandeswari revealed that the redevelopment is scheduled for completion by the Godavari Pushkaram in 2027

firmed that the station's development will extend to the east side and mentioned that there are plans to restrict heavy vehicle traffic on the road-rail bridge, pending approval from the railway

# 84 red sanders logs seized; two smugglers arrested

PNS TIRUPATI

The police seized 84 red sanders logs, weighing 2.4 tonnes, while being transported in a vehicle and arrested two red sander smugglers.

Sanders Anti-Red Smuggling Task Force in-charge SP L Subba Raidu told the media here on Saturday that an RSASTF team led by sub-control RΙ Chiranieevulu and Muralidhar Reddy conducted sons, Sheik Hussain Vali and Srinivasulu, RI Chiranjeevulu a checking of vehicles at Kasetti Mallikharjun.

Damajipalli village in CK Palli mandal Puttaparthi forest division on Bangalore-Hyderabad national highway on August 2. The police team noticed an

Innova car was going at high speed. When the police tried to stop the car, the driver did not stop the vehicle. The car was stopped some distance away and the driver and the occupant of the car started fleeing. However, the police chased

On the information they provided, the police checked a goods carrier vehicle, stationed nearby, and found 84 red sander logs.

The police seized a Bolero

SUV, an MAXX pickup luggage vehicle, an Innova car and 84 red sanders logs weighing 2,497 kg. The worth of logs and the vehicles seized is estimated at Rs 1.50 crore. The DIG announced rewards to Chenchu Babu, Inspe and RSI M Muralidhar Reddy.

#### Three held for smuggling PDS rice, wheat

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force (South) Zone in coor-Bhavaninagar police on Saturday arrested three persons for transporting rice meant for Public Distribution System (PDS) and wheat worth Rs 2,97,000. The accused were identified as

Shaik Rasheed (53), a businessman, Shaik Ayaz (24) both residents of Bhavaninagar and Mohammed Akhtar (48).

PNS HYDERABAD

Confederation of Real Estate

Developers' Associations of

much ahead of it and cities like

Delhi and Mumbai. Currently

Hyderabad is ahead of Mumbai

in luxury segment. It is a pre-

ferred destination. Amravati

may be useful for business

Differentiating between the

prospects.'

# 3 arrested for rape of 75-year-old woman, robbery

PNS BHIMAVARAM

The police arrested three youths in connection with the sensational rape, robbery and murder attempt on a septuagenarian woman in Palakollu

Talking to the media here on Saturday, SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi said that the accused B Nagaraju, M Mavullu and G Ramakrishna sneaked into the house of the 75-year-old victim when she was alone in her house on July 27, 2024.

The three accused snatched a mobile phone from the elderly woman, her bangles, ear-



rings gold jewellery and silver ornaments. They also stole Rs 15000 cash. When the septuagenarian woman resisted them, one of the accused held her

Amaravati no competition to Hyd: CREDAI

hands and another pressed her face with a pillow. Later they hit her head with a boul-

One of the accused, B

Nagaraju raped the 75-year-old woman. The three decamped with the booty. The daughter of the victim complained to the police who registered a case under Cr. No.224/2024 u/s 331(7), 309(6), 64(1) BNS at Palakollu police station on July

The police teams examined the CCTV footage and identified the three offenders. The police arrested the three accused at Delight Restaurant near NTR Fish Market.

SP Adnan Naveem Asmi appreciated the police team for arresting the accused in

# Industrial zones should be modelled on the lines of Sri City: Minister

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State Industries, Commerce, and Food Processing Minister TG Bharat has urged immediate action to address issues within industrial zones across the State. During a review meeting on Saturday at the APIIC office in Mangalagiri, Minister Bharat, joined by Secretary of the Industries Department Yuvaraju and Commissioner Sridhar, discussed the state of industrial

The Minister reviewed various aspects, including land details, water supply, electricity, infrastructure, and land allotments. He stressed the need for prompt resolution of existing problems and direct-



the districts. Emphasising the potential for revenue generation, he advised integrating industrial park sites into cities and ensuring measures to prevent encroachment.

Minister Bharat highlighted the positive impact of CM Chandrababu Naidu's brand image on investor confidence. He noted ongoing investment negotiations in Andhra

for politicking with the word TG

in industrial zones to create a conducive environment for investors. He called for infrastructure improvements modelled after the SriCity develop-

The Minister announced plans to visit Vijayawada, Vizag, and other industrial zones soon. He urged that any lower-level issues in the development of industrial zones be promptly escalated to higher

#### timent in the present times, Reddy said, "Currently the India (CREDAI) Hyderabad ed officials to inspect older industrial parks throughout President Rajasekar Reddy Pradesh and stressed the CREDAI property show is on Saturday said Amravati is importance of resolving issues still growing and it is not a going on, the genuine crowd competition to Hyderabad. is still coming. Investors may have stopped for a while "So far Hyderabad has com-Katipally lashes out at BJP, Cong peted with Bangalore which is

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Kamareddy MLA, Katipally Venkataramana Reddy, commented that it is sad that both the BRS and the Congress parties are politicking with the name 'Telangana' even 10 years after the formation of a separate State. Speaking to the media at the State

BJP office on Saturday for the first time after being elected as an MLA, Katipally said the Congress government too was wasting time by stating 'Destruction of Telangana' and 'Reconstruction of Telangana.'

Venkataramana said the KCR government is the reason for unemployment, question paper leaks, the destruction of roads and the deaths of martyrs. The Kamareddy MLA criticised the

language of BRS Working President KT Rama Rao by stating, "One can see KCR everywhere in Telangana. KCR is in Kaleshwaram, KCR is in Yadadri, KCR is in the Police Command Control room, KCR is in

the Secretariat and KCR is in Mission Bhagiratha and everywhere in Telangana." "KCR in every scam, KCR is in Nirudyogi, KCR is in the destruction

of Telangana, KCR is in the liquor scam, KCR is in the Dharani Scam and what not. KCR is involved in every scam in Telangana. KTR should fight on public issues changing his language. KTR should stop make political gains by using Telangana martyrs. BRS leaders did nothing for Telangana and wasted

time in the name of martyrs.

two cities, Rajaskehar Reddy said, "The AP government says it will develop Amravati, good It is about how much employment they can generate in the next five years. What kind of activity they can generate in the next 2 to 3 years and the potential to generate employment. Are people going to stay in Amravati

and invest in it immediately?

Ten thousand acre might be

available in Amravati where-



as in Hyderabad there are lakhs of acres. Employment is the only thing which guides real estate, for the last three years 1.5 lakh people are employed only in the IT sector in Hyderabad each year irrespective of other sectors. So this makes up to 4.5 lakh people out of which we assume that 1.5 lakh were interested in buying proper-

ties. The remaining 3 lakh people are considered prospective buyers tomorrow. So which place has a better potential? Hyderabad is at

par with other metro cities." Expressing his view on the Telangana government's plan to develop the new city, airport and the Musi river, The CREDAI Hyderabad President said, "The Musi development can happen since it is a stretch of 85 kilometers. However, when we talk about the new city if it is over 10,000 acres, the Magarpatta city in Pune is an example. It is a mixed concept township separately developed by a private builder. It took almost 10 year to come into reality. Likewise, the new city project will begin and will

however those who are interested in buying nothing stops them. I have been interacting with people individually and I would say that the buyer sentiment is on a positive Stressing on real estate growth, he said, "Hyderabad has a growth story of 30-40 years and is 400 years old. Particularly, in the last 5-10

years the real estate growth

has been impactful post the

formation of Telangana. Core

oping a net-zero city.

grow gradually similar to Cyberabad which began in

Addressing the buyer sen-

city of Hyderabad has evolved in a much better manner." Reddy further said, "With the new government coming up with new city, it is an innovation. The government has also made a proposal of devel-

He added that the search

operations are continuing,

involving 1,419 personnel from the Fire Force, NDRF, Forest

Department, Police, Indian Army, and volunteers from Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu.

K-9 squads and the Tamil
Nadu Medical Team are also
participating, the chief minister said, adding that advanced
equipment like Human Rescue
Radar and drone-based radar
are also being used. Referring
to the rehabilitation efforts,
Vijayan said a secure region

Vijayan said a secure region

will be identified, and a town-



#### ACROSS THE STATES



#### **BJP asks DMK Ministers to reach** a consensus on Lord Ram

amil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai on Saturday took a dig at state Transport Minister S S Sivasankar for contradicting his Cabinet colleague on Lord Ram's existence and asked the Ministers to reach a consensus on Lord Ram. Posting a video of Sivasankar making the controversial remark, Annamalai remarked on X, "DMK's sudden obsession with Bhagwan Shri Ram is truly a sight to behold — who would've thought?" In the video the Minister, while speaking at King Rajendra Chola's birth anniversary in Ariyalur, claimed that ponds and temples constructed during Rajendra Chola's reign showed that the king lived. "But there is no evidence of history mentioning that Ram existed," Sivasankar said at the event. Taking exception to the remark, Annamalai said in a lengthy post that last week DMK Law Minister S Reghupathy declared that Lord Ram was the ultimate champion of social justice, the pioneer of secularism, and the one who proclaimed equality for all.



#### **Punjab CM denied political** clearance to visit Paris

he Centre has denied political clearance to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for visiting to Paris to support the Indian hockey team at the ongoing Olympic Games an official source said on Saturday. Meanwhile, Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan said he has also been denied political clearance for going to the US to participate in a conference of speakers of legislative bodies from August 4 to August 7. Mann, who holds a diplomatic passport, was scheduled to visit Paris from August 3 to August 9 for the Indian hockey team's quarterfinal clash on August 4, and had sought political clearance for the same. The Centre denied him the permission, saying since Mann is a Z-Plus security protectee, it is not possible to arrange his level of security at a short notice, the source in the Punjab government said.



#### **Mediation part of Indian** culture, says Law Minister

aw Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Saturday said mediation has been part of the Indian culture for long and invoked tales from the epic Mahabharat to drive home his point. Addressing an event organised by the Supreme Court, he said the power to introspect helps resolve disputes. Appreciating the role of Lok Adalats in settling matrimonial disputes, the minister said what was earlier done by family elders is now being handled by alternate disputes resolution mechanisms. Meghwal said the first Lok Adalat was held by Lord Krishna when he tried to settle the dispute between the Kaurays and the Pandays. He also quoted the lines of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar on as to how Lord Krishna tried to find a peaceful solution. To mark 75 years of its establishment, the Supreme Court has organised a special Lok Adalat week to settle disputes ranging from compensation, land acquisition, appointments on compassionate grounds, matrimonial differences. Meghwal said over a thousand cases were settled.

#### 206 PEOPLE STILL MISSING: KERALA CM

# Search and rescue operations in Wayanad in final stage

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Saturday that search and rescue operations in disaster-hit Wayanad are in their final stages, but 206 peo-

ple remain missing. Addressing the media here, Vijayan said there is difficulty in identifying the dead bodies and parts recovered from the Chaliyar

"Till now, 215 bodies have been recovered, of which 87 are women, 98 are men, and 30 are children. As many as 148 bodies have been handed over so far. There are 206 people missing. Eightyone people are injured and are under treatment in various hospitals," he said.

The chief minister said 67 bodies are yet to be identified, and the panchayats will do the

#### **'Disburse** claim amount to victims'

PNS NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Saturday asked public sector insurance companies including Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to speedily disburse the claim amount to landslide victims and their families in Wayanad and other districts of Kerala.

The insurance companies have initiated efforts for reaching out to their policyholders through various channels (local newspapers, social media, company websites, sms, etc) to provide the contact details for assistance in the districts of Wayanad, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Thrissur, where a significant number of claims are being reported, the finance ministry said in a post on X.

"In view of the unfortunate landslide incident and heavy ment has mandated the Public Sector Insurance companies (PSICs), including LIC, National Insurance Corporation, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance, and United India Insurance to extend all possible support to the victims.



PNS SHIMLA

Rescuers are attempting to blast a boulder after they spotted a victim trapped under it in Rajban village in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district on Saturday where five people are still missing. Meanwhile, the hunt for about 45 people who went missing after cloudbursts

in three districts.. Shimla, Kullu and Mandi .. resumed this morning.

According to officials, 410 rescuers from teams of the Army, NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, CISF, Himachal Pradesh Police and home guards are involved in the hunt with the help of drones. On Friday, the death toll rose to eight in the flash floods triggered by a series of cloudbursts in Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana; Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31. "A combined rescue operation is underway and efforts are afoot to search for the missing people. We are using various equipment and sensors to detect victims buried or trapped under the debris."



#### Mohanlal pledges Rs three crore for

rehabilitation works

PNS WAYANAD

Well-known actor Mohanlal, who is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Territorial Army, on Saturday pledged Rs three crore for the rehabilitation works of the disaster-hit region. The actor held a brief discussion with the officers and left for the landslide hit zone along with others. He visited Chooralmala, Mundakkai and Punchirimattom, among other places, and interacted with the various rescue workers, including the Army and the locals, to get an understanding of the gravity of the incident. Speaking to the media, Mohanlal said the magnitude of the disaster can only be understood by witnessing it firsthand.



# Focus on promoting organic farming: Union minister



PNS DIBRUGARH (ASSAM)

Union Minister Ramnath Thakur said on Saturday that the Centre is focusing on limiting the use of chemical fertilisers in agriculture and procially in the northeastern

He maintained that budgetary allocation for the agriculture sector has increased manifold under the BJP-led NDA government, with special attention on minimising problems faced by farmers.

Addressing a press conference on the proviof sions Union Budget 2024-25, Thakur

have seen in media that two states have been given special attention in this Budget -Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. But our Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji has already clarified that not just two states, allocations have been made for all states across sectors, be it railways, health, agriculture or other.'

The Union budget had been prepared under the guidance of the prime minister, after taking into account the problems faced by different states, he

"In the agriculture sector, where the use of chemical fertilisers is a problem, the Centre is working on moving from chemical to organic fer-

tilisers. More focus is on the northeastern states in this aspect," Thakur, the union minister of state for agriculture, said. He pointed out

that it was important to have healthy was promoting the concept to minimise the use of chemicals in farming.

Thakur said his ministry is working on rooting out the problems of fake seeds and fake fertilisers within six months, the Union minister claimed.



### Dalit quota sub-categorisation may help BJP boost outreach

PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP may not have taken a categorical stand at the national level on the Supreme Court's landmark decision allowing states to create subcategorisation within the SCs and STs, but several of its leaders are of the view that the verdict can help the party boost its outreach to the more disadvantaged sections of Dalits.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has assiduously cultivated the numerically-weaker Scheduled Castes (SCs) in many states, such as Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and

Karnataka, over the years, and the apex court's verdict may allow the party to promise these communities with their most coveted wish -- their fair share in government jobs and schemes, they said.

The erosion of Dalit votes that hit the BJP in the recent Lok Sabha polls has sent brain trust to the drawing board, as the party looks to reinvigorate its outreach to the community after the opposition's allegation that the Narendra Modi government wanted to change the Constitution found some traction in the election.

#### Indian submarine INS Shalki visits Sri Lanka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian submarine INS Shalki is on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka in reflection of growing maritime security cooperation between the two countries. The Shishumar class diesel-electric submarine arrived in Colombo on August 2, the Indian Navy said on Saturday.

India sends submarines to a handful of countries with whom it has close defence and strategic ties. The Indian submarine's visit to Colombo comes against the backdrop of China's persistent attempts to enhance its strategic and military influence over the island nation. The submarine



reception by the Sri Lanka Navy on its arrival on Friday. INS Shalki was commissioned into the Indian Navy on February 7, 1992. It is the first ever submarine to be

was accorded a ceremonial

built in India. Earlier, Kalvari class submarines INS Karanj and INS

Vagir had visited Colombo in February this year and June last year. The Commander of the submarine was scheduled to call on the Commander of the Western Naval Area Rear Admiral WDCU Kumarasinghe, the Indian Navy said in a statement.

Lok Adalats are forums

mechanisms

#### People get so fed up with judicial process that they just want settlement: CJI

PNS NEW DELHI

People get "so fed up" with the matters of courts that they just want a set-Chief tlement, Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said on Saturday while highlighting the role of Lok Adalats as alternative dispute redressal

where disputes and cases pending in courts or at pre-litigation stage are settled or compromised amicably. No appeal against the mutually accepted settlement can be filed. Log itna trast ho jate hain court ke

mamlon se wo koi bhi settlement chahte hain...Bas court se dur kara dijiye (People are so fed up with the matters of the court that they

just want a settle-This ment). process is the punishment and that is a cause of concern for all of us as judges, Chandrachud said at the commemoration of the special Lok Adalat week at the

Supreme Court. The CJI said he got tremendous support and cooperation from everyone including the Bar and the Bench in setting up of Lok Adalat at every stage.

#### 1930' helpline saves Rs 100 cr of victims' money

PNS MUMBAI

The '1930' cyber helpline for people to alert police about online frauds has ensured retrieval of Rs 100 crore in the last seven months in Mumbai after banks were contacted promptly, an official said on Saturday.

The Rs 100 crore that had been stopped from falling into the hands of fraudsters came from action in 35,918 cases of online cheating connected to share trading, investments, courier calls, digital arrest threats, online tasks etc, he added. "After a complaint is received on the helpline.

## 'We set example by evacuating students from Ukraine'

PNS NEW DELHI

India set an example for the world by evacuating its students from Ukraine and it could happen after Prime Minister Narendra Modi negotiated with both Russia and Ukraine for a 24-hour ceasefire, former president Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday.

Delivering the fifth Dr Rajaram Jaipuria Memorial Lecture here, the former president said India is on the path of being a "vishwaguru" or global leader and called upon the youth to contribute to it.

He also gave several examples of how India proved itself to be a global leader, including



"When six-eight months passed, the situation became such that it was difficult to survive. The concern of parents of the students was acknowledged by the government. I am deliberately giving this example, I was in Rashtrapati Bhawan at that time," Kovind said

the recent Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam for giving reservation to women in legislature.

Talking about the Russia-Ukraine war, the former president said everyone expected it which is why several Indian

students got stuck in the warstruck Ukraine. When six-eight months

passed, the situation became

to be over in a month or two.

vive. The concern of parents of the students was acknowledged by the government. I am deliberately giving this example, I was in Rashtrapati Bhawan at that time," Kovind

"I asked why so many Indian students go to Ukraine. I was told medical education is cheap there. Our students got stuck, if something would have happened to them, the government would have been held responsible. Though it was not the government's responsibility, parents sent them there, but the government would have been blamed," he added. Asserting "our gov-

Kovind said they played the role of a global leader and talked to both nations, Russia and Ukraine, to have a ceasefire for 24 hours.

"Both are big nations. Would they have agreed if any other country would have intervened? No," he said.

Our prime minister talked to both Russia and Ukraine, and thank god both agreed. For 24 hours, war paused," Kovind claimed. He also said the students from other countries like the US, Pakistan and China were also stuck, but their governments could not evacuate them.

# Will oppose any move to apply creamy layer criteria in quota for SCs/STs

Union minister Ramdas Athawale has strongly opposed any move to apply creamy layer criteria to reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a comment coming in the backdrop of a historic Supreme Court verdict on sub-classifications within these communities for wider quota benefits.

Athawale, who heads the Republican Party of India (Athawale), noted that the



Supreme Court's decision of sub-classifying SCs/STs by states will provide justice to

castes that are more backward among these groups. Speaking here on Friday, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment also demanded similar sub-classi-

fications for OBCs and gener-

al category members. 'The reservation for SCs/STs is based on caste. The RPI (A) will strongly oppose any move to apply the criteria of creamy layer to reservation for SCs and STs," Athawale, whose party is a constituent of the BJP-led NDA, said

VIJAYAWADA, August 4, 2024

# LIVING IT UP IN JAIPIIR

Jaipur, a bustling hub of commerce and culture in North India, is famed for its grand palaces, majestic forts, and exquisite crafts. Known globally for its intricate artwork and stunning jewellery, the Pink City exudes charm with its vibrant colours and rich artistic heritage. Alongside its historical grandeur, contemporary spaces reflecting local elegance have emerged as the city continues to evolve and thrive

BY **AKANKSHA** DEAN

AIPUR, is a delightful place to visit with its colourful palaces, historic forts, lively markets showcasing local crafts, and diverse food options. It's a city that offers something for everyone. The pink city is also home to luxurious hotels and unique restaurants. Stroll along streets lined with release and the with palaces, temples, and the occasional cow. Indulge in royal culinary delights, explore exquisite jewellery shops, and discover a weekend of tranquillity amidst the bustling vibrange. bustling vibrancy.

#### TRADITION MEETS

**CONTEMPORARY** Nestled near Amber fort off Delhi-Jaipur highway, The Leela Palace Jaipur sits with the backdrop of Aravalli hills amidst 8 acres of gardens. This hotel aims to impress guests with luxury while maintaining a cosy atmosphere. Royal opulence can be felt in the wood panels, windows, and artwork, yet there's a touch of modernity. The design reflects local artistry, from ancient Thikri mirror engraving to Shekhawati canvases on the walls. Traditional meets contemporary in a blend of comfort and grandeur at this splendid hotel. Stepping into the Leela Palace Jaipur feels like entering a world of extravagance and refinement

deeply rooted in history. This stunning hotel offers a range of accommodation options, including accommodation options, including rooms, suites, and villas - all meticulously designed to provide a lavish experience. The Royal Plunge Pool villa is a highlight of my stay, radiating a sense of lightness and luxury. The spacious layout, complete with cosy armchairs, indulgent day beds, and a private pool, makes me feel like royalty. The attention to detail was exquisite, from the walk-in wardrobe to the marble-trimmed bathroom with a tub, not to mention the plush robes tub, not to mention the plush robes and organic toiletries provided. And for those seeking the epitome of luxury, the Maharaja suite exceeds all expectations with its grand living spaces, luxurious bathrooms, and stunning Palace views. One of the standard aspects views. One of the standout aspects of my experience at Leela Palace Jaipur is the warm and welcoming presence of Sharad Puri, the General Manager. His humble approach and dedication to ensuring guests feel at home set the tone for the genuinely gracious service throughout the hotel. The meticulous butler service, provided by a dedicated team of footmen in true Leela Palace style, adds an extra touch of luxury to my stay. In terms of relaxation amenities, the expansive spa and well-equipped

gym are truly remarkable. One can also enjoy exploring the local area with running maps provided by the hotel, along with the option to use bikes for leisurely rides or even embark on a customized cycling safari itinerary. Situated close to the safari itinerary. Situated close to the capital, the hotel offers a perfect base to explore Jaipur in all its splendour, with historical sites, vibrant bazaars filled with textiles and handicrafts, and renowned silver and gemstone markets just a stone's throw away. My stay is a stone's throw away. My stay is a stone's throw away. And the same sheet of opulence, comfort, and exceptional service, making it a truly unforgettable experience. experience.

#### INDIA'S ONLY CANDLE LIT RESTAURANT AND MORE

From its impressive design and stylish interiors to the refined culinary offerings and carefully curated immersive experiences, Leela Palace Jaipur epitomizes authentic Indian luxury. As my eyes wander through the architectural marvels of the Sheesh Mahal, I find myself at Mohan Mahal, the Indian specialty restaurant glowing softly with candlelight. The ambiance is crafted with 350,000 pieces of mirror, meticulously assembled by artisans over three years, creating an aura of refined elegance. Being India's only candle-

lit restaurant, it is truly a delight for the senses. The royal cuisine from Rajasthan and Awadh served at Mohan Mahal is a blend of simplicity and artistry, with standout dishes like the Seekh kebab dressed with barley. Breakfast is equally splendid, presented on beautiful tableware and featuring a selection of à la carte favourites. In the afternoons, I enjoy a delightful tea service at the Jharokha bar, where expertly crafted cocktails are served till late. I am particularly impressed by the Martini concocted by the talented mixologist, who

shares stories of mixing drinks for royalty. For a more intimate dining experience, Hawa Mahal offers a private rooftop setting where both the views and flavours are rich with captivating charm. Truly The hotel creates memorable moments that capture the essence of Indian indulgence, blending traditional rituals with modern hospitality seamlessly.

ALL VEĞETARIAN Burrowed discreetly within the vibrant Johri Bazaar, known for its jeweller's market, the intimate Johri Restaurant seamlessly blends into

the bustling surroundings. Tucked away on a tranquil lane just off the main colonnaded street, which played a pivotal role in securing the city's spot on the UNESCO World Heritage list, this hidden gem welcomes all guests. Attached to a charming five-suite boutique hotel, The Johri, the restaurant offers a unique dining experience that harmoniously intertwines with the heritage and allure of the historic marketplace. Savouring Jaipur's iconic zero-sized peas here is a revelation. Despite its fame that stretches as far as Dubai and Japan,

petite yet incredibly sweet and flavourful green peas are beautifully served alongside corn and spinach on a generous plate. Chef Sonu Kumar has expertly crafted a menu Kumar has expertly crafted a menu that celebrates local and regional flavours with organic, seasonal, and vegetarian ingredients. Signature dishes like paan patta chaat and Dal Johri add a timeless charm to this culinary experience. Indulge in expertly crafted dishes that stay true to their origins, whether presented in a classic style or with a modern twist. The Jackfruit Nihari and truffle cheese kulcha stuffed with mushroom and local cheeses offer a burst of flavours in every bite. burst of flavours in every bite. Accompanied by Missi roti and palak kofta in cashew gravy, the menu caters to diverse palates. Dietary preferences accommodated, with gluten-free and Jain-friendly options like sangri ki shammi kebab and mirchi ka

these peas had somehow escaped

my taste buds back in Delhi. The

food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.

Akanksha Dean is an independent





# **Indulge in Pure Joy**

Step into a world of craft brews and culinary delights at BeeYoung Brewgarden, the latest hotspot in South Delhi's vibrant social scene

elhi's social scene has a new star, even the most discerning palates. The BeeYoung Brewgarden, nestled in the bustling heart of South Delhi at The Panchshila Rendezvous. This lively venue is set to redefine your nights out, offering an unparalleled blend of craft beer, exquisite cuisine and endless entertainment. Whether you're a local or a visitor looking for a memorable night out, BeeYoung Brewgarden promises to deliver an experience that is both dynamic and delightful.

As you step inside, you're transported to a European getaway, with chic barnstyle ambiance and lush, vibrant décor. The carnival-like atmosphere is inviting, with alfresco seating and stylish indoor spaces perfect for both intimate gatherings and spirited weekend celebrations. It's a setting where every detail contributes to a sense of revelry and relaxation.

At the heart of BeeYoung Brewgarden is its commitment to craft brewing excellence. The menu takes you on a culinary journey, artfully pairing finely crafted brews with gourmet dishes designed to delight the senses. Each dish reflects an immersive culinary art approach, where flavour and presentation come together to create unforgettable dining experiences. With a global array of flavours, local and seasonal specialties cater to South Delhi's cosmopolitan crowd. The emphasis on quality ingredients and creative recipes ensures that every visit offers something new and exciting for Entertainment at the Brewgarden is as diverse as its menu. Enjoy a blend of games and nostalgia with options like Bocce Ball, Cornhole and vintage arcade machines, providing endless hours of competitive fun. The venue hosts live sports screenings, vibrant music performances and sets by an inhouse DJ, ensuring a dynamic atmosphere that keeps you engaged throughout the evening. Whether you're in the mood for a lively party or a serene escape, BeeYoung Brewgarden caters to all your social needs.

The soul of BeeYoung Brewgarden is its namesake beer, India's first crafted strong beer, known for its smooth, citrusy notes and crisp finish. BeeYoung Beer embodies the youthful spirit of India, with every sip reflecting Kimaya Himalayan ( Beverages' dedication to quality and innovation. For those looking to immerse themselves in a world of craft brewing, vibrant social scenes and exquisite dining, BeeYoung Brewgarden is the place to be. It's where the art of microbrewing meets community and celebration, promising unforgettable experiences with every visit.

Address: The Panchshila Rendezvous, Panchshila Park, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi, 110017

Timings: 11 AM - 12 AM Instagram: @beeyoungbrewgarden **Price For Two:** INR 2500/- (Approx) For Reservations: +91 9354431386



Embark on a culinary journey with Monkey Bar's latest gastropub sensation, blending contemporary design and inventive dishes for an unparalleled experience

n a city that's no stranger to culinary innovation, the revamped Monkey Bar emerges as a beacon of perspective. Nestled within the iconic pyramid glass building in Vasant Kunj, this beloved gastropub has returned with a vibrant new look and a promise to elevate the dining experience.

Monkey Bar, which first captured attention in 2012, was instrumental in popularising the gastropub concept in India. Now, it's back with a renewed vision, blending its signature charm with contemporary flair. The space has been transformed into an 'Urban Dreamscape,' Tropical reflecting a design ethos that is both inviting and dynamic. The lush greenery and bright, cheerful hues of yellow and sage green infuse the venue with a sense of energy and warmth that's perfect for any time of day.

The menu at Monkey Bar is where the true magic happens. It's a celebration of flavours, seamlessly melding the familiar with the innovative. From classic favourites like their renowned burgers to new, exciting dishes such as Methispiced Prawns and Jackfruit Tacos, the culinary offerings are designed to surprise and delight. Each dish is crafted with a blend of regional Indian spices and global influences, providing a taste experience that is both unique and

accessible. One of the standout features of the revamped Monkey Bar is its new coffee programme. The introduction of three distinct categories, 'The Usual Suspects,' You Do Your Brews,' and 'The Unusual Suspects' offers something for every coffee lover. Whether you're in the mood for a classic Espresso more something



Cold Brew, there's a brew to suit every palate. This thoughtful addition enhances the café's appeal, making it a versatile destination for everything from morning pick-me-ups to evening relaxation.

The bar menu, crafted by Lead Mixologist Harish Chhimwal, continues Monkey Bar's tradition of inventive cocktails. incorporating local ingredients and innovative techniques, the drinks menu offers a refreshing take on both classic and contemporary cocktails. The new creations, such as the Manga Mule and Rasam ki Kasam, provide a unique twist on traditional flavours, demonstrating a commitment to both creativity and quality.

The revamped Monkey Bar is more than just a place to eat and drink; it's a space designed for enjoyment and connection. With its lively atmosphere, interactive elements like a pool table and Instagram-worthy spots such as the quirky banana sofa, the venue adventurous like the Nitro encourages guests to relax, Facebook: monkeybarind

socialise and make lasting memories. This thoughtful redesign makes it clear that Monkey Bar is committed to providing a comprehensive, engaging experience for its

The new Monkey Bar offers a delightful fusion of tradition and innovation. Its updated menu, inventive drink options and vibrant atmosphere ensure it remains a top choice for those seeking a memorable dining experience. For anyone looking to explore new flavours, enjoy expertly crafted drinks or simply unwind in a dynamic setting, Monkey . Bar's incarnation promises to be an exceptional destination.

Wallet Factor: Meal for two with alcohol: INR 1800 plus taxes | Meal for two without alcohol: INR 3000 plus taxes Open 7 days a Week: Sunday to Saturday - 1pm. to 1am. Address: Monkey Bar, Local shopping complex,11 Vasant

Kunj, Next to mini cooper-110070 **Instagram:** monkeybarind

# Redefining Coffee Culture

Discover a fresh take on coffee with First Coffee, blending innovation and indulgence to cater to the modern coffee lover's palate

Step into a revolution in coffee culture with First Coffee, where each cup is more than just a beverage - it's a celebration of bold flavours and innovative experiences. This fresh, dynamic brand is transforming the coffee scene with a blend of artisanal quality and modern flair, setting a new standard for coffee lovers everywhere.

Founded by Sohrab Sitaram, a distinguished name in Delhi's food and beverage world; Shiv Dhawan, a serial entrepreneur with a passion for innovation and Chandini D Purnesh, the visionary behind the Harley Estate, First Coffee brings together expertise and enthusiasm to craft the ultimate coffee experience. Their beans, sourced from the renowned Harley Estate in Chikmagalur, promise an exceptional taste journey, reflecting the lush landscapes and rich heritage of the

First Coffee's appeal extends beyond its premium blends. The cafés offer a stylish, minimalist setting that caters to both quick stops and relaxed hangouts. The design ethos emphasises clean lines and a vibrant atmosphere, creating a space that feels both contemporary and inviting. The menu showcases First Coffee's dedication to flavour and creativity. Dive into the 'Untamed Espresso' for a bold start or savour the 'Cold Blooded Brew,' a daring concoction that combines cascara syrup with a robust coffee base. For a whimsical twist, try the 'Jelly Jolt Affogato, where coffee meets ice cream and jelly in a delightful fusion. Classic offerings like 'The OG Cold Coffee' are given a modern twist, ensuring there's something for every palate.

Tea enthusiasts can also rejoice with the unique blends available. The Teaminator, a refreshing mix of hibiscus and watermelon syrup and 'Cascara Thunder' offer bold new takes on traditional favourites. The Boba Nova collection is particularly exciting, featuring the 'Mango Boba Bomb' and 'Lychee Loca Bomb' for those who love a playful and fruity twist. First Coffee stands out as a game-



changer in the coffee industry. The brand's focus on combining artisanal quality with innovative offerings makes a notable player in the market. The variety of options, from bold espressos to playful boba teas, caters to a wide range of tastes and preferences. Moreover, First Coffee's commitment to sustainability adds a layer of ethical responsibility that enhances its appeal. This brand isn't just offering a cup of coffee; it's creating a vibrant, inclusive coffee culture that resonates with modern consumers. It's exciting to see a brand that balances exceptional quality with social consciousness, setting a high bar for others in the

industry. In a world where coffee culture is evolving, First Coffee stands out as a beacon of quality and creativity. With its commitment to exceptional brews and a vibrant coffee experience, it's more than just a place for your daily caffeine fix, it's a destination for those who appreciate the art of coffee. Embrace the revolution and make First Coffee a part of your daily routine. Your taste buds and your coffee cravings will thank you.

Instagram: @yourfirstcoffee Price for Two: INR 450/- (only

beverages) DLF Cyber Park, **Locations:** Gurugram; Pacific Mall in Pitampura;

Pacific Outlet Mall in Jasola.

## RECIPE FOR DISASTER

# IGNORED WARNINGS AND THE PERILS OF UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**BK SINGH** 

Despite advice in 2020 to relocate 4000 families from landslide-prone areas, Kerala proceeded with a mega hydro-electric project nearby. Incessant rains led to devastating landslides, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable development and better disaster management

he flooding and landslides in Kerala since 1991 had reportedly claimed several human lives, till the state witnessed the worst disaster of its kind at Mundakkai, Wayanad in the wee hours of 30th July. In 2020 State Disaster Management Authority advised relocation of 4000 families from landslide-prone areas that included Mundakkai. State did not heed the warning and on the contrary, has proposed a mega hydro-electric project involving an underground tunnel barely two km from the site of the current horror.

Incessant rains of 572 mm in 48 hours have led to two major landslides, one at 2.00 am at Mundakkal followed by another at Mundakkal followed by another at 4.00 am at Chooralmala towns trapping hundreds of families. The debris further covered Vellarmala GVH school. The landslide also washed away the bridge connecting Chooralmala town with Mundakkai & Attarmala. So far 126 people have been found far 126 people have been found killed, 196 injured and more than a hundred missing or marooned in swathes of slush, mud and misery triggered by continuous and heavy rainfalls for two days. Dead bodies have also been found at Pothukal village that were carried by flowing water for 20 km in the Chaliyar River. High Tension lines and transformers of the Mekkadi electrical section have also been damaged and resuming power in the area has been a challenge. Landslides washing away the bridge have posed further challenges for relief and rescue operations, though all state and central agencies are putting up their might to remove debris, find survivors, treat the injured and move the people to safer locations and camps. Rescuers are crossing the river in spate with the help of weather and unstable terrain are burying making it more difficult. Army has the site, which has been moved on the road from Chennai.



This deluge affected adjoining areas of Karnataka and left the Kapila River in the Mysuru district in spate, after 80,0000 cusecs of water were let out of the Kabini dam, severely affecting the traffic between Karnataka and Kerala. Kodagu roads were also flooded and many persons stuck were rescued. L'andslides also occurred repeatedly on the Shiradi Ghats section of NH 75 connecting Bengaluru and Mangalore holding the traffic for several hours and eventually re-routing them via Kodagu and Sampaji Ghats. A few weeks earlier a landslide had occurred near Ankola, Uttar Kannada district along the newly National moving vehicles underneath that claimed a dozen rushed to set up Bailey Bridge to human lives, and many others went missing.

Next to the Himalayas, the

Western Ghats have the most fragile ecosystem and despite the disasters striking frequently, we have not mended our ways and continued to engage in unsustainable activities in the name of development. The entire Ghats section from Gujarat to Kerala once had luxuriant tree/ forest cover that provided the source and the catchment of several east-flowing and west-flowing rivers – a key lifeline for everyone in peninsular India. With the changes in land use patterns, the integrity of the catchment of the rivers is compromised, resulting in many of the streams and rivers becoming seasonal People who have the perennial flow of water in the streams in the past have now been suffering for their basic needs for drinking, agriculture and

Ghats undulating terrain and diverting lands comprising tree growth for cultivation of tea, coconut, banana, coffee, spices etc is never sustainable. Kerala has lost its natural forests at a very fast pace and individuals, public and private agencies have grown plantations for quick cash. Some areas are also encroached. Proponents of such projects argue that destroying forests and growing bananas, tea, cashew coconut etc provide employment and help in GDP growth. This perception is highly misplaced. Such projects are not evaluated on a long-term basis. There are hardly any methods to forests destroyed in the process. When a heavy downpour occurs for days, it causes landslides, landslips, destroys houses, roads

infrastructure we need to further spend money. The infrastructure destroyed in 2018 and 2019 in the Kerala flood disaster was rebuilt by spending more than 50,000 crores rupees. If the true environmental cost is considered, none of the plantation projects of growing tea etc would be viable. Labourers of tea gardens as well as banana and coconut gardens must be re-skilled and their services can be utilized for manufacturing etc. 2018 floods in Kodagu Karnataka,

a district adjoining Wayanad, also played havoc with the life of the people. I have discussed the reasons for flooding and landslides in this region, in my book, "Changing Land Uses – Shrinking Streams and Carbon Sinks". Like Wayanad, Kodagu is again a hilly district covering an area of nearly 4200 sq km. However only 1750 sq

Protected Areas, leaving another 1000 sq km occupied by habitation and agriculture; the remaining 1450 sq km had still quite a luxuriant tree cover until the 1980s. These were wooded areas under the control of the Revenue Department of the state, and the tree felling in such areas was regulated by the Karnataka (Preservation) of Trees Act, where forest officers were empowered to grant/ deny permission for the removal of trees. There is evidence on record to suggest that some officers had connived with the of 100 mm of rain per hour. These timber merchants and granted permission to remove tens of thousands of trees every year. This bylaws should also change; has resulted in compromising the Basements should have only huge has resulted in compromising the ecological security of the region sumps and Parking space for leading to frequent disasters of the type we are experiencing.

The only solution that comes to bridges etc. To rebuild the km was reserved as forests and everyone's mind is to stop

making any changes in land use. There is a proposal to tag the Western Ghats as Eco sensitive area, but both governments of Kerala and Karnataka have yet not come on board. Unless they mend their ways the disasters would keep on striking more frequently and would be more destructive. Finally, let the column also deal with the reasons why there are heavy downpours for days in this warming world. The world at present including India is faced with heat waves, wildfires and heavy downpours leading to flooding. The uncontrollable wildfires in Canada, California and other parts of Western world are the consequences of global warming. Leh in India, which is located 3 km above the mean Sea level has the airfield at the highest altitude in the country and has been registering 32 degree Celsius temperature for some days in the last week of July.
Due to such unusual temperatures, the air at this altitude gets rarefied and engines cannot develop the thrust required for takeoff. For the first time, all flights to and from Leh have remained suspended for these

destroying the natural forests and

High downpours are functions of higher rate of evaporation from Sea surfaces. As the Sea surfaces warm, evaporation increases leading to excessive moistureladen clouds in the atmosphere. Once the conditions are favourable, it leads to heavy downpours. It can have very dangerous consequences in urban centres, as we have recently seen the drowning of three students in the basement of Rau coaching centre, Rajendranagar Delhi. The Civic Agencies must re-model the stormwater drains to take the load drains were originally designed for 25 mm of rain per hour. Building vehicles and nothing else.

(The writer is Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Karnataka; views are personal)

# Unveiling the misogyny in fairytales: A feminist critique

In the enchanting world of fairytales, age-old stories have woven themselves into the fabric of our culture, shaping our perceptions and understanding of the world around us. Yet, beneath the guise of magic and fantasy lies a troubling reality: the portrayal of women through archaic tropes that perpetuate harmful stereotypes writes SULAGNA MOHANTY

n the enchanting world of fairytales, age-old stories have woven themselves into the fabric of our culture shaping our perceptions and understanding of the world around us. Yet, hidden beneath the guise of magic and fantasy lies a troubling reality; the portrayal of women through archaic that perpetuate harmful stereotypes. If seen from a feministic lens, tropes like the witch, the evil stepmother and the damsel in distress reflect and reinforce harmful stereotypes about women and limit and distort our understanding women's experiences.

The portrayal of witches in fairy tales as powerful but wicked beings reflects society's fear of women who do not conform to traditional gender roles. Witches are often depicted as old, ugly, and dangerous, embodying traits that are seen as undesirable in women. This portrayal reinforces the idea that women who are independent, assertive or different are to be feared and marginalised, perpetuating a culture of misogyny and exclusion.

This concept of "witch hunting," born out of fear and prejudice has had devastating consequences throughout history. In medieval Europe, thousands of women were accused of



SULAGNA MOHANTY

It is essential to challenge and dismantle these harmful stereotypes to create a more inclusive and empowering society for women. By portraying women in positions of authority as capable, compassionate and supportive, we can inspire future generations of women to aspire to leadership roles and contribute positively to society

witchcraft and executed in brutal witch hunts. These women were often healers, midwives or other powerful figures in their communities targeted for their knowledge and independence. The fear of witches and the persecution of women accused of witchcraft spread to colonial countries like India where women were often accused of witchcraft and subjected to violence and even death. Even today, women in some parts of India are killed in the name of witch hunts accentuating the lasting impact of this harmful stereotype. This concept of the witch reflects society's discomfort with powerful women and is a reminder of the importance of challenging stereotypes and celebrating women's

autonomy and strength. Further, the portrayal of the evil stepmother in fairytales not only vilifies women in positions of authority but also perpetuates a harmful narrative of competition and division among women. By pitting a woman against another woman, society creates a "divide and rule" policy where women are encouraged to fight among themselves rather than unite for their common rights and This stereotype undermines the credibility of women in leadership roles by

painting them as inherently



dangerous untrustworthy. It diminishes the achievements of women by suggesting that their success comes at the expense of others developing a culture of suspicion and mistrust among women. Moreover, the depiction of the evil discourages stepmother young girls from aspiring to leadership roles as it reinforces the idea that women in power are to be feared and avoided. Instead of inspiring girls to pursue their ambitions and dreams, this stereotype instils fear and self-doubt, limiting their

potential and opportunities for growth.

It is essential to challenge and dismantle these harmful stereotypes to create a more inclusive and empowering society for women. By portraying women in positions of authority as capable, compassionate and supportive, we can inspire future generations of women to aspire to leadership roles and contribute positively to society. The damsel in distress trope exemplified by characters like Cinderella, Rapunzel and Sleeping Beauty portrays women as Similarly, Rapunzel is locked

helpless victims in need of rescue by a male saviour. This narrative diminishes women's agency by suggesting that they are incapable of taking care of themselves and solving their problems. It also underpins the idea that a woman's ultimate goal in life is to find a man to rescue and

protect her. In Cinderella, the titular character is rescued from her life of servitude by Prince Charming who saves her from her oppressive from her oppressive stepfamily and offers her a life of luxury and love.

away in a tower by a wicked witch until she is rescued by a prince who climbs up her hair. Sleeping Beauty is cursed to sleep for a hundred years until she is awakened by true love's kiss. These stories send a harmful message to audiences particularly young girls by implying that women are incomplete without a man to rescue them. They fail to acknowledge women's own. By perpetuating this these

roles and limit the potential of women to be seen as capable and independent individuals.

Hence, it is time to challenge these harmful tropes and create new narratives that empower young girls and women and celebrate their diversity and strength. Instead of portraying portraying women as either wicked witches, evil stepmothers or helpless damsels, fairytales must depict women as complex, multifaceted individuals with agency and autonomy. By telling stories that reflect the diverse experiences and identities of women, we can create a inclusive and empowering narrative for future generations. One must realise that the witch, evil stepmother and damsel in distress tropes in old fairy tales are not harmless storytelling devices; they are powerful tools that shape our perceptions of women and their place in society. By examining these tropes through a feminist lens, we can begin to challenge and dismantle the stereotypes they perpetuate paving the way for a more inclusive and empowering narrative for women everywhere. It is strength and ability to time to tell new stories to overcome challenges on their our kids; stories that empower and inspire women stories to embrace their true selves emphasize outdated gender and rewrite their destinies.

## IN BRIEF



#### **Ambuja Cement to set up** grinding unit in Bihar

dani Group-owned Ambuja Cement Ltd (ACL) on Saturday announced an investment of around Rs 1,600 crore in Bihar to set up a cement grinding unit at Warisaliganj in Nawada district. The 6 MTPA Warisaligan cement grinding unit is the first venture in Bihar of ACL, which is aggressively expanding its capacity in the country, according to a statement from the Adani Cement entity. "The Warisaliganj Cement Grinding Unit, a standalone facility with an overall capacity of 6 MTPA (million tonnes per annum), will be established at an investment of nearly Rs 1,600 crore," it said. With this announcement, the billionaire Gautam Adani-led firm has become "the largest investment in the state by a cement industry player". "The project will meet the growing infrastructure needs of Bihar, aligning with priorities outlined in the recent Union Budget," it said.



#### **Tata's chip plant in Assam** to become operational

ata Electronics' Rs 27,000-crore chip assembly plant in Assam will create 27,000 jobs and is expected to become operational in 2025, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion of chip plant's Bhumi Pujan ceremony, Chandrasekaran said that the company has already employed 1,000 people from Assam and as the facility expands it will bring entire semiconductor ecosystem companies. "At its capacity it will employ 27,000 people 15,000 direct jobs and additional 12,000 indirect jobs. We want to move fast. We are trying to accelerate the building of this factory. We hope sometime in 2025 we will be able to complete this facility and quickly start operations, Chandrasekaran said. Already we have 1,000 people who have been employed from Assam. He said the other semiconductor ecosystem companies will start as supplier but gradually they will set up units in the country.



#### NCL contributed Rs 15,000 cr to govt exchequer in FY24

orthern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) CMD B Sairam on Saturday said that the company despatched 94 per cent of its total Visit that the company dospation in Fig. 15,000 coal to the power sector and contributed Rs 15,000 crore to the central as well as state exchequer in FY24 in the forms of royalty and GST. Sairam also reaffirmed the company's commitment towards fulfilling the energy security of the nation. Speaking at the sidelines of Singrauli Industrial Summit 2024 organised by NCL at its headquarters, the CMD of the Coal India arm also outlined the company's contribution to the inclusive development of the Singrauli region. He also underscored the benefits of adopting an integrated approach based on shared values for the holistic development of Singrauli. The summit was organised with the objectives of driving economic growth, sustainable industrial growth, diversification, harnessing the full industrial potential and creating employment opportunities with socio-economic upliftment and regional development.



# **Next round of India-Asean trade** agreement review talks in Nov

PNS NEW DELHI

The next round of talks for the ongoing review meeting of the India-Asean free trade agreement in goods will be held in November, an official statement said on Saturday.

The third round of the

negotiations was concluded on August 1 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Eight sub-committees have been constituted under the India-Asean Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee for undertaking negotiations on different areas related to the review of the pact.

The next meeting of the AITIGA (Asean-India Trade in Goods Agreement) Joint Committee will be held in

Committees dealing with national treatment and market 2024," the Commerce Ministry access, rules of origin, stan-The AITIGA was signed in dards, technical regulations, customs procedures and trade

In September 2022, both

"The next meeting of the AITIGA (Asean-India Trade in Goods Agreement) Joint Committee will be held in India from 19-22 November 2024," the Commerce Ministry said

sides tasked the AITIGA Joint Committee to undertake the review to make the agreement more trade-facilitative and mutually beneficial.

During the third round of negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia, all eight Sub- Sub-

discussions.

"The review of AITIGA, signed in 2009, will help create further opportunities for businesses on both sides to enhance the level of India-ASEAN trade," the ministry trade partner of India with about 11 per cent share in India's global trade.

India's exports to the 10nation bloc ASEAN were US\$ 41.2 billion in 2023-24, while imports aggregated at US\$ 80 billion in the last fiscal.

Both sides are aiming to conclude the review in 2025. The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of

Indian businesses. India is asking for a review of the agreement to eliminate barriers and misuse of the trade pact.

Asean members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

#### 'Atmanirbhar' should not degenerate into inefficient import substitution'

PNS HYDERABAD

Due to supply disruptions caused by the Russian-Ukrainian war, many countries started thinking about being self-sufficient with respect to 'critical imports' and India needs to ensure that "Atmanirbhar" should not degenerate into inefficient 'import substitution', former emphasising agriculture, manufacturing and services, absorbing new technologies and promoting a mix of sectors that are employment friendly.

"Any import substitution must look at cost. Expensive, import substitution is not to the advantage of anybody. What we need to do is efficient import substitution. Atmanirbhar should not



concern. But job creation without growth is equally bad even as the new technologies can not be ignored, the former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic **Advisory Council said** 

RBI Governor C Rangarajan said on Saturday.

Addressing the 14th convocation of the ICFAI Foundation For Higher Education, he said India's development strategy should be multidimensional and growth may be stimulated by raising investment rate, degenerate into the old style import substitution. I think that is contrary to what is good for our country," he said.

Jobless growth is certainly a matter of concern. But job creation without growth is equally bad even as the new technologies can not be ignored, the former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said.

"Job creation is going to be the toughest challenge ahead not only in India but the world over," he said.

Based on some assumptions about the future exchange rate of rupee and domestic inflation, India needs to have an average annual real rate of growth of six to seven per cent to achieve over US\$ 13,000 per

#### Bank of India net profit grows 10% to Rs 1,703 cr

PNS MUMBAI

State-owned Bank of India on Saturday reported a 10 per cent growth in its June quarter net profit at Rs 1,703 crore, limited by a rise in money set aside for tackling bad loans. The bank had

reported a net profit of Rs 1,551 crore in the yearago period. Its core net

interest income grew 6 per cent to 🏢 the reporting quarter on the

back of a nearly 16 per cent jump in advances and the net interest margin widening by 0.04 per cent to 3.07 per cent. The non interest income declined to Rs 1,302 crore from Rs 1,462 crore during the

Deposit growth came at

reporting quarter.
On the credit expansion

9.74 per cent during the

front, both retail and agriculture showed healthy growth of over 20 per cent during the quarter while MSME book expanded by 13 per cent. The gross non perform-

ing assets ratio improved to 4.62 per cent at the end of the quarter. The provi-

sions for bad

increased to Rs 1,215 crore, up from the Rs 776 crore in the year-ago period, and seemed to be one of the major factors limiting the earnings

The overall capital adequacy for the lender stood at 16.18 per cent, with the core buffer level at 13.62 per cent.

# SBI profit rises 4% to Rs 19,325 cr in April-June on higher provisions, lower core income growth

PNS MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday reported a 4.25 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit in April-June quarter at Rs 19,325 crore, held back by a rise in loan loss provisions and lower growth in core income.

On a standalone basis, the profit growth was much slower at almost flat pace of 0.89 per cent during the quarter at Rs 17,035 crore.

Kumar Khara, whose over four years stint at the helm will be ending soon, said the first quarter is generally slow and there were "distractions" which limited the growth.

He said the bank is confident of growth picking up in the remainder of the fiscal year, and achieving his aspiration of the



largest lender reporting a net profit of Rs 1 lakh crore in FY25.

The core net interest income grew 5.71 per cent to Rs 41,125 crore on the back of a 15 per cent advances growth and the domestic net interest margin

narrowing by 0.12 per cent to

3.35 per cent.

The other income declined to Rs 11,162 crore in the latest first quarter from the Rs 12,063 crore recorded in the year-ago period, and the fall was attributed by Khara to the change in regulation that led to the reclas-

Khara declined to comment on the impact of the RBI's draft norms on liquidity coverage ratio, but pointed out that the critical number for the bank stands at 129 per cent whereas it has a comfort level of taking it down till 110 per cent. The deposit growth came at

sification of investment book.

8 per cent, and Khara said the bank will be able to fund the credit growth target of 15 per cent even if the deposit growth is sustained at the same level. bank would want to increase the deposit growth to 10 per cent.

He, however, made it clear that the bank will not want to compromise on NIMs in the process and hinted that more hikes in deposit rates are not in the offing. It will target to keep the NIMs in the 3.2-3.4 per cent range, the chairman said

# Global capability centre industry to become catalyst for creating jobs

PNS MUMBAI

With India emerging as the hub of Global Capability Centres, a report on Saturday revealed that 78 per cent professionals expect the GCC sector to become a catalyst for creating jobs, particularly benefiting temporary workforce in the country.

A majority of 78 per cent foresee GCCs as catalysts for creating new job opportunities, particularly benefiting gig workers and the temporary workforce in India, said a

report by HR Services and Workforce Solutions provider Genius Consultants.

This optimism about job creation reflects a positive outlook on GCCs' potential to diversify and expand employment avenues in the evolving job market, the survey stated.
The report on GCCs and

their potential impact on the Indian industrial market is based on an analysis of inputs from 1,033 professionals. Almost all the respondents

agreed on the pivotal role



that GCCs play in advancing technologies such the adoption of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI),

said the report.

This consensus underscores GCCs' significant contribution to enhancing India's technological landscape and fostering innovation across various sectors, it stated.

The report also said that an overwhelming 94 per cent of respondents believed that GCCs will positively influence and enhance India's overall economic output.

This sentiment underscores the perceived role of GCCs in

cloud computing, and stimulating economic growth Internet of Things (IoT), through increased investments, technology transfer, and job opportunities, it

added. However, a small fraction (3 per cent) holds a contrasting view, it added.

Among those participated in the survey, 84 per cent expressed confidence that the establishment of GCCs by multinational corporations in India will lead to improved job availability and increased opportunities for local profes-

# BSNL subscribers on rise, homegrown 4G network ready, says Scindia

PNS GWALIOR

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday claimed that the subscriber base for the government-run BSNL has been increasing, while a homegrown 4G network is also ready and work is on to con-

vert it to 5G. Talking to reporters here, the Union minister for communisaid cations under Atmanirbhar Bharat, a 4G network with indigenous technology is ready and, in a few months, its services will be available across the country through the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

Several people had asked when Jio, Airtel and Vodafone rolled out the 4G network, why not BSNL? It was the prime



run company's network, we will not use equipment from China or any other foreign country," Scindia said. It was decided that an

indigenous technology would

be developed, he said

India will develop its own 4G stack, core system or towers called radiation access network (RAN). India will develop its technology and give a 4G network to countrymen, and it took us one and a half years.

The work of erecting the towers is underway, he said. Companies, including Indian firms such as Tejas Network, C-DOT and TĆS,

were working in various fields, and BSNL is implementing it,

'We will install 80,000 towers by the end of October and the remaining 21,000 by March next year, which means one lakh towers of 4G network will be installed by March 2025," he

It will help in speedy downloads and watching television, he said.

"We can use 5G on this 4G core. We will have to make some changes in the towers for 5G services, and work on this is underway. We will soon complete the journey from 4G to 5G," he said.

Scindia also claimed several telecom customers are switching to BSNL from private service providers.

# Kothari Group to launch Kickers brand

PNS CHENNAI

Kothari Industrial Corporation Ltd, part of the diversified conglomerate D C Kothari Group, has signed a 30-year licensing and distribution agreement with Royer Group of France, for sales and marketing of popular footwear brand Kickers in India, the company said on Saturday.

The agreement also covers sales and marketing in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Aimed at boosting the Centre's ambitious 'Make In India' campaign, Kothari

along with the Royer Group of France,



sharing exchange of technology in the apparel and footwear

ment here said.

Kothari Corporation Chairman and Managing Director J Rafiq Ahmed said the entry of the Kickers brand in India could prove to be a game-changer not only for KICL but for retail fashion industry as a whole, as the basket of products that would be introduced would not only be high on fashion content but also high quality with new comfort technologies.

The agreement also envisages a share of design and technology transfer, making of all the Kickers products in the domestic market.



bean sauce added a depth of flavour that was

both rich and satisfying. At TG's, every bite tells

a story, from the prawns swimming in golden

curry sauce to the shredded chicken mingling

aren't just cooking; they're creating magic with

spices and fresh ingredients. To conclude this

with bold black bean sauce. The chefs here



#### WEEKLY **HOROSCOPE** AUGUST 4 - 10

FOOD

Spicy Negitoro Roll, Prawns in Yellow

**DECOR** 

lighting, where a royal and

spacious setting enhances

PRICE

VERDICT



#### **ARIES**

You will reveal your heart to someone easily. Show the patience to accept advice. Despite career stability, a deep-seated insecurity may cause pain. Stay focused.

#### **TAURUS**

Proceed with long-term plans. Maintain patience with siblings and avoid emotional blowups. Your generous nature will bring love. Responsibilities will restrict you.

#### **GEMINI**

Embrace unexpected attractions and new projects. Family may be hard to please. Your practical approach ensures career success. Ensure emotional stability.

#### **CANCER**

Your supportive, confident nature benefits you and others. Avoid vicarious experiences. Focus on clear goals, new challenges, and effective communication.

#### LE0

Experiment with new project ideas. Hard work and meditation will improve your social skills. Focus on personal goals and offer guidance effectively.

#### **VIRGO**

Supportive siblings will help you realise your dreams. Deal with influential people to overcome bad traits. Focus on shared interests and be open to others' ideas.

#### **LIBRA**

Your talent and creativity will win accolades. Despite delays in ventures, success is near. Peculiarities benefit you socially. Avoid self-indulgence; seek advice wisely.

#### **SCORPIO**

You'll organise your work and health better. Supportive relationships bring joy. Rely on your philosophy for decisions. Avoid overworking and revive your mind.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Embrace new ideas and experiment wisely. Avoid clashes with siblings and seek their support. Stay open to novelties and challenges. Enjoy newfound thrills.

#### **CAPRICORN**

Experimenting helps you sort budgets and win praise. Peculiarities bring advantages. Implement changes, seek support, and embrace your artistic talents.

#### **AQUARIUS**

Nervousness may hinder experimentation. Your vibrant energy will attract people. Seek co-worker support for new ideas. Evaluate your romantic interests carefully.

#### **PISCES**

Amidst the chaos, relax and reflect—it's not as bad as it seems. Be gentle with yourself and your loved ones. Organise health and work. Stay focused on growth.

## WHAT'S NEV

flavours. My culinary journey began with a

however, was the lamb chops in black pepper

sauce. The meat was cooked to perfection and

the sauce was a symphony of flavours that

Another highlight at TG's was the prawns in

classic miso soup. The star of the show,

#### **BFF STYLE CHRONICLES:** TRENDY TOKENS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR YOUR **FASHIONABLE BESTIE**

Who knows us better than our best friends? They're there through our gossip sessions and tears over heartaches, laughing at our lame jokes and sharing late-night conversations. From cooking mishaps to planning trips that never quite materialise, these shared moments create the fabric of our friendships. Remember saving that one special friendship band for that special person? Now is the perfect time to celebrate these cherished bonds with a thoughtful gift, showing just how much we value and appreciate them. Here are some of the gifting options to gift your besties on Friendship Day!



Tribe

Amrapali

INR

#### **VICTORIA'S SECRET** For a friend who is obsessed with

skincare, elevate their skincare routine by giving them a Victoria's Secret Coconut Milk Rose Natural Kit. Price: INR 6499





# the pioneer

"This journey of education and breaking stiama around HIV is something that will have a legacy everlasting"



# OVERCOMING HIV STIGMA YOUTH BREAKING BARRIERS

In the face of deep-seated stigma and discrimination, young people living with HIV in Goa, are finding hope and resilience through the Human Touch Foundation. SHOBHA SHUKLA explores their personal journeys and examines the collective efforts that are transforming their lives and challenging societal norms



SHOBHA SHUKLA

iving with HIV often comes with a heavy burden of internal and external stigma. For many young people, this fear of discrimination can be paralyzing, affecting their ability to live normal lives. HIV-related misconceptions remain a significant barrier for those living with the virus, impacting their mental health, relationships, and opportunities in life. However, through the dedicated support of the Human Touch Foundation, these youths are not only overcoming their fears but also becoming advocates for change in their communities.

#### THE WEIGHT OF STIGMA A young person living with

HIV shared, "As a young

person living with HIV, I had self-stigmatised myself due to the fear of discrimination... fear of discrimination if I dare disclose my HIV positive status to others... this fear had stopped me from living life like a normal person." This sentiment, echoed by many, underscores the profound impact of internal stigma. Internal stigma, a mindset of negative beliefs, thoughts, and behaviours about HIV, manifests as shame, guilt, feelings of contamination, reduced self-efficacy, selfloathing, low self-esteem, and self-rejection. "Internal stigma happens when we internalise external stigma and judgements and believe that they are true. Internal stigma also happens in the absence of external stigma and discrimination," explained Nadine Ferris France, CEO of Beyond Stigma. A youth shared his trauma, "I and my youth peers have confronted HIV-related stigma and discrimination in schools, workplaces, and societal levels. Sometimes, it is the teachers who were not cooperating or discriminating against them. The fear of disclosure - which means sharing our HIV positive status with family members, friends or others in society - the fear of being discriminated, is faced by many... the fear if we would be thrown out of the house or will our friends unfriend us.. The Human Touch Foundation, based in Goa, India, is dedicated to supporting young people living with HIV. The organization provides a comprehensive range of services including mental health counselling, nutritional support, educational and vocational training, and medical assistance. By fostering a supportive community and empowering youth-led initiatives, the foundation addresses stigma and discrimination at multiple levels. Their efforts ensure that those living with HIV can lead healthier, more fulfilling lives while advocating for broader

societal change.

A young girl living with HIV

shared how the Human Touch Foundation helped her overcome her fears of stigma and discrimination: "From my childhood I have been touched by Human Touch Foundation which helped me overcome my fears of stigma and discrimination related to disclosure - and helped me in various ways."
She added, "As I am living with HIV, I faced a lot of stigma and discrimination from my own family as well as from society. People in the society told the family to not let me come out otherwise I will spread the virus to their children. I even faced it in my relationship with one guy. I knew him for one year and had shared everything with him but still he blamed me that I got infected because I have been sleeping with others." Despite these challenges, she found a supportive community within the Human Touch Foundation, which provides a range of services including nutritional counselling, mental



ABOUT HIV, MANIFESTS AS SHAME, GUILT, FEELINGS OF CONTAMINATION, **REDUCED SELF-**EFFICACY, SELF-LOATHING, LOW SELF-ESTEEM, AND SELF-REJECTION. "INTERNAL STIGMA HAPPENS WHEN WE **INTERNALISE** EXTERNAL STIGMA AND JUDGEMENTS AND BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE TRUE. INTERNAL STIGMA ALSO HAPPENS IN THE ABSENCE OF **EXTERNAL STIGMA** DISCRIMINATION," **EXPLAINED NADINE** FERRIS FRANCE, CEO OF BEYOND STIGMA

health support, and job opportunities.

#### PERSONAL TRIUMPHS AND **COLLECTIVE SUPPORT**

Another young person recounted their journey: "I got to know my HIV status at the age of 13. I was with my relatives because I had lost my parents. That is when I first felt being stigmatised and discriminated against by my own family. For example, I was told not to use the common family nail cutter because if any blood comes out while cutting my nails then it can put others at risk. Or sometimes there were separate utensils for eating food. It used to hurt Finding support through the

Human Touch Foundation, this individual connected with peers facing similar challenges and received guidance from Peter Borges, the foundation's CEO. "Peter Sir helped me a lot from the very beginning. He helped me with my documents too. We used to

have residential camps back then too, with adolescents living with HIV. I learnt a lot from these camps. Doctors were involved in these camps where we learnt a lot about HIV and how can we overcome problems we face."

#### THE POWER OF YOUTH

The Human Touch Foundation emphasizes the importance of youth-led initiatives in the HIV response. "Youth are the best equipped to lead the response to HIV," said a young intern at the foundation. Sandhya Chavan, Lead for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, highlighted the comprehensive support provided: "We at Human Touch Foundation provide a range of youth-led services, such as mental health counselling, psychosocial support, help them avail a range of social protection schemes, nutritional packages, medical help, or treatment adherence support, among others." Masooma Sheikh, a

counselling psychologist at the foundation, stressed the need for proper mental health services in HIV care centres and a holistic approach to support young people living with HIV.

#### A BEACON OF HOPE AND **RESILIENCE**

As the Human Touch Foundation celebrates its 15th anniversary, its impact is evident in the lives it has touched. Peter Borges reflected on the journey: "Human Touch always had something different to offer when it came to support system or ecosystem which surrounded HIV care and support. For example, young people themselves speaking at different conferences including AIDS 2024 is so important. Lately, the realisation has grown over us about the importance of resilience: we must focus more on building the resilience of the young people. Issues like relationships or livelihoods cannot be missed while young counsellors themselves provide

mental health services." The foundation continues to address various needs, including relationships, sexual and reproductive health, substance abuse, TB and HIV coinfection, and child sexual abuse. Their commitment to non-institutional care and resilience-building for families and communities remains steadfast.

The Human Touch Foundation has also been instrumental in initiating viral load monitoring in Goa and ensuring the uninterrupted supply of antiretroviral therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer free vocational training for young people with HIV, helping them build skills and secure employment.

Dr. Kashyap Bandodkar, a volunteer with the foundation, emphasized the importance of humane and holistic care: "Usually patients appear as a 'number or statistic' in a report. But experiences (like Human Touch) tell us the life story behind those numbers or statistics. This help us – doctors - provide better care because I believe that humane and holistic care is so key." The Human Touch Foundation's journey and the stories of those

it supports underscore the importance of tackling HIVrelated stigma and discrimination through empathy, education, and comprehensive support. Their and a model for other organizations worldwide. Despite significant advancements in the treatment of HIV, societal stigma continues to pose a major challenge for those living with the virus. The personal stories shared by young people in Goa highlight the persistent fear of discrimination that can prevent individuals from living their lives to the fullest. Internal stigma, which manifests as selfloathing and low self-esteem, often results from the external judgments and prejudices of

society. Organizations like the Human Touch Foundation are making remarkable strides in addressing these issues. By providing comprehensive support services, fostering youth-led initiatives, and promoting resilience, the foundation is helping to dismantle the barriers that stigma creates. Their work emphasizes the importance of empathy, understanding, and community in overcoming the challenges faced by people living with HIV. However, the fight against stigma requires collective effort. It is crucial that society as a

whole becomes more informed and compassionate towards those affected by HIV. We must reject discriminatory attitudes and instead offer support and acceptance. By doing so, we can create an environment where individuals living with HIV can thrive without fear of prejudice. Only through such a unified approach can we hope to eradicate the stigma associated with HIV and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy, fulfilling life.

(Shobha Shukla is Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service (CNS) and a health and development justice advocate. She is Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Global AMR Media Alliance; views are personal)

# 'AKSHAYKUMAR MADENOREQUESTS FOR ADUSTIMENTS IN SARFIRA



much-appreciated filmmaker who certainly goes well with the term Boss-lady is none other than Sudha Kongara Prasad. And certainly because of the niche she has created in the industry. The Tamil film *Drohi* marked her directorial debut. Her bilingual film Irudhi Suttru (also known as Saala Khadoos in Hindi) won her the Filmfare Award for Best Director—Tamil in 2016. Later, in 2017, she directed the Telugu version of the movie *Guru*. She has worked in more than three languages during her career and has won two SIIMA Awards, two Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, two Filmfare Awards South and two National Film Awards.

Just a while back, the talented filmmaker entertained the audience with her film Sarfira, a remake of her Tamil film Soorarai Pottru. The film stars Akshay Kumar and Radhika Madan in lead roles.

This week, for our exclusive segment of *Celeb Talk*, we have with us the director, giving to us some exclusive tidbits of the just-released.

In what ways has the process of redoing your own movie altered your understanding of narrative?

One thing is certain when I am redoing my own movie: the narrative must be told in a certain way. There isn't any confusion here! I'm confident that I wouldn't have to fight the feelings that the original portrays. However, there is a drawback as well: I won't be making two distinct movies. The good news was—and this is something I firmly believe in—that what worked once will most likely work again. Since their cultures will obviously differ greatly from one another, the experience and difficulties of doing a remake will also vary. That is essentially the distinction. The two movies I made both fea-

a fascinating educational experience for me as well. So, in what ways do you think your evolution as a filmmaker has changed?

tured a culture I'm not familiar with! That proves to be

As a writer, forget about being a filmmaker, for sure. I've always maintained that, in business, writing defines who I am. I can write a narrative without needing many years and I can readily see the shortcomings in my writing. Let me just refer to myself as a "stress writer," nevertheless, because I am capable of making the remake's shortcomings better than the original. Every year, I wish a writer would finish a draft for me, but I'm not able to. It's a rule for me to write it on my own! I want to finish writing the movie and get filming with my actors since I am so in love with the creative process.

Please go into more detail on the difficulties you face when trying to retell your tale in a different cultural setting.

When Soorarai Potturu

arrived, it advised the various sectors not to give up on their individual companies just yet. Sarfira had come to me during the pandemic. I also had no intention of seeming preachy. Making *Soorarai Pootutru* for Tamil audiences meant that I had to take a character from Karnataka and place him in the Tamil region. For instance, a

girl visits a boy in a community in Karnataka to discuss the possibility of marriage. That isn't how things work in Tamil Nadu. However, I had to provide an explanation for this. I was able to position that specific custom in a cultural framework and take advantage of it. Since Sarfira is based on the Deccan Plateau, for instance, funerals are not celebrated outside of Tamil Nadu. Now I have to explain this! What are all of the reasons for it? It wasn't always easy

for me because I dislike deceiving my audiences, but I was sit-ting there, breaking my head on this. I have no interest in translating! Actually, I am not into critics. To avoid confusing the viewers, I went above and beyond by studying Maharastrian culture and making it appear genuine. Dialect was crucial as well! I like the hurdles that I faced while working with Akshay Kumar on Sarfira.

How did you manage to keep Sarfira's original spirit with Akshay Kumar?

I've been friends with Suriya for twenty to twenty-five years. It was so simple for me to guide him because I know exactly how he laughs, smiles and feels. However, I had no prior knowledge of Akshay Kumar! The two actors are com-

pletely different from one another, and I first encountered him during the screenplay reading sessions. I've known Venky since I was a young child. To get Akshay Kumar to understand my directing style, I had to first grasp how he operates. The fact that we both get up early and dislike working late is a plus.

What further themes will Sarfira highlight?

LET **ME JUST REFER TO MYSELF AS A** "STRESS WRITER," **NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE I AM CAPABLE OF MAKING** THE REMAKE'S **SHORTCOMINGS BETTER** THAN THE ORIGINAL

The popular movie covered a number of delicate subjects and Sarfira was given special treatment. Even though Radhika Madan hadn't seen the original, she did a fantastic job with the Maharastrian accent that she had learned. Her hometown is Delhi! Observing her perform the dialogue was a delight. Her curiosity about everything that went on in the sets led me to believe that she was extremely brilliant as well. She had a great deal of inquiries! Though there were moments when she felt uneasy using some words or delivering certain dialogues, she ultimately decided to add her own unique touch to things. Since my characters are more important to me than the script—which is not the Bible—I was fine with it.

How did the first conversation with Akshav Kumar go?

Initially, Akshay was rather worried about the movie's runtime. Perhaps it took a little longer to translate Tamil dialogues into Hindi? Fernaps it took a little longer to translate Tamil dialogues into Flindif For instance, when Venky joined the original *Saala Khadoos* cast, he objected to the opening scene, which featured a man making love to another man's wife. He declared, "My reputation in the South film industry is so strong that it will hurt your film!" I quickly made the change. I am aware of the dos and don'ts because I grew up watching Telugu movies. Therefore, in the original, we introduced Venkatesh more effectively. However, Akshay Kumar made no requests for adjustments! The harder part was putting it in its proper place, culturally.

How did a day on the Sarfira sets used to be?

Making a film usually makes me really nervous, but this time, I felt pretty relaxed. Since it's a remake, I should have been more cautious, but everything went smoothly. This was where I had my first AD system and it was really different. I'm used to acting as both the director and the first AD. I only needed to watch the performances by Radhika, Akshay and others. On the *Sarfira* sets, Akshay Kumar instilled a great deal of discipline. The shooting used to begin promptly at seven in the morning. I also remember a time when he was staying at Panchgani and that particular day we were shooting in the night. But beyond some hours of time, he won't shoot! The whole crew travelled 12 hours to Panchgani to shoot a shoot! The whole crew travelled 12 hours to Panchgant to shoot a scene at 6:30. So he was very accommodating. Many, many days I said goodbye to him early and he would say things like, "I gave you my time, so please make full use of it. Who wants to go?" He used to pull our legs quite a bit, hehe. Akshay suddenly abandoned the college where we were filming! I discovered that he doesn't shoot on Sundays, but that wasn't part of my agenda. For four hours, from 4 to 8 in the morning, the secretary persuaded him in some way. I thought, but hey, he doesn't shoot at night either, so my AD tells me that it's 4 to 8 in the morning, ma'am. I thought, "Oh my god!" He was getting calls from home at around seven, asking where he was, as he reportedly had to go out to breakfast with Twinkle!

Meanwhile, the film, which has now hit the theatres, marks Sudha Kongara and Akshay Kumar's first collaboration. Also not just as the director, Sudha also dons the hat of its writer in Sarfira.

#### CHEERS TO FRIENDSHIP: CELEBRATING **BONDS WITH LAUGHTER AND GOOD TIMES!**

This Friendship Day, celebrate the bonds that make life meaningful by toasting to laughter, love, and unforgettable memories with your closest friends. Forget the usual clichés and overpriced outings. Instead, embrace the spirit of friendship by creating your own rules for fun! Whether you're enjoying a laid-back evening with a rich and smoky drink or sharing laughter and playful cocktails with your squad, make this day a memorable tribute to the friendships that light up your life.

#### FRIENDSHIP SOUR

#### **INGREDIENTS**

■ 60 ml Black Label ■ 25 ml Orgeat Syrup ■ 15 ml Lime Juice

■ 1 Egg White ■ Orange Zest (Garnish)

■ Prepare the glass - Fill an old-fashioned glass with and set aside. **Mix the ingredients -** In a double tin cocktail shaker add all the ingredients except egg white. Shake it up - Shake well until the mixture is chilled about 10-15 seconds. Strain the mixture in a second tin and add egg white and shake it again without ice for better froth. Strain and pour - Strain the mixture into the prepare old-

fashioned glass. **Garnish** - Garnish with orange zest.

## **BLONDE BOBA ICED TEA**

#### INGREDIENTS ■ 60 ml Blonde ■ 20 ml Peach Syrup

■ 15 ml Lime Juice ■ 120 ml Chilled Darjeeling Tea 1 tablespoon Peach Boba Pearls (Garnish)

#### INSTRUCTION

Prepare the glass - Fill a highball glass with ice. Mix the ingredients - Add all the ingredients in a highball glass.

**Stir it up -** Stir it with bar spoon. Garnish - Put peach boba pearls on top and stir gently.

#### **ASIAN MANGO FIZZ**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

■ 60 ml Black and White 20 ml Mango Svrup

■ 15 ml Lime Juice 2 pc Kaffir Lime

■ 2 pc Kaffir Lime Leave (Garnish) ■ Top Up Soda Water

#### **INSTRUCTION**

■ Prepare the glass - Fill a highball glass and set aside. **Mix the ingredients -** In a cocktail shaker add all the ingredients and fill it with ice.

**Shake it up -** Shake well until the mixture is chilled about 10-15 seconds. **Strain and pour -** Strain the mixture

into the prepared highball glass.

■ Top it off - Add the club soda to the glass and give it a gentle stir to combine. **Garnish -** Garnish with kaffir lime leaves.

#### FRIENDSHIP JAMUN FIZZ **INGREDIENTS**

■ 60 ml Black Dog ■ 20 ml Jamun Syrup ■ 15 ml Lime Juice ■ Top Up Soda Water

■ Mint Sprig and jamun (Garnish) INSTRUCTION

Prepare the glass - Fill a highball glass with ice. ■ Mix the ingredients - Add all the ingredients in a highball glass except soda water.

■ Top it off - Add the club soda to the glass and give it a gentle stir to combine.

Garnish - Garnish with mint sprig and

#### AARTI SREENATH

n today's fast-paced work environment, the significance of workplace wellness cannot be overstated. To delve deeper into this WELLNESS essential topic, we sought the expertise of a diverse panel.

#### Advocate for flexibility

"Workplace wellness, conceptually for me. is about the mental and physical well-being of employees," asserts Sritama Maitra, an assistant professor at a private university, emphasising that a one-size-fits-all approach to wellness is ineffective. Instead, wellness programs must be adaptable, evolving based on ongoing psy-

chological research and direct employee feedback. "The concept of wellness must be flexible, constantly evolving with technological and environmental changes. It's crucial to revise wellness policies regularly through constant research and employee feedback," she explains.

Key elements of an effective wellness program, according to her, include structured breaks, discouragement

of multitasking, diverse leave policies, and a balanced work schedule. "An effective workplace wellness program should include regular breaks, discourage multitasking, offer diverse leave policies and promote a five-day work week with a maximum of 8-9 hours of work," she elaborates. These components help mitigate the adverse effects of prolonged work stress, which can significantly impact both mental and physical health. "Multitasking takes a huge toll on the mental health of employees and eventually on their physical health as well," she adds.

She further underscores the importance of fostering a balanced work-life approach to enhance overall well-being and productivity. By ensuring that wellness programs are flexible and continually evolving, organisations can better support their employees' needs, leading to a more engaged and healthier work-

#### **Emphasising holistic wellness** "A truly comprehensive workplace wellness

program is multifaceted, addressing various dimensions of employee health," states Dr. Shubhada Karande, Chief Occupational Therapist and Ergonomic Consultant at Godrej Interio. Physical health, she explains, is not just about gym memberships or yoga sessions. "Ergonomically designed furniture, such as move-up desks, can significantly reduce the risk of musculoskeletal disorders and promote overall well-being by encouraging movement and proper posture throughout the workday," she notes. Proper ergonomics can prevent common workplace injuries and improve employee comfort, thereby enhancing productivity. "A successful example of a workplace wellness program is Godrej Interio's "Wellness@Work" initiative. This program focuses on ergonomics, a key factor in employee comfort and well-being. Through 90-minute training sessions, employees learn about ergonomic principles and techniques to mitigate risk factors associated with prolonged sitting and improper posture. The program boasts impressive results: 92% of participants implemented the learned strategies, with 34% investing in ergonomic accessories to improve their

work posture. Furthermore, 90% of employees reported feeling more comfortable after the training and 47% experienced a significant reduction in pain."

#### **Addressing mental health**

Dr. Nidhi Goradia, a physiotherapist, corporate wellness specialist, and founder of Wellness, advocates for the pressing issue of mental health in the workplace. "Common mental health issues faced by employees on a day-to-day basis due to impending timelines include stress, anxiety, frustration and mental clutter," she explains. These issues can significantly affect an employee's ability to perform and their overall job satisfaction.

To combat these challenges, she advocates for holistic wellness programs that incorporate a variety of strategies. "Workshops like dance and art therapy, team bonding, inculcating gratitude, anger management and stress management are effective in promoting mental well-being," she says. These activities not only provide stress relief but also foster a sense of community and belonging among employees. Leadership plays a pivotal role in creating a supportive wellness environment. "Leaders must be trained to recognise signs of stress and provide appropriate support. Creating a culture where mental health is openly discussed and addressed is crucial," Dr. Nidhi advises.

#### **Champion of employee voice and inclusivity**

Kavita Panyam, a consulting psychologist and founder and director of Mind Suggest Wellness Centre, underscores the importance of genuine communication in workplace wellness. "Often, employees are seen but not heard," she notes. "To truly make a mark, employees must be given opportunities to present their ideas and plans, no matter how brief the conversation."

She stresses the need for equal opportunities for both extroverts and introverts to express themselves. "Extroverts often have an easier time being heard, while introverts and those who seek external validation may struggle. These individuals should be given space to come forward without fear, bringing their talents and skills to the forefront," she explains. Personal growth and career development are also vital components of workplace wellness. Mentoring, coaching, performance management and emotional intelligence training should be provided to help employees manage their emotions and communication effectively," she advises. She also highlights the challenges of implementing wellness programs, particularly financial constraints. "Limited funding often forces companies to cut the cloth according to what is available, compromising on program design, implementation, and evaluation," she says. She also mentions that fostering positive relationships is not just about maintaining a positive mindset but also about balancing various experiences and co-existing despite differences.

#### Navigating challenges

While the benefits of workplace wellness programs are clear, implementing them is not without challenges. Financial constraints, a lack of awareness and resistance to change can impede progress. Emerging trends in workplace wellness include integrating spiritual and alternative therapies, sustainability in office design, and hvbrid work models.

In conclusion, workplace wellness is a dynamic and essential aspect of modern work environments. By focusing on flexible, employee-centric and research-based wellness programs, employers can promote the mental and physical well-being of their employees, leading to increased productivity and company performance. The insights from these experts highlight the importance of continuous adaptation, inclusivity, and trust in creating a supportive and healthy workplace. By implementing these strategies, organizations can ensure that their employees are not just surviving but thriving in their work environments.

#### **MANU BHAKER**



Manu Bhaker, the newest sporting celebrity in India, caused waves when she took home a bronze in the 10m air pistol individual event.

#### A DRUNK MILLIND GABA



As per reports, Millind created the ruckus at the office of the popular production company, T-series.

#### KHEL KHEL MEIN



With the release of the new motion poster for his next movie Khel Khel Mein, Akshay Kumar has heightened fan

#### A BAR SONG



A Bar Song (Tipsy) by Shaboozey continues to top the Billboard Hot 100 chart for a third week. Three weeks prior, the song became the singersongwriter's first number-one on the charts.

#### THE OLYMPIC FLAME



A photo of Brazilian Olympic surfer Gabriel Medina, captured by photographer Jerome Brouillet, has become extremely popular on social media and is being hailed as the 'Best Sports Photo Ever'.



# Driven by purpose

#### **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

I spend most of my childhood in Nirmal.

My grandfather was a freedomfighter and advocate. He was the first chairman of the Nirmal Municipal Council, serving for around 11 years. My father, Padmanabha Reddy, was also a politician and served as municipal chairman. He was also a social activist. I have two brothers; Satish Reddy, who is married to Sravani, and Rajeshwar Reddy, who is married to Arpita. Both are into business. I have a sister, Uma, who got married to Parigi MLA Ram Mohan Reddy in 1995. My mother, late Lakshmi, was a homemal

1995. My mother, late Lakshmi, was a homemaker. Unfortunately, she suffered from breast cancer and passed away in 1990. We had taken her to the Mumbai Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital for treatment, but she succumbed to the illness within a year. My mother's passing had a profound impact on me. I wanted to do something in her memory; so, I started a trust to help the poor, support marriages and encourage education.



As a child, I was quite focused and dedicated to studies. I was not particularly naughty; rather, I was diligent and serious about my tasks. Whenever I was given a responsibility, I made sure to complete it to the best of my abilities. I began my schooling in Hyderabad at Saint Paul's School, where I studied from fifth to ninth class. After that, I started my Intermediate education at Nrupatunga but went back to Nirmal as my mother was not well. I pursued a degree in Pune at Symbiosis, where I studied law. During my college days, I wanted to be an entrepreneur and had political ambition. Even my childhood was heavily influenced by the political environment at home. There were always discussions about politics, social issues and community service, which deeply shaped my interests and aspirations. Politics has always been a

I was actively involved in student politics as a member of the National Students Union of India and later the Youth Congress. During my student life, I managed campaign activities for my uncle P Narsareddy, who was a Member of Parliament.

#### **JOB IN CUSTOMS AND EXCISE**

During this time, I worked as a preventive officer and inspector in the Customs and Excise Department, having been selected through the Staff Selection Commission. However, after a year, I realised that I did not like the hierarchy and wanted to pursue something more impactful and be in a position to employ people. So, I resigned from my job. Sensing an opportunity to make a difference in the field of education, in 1998 I started an engineering college in Adilabad, named Jathi Pita Engineering College, followed by another college in 1999 in Nirmal. I then expanded engineering colleges to Hyderabad, Patancheruvu and Rangareddy districts.

#### **MAHESWARA TRUST**

My mother's passing had a profound impact on me. I wanted to honour her memory by doing something meaningful. So I established Maheshwara Trust, which provides support for the poor, assists members from marginalised communities in marriages and encourages education. We are staunch believers in Lord Shiva of Vemulawada; so, the name Maheshwara Trust. We provide financial assistance to poor patients who need medical treatment but cannot afford it. We also support marriages for those who lack the resources to conduct wedding ceremonies. Additionally, we offer scholarships and financial aid to students from low-income families to help them pursue higher education.

#### TRAINING CONSTABLES AND TEACHERS

I also recognised the dire need for providing quality education in Adilabad, where students did not have access to higher education. At one point, they did not know what to do after tenth; they were either doing B Ed or TTC. To address this issue, we started job coaching and training programs through our trust. These programs were designed to prepare candidates for various competitive exams, particularly for government jobs. We offered comprehensive training, including physical training, study materials and conducted mock tests. In the first year alone, we saw remarkable success, with around 100 constables being selected following our training program. Then I did teachers training program and again another 100 got selected. Then everyone in my area started realising that it was not difficult to get a job.



haratiya Janata Party floor Leader in the

#### **POLITICAL ENTRY**

There was a particularly challenging incident involving a local opposition leader who could not stomach our charitable activities. He was not pleased with the goodwill our initiatives were generating among people. One day, he used his political influence to level false charges of atrocities against me. It was campaign for Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC); one fellow called our people and we went there. We spoke to him for 1-2 hours. Then the police came to home and said there is a case against me. This led to a police investigation and I had to go into hiding for about a week to avoid immediate arrest. During this time, I sought legal counsel and managed to secure bail. I was to join politics five years later, but this incident made me join immediately. This motivated me to enter politics more actively. I decided to contest in the MLA elections in 2009. My family pushed me into politics.

#### PRAJA RAJYAM PARTY

Initially, I filed my nomination as an independent candidate with a large following of 30,000 people. However, I was later approached by Allu Arvind of Praja Rajyam Party who convinced and I agreed and filed my nomination under their banner just two days before nomination. I asked them to send the B-form, which was sent through bus courier. Just a day before nomination, I was discussing about this with my friend. Then my cook said there was a letter that came. We went on bike at 3:00 pm and filed nomination. I won the elections and met then party chief Chiranjeevi. During the campaign, he came to the Mudhole constituency but not mine. I was among the two MLAs of PRP to win from Telangana. Chiranjeevi was a genuinely nice person. As a leader, he was soft-spoken and approachable, but not politician. However, he faced difficulties in making decisive political moves. Definitely, had Chiranjeevi sustained, he would have been the Chief Minister. But Pawan Kalyan struggled his way up. Politics needs confidence, fighting spirit and strong determination to stand by people.

#### **BEING MLA FROM TELANGANA**

Chiranjeevi took a U-turn and advocated for Samikyandhra. However, as the agitation for Telangana statehood intensified, it became apparent that the party needed to take a definite stance. So, I threatened to resign as Telangana MLAs and demanded that we should be given opportunity, as several PRP members, including myself, felt that our voices were not being adequately represented. There was a small dispute and I threatened to come out of the party. At the same time, he spoke to the high command of the Congress to merge the party. At that time TRS legislators resigned for the cause of Telangana and I was also planning to resign. Then Ahmed Patel, a senior Congress leader, reached out to me and said there was no point in resigning now as the Congress will anyhow give Telangana. Even if I contest, there is 50% chance of winning and I would be MLA for another three years. He said that Sonia Gandhi Madam was keen and willing to give Telangana, provided I remained patience. Such senior person won't lie for one MLA. On his assurance, I did not resign.

#### **LOST ELECTIONS**

After the merger, I continued to work with the Congress party for several years. It was a period of intense political activity, especially with the ongoing Telangana agitation. Balancing development and addressing the demands of the agitation was challenging. Agitation was open and there was an undercurrent sentiment that we could not gauge properly. We thought development would pacify the sentiment as the Congress had announced the state and we felt like champions. Fighter became hero and I lost. Even after I lost, I was always with people. Except for protocol and gunman, everything was as usual. In 2018, I was candidate for the Congress, everyone told me that I was winning but poll management of Telangana Rashtra Samithi was so good and I even managed a few people from my side. I lost.



#### **12 YEARS IN CONGRESS**

Those 12 of 13 years in the Congress, I worked so hard in the party, right from, you know, grassroots level to all-party activities. I was the DCC president of the erstwhile district and then I was appointed as AICC programs implementation committee chairman. Rahul Gandhi's *Padayatra* and the first visit to Telangana after Telangana was separated, was handled by me with my money, with my resources. During *Bus Yatra*, we organised 36 public meetings. I co-ordinated seriously so closely monitoring, coordinating with the leaders and I worked like anything. Still, I had a dispute with Uttam Kumar Reddy. I never had a dispute with Revanth. When he became PCC president, the first program in the state was in my own constituency which was very successful. Then immediately after that, there was small

dispute that he has announced another program without my notice. Then I questioned him and there was a quarrel. I was always struggling, struggling, struggling. Then in the meantime, the Bharatiya Janata Party was also pursuing me. Revanth tried his best to stop me, but Uttam did not. When I came out of the party, the Congress lost its deposit.

#### **WORKING IN BJP**

My experience with BJP has been very positive. The party welcomed me with open arms. The party president himself welcomed me into party and I was given significant responsibilities. They gave me election expenses. I contested and won the election with a substantial margin. The BJP leadership has been supportive and approachable and they gave floor leader position and respected me. Party will always have challenges and

and respected me. Party will always have challenges and the All-India high command members are reachable, take advice and take along us. Despite the challenges of being in the Opposition, I feel that the BJP provides a robust structure and a clear vision that aligns with my goals for my constituency and the state. In my six months as BJLP leader, I think I delivered what can be.





#### ARRANGED MARRIAGE AND THREE KIDS

Family is very important to me. It was arranged marriage to Kavitha in 1997 and we have three children. My two daughters completed their education in London. My son is an aspiring cricketer. My elder daughter Shanvitha completed her PG from London, younger daughter Shunitha also did here UG from London. My son Shrunjit played under-14, under-19 and is now at 17 years old. He is preparing for the Ranji trophy. Despite my busy schedule, I always make time for my family and ensure we spend quality time together. I am friendly father but expect discipline. We maintain traditional customs and values at home. We do *puja* every day.

### QUICK BYTES

Favorite colour: My favorite colours are light blue, light pink and light orange. I generally prefer mild, warm colours that are soothing and not too gaudy.

Favourite food: Non-vegetarian food, especially traditional dishes from our region.

Do you listen to music: Not very frequently these days. During my childhood, I used to listen to songs more often. Nowadays, my schedule is quite packed and if I get some free time, I usually spend it engaging in political discussions or spending time with my family.

Any happings or intercepts.

Any hobbies or interests: I enjoy spending time with my family and discussing current affairs.

Sports: In my childhood, I used to play table tennis

Happiest moment: There have been many happy moments in my life. The birth of my children, my marriage and winning my first election were all significant and joyous occasions. I try to find happiness in everyday moments, whether it is spending time with my family or seeing the positive impact of my work on the community.

Saddest moment: Passing of my mother was undoubtedly the saddest moment in my life. It was a difficult time for our family and her absence is deeply felt even today.

Bad habit: My tendency to speak the truth bluntly can be seen as a bad habit. In politics, this can sometimes create challenges.

Your strength: My greatest strength is my commitment to truth and integrity.

How do you prepare for your speeches: I take speech preparation very seriously. I study various books, consult with friends and professionals and focus on current affairs. Being well-prepared with facts and relevant examples is crucial for delivering effective speeches. I always aim to connect with my audience and address their concerns directly.