

Follow us on: @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/dailypioneer

RNI No.APENG/2018/76468

\*LATE CITY VOL. 6 ISSUE 289

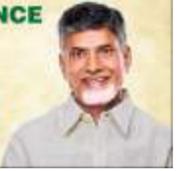
Established 1864

VIJAYAWADA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4



FREEDOM FROM HUNGER ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

₹ 5 PER MEAL



www.dailypioneer.com

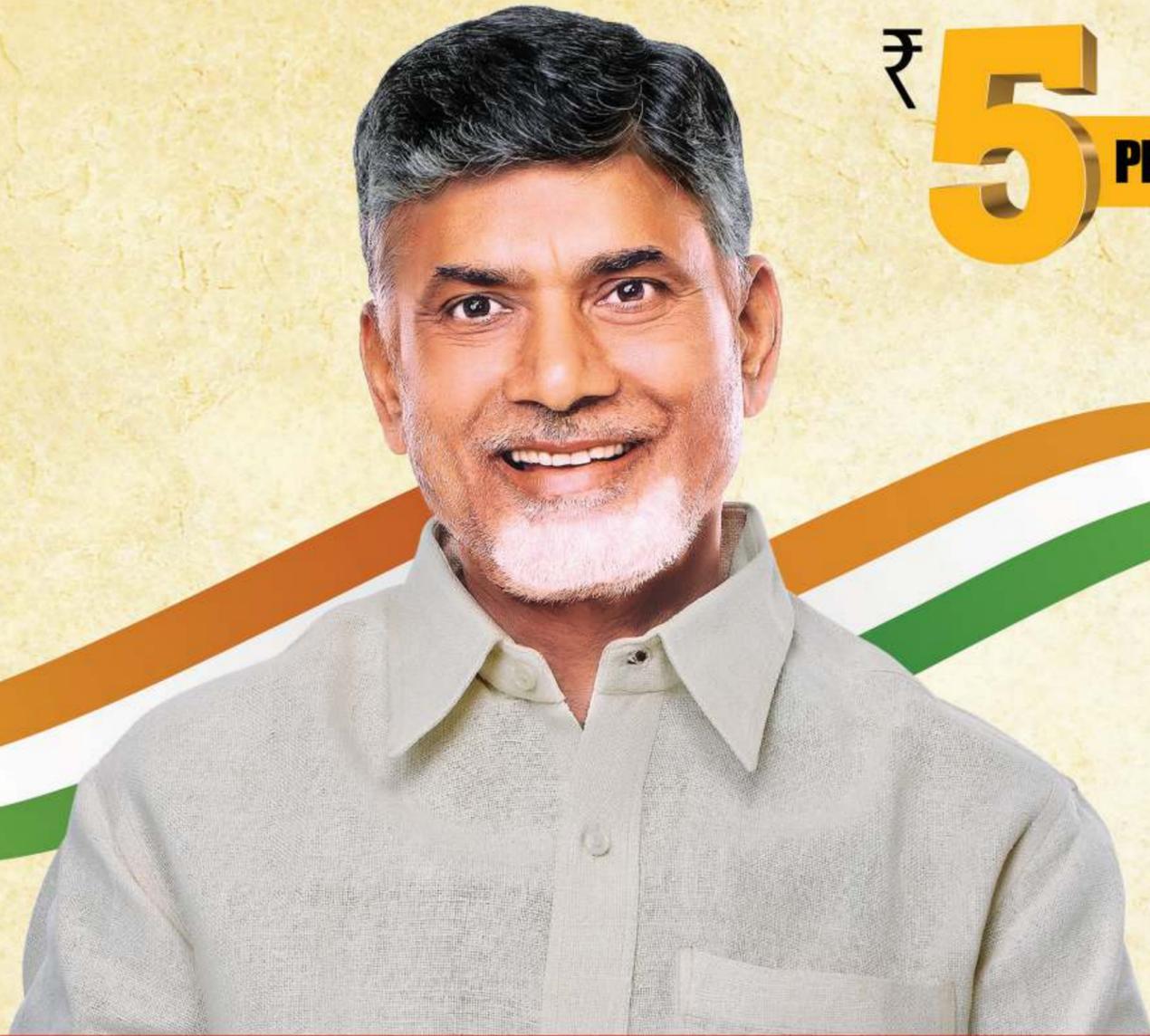
Published From: VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN



# FREEDOM FROM HUNGER ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

## LAUNCH OF 100 ANNA CANTEENS

₹ 5 PER MEAL



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh  
**SRI N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU**

will inaugurate Anna Canteen in Gudivada on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 12:30 pm



Issued by Director, Dept. of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

# A helping hand to girls attending Youth Exchange Programme

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The policy of Minister for Education, Information technology (IT) and Electronics Nara Lokesh is that poverty is not a hindrance for talent. The Minister has been extending a helping hand to various students who gathered at Praja Darbar from all corners of State.

Now, Lokesh has stood solidly by two efficient girls by extending financial assistance to them. The girls have been selected for the Youth Exchange Programme being held in the United States of America. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu gave the girls Rs 1 lakh each and a laptop. The girls, Bandila Suryateja Sri of Jangareddygudem from the Medical Academy of the Dr BR Ambedkar Gurukula IIT at Edupugallu and Natta Pradeepthi from Rajahmundry, are pursuing their intermediate. While thousands of students from the country competed for



the Youth Exchange Programme -- a year-long study tour in the US basically on the culture and traditions of developed nations -- only 30 students from the country, including these two, were selected.

During the Praja Darbar held on Tuesday, Tejasri's mother submitted a memorandum to Lokesh with an appeal to help

them. Subsequently, Lokesh asked both the girls to come to the State Secretariat on Wednesday. Besides congratulating them on their selection to the prestigious programme, financial help was extended to them. The Chief Minister told the girls to tell the whole world about Indian culture and traditions through the Youth

Exchange Programme. He added that the State government will always encourage talent.

Surya Tejasri said that she wants to become an IAS officer to serve the nation and that she considers Chandrababu and Lokesh as inspiration. She also thanked the State government, the Chief Minister and the Minister for Education.

# YS Jagan meets representatives from Yelamanchili, Bheemili

Says significant presence and unity of YSRCP has unnerved Chandrababu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP chief and former chief minister YS Jagan Reddy met ZPTCs and MPTCs from both Yelamanchili and Bheemili constituencies on Thursday. He pointed out that the significant presence and unity of YSRCP has unnerved Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, resulting in TDP's withdrawal from the MLC election.

Addressing the gathering, the former CM highlighted the stark contrast between the current and previous administrations, emphasising how the YSRCP government, during its tenure, delivered on its promises without excuses, even amidst unprecedented challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. He pointed out that the financial crisis depicted by Chandrababu was inherited



Jagan exuded confidence that the people will question TDP's failure to fulfil its promise. He encouraged his party members to remain courageous in the face of adversity, assuring them that if they continue to support the people, they will, in turn, support YSRCP.

by the YSRCP government, which also faced additional burdens due to the pandemic. Despite these difficulties, his administration never shied away from implementing welfare schemes, ensuring that benefits were directly delivered to every household, he stressed.

Jagan stated that the TDP coalition government has failed to deliver on key welfare programs, dismantled crucial educational and healthcare initiatives, and fostered a governance style that is increasingly seen as corrupt and ineffective. He cited specific examples, such as the discontinuation of schemes like Amma Vodi, Rythu Bharosa, and fee reimbursement, as well as the dete-

rioration in law and order, healthcare, agriculture, and education sectors.

He also warned that TDP's failure to fulfil its promises and the resulting discontent among the public will soon reach a point where TDP workers will struggle to face the electorate. "There is growing dissatisfaction among the public with TDP's governance," he said, suggesting that within three months, TDP workers will also face backlash from every household.

Jagan exuded confidence that the people will question TDP's failure to fulfil its promise. He encouraged his party members to remain courageous in the face of adversity, assuring them that if they continue to support the people, they will, in turn, support YSRCP.

# Nara Bhuvaneshwari donates Rs 1 cr to Anna Canteens



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

For the maintenance of Anna Canteens that are being relaunched on Thursday, Nara Bhuvaneshwari, wife of CM Chandrababu Naidu, donated

Rs 1 crore from the NTR Trust.

Bhuvaneshwari handed over the cheque to the Minister for Municipal Administration, P Narayana, at her residence in Undavalli. Fondly recalling

that TDP founder NT Rama Rao's slogan was providing food, clothing and shelter to the poor, Bhuvaneshwari said she is extending her support to this programme which was launched with the inspiration of NTR.

"Providing food at Rs 5 through Anna Canteens is certainly a great initiative," she said, and expressed the hope that the canteens will always help those in need. Bhuvaneshwari thanked the State government which is implementing various welfare programmes to improve the living standards of the poor and wished that more such programmes should be taken up by the rulers.

# Ambati flays State Govt over Anna Canteens

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP has strongly criticised the TDP coalition government for sidelining crucial welfare schemes meant for the poor and instead using Anna Canteens as a distraction.

Speaking at the camp office here on Wednesday, former minister Ambati Rambabu condemned the TDP coalition government's focus on Anna Canteens as a superficial attempt to gain public favor while neglecting essentially welfare schemes that genuinely improve the lives of the poor.

He stated that the TDP government's Super Six promises, which were heavily promoted before the elections, have been conveniently ignored after coming to power and termed them as "Super Cheat". He stated that the TDP coalition administration has failed to deliver on its promises, unlike the previous YSRCP government, which implemented several welfare schemes under the leadership of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

He said that the current government is halting the beneficial schemes and instead focusing on reopening Anna Canteens, which were marred by corruption during the previous TDP regime. He said the TDP gov-



ernment is using Anna Canteens as a publicity stunt, serving meals to just 300 people and making it a grand spectacle. He questioned the purpose of spending Rs 76.22 crore on these canteens, stating that much of the expenditure was inflated, leading to a misappropriation of Rs 53.33 crore, as revealed by an expert committee. Additionally, he criticised the government for painting the canteens in the party's yellow color at the public's expense.

# Attack on Ambedkar statue: YSRCP complains to SC Commission

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A delegation of YSRCP leaders met the National SC Commission in Delhi on Wednesday. The delegation comprising MP M Gurumurthy, former ministers Merugu Nagarjuna, and Adimulapu Suresh, former MP Nandigam Suresh, former MLA Kaile Anil Kumar lodged a complaint with National SC Commission Chairman Kishore Makwana on the attack on the Dr BR Ambedkar statue in Vijayawada.

Speaking to the media after the meeting here on Wednesday, the delegation complained that the government has shown indifference in apprehending and punishing the culprits and that they have no faith in the State government. They demanded that the Central forces provide protection to the statue.

"The attack on Dr BR Ambedkar's statue in Vijayawada on August 8 was a heinous act. The Chandrababu government has shown negligence in apprehending the culprits and taking action. We, the SC representatives of YSRCP, have lodged a complaint with the SC



Commission, and the Chairman has responded positively. Such actions should not be tolerated and that the Ambedkar statue is a national treasure. The Chairman assured us that he would visit the site and take strict action," said MP Dr Gurumurthy.

Former minister Merugu Nagarjuna highlighted that the police failed to file a case despite receiving a memorandum, expressing distrust in the State government. Nagarjuna said Chandrababu Naidu was previously trying to auction the land where the statue stands, suggesting that the current government might be planning to demolish it, and called for Central protection.

Suresh condemned the attack on the Ambedkar statue refuting claims that it was related to an inscription with Jagan's name. He emphasised that the attack was directly on Ambedkar's statue and praised YSRCP's efforts under Jagan's leadership to uplift marginalised communities, including installing Ambedkar's statue in Vijayawada.

Former MP Nandigam Suresh criticised Chandrababu Naidu's lack of concern and recalled TDP members' previous intentions to demolish the statue. MLC Mondithoka Arun Kumar questioned the role of TDP goons in the attack and the failure of security measures. He demanded the immediate arrest of the culprits.

# Do not take action against Vamsi till Aug 20: HC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The AP High Court has ordered not to take any action against former Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi till August 20. A hearing was held in the High Court on Wednesday on the petition filed by Vamsi seeking anticipatory bail in the case of attack on Gannavaram TDP office. The court ordered the police to file a counter on this and adjourned the next hearing to August 20.

The police have increased pace in the investigation of the case in attack on TDP office in Gannavaram in Krishna district. Apart from arresting many people and sending them to remand, former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi was included as Accused 71 and a remand report was submitted to the Gannavaram court. However, there are speculations that he will be arrested in this backdrop.

Vamsi has not visited the constituency after the defeat in the recent elections. On July 7, when he came to his residence in Vijayawada, TDP activists attacked. Police and Central forces intervened and brought the situation under control. Since then, there has been no information about Vamsi's whereabouts.



# Aus Consul-General interested in green energy opportunities

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Silai Zaki, Australian Consul-General in Chennai, and David Eggleston, Australian Deputy Consul-General, had discussions with KVN Chakradhar Babu, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of NRED-CAP and Managing Director of APGENCO, on green energy opportunities in the State on Wednesday.

The VC & MD, NRED-CAP, apprised the Australian Consul General on investment opportunities in the State in the green energy sector including wind power, solar power, pumped storage, and the production of green hydrogen and green

ammonia. Silai Zaki stated that development of a Green Economy is one of the key pillars/priorities of the Australian government. She expressed interest in collaboration and investment in the renewable energy sector in Andhra Pradesh and said that the Australian companies are keen to invest in green hydrogen and green ammonia production in the State.

The Australian Consul-General also visited the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) in Vidyut Soudha and the officials of APTRANSCO and SLDC explained the Grid Operation and Management system being adopted by the AP SLDC.

# Ravi Krishna posted as IG ANTF

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State government has posted senior IPS officer Ake Ravi Krishna as Inspector General of Police, Organisation. He has been directed to take steps for creation of Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) to combat ganja and drug menace. CSNK Prasad issued GO Rt No 1425 posting orders with immediate effect.

Meanwhile, the government has modified the orders issued on August 9 and cancelled the posting orders to IAS officer D Haritha (2018) as Joint Collector and Additional District Magistrate, Ananthapuram district. She was directed to report to the General Administration Department for further posting. To this effect CS NK Prasad issued GO Rt No 1426.

# Boost for mineral-rich states...

Continued from Page 3

He said after the pronouncement of the July 25 verdict, the assessee sought prospective effect of the decision and the matter was listed on July 31 to decide the effect of verdict.

The Centre has opposed the demand of states for refund of royalty levied on mines and minerals since 1989, saying it will impact the citizens and the PSUs will have to empty their coffers by Rs 70,000 crore according to initial estimates. "The submission that the Mineral Area Development Authority Act (MADA July 25 verdict) be given prospective effect is rejected," the bench said and laid down conditionalities for payment of dues by the Centre and mining companies, including Public Sector Undertakings, to the states, "While the states may levy or

renew demands of tax, if any pertaining to Entries 49 and 50 of List II of seventh schedule of the Constitution, in terms of law laid down in the decision of MADA (July 25 verdict). The demand of tax shall not operate on transactions made prior to April 1, 2005," the bench said.

Entry 49 of List II deals with taxes on lands and buildings while Entry 50 deals with taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development. The bench also comprising justices Hrishikesh Roy, Abhay S Oka, Ujj Bhuyana, Manoj Misra, JJB Bhuyana, Satish Chandra Sharma and

Augustine George Masih, said "the time for payment of demand of tax (by states) shall be staggered in instalments over a period of 12 years commencing from April 1, 2026".

The top court directed that the levy of interest and penalty on demands of taxes by states from the Centre and mining companies made before the period of July 25, 2024 shall stand waived for all the assessee.

## TODAY

### ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Dashami:	Aug 14 10:24 AM to Aug 15 10:27 AM
Ekadashi:	Aug 15 10:27 AM to Aug 16 09:39 AM
Nakshatram:	
Jyeshtha:	Aug 14 12:12 PM to Aug 15 12:52 PM
Moola:	Aug 15 12:52 PM to Aug 16 12:43 PM
Rahukalam:	1:54 PM to 3:29 PM
Yamagandam:	6:02 AM to 7:37 AM
Varjyam:	11:08 AM to 12:43 PM
Gulika:	9:11 AM to 10:46 AM
Amritakalam:	None
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:55 AM to 12:45 PM

### VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy  
Temp: 36°C  
Humidity: 69%  
Sunrise: 5:51 AM  
Sunset: 6:32 AM  
Updated: August 14, 2024 5:00 PM

# Goal is Viksit Andhra...

Continued from Page 3

He said that YSRCP is resorting to false propaganda on the sand policy adopted by the government. "The party is trying to sling mud on us though we are supplying sand totally free of cost," he alleged.

"The current regime has only completed 60 days in office," Chandrababu said and expressed concern over the State facing various kinds of problems, including a deep financial crisis. "We are now focusing on resolving these issues," Chandrababu stressed the need for TDP moving forward along with the Jana Sena and the BJP. He made it clear that the Centre is extending its cooperation for the development of the State in all sectors. Pointing out that YSRCP was confined only to 11 seats in the last elections, though it had won 151 seats in 2019, Chandrababu told the party activists that this result clearly indicates how the party ruled the State. "This is the reason why TDP activists should remember that the government should march ahead with the 1995 model," he stated.

# Join 'Har Ghar Tiranga'...

Continued from Page 3

Besides, he directed the collectors to organise Har Ghar Tiranga rallies to inculcate the sense of patriotism among the people and to make them aware of the importance of the national flag.

Neerabh Kumar Prasad directed the district collectors to honour freedom fighters during the Independence Day celebrations on August 15. He also instructed the officials to organise various cultural programmes to instil patriotism in the people during the Independence Day celebrations and the At Home programme. Similarly, selfies and videos with the national flag should be uploaded on <https://hargartiranga.com> by the staff of the village and ward secretariats.

Later, the CS signed the Har Ghar Tiranga canvas. State Tourism Secretary Vinay Chand, collectors of various districts and others attended the virtual meeting.

# Patriotic fervour on show at rally...

Continued from Page 3

This rally, which was held to increase the unity of the country, is beyond caste and religion taking inspiration from the heroes who laid down their lives in the freedom movement and to inspire the present generation."

MP Sivanath said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon everyone to join the Har Ghar Tiranga programme. He said that the sense of nationalism among today's youth has increased. The purpose of the Har Ghar Tiranga programme is not only to develop patriotism, but also to make this generation aware of the free-

dom struggle. MP Sivanath, along with former MLC Buddha Venkanna, former MLA Jali Khan, TD State Commerce Department president Dundi Rakesh, BJP NTR district president Adduri Sriram, TD State leaders Nagul Meera and MS Baig, and thousands of students from various educational institutes and colleges carried the 3,303-foot Tiranga, chanting 'Vande Mataram'.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH PANCHAYATI RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

NIT No. 11 to 26/TO/2024-25 Date: 12-08-2024

Online tenders are invited for 10 Road works with an Estimated Cost of Rs.1409.90 Lakhs under various grants in Krishna District. Bid upload & download starting date: 20.08.2024 onwards. Further details can be seen at e-market place @ [www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in). Ph.6305693265.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dist

8.0.No: 1988/CLAD/VI/2021-22, Dt: 14.08.2024



www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN

**India, Russia focus on reducing non-tariff barriers: Commerce Secy**

**CREATING ESSENCE OF 'ARTH' WITH ROOM FOR 'ART'**

**GV Prakash reveals spending 50 days re-recording music for THANGALAN**

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer  
"Our competition is not with Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka or Tamil Nadu. There is no city like Hyderabad in neighbouring states, and we have no competition with them. We have Hyderabad, ORR, RGI Airport and the environment. "I am happy to share that every business leader and corporate executive we met during our tour expressed a positive outlook towards investing in Telangana, particularly in Hyderabad."  
- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister, TG P5

**DON'T MISS...**

**Make AP a leader in IT, Electronics...**

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed the officials to transform Andhra Pradesh into a startup hub and prepare comprehensive plans in this regard. During a review on IT, Electronics-Communications and RTGS departments held at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the CM suggested taking steps to make the State a leader in the field of IT and electronics in the country. He said various IT companies are showing interest in expanding to second tier cities, and efforts should be made to bring IT companies to the...

-PAGE: 4

**Minister briefed about scope...**

The representatives of drone companies met Minister for R and B BC Janardhan Reddy and explained to him the drone technology, in the secretariat on Wednesday. Manoj, Managing Director of Hyderabad-based WINGS & PROPS Company and Praveen Kumar, CEO of SIDAK Company explained to Minister Janardhan Reddy how drone technology can make work easier. According to the idea of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on drone technology, he explained how drone...

-PAGE: 5

**ASEAN-India Agri fellowship; 50...**

In a move to boost agricultural ties with Southeast Asian nations, the government on Wednesday unveiled the ASEAN-India fellowship programme for higher education in agriculture and allied sciences. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that 50 fellowships will be awarded to students from ASEAN countries over the five years, starting 2024-25. Ten fellowships per year will be awarded for the next five years. It will cover master's degree programmes in...

-PAGE: 8

**India can do a hat-trick of Test...**

India is capable of a hat-trick of Test series triumphs in Australia given the quality of its bowlers and the strong batting lineup that has the likes of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, feels former head coach Ravi Shastri. India have won the last two Test series in Australia and have held onto the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy since the Kangaroos claimed a 2-0 series victory on home soil at the beginning of 2015. "With (Jasprit) Bumrah fit, (Mohammed) Shami fit, you've got Mohammed Siraj there. You've got...

-SPORTS

**Goal is Viksit Andhra**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said that the Tricolour should be hoisted at every house as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. "We are celebrating 78th Independence Day on Thursday and by 2047, we will celebrate the centenary," he said.

"We should not only continue this development, but also take the nation much forward."

The party is trying to sling mud on us though we are supplying sand totally free of cost.

"The current regime has only completed 60 days in office," Chandrababu said and expressed concern over the State facing various kinds of problems, including a deep financial crisis. "We are now focusing on resolving these issues."

Telugus can feel proud as the great Pingali Venkaiah, who had designed the Tricolour, is a Telugu, Chandrababu said that various leaders had taken different steps to develop the nation in a phased manner. "We should not only con-

**Centre, State moving ahead with Vision-2047 Hoist Tricolour at every house: CM**



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu hoisting the Indian Tricolour flag during the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

The CM, during a teleconference with TDP activists, said that the Central and State governments are moving ahead with the goal of Viksit Bharat, Vikasit Andhra Pradesh and Vision-2047. "Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign aims to infuse patriotism in the people, particularly the youth," CM said, and told the party activists to pay rich tributes to the freedom fighters. The TDP chief wanted the party activists to make every one a partner in the development of the nation and an impression be created that all castes, religions and regions are equal. Maintaining that the Telugus can feel proud as the great Pingali Venkaiah, who had designed the Tricolour, is a Telugu, Chandrababu said that various leaders had taken different steps to develop the nation in a phased manner. "We should not only con-

**Join 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign: CS**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the occasion of the completion of 77 years of Independence of the country, Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad called upon all the people across the State to hoist the national flag at every house. He held a video conferencing with district collectors from the Vijayawada CS camp office on Wednesday on the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and issued instructions on the steps to be taken for the success of the programme. The CS said that as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, steps should be taken to hoist the national flag at every home.

Continued on Page 2



A person hoisting the Indian Tricolour flag during the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.



**Govt buildings to be 'solarised'**

**NVVN signs MoU with NREDCAP to instal solar rooftop systems**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is keen to promote solar rooftop systems in the domestic sector and in government institutions under the PM Surya Ghar scheme. The scheme proposes to 'solarise' government buildings in the State to meet the power requirements through solar energy in an environmentally sustainable manner. In this connection, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd., has approached the State government. NVVN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NREDCAP on Wednesday in the presence of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister of Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar.

Babu, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, NREDCAP, were also present.

It is proposed to install 300 MW solar rooftop systems on government buildings in the first phase. NVVN will install the solar rooftop systems and deliver solar power at a levelised tariff, which is uniform for a period of 25 years. It is also the responsibility of the NVVN to operate and maintain the solar rooftop systems for 25 years free of cost.

This way, the government departments will save substantial amounts towards energy bills. The estimated annual savings on implementation of 300 MW solar rooftop systems in government buildings is Rs 118.27 crore. The savings over a period of 25 years is Rs 2,957 crore. The installation of 300 MW solar rooftop systems results in reduction of carbon emissions to an extent of 3.41 lakh metric tonnes per annum or 85.25 lakh metric tonnes over a period of 25 years.

**All cooperative societies should be computerized: DC**

P4



**A day of remembrance as well as of dedication: Governor**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer has greeted the people of the State on Independence Day. "On the occasion of 78th Independence Day, I have great pleasure in conveying my greetings to the people of Andhra Pradesh. Independence Day is a day of remembrance as well as of dedication. Independence is a day of remembrance of all those great freedom fighters, whose sacrifice has paved the way for us today to enjoy the fruits of freedom," the Governor said. "It is a day of rededication to the noble ideals of truth, non-violence, peace, solidarity and brotherhood that inspired our national struggle for freedom. On this auspicious day, let us pledge to rededicate ourselves to the cause of nation building, in the spirit of Viksit Bharat, towards transforming India into a developed nation by 2047, which will mark the 100th year of Independence," he added.

**Patriotic fervour on show at rally carrying massive Tiranga**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A rally carrying a massive 3,303-foot-long Tricolour, taken out in Vijayawada West constituency on Wednesday, spread patriotic fervour in the city. MP Kesineni Shivnath and City West MLA Sujana Chowdary, who led the rally, urged the people to hoist the national flag at their homes as per the call of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. Dundeesh Ganesh Seva Samiti organised the massive Har Ghar Tiranga rally that started from Labour Colony Grounds and proceeded to Panja Centre via Sitara Centre, Chittannagar, KBN College. MP Sivanath said, "As a member of the Parliament of India, I am very happy to participate in the Independence Day celebrations with all of you."

Continued on Page 2



**Vinesh's appeal against Olympic disqualification rejected by CAS**

PNS ■ PARIS

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification from Olympic Games final miss wrestler Vinesh Phogat's application against the United World Wrestling (UWW) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). "The operative part of the August 14 decision, which dismisses Vinesh's application to be awarded a shared silver medal in women's 50 kg category at the Paris Olympic Games has significant implications for her in particular and the sporting community at large," the IOA stated.



In a statement, IOA President PT Usha expressed "shock and disappointment at the decision of the Sole Arbitrator at the CAS to dismiss miss wrestler Vinesh Phogat's application against the United World Wrestling (UWW) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). "The operative part of the August 14 decision, which dismisses Vinesh's application to be awarded a shared silver medal in women's 50 kg category at the Paris Olympic Games has significant implications for her in particular and the sporting community at large," the IOA stated.

**16 IPS officers asked to mark attendance at DGP office**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

DGP Dwarka Tirumala Rao has issued orders to 16 IPS officials, who are waiting for postings, to mark their attendance every day at the DGP office, which came as a rude shock to the officers.

The DGP issued a memorandum to the officers directing them to be present at the office of DGP at 10 am and sign in the attendance register kept in the waiting room.

"The officers should also sign in the attendance register before leaving the office after office hours without fail," he directed in the order dated August 12. However, this



came to light on Wednesday. The DGP also directed the IPS officers to be readily available to attend to any urgent work assigned. The IPS officers in question include DGP-rank officials PSR Anjaneyulu and PV Sunil Kumar, Additional DGP N Sanjay, IGPs Kanthi Rana Tata, G Pala Raju and

K Raghuram Reddy and DIG-rank officials RN Ammi Reddy, Ch Vijaya Rao and Vishal Gunni. The remaining are Superintendents of Police. A few of these officers faced allegations of targeting TDP leaders including party chief Chandrababu Naidu during the YSR Congress party's rule. A week after assuming office, the CM had shunted out the three officials who had allegedly favoured YSRCP.

The officers were attached to the State Police Headquarters in Mangalagiri and instructed to be available there. However, it was found that they were residing in Hyderabad and other locations, not attending the DGP office as required.

**Boost for mineral-rich states**

**SC allows them to seek tax dues on minerals**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major victory for mineral-rich states, the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed them to seek dues from April 1, 2005 on royalty and tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land from the Centre in a staggered period of 12 years.

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the argument for prospective effect of July 25 is rejected. Pronouncing the verdict on behalf of the bench, CJ Chandrachud said by a 8:1 majority, this court had on July 25 answered the questions referred to it and held that legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with states.

**Arrears may be up to Rs 2 lakh cr**

The Supreme Court verdict on mining royalty case will give a further jolt to the Indian mining industry and will have very large financial implications, as arrears may work out to the tune of more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore to Rs 2 lakh crore, industry players said on Wednesday. The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the power of states to levy tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land, and allowed them to seek refund of royalty from April 1, 2005 onwards.

Continued on Page 2

**Nation reverberates with protests**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**DOCTORS DEMAND CHANGES IN LAWS**



last week as doctors, who have long complained about working conditions in India's rundown, overcrowded government hospitals declared a strike bringing elective medical procedures to a standstill.

CBI TEAM BEGINS PROBE

KOLKATA: A 25-member special team of the CBI led by an additional director on Wednesday began its investigation into the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at a state-run hospital in West Bengal as the agency took custody of the key accused, officials said.

A source in the CBI said the agency has filed an FIR under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in New Delhi in connection with the alleged rape and murder of the doctor.

The probe team primarily drawn from special crime unit of the agency and also its local unit immediately swung into action after

reaching Kolkata this morning, taking possession of all the documents from Kolkata Police on the probe done by it so far, the officials said.

The team that also includes a joint director besides medical and forensic experts, and officers having extensive experience in special crime cases visited the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's seminar hall, where the body of the trainee doctor was found on August 9, they said.

The Kolkata Police handed over key suspect Sanjoy Roy to the CBI at the CGO Complex in Kolkata after his medical tests were conducted at the state-run SSKM Hospital.

The CBI team will camp in Kolkata till the case is solved, the officials said. Three groups of CBI officers have been formed to investigate the matter, an official of the central agency said.

# Railway Minister gives nod to Machilipatnam-Repalle rail line

Minister Kollu Ravindra submits representation to Ashwini Vaishnaw

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

"The long-standing demand for the Machilipatnam-Repalle railway line will be fulfilled soon," said Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra. "The Union government will announce good news in this regard shortly. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, has given a nod to construct the new railway line. As a result, the Port City Machilipatnam will be developing as economically and industrially," the Minister added.

As part of his New Delhi tour, Minister Kollu Ravindra met Ashwini Vaishnaw at his residence and submitted a representation to form the new railway line on Wednesday. During the meeting, Kollu Ravindra underlined the importance of the railway line in view of the construction of the Machilipatnam Port and sought the Central government's assistance to complete the project.



Minister Kollu Ravindra explaining the importance of the Machilipatnam-Repalle railway line to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Wednesday

Later, Ravindra released a press statement from New Delhi and provided an update regarding the Machilipatnam-Repalle Railway Line. He announced that the Central government has given nod to the construction of the rail line. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has assured the completion of the project.

Ravindra said that Ashwini Vaishnaw emphasised the Central government's recognition of the significant benefits the railway line will bring to the coastal region. He said it is seen as a crucial infrastructure project that could enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth, particularly in Machilipatnam.

"The Union Minister stated that the Centre plans to complete the Machilipatnam-Repalle line in the first phase. The line will be interlined with Narasapuram in the next phase. Then, it will be more advantageous for Krishna, Guntur, West

Godavari and other districts," he said.

He alleged that the previous YSRCP government neglected the most important railway project. "However, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is giving utmost priority to providing infrastructure facilities. He is giving special focus to the Machilipatnam-Repalle railway line, he said. Moreover, the rail line will be helpful to divert goods transportation towards Machilipatnam instead of Vijayawada," he said.

Minister Ravindra said that the State government is taking the Machilipatnam Port construction seriously. At this stage, the new railway line will be helpful. Especially, fisheries exports will increase, as the State is in the top position in the country in exporting fish products. Additionally, he said the Machilipatnam Port is nearest to the State capital Amaravati and Telangana districts.

# Anitha expresses concern over rising political violence

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In the wake of escalating political violence in Andhra Pradesh, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has expressed profound concern, particularly over the recent brutal murder of Kurnool TDP leader Srinu. Speaking to the media persons on Wednesday, Minister Anitha said "The loss of our leaders to such heinous acts is not just a loss for the TDP but a blow to democracy itself." Minister Anitha highlighted the disturbing trend of political violence, noting that since the TDP alliance assumed power, four political murders have taken place, with three of the victims being leaders from the Telugu Desam Party.

"I have spoken with the Kurnool SP, and I want to assure everyone that those responsible for these crimes will be apprehended and punished according to the law," she declared, sending a clear message of resolve. The Minister also revealed that special teams have been formed to expedite the investigation, and search operations are already underway. She extended her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved



"We will not rest until justice is served, and those responsible are held accountable, no matter who they are." Minister Anitha did not shy away from criticising YCP MLCs, particularly MLC Anantha Babu, who is accused of killing his driver. She questioned why Jagan Mohan Reddy had not demanded Anantha Babu's resignation, stressing the need for leaders to set positive examples.

family, assuring them of the party's unwavering support during this difficult time.

Minister Anitha said: "We will not rest until justice is served, and those responsible are held accountable, no matter who they are." Minister Anitha did not shy away from criticising YCP MLCs, particularly MLC Anantha Babu, who is accused of killing his driver. She questioned why

Jagan Mohan Reddy had not demanded Anantha Babu's resignation, stressing the need for leaders to set positive examples.

Home Minister Anitha praised Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for his visionary leadership. "Under his guidance, Vision 2020 was a success, and now with Vision 2047, we are on the path to making Andhra Pradesh the number one state in the country," she said, reinforcing her commitment to the State's progress and development.

The tense atmosphere in Andhra Pradesh was further inflamed by a related incident involving the murder of former TDP Sarpanch Srinivasulu in Hosur village, Patikonda Mandal. The attackers, believed to be YCP sympathisers, ambushed Srinivasulu as he was preparing to leave the country, blinding him with chili powder before brutally hacking him to death with hunting machetes. Local sources suggest the murder was politically motivated, stemming from the YCP's inability to accept the TDP's overwhelming victory in Hosur during the recent elections.

## Minister Sandhya Rani donates Rs 5 lakh to Anna Canteen



PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Minister of Women and Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare Gummidi Sandhya Rani has announced a contribution of Rs 5 lakh towards the Anna Canteen initiative in Saluru. This commitment was made during the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the canteen, held on the Tahsildar office premises.

The Anna Canteen, with an estimated construction cost of Rs 60 lakh, is set to become a vital resource for those in need. Addressing the gathered crowd, Minister Sandhya Rani underscored the programme's crucial mission to fight hunger and uplift the community. "This initiative represents a substantial step towards alleviating poverty. Our mission is to ensure that no one in our community suffers from hunger," she declared.

In her remarks, Sandhya Rani also acknowledged the foundational efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who had previously emphasised the importance of such programmes at the beginning of his term. "The Chief Minister's vision for feeding

the poor was a top priority when he took office. Regrettably, this essential programme did not receive the focus it deserved over the past five years," she reflected.

The Anna Canteen will provide meals at a minimal cost of Rs 5, making it accessible to the widest possible audience. Sandhya Rani encouraged the public to engage with the initiative by celebrating personal milestones—such as birthdays and anniversaries—by donating food. "We invite everyone to share their special moments with our community by contributing to the Anna Canteen. It's a meaningful way to celebrate and spread joy," she added.

Due to challenges with site identification, the inauguration of the Anna Canteen has been delayed. However, Sandhya Rani assured that efforts are being made to expedite the process and bring the canteen into operation as soon as possible.

The foundation stone-laying ceremony was attended by Municipal Commissioner Prasanna, former MLA Bhanj Deo, and several other officials.

## CM to visit Delhi tomorrow

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will visit the national capital Delhi on August 16. The CM will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 17 and discuss issues like Polavaram project and construction of Amaravati capital. It is learnt that the CM will also discuss special packages for backward districts and other pending issues with Modi.

Chandrababu will submit a representation to the PM on other benefits due to the State. He is also likely to meet other Union Ministers during his visit to Delhi. This will be his third visit to the national capital in two months after taking the reins of the State. The CM will have meetings with other key leaders of the NDA government.

# 'Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra' evokes patriotic spirit

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In a fervent display of patriotism, District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad ignited the spirit of nationalism among citizens at the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra' at RK Beach. Paying homage to India's freedom fighters, Prasad urged the community to emulate their sacrifices and dedication. "Let us remember and honour the sacrifices of those who worked tirelessly for our nation's freedom," Prasad said. "Their dedication should inspire future generations to uphold their values and contribute to our nation."

The Yatra, a part of the ongoing special programme that has been taking place since August 9, witnessed enthusiastic participation from various sectors of society, including district officials, volunteers, social workers, and athletes. The march, marked by chants of "Bharat Mataki Jai" and "Har



Har Ghar Tiranga," aimed to foster a strong sense of national pride. Collector Prasad, along with GVMC Commissioner P

Sampath Kumar and Joint Commissioner of Police K Fakkirappa, inaugurated the Yatra by hoisting the national

flag. A concurrent Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra by hoisting the national flag. A concurrent Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra by hoisting the national flag. A concurrent Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra by hoisting the national flag.

pledges of allegiance.

Highlighting the contributions of freedom fighters like Pingala Venkaiah and Alluri Sitaramaraju, Prasad emphasised the need to strive for their ideals. "We should be inspired by their lives to achieve unparalleled growth in all fields and work towards making India a global superpower," he asserted. Expressing optimism about India's economic prowess as the fourth-largest economy, Prasad encouraged women and youth to strive for financial independence and collective progress. "Unity and courage, like the colours of our national flag, are essential for our nation's advancement."

The event brought together a diverse crowd, including RDO Hussain Saheb, District Tourism Officer Gnanaveni, Social Welfare Department DD Rama Rao, BC Corporation ED Srinivasa Rao, and a host of athletes, students, and tribal women.

# Har Ghar Tiranga rally taken out by officials, MLAs

PNS ■ ELURU

The "Har Ghar Tiranga" rally was inaugurated by public representatives along with Eluru District Collector K Vetri Selvi, District SP K Pratap Shiva Kishore and Joint Collector Dhatri Reddy here on Wednesday. They personally participated by riding motorcycles through the town's streets in the rally.

The officials, wearing helmets, took part in the motorcycle rally, which started from



the indoor auditorium and continued up to the over bridge in Eluru town. In response to the call given

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the "Har Ghar Tiranga" rally was a grand and colorful event in Eluru. The MLAs of Eluru, Unguturu and Kaikaluru along with a host of officials took part in the event.

Collector and District SP emphasized the importance of patriotism among the youth. They noted that India has a large youth population, unlike any other country, and encouraged them to develop a strong sense of national pride.

# GVMC deploys drones to combat mosquito menace

## Drones to be used for spraying Malaria Larval Oil

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In a move to curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has introduced drone technology for spraying Malaria Larval Oil (M.L. Oil) at Yendada Lake in Zone 2. The initiative, personally overseen by GVMC Commissioner P Sampath Kumar, is part of a comprehensive strategy to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds within the city.

"Drones offer a highly effective solution for treating hard-to-reach areas, which is crucial in the fight against diseases like malaria and dengue," said Commissioner Kumar during the operation. He also lauded the Kisan Drone Spraying Service for its pivotal role in reducing mosquito breeding in water bodies.

Beyond the drone operations, Commissioner Kumar's visit to the area included a thorough inspection of the nearby Reduce, Recycle, Reuse (RRR) Centre. He issued specific instructions to Zonal



Commissioner Shailaja Valli, underscoring the importance of maintaining the centre in a manner that truly benefits the

public. "The RRR Centre should serve as a community asset, providing not just recycling services, but also initia-

tives like offering toys made from unusable materials for children," he stated. Commissioner Kumar also

directed engineering officials to inspect the culverts near Yendada Lake to ensure the proper flow of rainwater into the lake. He underscored the importance of enhancing the lake's aesthetic appeal. "We must ensure that the lake remains both functional and attractive, which requires diligent management of rainwater flow and the removal of any encroachments near the area."

To safeguard the area, the Commissioner ordered the immediate construction of a protective wall around the government land adjacent to the Endada RRR Centre. This measure is intended to prevent encroachments and protect the land from unauthorised structures.

The inspection was attended by Additional Commissioner DV Ramanamurthy, Chief Medical Officer Dr Naresh Kumar, AMOH Suresh, and TPO Vishwanath.

# Photo expo marks Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

PNS ■ GUNTUR

A photo exhibition with rare pictures to mark Partition Horrors Remembrance Day was inaugurated by Tenali Sub Collector Prakhar Jain in Tenali on Wednesday. The two-day photo exhibition has been conceptualised and organised by the Guntur Field Office of Central Bureau of Communication at Tenali Railway Station.

Speaking on the occasion, Prakhar Jain said amidst glorious and inspiring sacrifices during the freedom fight, the partition of the Indian subcontinent is a sad episode. He appealed to the public to pay respects to the scores of public who migrated to new shores. Jain appreciated the Central Bureau of Communication Guntur Field Office for organising an educational photo exhibition. He also appealed to the public to utilise the opportunity to know more about the partition through the photo exhibition.



R Ramesh Chandra, Field Publicity Officer of the Field Office of CBC Guntur, said it is important for the younger generations to learn lessons from the partition of the Indian subcontinent on religious lines. He said that religious harmony, respecting different cultures and co-existence are the key in India's progress. To achieve the goal of 'devel-

oped India' by 2047 as the clarion call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is necessary to follow the ethos and philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Tenali Railway Station Manager T Venkata Ramana reminded that India gave equal opportunities to all religions and castes even after the Independence.

# 'Make AP a leader in IT'



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has directed the officials to transform Andhra Pradesh into a startup hub and prepare comprehensive plans in this regard. During a review on IT, Electronics-Communications and RTGS departments held at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the CM suggested taking steps to make the State a leader in the field of IT and electronics in the country. He said various IT companies are showing inter-

est in expanding to second tier cities, and efforts should be made to bring IT companies to the State. He said that with the cooperation of Visakhapatnam IIM, Tirupati IIT and other educational institutions, efforts should be made to identify the startups that are following the best practices across the country and bring them to the State. He directed to identify a suitable area for setting up drone technology and testing parks. An app is to be developed to provide various types of services required for the cit-

izens. He said that Tata company has already created a special app in this regard and is providing better services to some extent. CM Chandrababu Naidu said that SRM is planning to set up an artificial intelligence university and Reliance is planning to set up an artificial-data central university. He said that there is a need to establish a separate department for cyber security in the State.

Minister for Human Resources, IT Electronics and

Communications and RTGS Nara Lokesh said that appropriate measures are being taken to promote the IT sector in the State in all ways. He said that steps are being taken to streamline people's problems under the artificial intelligence system. A comprehensive plan will be prepared on the issues to be taken up for better development in the IT-electronics sector. Additional Secretary Karthikeya Mishra, AP Fibernet MD Dinesh Kumar and other officials attended the meeting.

# Payyavula Keshav lays stone for construction of bridge

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

Minister for Finance Payyavula Keshav laid the foundation stone for the construction of a bridge at Narayanapuram village in Anantapur rural mandal on Wednesday.

The bridge is to be constructed at a cost of Rs 4.79 crore at the village. Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister said that construction of a bridge at Narayanapuram panchayat was a long pending demand. The people of the Narayanapuram village have been yearning for the bridge for the last few decades.

The new government headed by Chandrababu Naidu is constructing the bridge by spending Rs 4.79 crore. "The residents of Narayanapuram village can not go out of the village, if there is heavy rain. If the causeway bridge is constructed, their problem will be resolved," he noted.

"If the bridge is constructed, it will reduce the distance to go to Kotamka and Martadu villages by 11 KMs," the Finance Minister acknowledged.

Anantapur Urban MLA Daggupati Prasad said con-



The bridge is to be constructed at a cost of Rs 4.79 crore at the village. Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister said that construction of a bridge at Narayanapuram panchayat was a long pending demand. The people of the Narayanapuram village have been yearning for the bridge for the last few decades.

structing a bridge at Narayanapuram village had been pending for a few decades. The construction of the bridge would resolve the long pending problem, the MLA said, and thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for releasing funds immediately to construct the bridge. He assured to take up massive development works in Anantapur urban constituency in the coming days.

MP Ambika Lakshminarayan said he had raised the issues of Anantapur district in the Parliament including the modernization of underground drainage system and granting smart city status.

The MP also promised that an airport would be constructed with an objective of exporting horticulture produce to other countries from Anantapur.

# Junior doctors take out rally

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Large number of junior doctors took out a rally here on Wednesday in protest against the brutal murder and rape of a lady doctor in a hospital in Kolkata.

The junior doctors of Sri Venkateswara Medical College took out a rally from the medical college to Balaji colony. They raised slogans denouncing the brutal attack on a lady doctor and murder.

They demanded justice for the bereaved family. Talking to the media, junior doctors union leaders said that they go to Ruia, SIMS, maternity hospitals to attend cases round the clock. They fear that they have no protection.

They cited that a lady doctor was murdered in Kolkata in the night. They demanded that the security around the hospitals should be augmented. In Guntur district, the medical college students of All India Institute Medical Sciences staged a darna at the hospital on Wednesday at Mangalagiri.

They raised slogans condemning the brutal murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata in the seminar hall itself. They demanded rigorous punishment for the perpetrators.

# TDP activist hacked to death

PNS ■ KURNOOL

Telugu Desam party activist and former village Sarpanch was hacked to death on the outskirts of Hosuru village in Patitkonda mandal in the district on Wednesday.

SP Bindu Madhav said that when the deceased Vaketi Srinivasu (45) was going to attend nature's call in the morning, some miscreants waylaid and hacked him to death. Chilli power was seen sprinkled at the place. SP Bindu Madhav and DSP Srinivasa Reddy visited the scene of the offence.

The deceased was said to be a close associate of TDP MLA KE Shyam Babu. He was also former Sarpanch of the village and played an active role in the TDP candidate election victory.

MLA Shyam Babu went to the village and saw the body. He consoled the bereaved family members and assured them of extending all needed help. DSP Srinivasu Reddy said that sniffer dogs were pressed into service for clues. IT Minister and TDP



national General Secretary Nara Lokesh condemned the murder of TDP sympathizer Srinivasu.

The deceased worked for the victory of the TDP candidate in the last elections, he said and suspected that the YSRCP was behind the murder. He promised the bereaved family to stand by and extend all help.

TDP MP B Nagaraju also condemned the murder of

TDP activist Srinivasu. The MP went to the Hosuru village and saw the place where he was murdered. He also consoled the bereaved family members. Talking to the media, MP Nagaraju alleged that unable to digest the landslide victory of the alliance in the last elections, the YSRCP cadres are resorting to such violence acts. He vowed to punish the culprits stragely in the courts.

# Minister briefed about scope for drone hub in AP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The representatives of drone companies met Minister for R and B BC Janardhan Reddy and explained to him the drone technology, in the secretariat on Wednesday.

Manoj, Managing Director of Hyderabad-based WINGS & PROPS Company and Praveen Kumar, CEO of SIDAK Company explained to Minister Janardhan Reddy how drone technology can make work easier. According to the idea of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on drone technology, he explained how drone technology can be useful for various departments of the government sector.

He explained to the minister that with this drone technology, various tasks like agriculture, roads and buildings, irrigation, urban area development, defence, risk management, mining, surveys and mapping, seed ball plantation can be facilitated and better results can be achieved.

He apprised the minister in which fields they have used their technology and achieved good results. The minister was explained the possibilities of setting up a drone hub in AP in the near future and how this would benefit the state.

The minister assured the drone company representatives to discuss the matter with the Chief Minister.



# Couple commit suicide unable to repay debts of their son

PNS ■ NANDYALA

A couple committed suicide by consuming pesticide unable to pay the debts which their son made at Abdullapueram village in Velugodu mandal on Wednesday.

DSP Ramanji Naik said that the deceased couple Maheswar Reddy and Prashanthi had a son Nikeswara Reddy.

Nikeswara Reddy addicted to online gambling including online betting and poker gambling. He borrowed huge money from money lenders

and lost the same in online gambling. The money lenders exerted pressure on the deceased to repay the debts made by their son.

The couple sold their five acres of land and repaid Rs 2 crore debts. Even though some money lenders started exerting

pressure on them to repay their money. Unable to bear the pressure and mental stress, the couple went to their agriculture field and consumed pesticide. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for post-mortem.

# All cooperative societies should be computerised: DC

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector K Vetri Selvi underlined the need of computerizing all 882 cooperative societies in the district.

Cooperative societies' development committee meeting was held here on Wednesday presided over by the Collector. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that the government is taking steps to further bolster the cooperative societies in the state. The government is planning to set up multipurpose cooperative societies, primary fisher societies, and dairy cooperative societies in large numbers

in the next five years in the state.

"There are 882 cooperative societies in Eluru district including Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies, Urban Cooperative Banks, Employee's Cooperative Credit Societies, Dairy Societies and Cooperative Marketing Societies.

The deposits, memberships, loans and investments and other transactions of the cooperative societies should be computerized," the Collector observed. She also emphasized the need of setting up petrol filling stations, paddy godowns, e-Seva centres through primary agriculture

cooperative societies.

She asked the officials to expedite the construction works of multipurpose facilitation centres. She also directed the officials to construct a godown to stock paddy produce and ramps for drying up paddy produce.

The Cooperative Societies would help to create a robust economy, if the societies were strengthened, she noted, adding that the officials should take steps in that direction. Joint Collector P Dhatri Reddy, district cooperative officer Srinivas and DPO T Srinivas and other officials were present.



# Mayor, Dy. Mayor, 8 corporators quit YSRCP, join TDP



PNS ■ ONGOLE

The YSRCP has suffered a major blow in Prakasam district as the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, along with 8 Corporators quit the YSRCP and joined the ruling TDP on Wednesday.

City Mayor Gangada Sujata, Deputy Mayor Vemuri Bujji and 8 Corporators quit the YSRCP and joined the TDP. As

many as 12 YSRCP corporators have already joined the TDP.

Ongole TDP MLA Damacharla Janardhan admitted the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other corporators into the TDP by wrapping the TDP scarves. The TDP has six Corporators in the municipal corporation. With the joining of 22 YSRCP corporators, the TDP strength in the municipal

corporation has gone up to 28. Sources said that 10 more YSRCP corporators are likely to join the TDP soon.

After they joined the TDP, they would meet Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, TDP sources said.

Meanwhile, Mayor Gangada Sujata is a close associate of YSRCP senior leader Balineni Srinivasa Reddy.

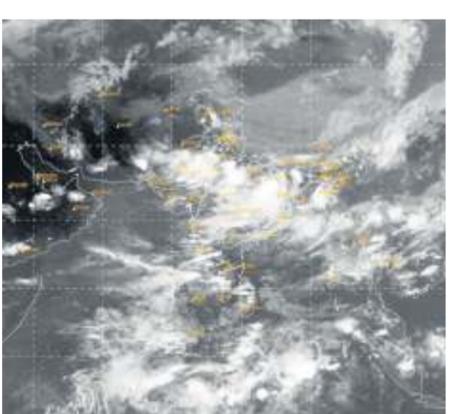
# Heavy rain forecast over Rayalaseema, north coastal AP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The Southwest Monsoon has been normal over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. Under its influence, heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in Rayalaseema during the next five days.

The same situation is likely to prevail in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next 24 hours. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and strong surface winds with speed ranging from 30- 40 Kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.

The Meteorological Centre said on Wednesday that light to moderate rain or thunder-showers is likely to occur at many places or at a few places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next



report added. Tuesday's trough from Rayalaseema to Comorin area now seen from south Telangana to a cyclonic circulation lies over southeast Arabian sea and adjoining Kerala coast and extends up to 1.5 km above mean sea level.

# 'No competition from neighbouring states'

Revanth says TG to be trillion-dollar economy in 10 yrs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy declared that the state's focus is on becoming a trillion-dollar economy in the next decade, asserting that Telangana faces no competition from neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka.

Speaking at the inauguration of Cognizant's new campus in Hyderabad, Revanth emphasized that Telangana's growth trajectory is aimed at competing on a global scale and not merely with other Indian states.

"Our competition is not with Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka or Tamil Nadu. There is no city like Hyderabad in neighbouring states, and we have no competition with them. We have Hyderabad, ORR, RGI Airport and the environment," the Chief Minister said.

He reiterated that Telangana's economic ambitions are aligned with global standards, as the state continues to attract significant investments from international corporations.

Fresh from a 10-day tour of the

United States and South Korea, Revanth highlighted the success of the trip which resulted in Rs 31,500 crore worth investments and over 30,750 new jobs for Telangana.

"I am happy to share that every business leader and corporate executive we met during our tour expressed a positive outlook towards investing in Telangana, particularly in Hyderabad," he said.

The Chief Minister also introduced the concept of "Future State Telangana," outlining plans for the development of three key zones in the state: the core urban area of Hyderabad, a semi-urban manufacturing hub, and rural Telangana outside the Regional Ring Road.

"We will develop some of the best villages in Asia in this rural zone, equipped with all modern amenities," Revanth announced. Assuring full support to Cognizant's expansion plans, Revanth emphasised the importance of Hyderabad's growth as a global IT hub.

"Cognizant holds a special place in Hyderabad, and I promise our full support to its growth," he said. Reflecting on the city's IT journey, he credited former leaders like Rajiv Gandhi, Chandrababu Naidu and YS Rajasekhara Reddy for their contributions to the city's development.

Looking ahead, the Chief Minister announced plans for the development of a new "Future City" in Hyderabad, to be developed alongside Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad.





www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Happy Independence Day

As the proud nation celebrates the 78th Independence day it is time to ponder over the journey so far

As we celebrate 78th Independence Day, the air is filled with pride, nostalgia, and hope. This day is not just a commemoration of freedom from colonial rule but a reflection on the journey that has shaped the country. The path to where we stand today, has been nothing short of a roller coaster-marked by triumphs and challenges. As the nation looks back on its accomplishments, it must also cast its eyes forward, contemplating the road that lies ahead. India's post-independence journey has been a remarkable tale of resilience and growth. From the ashes of partition and the burden of colonial exploitation, the nation emerged with a spirit of unity and determination. The early years were fraught with challenges – economic instability, social unrest, and the monumental task of nation-building. Yet, India persisted. The Green Revolution transformed India from a food-deficient country to a self-sufficient one, while the White Revolution made the country the largest producer of milk. It made great strides in space exploration and reached the moon. The nation also saw the rise of a strong industrial base. However, the road was never smooth. India saw wars, political turmoil, and economic crises. The Emergency period in the mid-1970s was a dark chapter, testing the resilience of its democracy. The 1991 economic liberalisation marked a turning point, propelling India onto the global stage, but it also brought new challenges in the form of inequality and social disparities.



The turn of the millennium saw India making strides in various fields. The IT revolution positioned the country as a global technology hub, while advancements in space exploration and nuclear technology showcased India's scientific prowess. Social progress was evident in the growing emphasis on education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. Landmark legislation such as the Right to Education Act and the decriminalisation of Section 377 reflected the country's commitment to social justice. Yet, there was no dearth of challenges. The rise of communal tensions, growing environmental concerns, and the struggle for inclusivity have reminded the nation that the journey is far from over. The COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent challenge, exposed vulnerabilities but also highlighted India's resilience, as the country emerged as a global leader in vaccine production and distribution. The nation today stands at a crossroads. The country must tackle environmental degradation, and ensure that economic growth is inclusive and sustainable. India's youth, now the largest demographic group, will play a crucial role. We must continue to uphold the democratic values and secular fabric. As the tricolor flutters in the wind this Independence Day, it is a reminder that this was achieved with many sacrifices and efforts on the part of millions of people who make it what it is. The road ahead may be challenging, but it is also filled with possibilities. No country is perfect; it's always a work in progress. But if the people of India commit to making it a shining example for the world, it will become one. Jai Hind!

India's scientific prowess. Social progress was evident in the growing emphasis on education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. Landmark legislation such as the Right to Education Act and the decriminalisation of Section 377 reflected the country's commitment to social justice. Yet, there was no dearth of challenges. The rise of communal tensions, growing environmental concerns, and the struggle for inclusivity have reminded the nation that the journey is far from over. The COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent challenge, exposed vulnerabilities but also highlighted India's resilience, as the country emerged as a global leader in vaccine production and distribution. The nation today stands at a crossroads. The country must tackle environmental degradation, and ensure that economic growth is inclusive and sustainable. India's youth, now the largest demographic group, will play a crucial role. We must continue to uphold the democratic values and secular fabric. As the tricolor flutters in the wind this Independence Day, it is a reminder that this was achieved with many sacrifices and efforts on the part of millions of people who make it what it is. The road ahead may be challenging, but it is also filled with possibilities. No country is perfect; it's always a work in progress. But if the people of India commit to making it a shining example for the world, it will become one. Jai Hind!

### PICTALK



Young students participate in a programme on the eve of Independence Day at a school, in Moradabad, PTI

## Nano technology revolutionises car care

This cutting-edge technology is changing the car detailing process by enhancing protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal of cars

The automotive industry is progressing rapidly, with nanotechnology emerging as a transformative force in redefining car care. This cutting-edge technology is revolutionising the car detailing process and offering unmatched protection, durability, and aesthetic appeal, ushering in an exciting new era for car owners and enthusiasts.



revealing a glossier finish to the car after detailing. **Durability & longevity:** Nanotechnology car care products typically offer extended protection compared to traditional waxes and sealants. It translates to fewer detailing sessions and keeps the car looking its best for longer. **Easier maintenance:** The hydrophobic coatings created by nanoparticles make future washes a breeze. Dirt and grime slide off, requiring less scrubbing and reducing the risk of introducing swirl marks.

While the benefits of nanotechnology in car care are undeniable, it is important to approach its implementation with a clear eye. Not all nano-coated products are created equal, and selecting reputable brands that adhere to stringent quality standards is crucial. Moreover, proper application and maintenance are always vital to maximising the performance and longevity of these treatments. As nanotechnology evolves in the rapidly increasing technology world, there are expected to be even more groundbreaking advancements in the car care industry.

Nanotechnology in car maintenance is based on the atomic and molecular manipulation of matter. Nanoparticles, measured in billionths of a meter, possess extraordinary properties and enhance various aspects of car maintenance. One of the most prominent applications is in the development of nano-ceramic coatings. Nano and regular ceramic coatings are both popular choices for car detailing, but they differ in particle size and composition. Regular ceramic coatings typically consist of micrometre-sized particles, while nano-ceramic coatings utilise particles in the nanometer range. The smaller size of nanoparticles allows for a denser and more uniform coating, improving scratch resistance

and chemical protection. Nanotechnology offers a revolutionary approach to car detailing, providing superior protection and easier maintenance than traditional methods. There are several benefits of nanotechnology in car detailing, such as: **Enhanced protection:** Nanoparticles form a microscopic barrier that shields the car's paint and glass and protects it from UV rays and environmental problems, such as bird droppings, during weather conditions. This results in a long-lasting shine and reduced risk of fading or wear and tear. **Deeper cleaning and glossier finishing:** Nano-formulated polishes and cleaners can penetrate deeper into the car's surface due to the particles' tiny size. It removes dirt and grime more effectively,

As nanotechnology evolves in the rapidly increasing technology world, there are expected to be even more groundbreaking advancements in the car care industry. (The writer is an expert on car care; views are personal)

# The Bangladesh cauldron is boiling

With New Delhi intensifying border controls, the evolving political landscape of Bangladesh is set to influence regional security and diplomacy



KALYANI SHANKAR

The former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, abruptly left her country a week ago, causing immediate concern in her country and the region. According to the BBC, Hasina's family, not security officials, convinced her to leave due to safety concerns. Her son stated, "We begged her to leave as soon as the violent mob arrived." Crowds entered her residence shortly after her escape. Political, social, and economic issues, external involvement, and unhappy political opposition caused the downfall.

India's Foreign Minister, S. Jaishankar, has informed Parliament about her visit to India and the potential impact on India's relationship with Bangladesh. The unrest that led to her departure resulted in around 560 deaths and could strain the relationship between the two countries, potentially impacting regional security and foreign relations. Initially, in her long reign of 15 years, Hasina was perceived as a democratic and secular leader of Bangladesh, overseeing an economic turnaround. However, she later became intolerant and authoritarian, cracking down on media critics and imprisoning opponents. She maintained cordial relationships with Indian leaders, which sparked anti-India protests. Prime Minister Modi mentioned that he had met her ten times last year. The friendship has been mutual, as Begum Hasina also reciprocated by driving out the terrorists who targeted India and allowed concessions for transit facilities. She was the first state guest during the Modi government's third term. India has had a special relationship with Bangladesh since it was born in 1971. After her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh, was assassinated in 1975, Hasina spent six years in India. After that, she shifted to Dhaka to lead the Awami League. The current student protests, which started on July 5 against the 30% reservation for descendants of freedom fighters



and the 56% quota for government positions, have impacted the political situation in Bangladesh. The Hasina government's proposal to expand this quota led to widespread protests and 200 deaths. Bangladesh opposition parties organized a 'long march' to express growing discontent with the government's policies. At the international level, tensions rose between Hasina and the U.S. when her American visa was revoked after she fled the country. The U.S. State Department emphasized the importance of the interim government in establishing long-term peace and political stability in Bangladesh. The U.K. and other countries also took the same stand. The international community is working to support the interim government led by Yunus, who is responsible for restoring normalcy. New Delhi has set up a monitoring committee and increased border control to address the situation. Madam Khaleida Zia and other opposition leaders were released after Hasina's departure. During Khaleida's two terms, Bangladesh-India relations weakened. Her visit to Delhi was also a disaster. Khalida's release may enable her to lead her party, and she stressed the

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS WORKING TO SUPPORT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT LED BY YUNUS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTORING NORMALCY. NEW DELHI HAS SET UP A MONITORING COMMITTEE AND INCREASED BORDER CONTROL TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION

need for a democratic Bangladesh and emphasized peace and unity. Hasina and Khalida's sons are ready to take over their respective parties. The potential returns of these two and the other Opposition leaders could bring significant changes to the political landscape of Bangladesh. According to Hasina's son, she is ready to face any inquiry but has yet to decide on the party's leadership. Meanwhile, Hasina blames the U.S. for her ouster. Her son claims she had no time to resign and is still the Prime Minister. Bangladeshis have protested in front of the White House and the U.K. New Delhi closely monitors the situation, especially concerning border and regional security, as well as the security of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. The Modi government is apprehensive about the safety of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh. Prime Minister Modi has called for the protection of Hindus in Bangladesh after violent incidents targeted them. The Hindu minority also protested on the streets. Bangladesh's economy, which was looking up, is declining due to Hasina's intolerance, violence, unemployment, and inflation. The country relies on India for essential commodities and

infrastructure. India needs to reconsider its Bangladesh policy after the leader's departure. The third issue concerns the porous border between India and Bangladesh, with allegations of Bangladeshi infiltrators and refugees entering India. A friendly Hasina government helped check this problem while Khalida was in denial mode. New Delhi's decision to adopt a wait-and-watch policy is a positive step. The situation depends on the elections' timing and the two Begums' potential return. If new leadership emerges, New Delhi will need to take a stand. To maintain regional peace, India's role in assisting Bangladesh in returning to normalcy is crucial and urgent. A peaceful, stable, and prosperous Bangladesh is in India's best interests. India should do everything to ensure it. The situation is still evolving, and the uncertainty of the future political landscape of Bangladesh is palpable. We will know more once the elections are announced and the plans of the two begums are revealed. The potential return of the dynastic rule adds an element of intrigue to the situation. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### LHAMO'S NEVER SAY DIE SPIRIT

Madam — Kinzang Lhamo of Bhutan may have crossed the finish line last in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics, but she captured the admiration of many with her remarkable tenacity and unwavering determination. Despite battling adverse conditions, Lhamo completed the grueling 26.2-mile course in 3 hours, 52 minutes, and 59 seconds, choosing to persevere rather than quit. Lhamo, embodying the spirit of the "last woman running," sends a powerful message: regardless of the final outcome, we must maximize our capabilities and approach our tasks with a positive, persistent mindset. There is no shame in finishing last if the effort was sincere and wholehearted.

Bhutan has already gifted the world with its unique concept of Gross National Happiness, which measures progress through health, education, and environmental parameters rather than traditional economic metrics. The country has also demonstrated the essence of democracy by having its Royals voluntarily relinquish power to allow for a citizen-led government through free and fair elections. Now, Kinzang Lhamo emerges as Bhutan's latest treasure. At just 26 years old, she has a promising future ahead. With more experience and exposure, Lhamo is poised to elevate Bhutan's presence on the international stage. Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

#### PARIS OLYMPICS COME TO A CLOSE

Madam — The 2024 Paris Olympics have concluded, with India securing a total of six medals: five bronze and one silver. Despite its status as the world's most populous nation, with a staggering 1,450,935,791 people, India's medal haul, though commendable, highlights a larger issue. The United States led the medal tally with 126 medals, including 40 gold, while China followed with 91 medals and Japan with 45. These countries, despite their smaller populations compared to India, have achieved greater success by investing uniformly in a wide range of sports. In

#### Har ghar tiranga!



The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative has sparked a nationwide movement, awakening the spirit of patriotism across the country. This campaign has united people from every corner of India, creating an atmosphere

of pride and respect for the national flag. It fosters a deep sense of unity and encourages active participation, bringing neighbors and fellow citizens together. By embracing this movement, people are enhancing their understanding of the significance and values embodied by the Indian flag.

The campaign has revolutionized the nation's ideology, symbolizing our independence, pride, and commitment to a developed India (Viksit Bharat). It underscores India's rise as a global power, moving swiftly from a nation once seen as economically challenged to one poised to become the third-largest superpower in the world. As citizens, we are reminded of our duty to uphold the guiding principles enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy, the Preamble, and the Constitution of India. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

India, cricket is often considered a religion, overshadowing other sports. This narrow focus, compounded by political shortsightedness, has hindered the growth and encouragement of athletic talent across other disciplines. A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

#### WAYANAD TRAGEDY COULD BE AVERTED

Madam — The picturesque Wayanad, a hilly district located in the Western Ghats Mountain range in Kerala, is prone to landslides during heavy rains. In Kerala's history, the landslide that occurred recently there and claimed over 400 lives was the deadliest. According to the Geological Survey of India half of Kerala's land area is vulnerable to landslides. Wayanad region has had many tea and coffee plantations. The first landslide occurred in an uninhabited forest area with no access road. The torrent of water carrying mud and boulders swept away or buried the villages of Panchirimattam, Mundakkai and Chooralmala, and wreaked havoc in Meppadi, Attamala and Kunhome.

Mundakkai is a village located more than a kilometre down from the hill that slid first. Chooralmala caved in under the pressure of gushing water from the first landslide and heavy downpour. Irunjipuzha river split into two raging streams and wreaked havoc along its path. When it comes to discussing the early warning of rainfall, the less said, the better. On July 24, the Agricultural Meteorological Division of the Indian Meteorological Department issued a forecast for Wayanad that predicted only 15 mm rainfall, the day when landslides occurred. Mundakkai, where the landslide hit Wayanad first, got 572 mm of rainfall within 48 hours. However, it shouldn't be overlooked that the Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, an NGO specializing in weather patterns of Wayanad with a network of more than 200 weather monitoring units, had warned of possible landslides two days before the landslide happened. Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### THE DIVINE PARENTAL ROLE

Unlike parents, whose guidance can be flawed, God encompasses all wisdom, power and impartiality



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

The following verse will shed light on this, which is, "You alone are my mother; You alone are my father; You alone are my relative and You alone are my friend; You alone are my knowledge and You alone are my wealth; O Lord of all Lords, You alone are my everything." In verse #7.19 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, Lord Krishna states, "After efforts of many births, a yogi in the end becomes wise, and he takes My shelter. A great soul, who considers Lord Vasudeva thus as everything is very rare." The answer, therefore, is: that God is very much more than a mother or father can ever be. These entities, i.e., a mother or a father have severe limitations. Their knowledge is very limited. They don't know the Big Picture.

Far from it, they may guide their children wrongly. On the other hand, God is omniscient. He knows past, present and future also. Lord Krishna informs us what He can do. "By being specially kind, I, situated within, destroy the darkness, born of ignorance, by the shining lamp of knowledge." (10.11) Then, a parent has limited resources that he or she can give to his or her children, whereas God has all the opulence in full. Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame informs, "Where there is yogeshwara Shri Krishna, and where there is a soul linked to Him, there will be opulences ('soubhagya'), victory (success), wealth, and morality." (18.78) A parent can help only in a limited way. Suppose his or her child is unwell. What can he or she do besides arranging medical facilities and taking care of the best way possible?



A good parent prays additionally for the rapid cure of the child. Because Only God has the power to help us get out of the trouble we get into quickly (18.53); only God has the power to forgive. Parents can be whimsical in their decision-making. They can be partial in dealing with their children; it is natural, but God is always impartial. Lord Krishna states, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings, no one is hateful for Me, and no one is dear; that is God has no preconceived and prejudiced notion towards anyone." (9.29) Many parents are poor role models. They lie but expect their children to be truthful.

What has God instructed us to do? "Whatever a superior person does, other people follow that only. Whatever standard he establishes a common man tries to emulate that." (3.21) What does God do? He always goes by dharma. God is so strict about dharma that He incarnates to reestablish it if it becomes weak. (4.7) Additionally, God is always engaged in doing duties, Lord Krishna says, "I am always carefully engaged in action, because men follow My lead in all respects." (3.34) For parents, only their children are their own, but for God, all souls are His parts. (15.7) He has to consider all of them in all His actions. God is very compassionate towards all of them. Lord Krishna confirms, "I am a well-wisher of all living entities."

Our children are forever competing against children of other parents, but for God, all children are His parts and must be dealt with fairly. That is the reason our selfish prayers are not answered. Many parents do not consult their children about their future and try to impose their desires on them. God has forbidden this, when He stated, "Svadharmā (duty) of all souls are according to what their natures are." "The four divisions of the human society, based on qualities and activities, have been created by Me." (4.21)

One can excel in whatever suits one's nature because it comes naturally. What is the message? God is a parent alright but not in a conventional way. He only takes charge of those souls, who take His shelter. Parents should also try to be self-supporting to the end by taking active shelter from God; He will take care. Is God not responsible for keeping the Creation going? Is it not our responsibility as parents to do ours? I take mine towards my descendants very seriously.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

# Water crisis and the battle for resources



B K SINGH

As the world grapples with the escalating effects of climate change, the urgent need to rethink our approach to water management becomes ever more pressing

Whenever we face drought and heat waves we are reminded to take a relook at efficiency of water management. More than one-fourth of the global population, nearly 2.2 billion people do not have proper access to clean drinking water. United Nations (UN)'s goal in this regard is to provide clean drinking water and sanitation for all by 2030. UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation (UN-Water) sets the theme every year. This year's theme was "Leveraging Water for Peace". Air and water are important to sustain life on Earth. The conflicts between the countries, between the states and within society arise when we have to share water for crop irrigation, household purposes, industrial uses and power generation.

The conflict gets often aggravated especially when the availability of water becomes scarce during the pinch period. Treaties between the countries have resolved the disputes. Different forums are also available for the resolution of conflicts at international and national levels. India has 25 major river basins with most rivers flowing across the states. There is the Interstate Water Dispute Act, of 1956 for resolving disputes in the use, control and distribution of river and river valleys. The disputes are continuing challenges to federal water governance in the country. To resolve the disputes, there are water dispute tribunals in India namely the Ravi and Beas Water Tribunal, Vansadhara water dispute tribunal, Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal, Mahanadi water dispute tribunal, Krishna water dispute tribunal and Cauvery dispute tribunal etc.

The sharing of water of the Cauvery River has been the source of serious conflict between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In 2018, the tribunal awarded Karnataka to annually release 192 tmc of water in ten equal monthly instalments to Tamil Nadu. 2023-24 was El Nino (Spanish word meaning little boy) year and there has been a deficit in rainfall in the catchment of the river from July 2023 onwards. As a result, the reservoirs were half empty and it became difficult for Karnataka to follow the orders of the tribunal.

Two states started a blame game till early July 2024 when there were good rains in the Cauvery catchment in the latter part of July. As nature was kind, the dispute was resolved and the blame game stopped. The prolonged dispute between the states for sharing water is always traced back to destruction as well as poor maintenance of the catchment of the river and unfavourable weather conditions like El Nino. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that El Nino, a climate pattern associated with the warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean has impacted the monsoon causing below-normal rainfall last year, has gradually weakened.

This has been one of the five strongest El Nino on record but remained weaker than 1997-98 and 2015-16. "El Nino typically has the greatest impact on global climate in the second year of its development - in this instance 2024," WMO said. This impact has led to above normal temperature in India till June 2024. WMO further added that there is a chance of La Nina (Spanish word meaning little girl) developing later in the year. La Nina is a climate pattern associated with periodic cooling off the ocean sur-



face temperature and brings normal rains in the region. Western World, Canada and the US are experiencing heat wave conditions even in August this year. The underground water table receded during summer. There has been a public hue and cry in many places in central and peninsular India to access potable water for household needs. The Government and Civic agencies are facing the challenge. Karnataka is one such state where there was an acute drinking water problem in the summer.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the district administration to establish a helpline and control room to enable the public to register grievances and supply water in tankers to all affected areas. He also directed to tender the work of digging more bore wells to tap underground water for public emergencies. Bengaluru too faced a water shortage. Water supply to the city comes through the pipeline from the Cauvery River located 100 km away. The water has also to be pumped up at many intermediate locations to achieve an altitude of 1 km, where the city is. The arrangements have been made to supply water in tankers from adjoining towns.

Water supply to high-rise apartments was also reduced. Residents used disposable cutlery and wet wipes to ration their water consumption. It will generate more waste and agencies may have to step up the disposal. They have also banned vehicle washing and swimming pool activities. Deepening of the bore wells is another environmental challenge. Every time the groundwater level recedes, we go for the deepening. Is it environmentally sustainable? Recharging the ground through rain harvesting structures has to be adhered to by each Government continuously. Rivers originating from the Himalayas are snow-fed and satisfy the water needs of the people, especially in the northern belt of the

country from west to east. Rivers in the central Indian landscape and peninsular India originate from forests.

Often big rivers originate from the same place and flow in different directions. Johila, Narvada and Son originate from Amarkantak and flow in different directions. Five rivers namely Koyana, Krishna, Venna, Savitri and Gayatri originate from Mahabaleshwar near Pune. Several important rivers like Tungbhadra and Cauvery also originate from the Western Ghats. Apart from providing drinking water to several villages and towns, there are numerous irrigation and power projects located on these rivers. Life is fully dependent on these rivers and except the Himalayan Rivers all others originate from forests. Let us be clear that water is not produced by forests, yet the rivers originate there. Forests are the mothers of rivers and are systems to conserve rainwater in the subsoil and the roots of the trees.

The river source provides a small volume of water trickling from the roots of each of the millions of trees on undulating hills around. As it forms the stream and the flow of water proceeds under gravity, many more such streams join to increase the volume of water. Sometimes bigger streams or even rivers also join to increase the volume of flowing water in the river. The water in the streams is nothing but rainwater. During the monsoon substantial quantity of water is absorbed by the earth charging the underground aquifers and some portion of it is retained in the subsoil and roots of the trees.

The roots hold the water like a sponge and continuously release it during warm weather, making the streams perennial. While traversing in the forests we come across several perennial streams even in summer months when there is no rainfall. Every stream has a catchment and if it is a forested catchment, the

stream would be perennial in the non-rainy season, or else it would be a seasonal stream flowing on rainy days. Forests play a significant role in conserving water and making the streams perennial. Further, the streams flowing out of forested catchment would always carry cleaner water without even soil particles in it.

On the contrary, streams flowing through areas dominated by human activities would be muddy and mixed with chemicals and sewage. Further, the rainwater carries a lot of soil and the reservoirs get silted up losing their water holding capacity.

Reservoirs located closer to forested areas have a longer life. Maintenance engineers have a difficult time in de-silting reservoirs receiving water from human areas. The rainfall pattern and distribution not only depends upon weather conditions and the direction of wind but also depends upon the density and distribution of forests on land. The pledge we must take is to preserve and conserve natural forests. Forests also play a vital role in the maintenance of the water cycle. More than two years ago, on the sidelines of COP 26 at Glasgow, leaders holding 90% of forests on the planet had pledged to end deforestation by 2030.

Of course, India did not sign this pledge. Two more COP meetings have taken place since then, but the issue has not been reviewed by those who pledged. On the contrary, there are reports suggesting that natural forests are being lost at an alarming rate unprecedented warming has also taken its toll and forest fires have remained uncontrolled for months in the US, Canada, European countries, Russia, China, Brazil, and Australia. If we don't save our forests, the perennial water streams will become seasonal.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests, Karnataka; views are personal)



FORESTS PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CONSERVING WATER AND MAKING THE STREAMS PERENNIAL. FURTHER, THE STREAMS FLOWING OUT OF FORESTED CATCHMENT WOULD ALWAYS CARRY CLEANER WATER

# The perils of blind faith and the rise of India's fraudulent godmen

While India has a rich tradition of genuine spiritual leaders, the influence of these charlatans has surged, fueled by politics and societal insecurities

The Mundaka Upanishad warns of the dangers posed by those who, though ignorant, present themselves as wise. The verse (1.2.8) loosely translates to, "Living in the midst of ignorance and considering themselves wise, fools think of themselves as learned. They wander around, bewildered, like blind men led by the blind." This verse serves as a caution against self-proclaimed spiritual gurus who mislead others. India has long been a land of genuine spiritual gurus who have guided millions, providing a path for the masses to follow. However, times have changed. Today, genuine spiritual leaders are often overshadowed by flashy godmen, or "babas," who frequently



PRABHA GUPTA

deceive people for personal gain. This trend has become particularly dangerous when combined with the politics of numbers, creating a powerful politico-religious phenomenon. These so-called babas often become demigods with political leaders as their disciples, wielding immense power and wealth, even though they claim to have renounced it. A recent incident in Hathras

highlights the tragic consequences of such influence. Over 150 people, mostly women from poor Dalit families, were killed in a stampede during a satsang by Bhole Baba, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari. Baba, a former policeman who retired 28 years ago amid rape allegations, had attracted around 150,000 people to the event, despite only 80,000 being allowed. The stampede occurred when the crowd rushed to collect soil believed to have healing powers after Baba's departure. His popularity and wealth have only grown, despite such tragedies. While some of his followers were arrested, Bhole Baba himself was not named in the FIR, and his ashrams remain untouched by authorities.

And he is not alone. Many others are doing just that. A couple of years back a proclaimed babu gave unique recipe for peoples woes: keep 500 rupees in your wallet for prosperity, keep your spouse photo for better relationship and so on. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan ran schools for girls in which they had to eat rose petals as prasadam on which he walked. Figures like Asaram Babu and Gurmeet Ram Rahim Insan are serving prison sentences for serious crimes. The number and influence of such godmen have grown, partly due to the rise of religious politics. This trend is mirrored globally, though it is particularly pronounced in India. The following of these god-



men often stems from the insecurity and faith of their followers, who may feel abandoned by both God and the system. This combination distances them from rational thinking. In countries with less economic and social insecurity, the influence of religion tends to wane, but not entirely. In the United States, faith

healers or Televangelists wield significant influence over their followers, claiming to cure people in the name of Jesus Christ. While the number of those cured remains questionable, these healers amass enormous wealth, owning Caribbean islands and flying in private jets. Addressing the influence of these Babas is a significant challenge. The Indian Constitution's Article 51A emphasises the duty of citizens to develop a scientific temper and humanism, which these fake godmen often ignore. While organizations like the Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti in Maharashtra work to expose fraudulent practices, activists like Dr. Narendra Dabholkar have paid the ultimate price,

allegedly at the hands of conservative groups like Sanatan Sanstha. Similar forces were responsible for the deaths of Govind Pansare, Gauri Lankesh, and Professor Kalburgi. Following Dr Dabholkar's murder, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a law against superstition and miracle cures. To curb the influence of fake godmen, a combination of education, awareness, and strong legal frameworks is essential. Promoting critical thinking and spiritual education can empower individuals to discern genuine spiritual guidance from deception. Educational institutions, community programs, and media can play a crucial role in spreading awareness about

the characteristics of false gurus and the dangers of blind faith. Encouraging open discussions about spirituality and ethics can help people recognise the difference between authentic spiritual leaders and charlatans. Additionally, it is crucial to strengthen laws and regulations to hold fraudulent godmen accountable. Publicising such cases can also serve as a warning to potential victims. Ultimately, by encouraging critical inquiry, supporting victims, and ensuring justice, society can reduce the influence of fake godmen and safeguard the integrity of spiritual practices.

(The writer is a freelance writer, social activist and business coach; views expressed are personal)

IN BRIEF



SpiceJet Q1 profit falls 27 pc to Rs 150 crore

SpiceJet, which is looking to raise funds, on Wednesday posted a 27 per cent decline in standalone profit at Rs 149.96 crore in the three months ended June compared to the year-ago period. The budget carrier had a standalone profit of Rs 204.56 crore in the June 2023 quarter. The profit is higher compared to three months ended March this year when the amount stood at Rs 118.99 crore. According to a regulatory filing, SpiceJet's total income declined to Rs 2,067.21 crore in the first quarter of the current financial year as against Rs 2,268.06 crore recorded in the same period a year ago. In the latest June quarter, the carrier's total expenses fell to Rs 1,917.25 crore compared to Rs 2,063.49 crore in the year-ago period. As per a release, the operating profit in the first quarter of this fiscal rose 27 per cent to Rs 393 crore as against Rs 310 crore reported in the 2024 March quarter.



Gold rises Rs 300 per 10 g; silver declines Rs 300

Gold prices rose Rs 300 to Rs 73,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid a jump in precious metal rates in the international markets. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had ended at Rs 72,850 per 10 grams in the previous session on Tuesday. However, silver prices declined by Rs 300 to Rs 83,200 per kilogram from Rs 83,500 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarata Association. Extending gains for the third straight session, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity climbed by Rs 300 each to Rs 73,150 and Rs 72,800 per 10 grams, respectively. Traders said gold prices saw an uptrend due to a rise in domestic demand as well as global influences. Globally, Comex gold is trading at USD 2,512.30 per ounce, up by USD 4.50 per ounce. Comex gold consolidated near record highs, closing higher for the fifth consecutive session, buoyed by a weaker dollar



FinMin exempts UIDAI from payment of income tax

The finance ministry has exempted the income of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) from payment of income tax for five years till fiscal 2027-28. Accordingly, grants/subsidies received from the central government; fees/subscriptions, including RTI fee, tender fee, sale of scrap, PVC card; authentication, enrolment and updation service charges received; term/fixed deposits; and interest on bank deposits earned by UIDAI would be exempt from income tax. A notification to this effect was issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Ministry of Finance. This notification shall be applicable for assessment year 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029, it added. UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, to ensure compliance with Aadhaar Act, and make regulations & rules consistent with the Act.

India, Russia focus on reducing non-tariff barriers: Commerce Secy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Russia are discussing holding trade in local currencies and reducing non-tariff barriers by Moscow to boost the bilateral trade, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Wednesday. The secretary raised these issues during his meetings with Russian Minister for Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov; Russia's Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Alexey Gruzdev; Head of FSVPS (Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision) Sergei Dankvert of the Russian Federation last month.

"We discussed a lot of issues to improve trade between India and Russia. We also discussed how to facilitate rupee-rouble trade, how non-tariff measures are impacting our trade and how they should be reduced," he told reporters here.



He added that Russia has started working to cut the barriers. Indian export sectors such as meat and pharma face issues in Russia.

India, Barthwal said, also discussed diversification of trade beyond petroleum prod-

ucts. "The rupee-rouble trade will also be affected only when there is more balance of trade," he said adding that over 53 vostro accounts have been opened.

The meetings with Russia hold significance as both countries look to increase the bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030.

India is focussing on various sectors like electronics, besides taking up issues of non-trade barriers in areas like shrimp and pharma, to boost exports to sanction-hit Russia and move towards achieving this target.

At present, the bilateral trade stands at about USD 67 billion.

India's exports to Russia stood at USD 4.3 billion in 2023-24 while imports were USD 61.4 billion, driven by crude oil. Trade deficit was USD 57.1 billion. The share of crude oil and petroleum products in imports was 88 per cent.

IndiGo inducts 77 female pilots to mark I-Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Wednesday inducted 77 female pilots for its Airbus and ATR planes to celebrate 77 years of the country's independence.

With the latest induction, the carrier has more than 800 female pilots.

The induction of 72 female pilots for the Airbus fleet and 5 for the ATR fleet to celebrate 77 years of the country's independence marks a milestone, the airline said in a release.

The airline has around 14 per cent women pilots compared to a global average of 7-9 per cent women pilots in the workforce, it added.

Captain Ashim Mitra, Senior Vice President of Flight Operations at IndiGo, said the airline has always promoted a workplace that thrives on diversity and inclusivity.

Sensex rises 150 pts on rebound in IT shares

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its two-day losing streak, benchmark BSE Sensex closed higher by 150 points on Wednesday following a rally in IT stocks amid a surge in the US markets on renewed hopes of a rate cut by the Fed in September.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 149.85 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 79,105.88 with half of its constituents ending higher. During the day, it gained 272.91 points or 0.34 per cent to hit a high of 79,228.94.

The NSE Nifty closed marginally up by 4.75 points or 0.02 per cent at 24,143.75. As many 26 Nifty shares closed lower while 24 advanced.



"The domestic market traded within a narrow range; even as global markets saw a positive turnaround. The IT index edged up, reflecting optimism for improved US CPI data expected later today, which could increase the scope of a loose monetary policy from the Fed," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services rose the most by 2.3 per cent. HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, Power Grid and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards.

Mining shares declined after the Supreme Court rejected the Centre's plea for prospective effect of its July 25 verdict, which upheld the power of states to levy tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land, and allowed them to seek a refund of royalty from April 1, 2005 onwards.



'Cloud adoption outpacing AI adoption; investments on rise'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cloud adoption in India is surpassing artificial intelligence adoption as more than half of the organisations surveyed plan to increase investment in cloud, IT major Wipro said in a report.

The Pulse of Cloud: Quarterly Report July 2024 by Wipro FullStride Cloud drew insights from over 500 senior executives and decision-makers at medium large-scale enterprises across North America, the UK, Germany, France and Switzerland between May and June 2024.

"A majority of organisations (55 per cent) report that their cloud adoption is ahead of their AI adoption, while 35 per cent say they are moving at the same pace with both technologies.

"54 per cent of organisations plan to increase hybrid cloud investment and 56 per cent plan to increase investment in



public cloud," the report said. Only 10 per cent of the respondents surveyed reported that their AI adoption is outpacing the cloud.

"At Wipro, we see cloud economics as an intelligent management strategy that can better manage costs as Generative AI inevitably pushes spending higher," said Jo Debecker, Managing Partner and Global Head, Wipro FullStride Cloud.

AI/GenAI applications (54 per cent) were the top reported drivers of cloud invest-

ment, followed by extended cloud infrastructure (47 per cent), and increasing data demands (43 per cent).

"The emergence of AI/GenAI as the top driver reflects the growing importance of these technologies across industries. AI requires significant cloud computing resources and data, so organisations with established cloud infrastructure are better positioned to rapidly adopt and implement AI solutions," the report said.

Foxconn Chairman meets PM, discusses India investment plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The chairman of iPhone contract manufacturer Foxconn, Young Liu, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and discussed the company's investment plan in India.

"Wonderful to meet Mr. Young Liu, the Chairman of Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn). I highlighted the wonderful opportunities India offers in futuristic sectors. We also had excellent discussions on their investment plans in India in states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh," Modi said in a post on social media platform X.



MTNL board approves 10-year service pact with BSNL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The MTNL board has approved a service agreement with BSNL for a period of ten years, and also a slew of other proposals, including share-sale in overseas subsidiary Mahanagar Telephone (Mauritius).

The board, during its meeting, has also approved sale of shares of MTNL in MTNL STPI IT Services Ltd or MSITS, according to regulatory filing by MTNL.

The board "accorded its approval to enter into a service agreement between BSNL and MTNL for a period of 10 years or unless it is revoked earlier by giving a notice of six months or extended by mutual consent between the parties, subject to approval of the said service agreement by Department of Telecom / Ministry of Company Affairs," it said.

ASEAN-India Agri fellowship; 50 slots up for grabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to boost agricultural ties with Southeast Asian nations, the government on Wednesday unveiled the ASEAN-India fellowship programme for higher education in agriculture and allied sciences.

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that 50 fellowships will be awarded to students from ASEAN countries over the five years, starting 2024-25.

Ten fellowships per year will be awarded for the next five years. It will cover master's degree programmes in agriculture and allied sectors, and August 27 is the deadline for the first batch.

The initiative, funded by

the ASEAN-India Fund, will cover admission fees, living expenses and incidentals for selected students.

Chouhan emphasised the "immense possibilities" for agricultural cooperation, citing similar agro-climatic zones between India and ASEAN nations.

He noted the programme would address the current lack of opportunities for young researchers to tackle common agricultural challenges.

"This will promote the development of a pool of expert human resources in ASEAN for the growth of agriculture and allied sciences," Chouhan said.

The minister highlighted India's globally recognised agricultural research facilities,



which already attract international students. The new fellowship aims to expose ASEAN students to cutting-edge research at top Indian agricultural universities.

India's existing international

programmes include the Netaji Subhas Fellowship and India-Africa Fellowship. Currently, about 135 foreign students are pursuing degrees at Indian agricultural institutions.

The launch event saw partic-

ipation from Ministers of State for Agriculture Ramnath Thakur and Bhagirath Choudhary, along with the Philippines' Ambassador to India and ASEAN coordinator Josef F Ignacio.

'Spectre of retrospective taxation hangs again'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) member Shamika Ravi on Wednesday said the "spectre of retrospective taxation" is once again hanging on India, with the Supreme Court permitting states to collect royalty and tax dues on mining undertaken from April 2005.

The Supreme Court has allowed states to recover royalty and tax dues on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands worth thousands of crore of rupees since April 1, 2005, from the Centre and mining companies.

"The spectre of

#RetrospectiveTaxation hangs once again on India, as the #SupremeCourt allows States to collect past dues in the form of royalty and tax on mining from April 2005 (!). Laws must protect against expropriation of property by individuals as well as by the state," Ravi said on X.

In a majority 8:1 verdict on July 25, the top court ruled that the legislative power to tax mineral rights vests in states and not Parliament. Pronouncing a related judgement on behalf of the nine-judge constitution bench, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud rejected the arguments of the Centre and mining companies, including Public Sector

Undertakings (PSU), for operationalising the July 25 verdict with prospective effect. As per the judgement, arrears will have to be recovered from the Centre and mining companies over a period of 12 years. According to industry estimates, the total arrears may work out to the tune of Rs 1.5-2 lakh crore, since April 2005. During a hearing on the issue on July 31, the Centre had opposed the demand of states for a refund of royalty levied on mines and minerals since 1989, saying if the July 25 verdict is implemented with retrospective effect, the PSUs, according to initial estimates, would lose more than Rs 70,000 crore.



# what's brewing?

## The hunt begins with *Kraven The Hunter!*



**P**romising superlative action, intense fight scenes and even a sneak peek at another *Spider-Man* villain, the latest trailer for Marvel's most terrifying hunter's solo film, *Kraven The Hunter* is out now. The brand-new trailer for the R-rated origin story *Kraven The Hunter* takes a closer look at Kraven's strained relationship with his father and brother, along with his quest for revenge. Aaron Taylor-Johnson seems like the perfect fit for the role of Kraven The Hunter as he dons the iconic lion-skin cloak and chases down the enemy. The film is the visceral story of how and why one of Marvel's most iconic villains came to be. Set before his notorious vendetta with *Spider-Man*, Aaron Taylor-Johnson stars as the titular character in the R-rated film. Directed by J.C. Chandor, the film also stars Ariana DeBose, Fred Hechinger, Alessandro Nivola, Christopher Abbott and Russell Crowe. Sony Pictures Entertainment India releases *Kraven The Hunter* on December 13th in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu only in cinemas.



## Zeenat, Sakshi join *The Royals*

**A** string of eminent personalities, such as Zeenat Aman, Sakshi Tanwar, Nora Fatchi, Chunky Panday, Dino Morea and Milind Soman will be seen joining actors Ishaan Khatter and Bhumi Pednekar in the upcoming regal romance *The Royals*. The makers of the series shared its teaser on Instagram on August 14, where Ishaan looks every inch as royalty. The teaser then moves to the regal romance between Ishaan and Bhumi, who are seen dancing. The post was captioned: "A royal feast for your eyes. Announcing *#TheRoyals*, coming soon only on Netflix." Directed by Priyanka Ghose and Nupur Asthana, the series also stars Vihaan Samat, Kavya Trehan, Sumukhi Suresh, Udit Arora, Lisa Mishra and Luke Kenny.



## Bill Skarsgård to bring dynamic energy in *The Crow*

**B**ack with a dark and thrilling tale of love and vengeance, *The Crow*, will be hitting the theaters on August 23. Directed by visionary filmmaker Rupert Sanders, this modern reimagining of James O'Barr's iconic graphic novel promises to be an unforgettable cinematic experience. Leading the stellar cast is Bill Skarsgård, who stars as Eric Draven, a man resurrected from the dead to avenge the brutal murder of his soulmate, Shelly, portrayed by the talented FKA Twigs. With Danny Huston in a commanding role, the film weaves a gripping narrative of justice and redemption, set against a backdrop of relentless action and breath-taking visuals. *The Crow* immerses viewers in a world of gothic beauty and raw emotion, with Skarsgård delivering a powerful performance as the tormented yet resilient Eric. "The Crow is very much a film for today's audiences," Skarsgård shares. "What drew me to this project was the opportunity to bring a fresh, dynamic energy to Eric—a character who, despite his intimidating exterior, is profoundly vulnerable and deeply in love." Elaborating on his character, he adds, "Eric is tormented, raw and vulnerable. But there's another side to him; he's also gentle and hurting. Eric has grown up in a destructive household and has been living on the streets. He uses drugs and other vices to survive, with only Eric's creative work in music and drawing giving him purpose." The actor continues, "Then Eric meets Shelly, which transforms him." The film explores the depths of love, loss and vengeance through a contemporary lens, all under the visionary view of director Rupert Sanders. With a visually dark aesthetic drawn from the haunting imagery of the graphic novel, *The Crow* explores themes of true love and the extreme measures one will take to preserve it. It is set against a backdrop of relentless action and breath-taking visuals.

## NIKHITA FAN OUT ON COLLABORATING WITH VIDYA VOX FOR *DAANGERS*

**P**op icon Nikhita Gandhi has been on a roll with back-to-back bangers. With a jam-packed schedule amidst recordings, the singer has been traveling across states and countries for her live shows. The talented musician just dropped her latest track, titled *Dangers*, in collaboration with global singer Vidya Vox. Nikhita shares, "*Dangers* was a record I heard when I was in Los Angeles with Vidya. I instantly fell in love with it. I wrote my lines as I heard it, we finished the song that very day and we quickly shot the video of the song too. It came very naturally to us, the song, the genre and I'm so glad it is out there for the world to witness." Nikhita also revealed, "*Dangers* is a song that perfectly fits my vibe. I have known Vidya for a really long time, ever since my Chennai days. So I was extremely excited to collaborate with her for this track and the process of how we work is so easy and we are very similar when it comes to our style sense, esthetics. It is always blissful to collaborate with Vidya." On the work front, Nikhita's powerful track *Holiyaan* from the John Abraham starrer *Vedaa* was just released and has been quite a hit. The pop sensation also has some impressive projects in her pipeline that are yet to be announced, and fans are eagerly waiting for the same.



## George Clooney will not collaborate with David O Russell again!

**H**ollywood star George Clooney has vehemently ruled out a future collaboration with David O Russell, the director of his 1999 hit *Three Kings*. In a joint interview with frequent collaborator and friend Brad Pitt, the two stars discussed their ideal working environment in terms of colleagues. "The older you get, the time allotment is very different. Five months out of your life is a lot," Clooney said. The 63-year-old actor then talked about how he would not collaborate with Russell, even if it meant letting go of an opportunity to make a "really good film." "And so it's not just like, 'Oh, I'm going to go do a really good film, like *Three Kings* and I'm going to have a miserable f\*\*k like David O Russell making my life hell. Making every person in the crew's life hell. It's not worth it. Not at this point in my life. Just to have a good product," Clooney said. The black comedy war film had faced significant controversy due to the tumultuous relationship between director Russell and Clooney, with their on-set clashes making headlines and overshadowing its release. It was also reported in American media that the director allegedly got physical with an extra on set, leading to an intervention by Clooney. Also starring Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube and Spike Jonze, *Three Kings* was about four American soldiers who pull off a gold heist during the 1991 uprisings in Iraq against Saddam Hussein, following the end of the First Gulf War.

### FUN

#### ARCHIE

MS. BEAZLY REQUISITIONED A POWER SANDER FROM THE WOOD SHOP! WHAT? I HOPE SHE'S NOT REMODELING THE KITCHEN WITHOUT APPROVAL!

I HAVE TROUBLE WITH THIS STUBBORN BAKER-ON LASAGNA!

#### CALVIN AND HOBBS

ARCHAEOLOGISTS DIG SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY, USING SMALL DELICATE TOOLS. EACH ROCK HAS TO BE PAINSTAKINGLY BRUSHED AND SCRAPPED SO NOTHING IS BROKEN OR MISSED.

WE DIG SCRAPE BRUSH

ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE THE MOST MIND-NUMBING JOB ON THE PLANET. I DON'T THINK YOUR DAD WILL WANT TO SHARE WITH THIS TOMORROW!

#### GARFIELD

I LOVE GARDENING

I JUST PLANTED VEGETABLES

ALL OUR CANNED GOODS ARE MISSING! DARN, LET'S HAVE MEAT

#### REALITY CHECK

WOLLYWOOD STORYTIME: OKAY, SO HERE'S THE PITCH—TONIGHT'S STORY IS ABOUT A CLOWN WHO RETURNS HOME BEFORE AND BITTER AFTER JOINING THE CIRCUS... I LIKE WHERE YOU ARE GOING WITH THIS—WHAT IF, AND I'M JUST SPITBALLING HERE—WHAT IF HE HAD A WALKY NEIGHBOR?

#### CROSSWORD

#### NANCY

PEOPLE ONLY HEAR A TINY FRACTION OF WHAT YOU TELL THEM

BUT IF YOU TOUCH THEM, THEY REMEMBER IT A LOT BETTER

I WONDER WHY

#### SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

#### GINGER MEGGS

YOUR FUTURE LOOKS CLOUDY...

...AND SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN, WITH FLECKS OF DOOM!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO TRY POLISHING YOUR MAGIC ORB ONCE IN A WHILE.



# Vijayawada

**ARTHSILA HAS BEEN ON A MISSION TO TRANSFORM THE CONVENTIONAL GALLERY EXPERIENCE. THE PIONEER BRINGS TO YOU A CREATIVE PIECE AROUND THIS NGO AS WE CONNECT WITH THE SPOKESPERSON FOR OUR SPECIAL SEGMENT, COMMUNITY WISE**



## Creating essence of 'Arth' with room for 'Art'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

**A**rthshila, an immersive platform devoted to the arts led by Setika Singh, has transformed the conventional gallery experience through the careful creation of multi-art venues. Arthshila provides a broad range of genres through exhibitions, book readings, talks, film screenings, workshops and more, all while placing a strong emphasis on diversity in curating. With a focus on literature, film, visual arts, performing arts, architecture and design, Arthshila presents both traditional and contemporary artworks to a wide range of viewers. However, it is an affiliate organisation of the non-profit Takshila Educational Society (TES), which works in the fields of education, rural development and the arts and culture. Combining the two fascinating aspects, this week's community read is worthwhile!

In an exclusive conversation with its founder, we find out that Arthshila was founded with a larger aim centered on social reform and cultural enrichment. When Takshila was established in 1997, its goals were to advance cultural growth and education in Indian society. Acknowledging the transforming potential of art, Takshila actively sponsored several artistic endeavours, among them the 2006-started *Takshila Utsav*. This festival

promoted a thriving cultural scene by enabling a multitude of music, dance and theatre performances throughout the city. Takshila discovered a gap in the communication between the arts and people through its participation in these programs. The development of Arthshila depended heavily on this realisation.

"Even though the actual campus is still being developed, Arthshila started operations as soon as the foundation stone was laid in April 2016 in several locations. Since I was very young, the arts have been a part of my life. I had my Kathak training from Pandit Birju Maharaj and Saswati Sen. I'm also schooled in classical Indian music. There was an artistic atmosphere at home all the time. Since I was very little, my parents and I have attended plays and concerts together," shared Setika Singh, also the executive director of Takshila Foundation. She now firmly believes that the arts are essential to any civilisation. Therefore, Arthshila is not a traditional gallery but rather a multi-art environment. They are more than simply a gallery; they are a place where people come together for talks, performances, exhibitions, film screenings, book discussions and much more.

She goes on, "By incorporating a wide range of artistic mediums and subjects, we guarantee diversity and depth in our selections. We really believe in working with distinguished artists, academics



and specialists in every discipline, as well as art and cultural institutions. This enables us to carefully plan and carry out our projects while continuously delivering work of the highest caliber. Gothe Institute, British Council, Museum of GOA, Film South Asia, Khoj, FICA, NID. Additionally, we are dedicated to spotting and developing emerging and local talent through our programs, camps, seminars, residencies and Takshila Fine Arts Scholarships."

Through its establishment of several centers in different locales, including smaller towns and cities, it is fostering a fundamental connection between the arts and the public. Arthshila hopes to encourage conversation, spark innovation and ignite a passion for the arts within various communities by placing these

centers in distinctive cultural contexts. The goal of these initiatives is to establish welcoming environments where people of various backgrounds can interact, gain knowledge and be moved by the transformational potential of art. The locations of Arthshila include large book and movie collections, as well as frequent public cinema screenings, exhibitions and concerts that don't require tickets!

Conversely, "Arthshila Art Studios was established in 2016 with the intention of using art to promote creativity. The studio, which comprises a graphic art studio, a pottery studio, a sculpture and painting studio and an art library, is located in Takshila's rural development initiative, *Parivartan*. Its main goal at the time of its founding was to create an area where practitioners from various creative communities could congregate, work together and discover new creative frontiers. The *Arthshila All India Art Students Camp* is held at Arthshila Studios and is the result of the collaboration of Takshila's two verticals, Arthshila and Parivartan. This course is led by professionals in the area and focuses on print-making and ceramics. We hosted forty-five students from twenty-two art colleges around the nation in 2023 and 2024."

Additionally, they have collaborated with *Khoj* to offer young artists residencies that offer chances for both solo, research-based practice and group pro-

jects while on location. Since these residencies are entirely supported, artists are free to explore. They have so far worked with *Khoj* to arrange two residencies that have helped about fourteen artists.

Finally, the founder updates us on the next initiatives that are now under development. For example, "We have also conceptualised a maker space and research center for Himalayan material culture, known as Palay House, with Achi Association India. Through partnerships with individuals, institutions and organisations, this centre seeks to support research and practice while encouraging sustainable entrepreneurship and critical thinking within the delicate Himalayan ecology. On the other side, I developed a thorough understanding of the internal workings of a people-centric organisation while serving as the CEO's executive assistant at *Magic Bus*. In addition, I have been the Executive Director of our *Parivartan Rural Development* initiative. I've been able to fully participate in every facet of another community-focused project thanks to this position. Being in charge of *Parivartan* has opened my eyes because it has forced me to deal with the difficulties of rural development and collaborate directly with a variety of people."

Particularly in Santiniketan, their centers have become well-liked hangouts for students and young artists. These kinds of programs, together with art residencies and student camps, have allowed them to successfully develop artistic talent!

## 'I CHOSE TO LEAVE REALITY SHOWS TO FOCUS ON FILMS AND SERIES'

**Being in talk with his portrayal of an Army cadet has certainly made Varun Sood's fans more ecstatic watching him on-screen play Yuvraj Singh Chauhan in *Naam Namak Nishan*. In an exclusive talk with *The Pioneer*, the lead actor discusses his nostalgic emotions with the project, his father's learnings, his rigorous training and also speaks about *Call Me Bae***

TEJAL SINHA

**L**ife has certainly come to a full circle for Varun Sood! Well, a dream he hoped for has come true with his new project, *Naam Namak Nishan*, where he portrays Army Cadet Yuvraj Singh Chauhan. The series, currently streaming on Amazon miniTV, is now available for a watch and revolves around the two cadets at the Officers Training Academy. Entering the entertainment industry, which he thoroughly enjoyed, was far from easy. Nevertheless, he is happy that the time it took provided him with valuable lessons.

"*Naam Namak Nishan* is a nostalgic project," begins the Jug Jugg Jeeyo fame in this exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*. "It took me back to the time when I wanted to join the Army. Both for me and my dad, it's a very special project because my grandfather and he were both from the Army."

So as soon as he got the call for the project, it was beyond any doubt that he was all pumped up to work on a project around the Indian Army. Hoping to bag the project and finally getting it was no less than an overwhelming feeling he had. "My main inclination towards the project was the character that I was playing. It's different than any of the shows I have done. This character is something that is not like me. I feel in *Karmma Calling* and *Call Me Bae*; I have a certain reflection of Varun in the character, but this one poles apart. I wanted to explore what has been challenging and I wanted to take up the challenge," shares Varun.

To grasp the psyche of a cadet, he discussed with his father his experiences as cadets. In the past, during his time as a

cadet, attending the academy and undergoing daily training took a toll on both his mental and physical well-being. The *Ragini MMS: Returns* actor further recalls, "He shared multiple stories from his past where individuals faced challenges due to various reasons. I believe I have developed my character there and the sensation of wearing the uniform, training with actual cadets and feeling like a part of the institution was indescribable."

Isn't it overwhelming to put on the uniform of an Army cadet for the first time? Nevertheless, it did present its own set of difficulties. "Anyone watching will recognise that I have a military upbringing. If I don't perform well, all the blame falls on me and my skills. In order to excel in the role of a cadet, I had to put in a convincing performance," says the actor from *Karmma Calling*, who adds that the next challenge was comprehending Yuvraj's character, his background and the reasons behind his behaviour.

Before *Naam Namak Nishan*, he was shooting for *Call Me Bae*, which required him to be in a certain shape and be very muscular. "I had to lose all of that and start looking like a cadet." Moving forward, he remembers how he was expected to join the Army and the moments when his father would return home during holidays, always advising Varun on how to prepare for it. Thanks to his father, his life has been different because "he taught me to be highly concentrated and consistently enforced a strict routine. That transition eventually benefited me in the acting world as well. I always arrive on time for filming. The life advice from my father and grandfather about living and leading has been extremely beneficial to me."

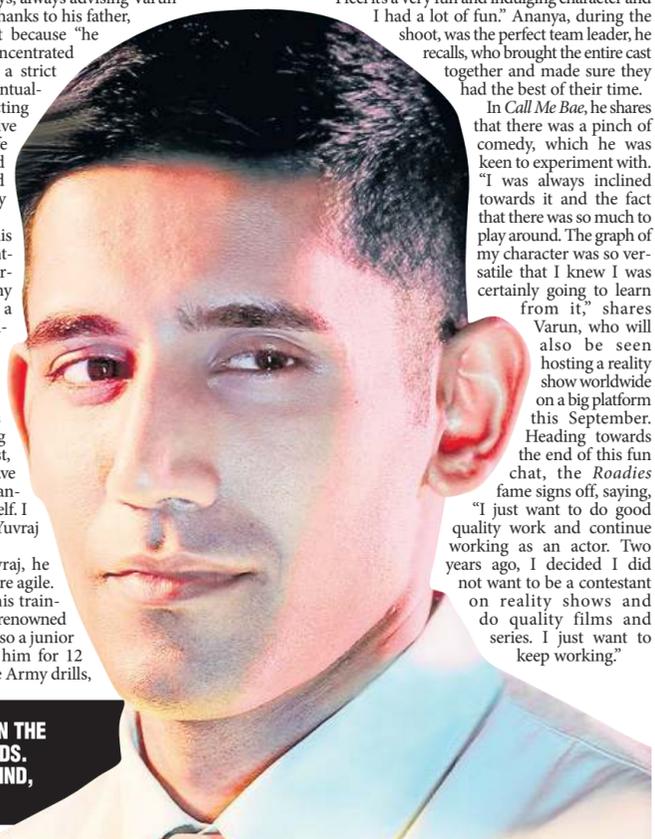
Yuvraj's character had his own battles that he was fighting within him. "To understand his intention and why the way he is taking a while, you also have to really like your character and believe in it. You can just not have any negativity about it. I am empathised by his back story and I feel maybe he is like this because something has happened in his past, maybe because he did not have his mother. You need to manage a lot of emotions yourself. I understood that aspect of Yuvraj and played accordingly."

With his character, Yuvraj, he knew he had to be a lot more agile. Not just this, as a part of his training, he contacted Sanjeev, a renowned coach from Delhi who is also a junior NBA coach, who trained him for 12 months. And then with the Army drills,

running around and all of it, his character had become more believable. Going ahead, *Splitsvilla* fame recalls the training sessions he had, which included, "Training with the cadets to match up to their physical abilities was certainly not easy. There were times when the cadets were all motivating us because it was all in their minds. These young cadets were motivating us and there were times Danish and I were shooting in the sun. We were doing the drills for hours and every time we felt that we wouldn't be able to do them, we just told ourselves that this was the least we could do to be a part of the institution and give back to the youngsters. The bigger motive was clear and that's how we passed the shoot."

Then there's *Call Me Bae* in his kitty, alongside Ananya Pandey and we are going to see him in a much-fun character. Shooting for this project was a lot more fun for him because "I could experiment with it. My character in *Naam Namak Nishan* had a few restrictions, my character in *Ahaan* had a few restrictions, but in *CALL ME BAE*, I could just have fun. I could do whatever I felt like doing and me and Collin were experimenting with so many different things. I feel it's a very fun and indulging character and I had a lot of fun." Ananya, during the shoot, was the perfect team leader, he recalls, who brought the entire cast together and made sure they had the best of their time.

In *Call Me Bae*, he shares that there was a pinch of comedy, which he was keen to experiment with. "I was always inclined towards it and the fact that there was so much to play around. The graph of my character was so versatile that I knew I was certainly going to learn from it," shares Varun, who will also be seen hosting a reality show worldwide on a big platform this September. Heading towards the end of this fun chat, the *Roadies* fame signs off, saying, "I just want to do good quality work and continue working as an actor. Two years ago, I decided I did not want to be a contestant on reality shows and do quality films and series. I just want to keep working."



**TRAINING WITH THE CADETS WAS NOT EASY. THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THE CADETS WERE ALL MOTIVATING US BECAUSE IT WAS ALL IN THEIR MINDS. IT'S DIFFICULT IN THE INITIAL DAYS, BUT ONCE YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND, IT'S GOING TO MAKE YOU STRONGER**



## Celebrating balance of beauty and bliss in 'you'

PNS|HYDERABAD

**T**he YFLO Hyderabad Chapter carried out a one-of-a-kind event, *Balance & Bliss* at the Park Hotel, Somajiguda, integrating beauty and wellness. The session embraced three speakers: Mira Kapoor, co-founder of 'Akind' Beauty; Vasudha Rai, a beauty & wellness author, podcaster and columnist; and Dr. Pooja Talera, an aesthetic physician and director at KOSA Wellbeing.

To begin with, in her opening statement, Ridhi Jain, Chairperson of YFLO, emphasised that beauty is mainly centered on outward appearance and aesthetics. It includes improving physical attributes by using techniques like applying makeup, styling hair and taking care of the skin. Contrarily, wellness is a more inclusive concept that covers physical, mental and emotional well-being. Balancing one's well-being in today's fast-paced world can be difficult. Our goal is to offer ideas and motivation for incorporating beauty and wellness into everyday life, leading to a more harmonious and satisfying existence. Meanwhile, Mira Rajput Kapoor, who was one of the speakers, emphasised the importance of preserving the enchantment of life through perseverance. Maintaining equilibrium requires ongoing effort. "We possess abundant knowledge passed down from our ancestors; by utilising some of it, we can improve ourselves. Skincare is individualised," adds

Mira, also further emphasising the importance of being consistent.

Going ahead, Vasudha Rai, who has been writing about beauty and wellness for more than twenty years and is also known for her top-selling book, *Glow: Indian Foods, Recipes, and Rituals for Beauty, Inside and Out*, has brought back the practice of using traditional ingredients in daily life. She holds a certification as a yoga instructor. She commented that skin colour is not important, but rather to celebrate whatever you possess. Dr. Pooja Shah Talera, on the other hand, holds a degree in medicine and a diploma in practical dermatology. She possesses more than 13 years of expertise in the beauty and wellness industry. Speaking at the event, she said, "Our grandparents lacked the modern conveniences that we now have for beauty and wellness treatments and products. They would create their traditional formulas."

Today, we are fortunate to have access to those items. However, she mentioned that we cannot spare time for those formulations."



# INDIA CAN DO A HAT-TRICK OF TEST SERIES TRIUMPHS IN AUSTRALIA: RAVI



PTI ■ DUBAI

India is capable of a hat-trick of Test series triumphs in Australia given the quality of its bowlers and the strong batting lineup that has the likes of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, feels former head coach Ravi Shastri. India have won the last two Test series in Australia and have held onto the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy since the Kangaroos claimed a 2-0 series victory on home soil at the beginning of 2015. "With (Jasprit) Bumrah fit, (Mohammed) Shami fit, you've got

Mohammed Siraj there. You've got the likes of (Ravinchandran) Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja and some very good bench strength as well... One can't wait for that series to start and (I think) India can do the hat-trick (of series victories in Australia)," Shastri told ICC. Australia legend Ricky Ponting had recently predicted a 3-1 series win for his country but Shastri said that Indian bowlers can get the job done provided their batters are up to the challenge. "It is going to be one heck of a series and India have every chance of making it a hat-trick because they've got their bowlers fit and if they can

bat well, they can tickle (beat) Australia once again," said Shastri. India will play a five-match series Down Under beginning with the Test at Perth in November this year. The Pat Cummins-led Australia are upbeat after they exacted sweet revenge over Rohit Sharma's side during the World Test Championship final at The Oval last year, and Shastri feels that a hurting home side would be more than keen to re-claim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. "The Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia over five Test matches is going to be a humdinger. Remember, India have beaten

Australia twice on the last two tours and Australia have not had a hand on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in almost a decade and that's the reason why everyone will be waiting for these two heavyweights of Test match cricket over the last five to eight years to go head-to-head," added Shastri. With Australia too boasting a strong bowling line-up, Shastri feels that revenge will be on the home team's mind because of successive series losses they have suffered in the last two editions. "We know what Australia will be wanting (revenge). They will be thirsty, they'd be looking to go at the

throats of the Indians because they've been beaten there (in Australia) twice. "The attack is pretty much the same. One of the greatest fast bowling attacks — (one of the greatest) all-round attacks when you add Nathan Lyon there — in a long, long time. And one of the best in the history of the game. They'll be looking for those 20 wickets, game after game to help Australia win the series. "It's going to be India's batting against the Australian fast bowlers. And of course, the Indian bowling attack is going to be something everyone will be waiting to see," he added.



## Tejal, Raghvi 50s go in vain as Australia A win opening one-dayer

PTI ■ MACKAY (AUSTRALIA)

Fine half-centuries by middle-order batters Raghvi Bist and Tejal Hasabnis went in vain as India A Women lost their opening one-day match against Australia A by four wickets, with Katie Mack scoring a century for the winners here on Wednesday. This is the fourth successive defeat for India A on their tour of Australia following their 0-3 whitewash in the T20 series in Brisbane.

India, after setting a modest victory target of 250, thanks mainly to Tejal's 53 (67 balls, 7x4) and Raghvi's 82 (102 balls, 6x4), were thwarted by Aussie opener Katie's 129 (126 balls, 11x4). Katie enjoyed fruitful half-century partnerships with fellow opener Maddy Darke (27) and Charli Knott (26) and a century stand with skipper Tahliha McGrath (56) as Australia easily won the opening game of the three-

match one-day series. India's pace bowling stalwart Meghna Singh (2/43) and spinner Minnu Mani (2/53) took two wickets each. With only a handful of senior India players in the side, India had an inauspicious start, losing openers Shweta Sehrawat (1) and Priya Punia (6) cheaply. At 56/3, India A were in dire straits but Tejal and Raghvi, both making their one-day debut for the country, stitched a 55-run partnership to take the visitors past the century mark. Raghvi also shared half-century stands with skipper Mani and Shipra Giri (25 not out) as she gave the visitors a respectable total to defend.

**BRIEF SCORES:**  
India A 249 for 9 in 50 overs (Tejal Hasabnis 53, Raghvi Bist 82; Nicola Hancock 2/40, Maitlan Brown 4/23, Grace Parsons 2/40).  
Australia A 250 for 6 in 47 overs (Katie Mack 129, Tahliha McGrath 56; Meghna Singh 2/43, Minnu Mani 2/53).



## Dodda appointed Kenyan cricket team's head

PTI ■ NAIROBI

Former Indian all-rounder Dodda Ganesh has been appointed head coach of Kenya's men's cricket team ahead of the Africa Qualifiers for the 2026 T20 World Cup. Ganesh, 51, who played four Tests and an ODI without much success but did alright in first-class cricket scoring over 2000 runs and taking 365 wickets for Karnataka, will have the unenviable task of bringing back the glory days of Kenyan cricket when it competed in five World Cups

between 1996 and 2011. The best-ever finish of the Associate Member was in 2003 when it reached the semifinals in South Africa with an Indian head coach in Sandeep Patil. Kenya have qualified for just one edition of the T20 World Cup, which was back in 2007. Since then, Kenyan cricket has gone into a downward spiral. They will face Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Denmark and Jersey in the ICC Division 2 Challenge League in September and T20 World Cup



Africa Qualifiers in October. The men's 2026 T20 World Cup will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. Ganesh said he is looking forward to the new role. "Privileged to be named the head coach of the Kenya cricket team," the former India cricketer posted on 'X'. In a video shared by the media here, Ganesh can be seen interacting with senior Kenya cricket officials. Ganesh will be assisted by former Kenyan internationals Lameck Onyango and Joseph Angara, who will be his deputies.

## Yuzvendra to play for Northamptonshire in One-Day Cup and County matches

PTI ■ LONDON

India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has joined Northamptonshire for their last fixture in the One-Day Cup and remaining five matches in the County Championship Division Two, the club announced on Wednesday. The 34-year-old Chahal has so far played 72 ODIs and 80 T20s for India with 217 wickets across both formats to show for his efforts. Northamptonshire said on their website that the 34-year-old Indian spinner, who was a part of the country's victorious campaign in the T20 World

Cup, will link up with the squad on Wednesday ahead of their trip to Canterbury to play against Kent. "Northamptonshire County Cricket Club are delighted that Indian international Yuzvendra Chahal will join the club for the final One-Day Cup match at Kent and the remaining five County Championship fixtures," Northamptonshire said in a statement. "Also previously an India youth international in the sport of chess, Chahal spent time at Kent in the 2023 season, taking nine wickets in two of their three Division One matches of the campaign," it added.

"Yuzvendra is another high-profile overseas player who brings with him a wealth of experience and some incredible skills. His record speaks for itself and his wicket-taking ability will add strength to our attack," said Northamptonshire head coach John Sadler. Northamptonshire are currently placed seventh in the eight-team County Division Two points table with seven draws and two defeats in nine matches, whereas in the One-Day Cup also the club has had a tough season so far with one win and six defeats keeping them at the eighth position in Group A.

## Hockey India retires Sreejesh's number 16 jersey at senior level, names him junior coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Wednesday decided to retire the jersey number of goalkeeping stalwart P R Sreejesh at the senior level after he bid adieu to the game following his starring role in the country's second consecutive Olympic bronze at the just-concluded Paris Games. Hockey India secretary general Bholu Nath Singh said going forward no senior team player will be given the number 16 jersey although it will remain in circulation at the junior level. While lauding the veteran's contribution to the game, Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey said Sreejesh has earned

the right to be considered the "God of Modern Indian Hockey". Singh also formally announced that the affable 36-year-old, who competed for nearly two decades, will take up the role of the junior national coach. "Sreejesh is now going to be the junior team coach and we are retiring the No. 16 jersey for the senior team. We are not retiring No. 16 for the junior team," said Singh at a felicitation function for the veteran and other members of the team. "Sreejesh dusra Sreejesh ko paida karega in junior team (Sreejesh will groom another Sreejesh in the junior team who will wear the No.16 jersey)," he added. The players, who were present



at the ceremony, wore identical red jerseys with Sreejesh's name on the back as a mark of respect for the Kerala man. Also in attendance was pistol shooter Manu Bhaker, who became the first Indian athlete post independence to win two Olympic medals with her bronze medals in 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed

team (partnering Sarabjot Singh). "It's difficult to put into words how grateful and honoured I feel about this gesture from Hockey India," he said. "Eighteen years is a long journey. I've experienced all the highs and lows, but it has shaped me into the person I am today. I've enjoyed every

minute of my time as an international player, and will deeply miss my teammates, who have become a second family to me," he added. Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh said the team is proud to have given Sreejesh a "fairytale farewell." "Sreejesh has become a crucial part of our lives. He has always guided us like an elder brother on and off the pitch," he said. Tirkey thanked Sreejesh for his service to the game. "This is not a farewell, but a celebration of everything PR Sreejesh has achieved and contributed to Indian Hockey over the 18 years. For what Sreejesh has given to Indian hockey, he should surely be called the 'God of Modern Indian Hockey'," he said.

## Olympics with short field delivers stars on podium and compelling golf

AP ■ PARIS

Take a small field and eliminate about half of them for not having a realistic chance of winning and it sounds like it could be a LIV Golf event. But this is the Olympics, with 60 players from more than 30 countries, some of whom rarely experience a big stage, none getting paid. Singapore had its first player (Shannon Tan) in the women's competition. Switzerland had its first (Joel Gierbach) in the men's event. That might explain why golf in the Olympics continues to deliver the biggest stars on the podium, along with compelling stories. Paris was no exception. Scottie Scheffler set the tone for the fortnight at Le Golf National with a Sunday charge that was as amazing as the collapse of Jon Rahm. Scheffler was four shots behind going into the last round, and the world's No. 1 player still trailed by six shots as he played the 12th hole. He shot 29 on the back nine, closed with a 9-under 62 and added Olympic gold to an already astonishing year. Xander Schauffele, the gold

medalist from the Tokyo Games, also is having a monster year with major titles at the PGA Championship and British Open. He shared the 54-hole lead with Rahm and said afterward that "cherry on top would not do it justice" if he had won another gold. "Scottie is going to have about 14 cherries on top of his cake," Schauffele said. It's been that kind of year. The best year in women's golf belongs to Nelly Korda, with five straight wins (including a major) and six titles in seven starts. The Olympics, however, were all about Lydia Ko of New Zealand. Ko had said at the start of the week she hasn't seen her silver medal from Rio de Janeiro or her bronze from Tokyo since winning them. Her father had the silver. Her sister had taken the bronze back to their parents' native South Korea to share with family. Ko said if she won the gold, she would have to take back the other medals. Ko's road back to her Florida home probably will include a detour to South Korea. "I think I need to find a good place to put them all together," she said



Tuesday. Her game was as good as it has been all year, and the timing could not have been better. Ko, who got married at the end of 2023, has

been contemplating retirement and concluded this would be her last Olympics. She needed one more victory to get into the LPGA Hall of Fame.

Just like the men's competition, there was a combination of clutch play (Ko) and collapses (Korda, Morgane Metraux, Miyu Yamashita, Rose Zhang). Ko made

a 45-foot birdie putt on the seventh hole, built a five-shot lead and then had to hang on to win by two. She headed to Scotland and didn't get her first good sleep until Sunday night. "I woke up like, Was that a dream? Did that just really happen? Super exciting," she said at the Women's Scottish Open. "Just very grateful for literally this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." Indeed, it was a quite a show. But that's how it was the previous two Olympics for golf. Korda won the gold in Tokyo as the newly minted No. 1 player in women's golf who was coming off her first major. Schauffele won gold with a 5-foot par putt on the last hole, a tribute to both parents. His mother was raised in Japan - his grandparents are still there - and his father had Olympic aspirations of his own until getting struck by a drunk driver on his way to a German training site. He lost an eye among numerous injuries. Storybook stuff. In Rio de Janeiro, former U.S. Open champion Justin Rose won a duel with British Open champion Henrik Stenson. The more compelling outcome

was Inbee Park. She has been injured in 2016 and barely played while she tried to recover, and there was a push behind the scenes by the South Korean squad to replace her with someone who would have had a better shot at gold. Park ignored the noise, and then took down Ko - the No. 1 player at the time - to win. Golf already has produced gold medalists destined for the Hall of Fame if they aren't there already, such as Park and Ko. Scheffler is virtually assured of being No. 1 for the longest stretch since Tiger Woods. Rose is a former No. 1. Schauffele is a double major winner who finally is getting due as one of the elite. By now there should be little debate whether golf belongs in the Olympics, even though it doesn't look like other sports in the program. There is no getting around the fact most Olympic athletes wait four years for their prize and golf has four of them (five on the LPGA Tour) a year in the form of majors. Scheffler's year would not have been incomplete without a gold medal. He has a green jacket. Ko's career was made complete with gold.

# GV Prakash reveals spending 50 days re-recording music for *Thangalaan*



K. RAMYA SREE

Actor-composer GV Prakash, known for his musical talents, has once again showcased his skill with the music in *Thangalaan*. The multifaceted star talks to *The Pioneer* in a one-on-one interview, discussing his methods, reflecting on his journey in creating the music for this movie, and more

was clear that the music needed to reflect the grandeur and historical context of the film. Given that the story is set in pre-independence times against a tribal backdrop, I was intrigued by the music of tribal communities. To inform my composition, I studied the traditional music of Australian and African tribes. Rather than opting for modern sounds, we created an original score that authentically fits the story's setting. My team was incredibly supportive throughout the process, and together, we achieved something truly special."

The extensive effort involved in creating the film's music is evident in Kumar's recount of his experience. He shared, "I spent 50 days re-recording the music for *Thangalaan*. There were moments when I had to adjust my schedule by two or three days to keep up with the tight deadlines. The challenge of working within a limited time frame was significant, but the result was incredibly rewarding. Director Pa Ranjith's vision for the film was clear, and I made sure the music aligned perfectly with his expectations. Working on *Thangalaan* was a deeply satisfying experience."

We asked him if he watched the film before its release and what he thought about the final product output. He shared his thoughts: "Vikram's transformation for this film is nothing short of impressive. The physical demands on the actors are substantial, and Vikram's dedication is evident in his performance. The female leads, Parvathy Thiruvothu and Malavika Mohanan, deliver outstanding performances that add depth to the film. *Thangalaan* will immerse audiences in a new world, and I am excited for everyone to experience it on the big screen. I am confident that viewers will feel the thrill and excitement of the film."

The musical elements of *Thangalaan* have already garnered attention, with the title song and the track *Manaki Manaki* receiving positive feedback. Kumar notes, "The background music (BGM) plays a crucial role in conveying the film's range of emotions—love, conspiracy, conflict, and anger. I aimed to create a BGM that would enhance these emotions and connect more deeply with the audience. I hope that the music adds to the overall experience of *Thangalaan* and resonates with viewers as much as it did with me during its creation."

Looking ahead, the actor-composer has several projects in the pipeline that he is excited about. "I am currently working on several exciting projects, including *Lucky Baskhar*, starring Dulquer Salmaan in Telugu and *Robin Hood* featuring Nithiin. Additionally, I have collaborations with Dil Raju under Vijayanthi banners and a Tamil film directed by Dhanush. I am also involved in films with Sivakartheeyan's *Amaran*. Balancing my roles as both an actor and music director, I have carefully planned my schedule to ensure smooth progress across all my projects."

**"THANGALAAAN IS INDEED A MASSIVE PROJECT, AKIN TO THE SCALE OF INDIANA JONES. WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE SCRIPT, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE MUSIC NEEDED TO REFLECT THE GRANDEUR AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE FILM"**



## Vedaa packs a punch against caste and convention!

AARTI SREENATH

**PLOT:** In the dusty, sun-baked village of Barmer, where tradition and caste lines run deep, a young girl named Veda (played by Sharvari Wagh) emerges as an unexpected force of nature. Armed with nothing but her iron will and a pair of boxing gloves, Veda's journey is one of passion, resilience and a fierce determination to rise above the caste shackles that bind her. But in a world where the lower castes are seen as little more than shadows, Veda and her family find themselves at the mercy of the local upper-caste goons—until fate brings Major Abhimanyu Kanwar (played by John Abraham) into their lives.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** For those who revel in the adrenaline rush of action coupled with the intrigue of mystery, *Vedaa* is an absolute treat. The film's action sequences are nothing short of electrifying, with the opening shots setting the stage for a visual spectacle. John Abraham, the ever-youthful warrior, dominates the screen, his presence as commanding as his punches. His portrayal of Major Abhimanyu Kanwar is one of grit and gravitas, particularly in a scene where, wounded and cornered, he handles a gun with one hand, an image that sears itself into memory. Sharvari Wagh, stepping into the shoes of Veda, delivers a performance brimming with raw energy and vulnerability. Her fight scenes are not just battles; they are a cathartic release, an eruption of years of pent-up rage and defiance. And in the quieter moments, her emotive depth resonates powerfully, leaving a lasting impact. Her unfiltered, makeup-less visage on screen adds an authentic charm that draws you deeper into her world.

Abhishek Banerjee's chilling portrayal of the antagonist is nothing short of brilliant. His sinister demeanour, coupled with a calculating mind, makes him the perfect nemesis. He doesn't just play the villain; he embodies it, creating a palpable tension that keeps you on the edge of your seat. The depiction of caste atrocities in *Vedaa* is stark and unflinching. The film seamlessly blends crime thriller elements with a profound commentary on societal stereotypes, laying bare the harsh realities of discrimination in India. Every scene pulses with energy, ensuring that the narrative never loses its grip on the audience.

Although Tamannaah Bhatia's role is limited, her presence adds a subtle layer to the

narrative. The sound design, particularly during the fight scenes, is a symphony of tension, with each punch and gunshot reverberating with purpose. It's in these moments that *Vedaa* truly shines as an action spectacle.

**DRAWBACKS:** There are moments where the film stretches the bounds of believability, flirting with the fantastic. But this is Bollywood, where the heart often trumps logic and in the world of *Vedaa*, the occasional leap of faith is forgivable. The soundtrack, while serviceable, doesn't quite match the intensity of the film and fades into the background, overshadowed by the story's raw power.

**TECHNICAL ASPECTS:** Cinematographer Malay Prakash's work is nothing short of masterful. The gritty realism he captures on screen feels almost tactile, as though the dust of Barmer could be brushed off the screen. His use of manual techniques adds a layer of authenticity, while the lighting and colour palettes shift with the narrative's mood, subtly guiding the audience's emotions. The wide-angle shots, especially in the action sequences, are breathtaking, with a particularly memorable drone shot during a blast scene that stands out as a visual marvel. The sound design is meticulously crafted, with even the smallest details—like the whizzing of a bullet—captured with precision. The visual storytelling, particularly in the film's opening and closing sequences, heightens the suspense and adds emotional depth. The editing is sharp and keeps the pacing tight, making *Vedaa* a thrilling ride for those who enjoy high-octane drama and aren't squeamish about a bit of blood on screen.

**VERDICT:** *Vedaa* is more than just a movie; it's a statement, a fierce, unyielding cry against the injustices that plague society. It captures the brutal reality of caste discrimination while portraying women as powerful forces of change, capable of challenging the status quo with sheer willpower.

**Directed by:** Nikkhil Advani

**Produced by:** John Abraham, Monisha Advani, Umesh Bansal, Madhu Bhojwani and Minnakshi Das

**Cinematography by:** Malay Prakash

**Cast:** John Abraham, Sharvari Wagh, Abhishek Banerjee, Tamannaah Bhatia and Kshitij Chauhan

**Rating:** 3.5/5

## DEAR UMA IN POST-PRODUCTION PHASE, SUMAYA REDDY SHINES IN I-DAY SPECIAL STILL

Balancing dual roles as an actress and producer on the same film is a remarkable achievement, and Sumaya Reddy, a talented Telugu actress from Anantapur, is ready to showcase her skills in Tollywood. With her debut film, *Dear Uma*, Sumaya is making her mark as both a producer and actress, while also contributing as a scriptwriter. Directed by Sai Rajesh Mahadev, the film has already garnered attention with its captivating posters, teasers, and songs. The buzz surrounding *Dear Uma* has been building, promising an engaging and heartwarming love story. Sumaya Reddy's role as a scriptwriter highlights her creative talents, further adding to the film's allure. In celebration of Independence Day, the makers have released a special poster featuring Sumaya Reddy. The poster shows her walking against an icy backdrop, holding the Indian flag and dressed in an elegant white outfit that represents peace and unity. Currently, the film is in post-production, with the team working diligently to prepare for its upcoming release. Despite being Sumaya Reddy's first project as a producer, *Dear Uma* is being mounted with considerable grandeur. Prithvi Amber plays the lead role and the film's music is composed by Radhan.

## Venkatesh joins sets of Anil Ravipudi's film in Pollachi



video captures the camaraderie between Venkatesh and director Anil Ravipudi, offering a glimpse into their enjoyable moments on set. During this month-long schedule, the focus will be on filming both dialogue scenes and musical numbers. The film promises to be a compelling triangular crime drama, delving into the intricate relationships between three central characters: the protagonist, his former lover and his exceptional wife.

Meenakshi Chaudhary and Aishwarya Rajesh star as the leading ladies opposite Venkatesh. The film benefits from a talented team working behind the scenes: Bheems Ceciroleo is composing the music, Sameer Reddy is handling cinematography, A.S. Prakash is overseeing production design and Tammiraju is managing the editing. The screenplay is a collaborative effort between S. Krishna and G. Adhinarayana, while V. Venkat is choreographing the action sequences.

Victory Venkatesh, the blockbuster maestro Anil Ravipudi and Sri Venkateswara Creations are joining forces once again with their upcoming venture, *Production No. 58*, in a bid to secure a hat-trick of hits. Set to compete in the Sankranti season, this film is currently being shot in Pollachi.

Victory Venkatesh has officially joined the production, and to mark the occasion, the team released a special video showcasing Venkatesh in the role of an ex-cop. The



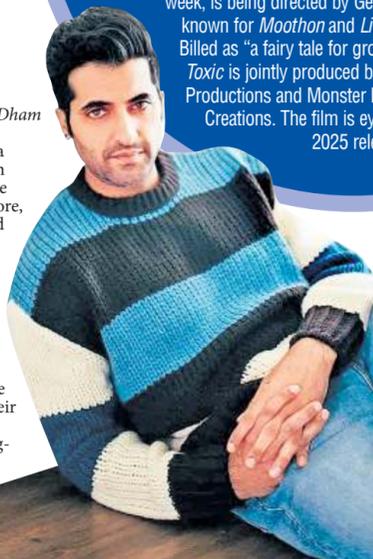
## AKSHAY OBEROI MAKES HIS SOUTH DEBUT WITH TOXIC

Actor Akshay Oberoi has joined the cast of the upcoming Kannada movie *Toxic*, headlined by KGF franchise star Yash. The *Fighter* star shared the news on Wednesday on his Instagram Stories, where he posted a photo of the welcome hamper that he received from the film's team. "Dear Akshay, Welcome to the team. We're thrilled to have your talent and energy on board for this project. We look forward to creating something amazing together. Team *Toxic*," read the message on the hamper. The upcoming Kannada movie, which began filming in Bengaluru last week, is being directed by Geetu Mohandas, known for *Moothon* and *Liar's Dice*. Billed as "a fairy tale for grown-ups", *Toxic* is jointly produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. The film is eyeing a 2025 release.

## Srinu Vaitla's personal connection with *Dhoom Dham*

The teaser for the highly anticipated film *Dhoom Dham* was unveiled recently by actor Gopichand and acclaimed director Sreenu Vaitla. Scheduled for a grand release on September 13, the movie stars Chetan Krishna and Hebah Patel in the lead roles, with notable supporting performances by Sai Kumar, Vennela Kishore, Prithviraj and Goparaju Ramana. The film is produced by MS Ram Kumar under the Friday Frame Works banner, directed by Sai Kishore Macha, and features a story and screenplay by Gopi Mohan.

That being said, director Sreenu Vaitla, who watched the teaser, praised its vibrant and colourful presentation. He shared his personal connections to the film, noting his close relationship with Gopi Mohan, a writer he has collaborated with on several successful projects. Vaitla also commended Sai Kishore Macha for his dedication and enthusiasm, recalling their work together from *Dubai Sheenu* to *Baadshah*. He expressed admiration for producer Ram Kumar, a long-time friend and passionate film enthusiast known for his work on *First Rank Raju*. Vaitla conveyed his strong belief that *Dhoom Dham* will achieve significant success, benefiting both Ram Kumar and lead actor Chetan Krishna.



## STANDALONE

Renowned Telugu film director Sukumar has made a generous donation of 5 lakh rupees to the Telugu Film Directors' Association. This substantial contribution is intended to improve the health insurance facilities available to the association's members.



## Allu Arjun had 24 costume changes in the song *Eyy Bidda Ye Mera Adda!*



Allu Arjun's star power shines brightly in *Pushpa: The Rise*, particularly through the electrifying track *Eyy Bidda Ye Mera Adda*. The song, composed by Devi Sri Prasad and performed by Nakash Aziz, is one of the film's standout moments and allows Arjun to flaunt his charisma and dynamic presence throughout the music video.

What sets this track apart is not just its catchy beat, but also the impressive wardrobe changes that Allu Arjun underwent during the shoot. To bring the song's vibrant energy to life, Allu Arjun sported an astounding wardrobe with 24 different outfits. Each costume was carefully selected to reflect the song's high-octane spirit and to keep the visuals fresh and entertaining. *Pushpa: The Rise* went on to become a major success and Allu Arjun's magnetic aura in the *Eyy Bidda Ye Mera Adda* music video played a significant role in that achievement. His dynamic performance and the vibrant visuals of the song contributed to the film's widespread appeal, reinforcing its status as a blockbuster hit. Fans will be eagerly anticipating Allu Arjun's continued brilliance on screen, especially with the upcoming global release of *Pushpa 2: The Rule* later this year. Directed by Sukumar and also starring Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil, the film is set to hit cinemas on December 6.