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**FM urges banks to undertake special drive for deposits**

**ANGRY YOUNG MEN: SCRIPTING LEGACY WITH TIMELESS MAJESTIC SAGA**

**Three films deal with Bhagyashri BHORSE**

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**



**Talks between the Congress and the BRS are over and now BRS leaders are joining the Congress. So the phone tapping case, the Kaleshwaram scam, and the drug case have become silent. Land and sand scams buried. It is certain that the BRS will eventually merge with the Congress. These two parties would certainly merge or else the Congress government would have jailed KTR already.**

— **Bandi Sanjay, Union MoS, Home Affairs**



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**DON'T MISS...**

**Massive turnout at Vizag Marathon...**

The Beach Road came alive with the rhythmic pounding of feet as thousands of enthusiastic runners participated in the third edition of the Vizag Marathon on Monday. Organised by the Vizag Runners Society in collaboration with Sandhya Marines, the event was a testament to the city's growing fitness culture. Runners of all ages, from young children to seasoned athletes, lined up at the starting point near the iconic Kali Matha Temple. The marathon offered four categories: 21k, 10k, 5k, and 3k, catering to participants of varying fitness...

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**'How brain 'resets' itself while...**

While sleep is known to help with forming and storing memories during the day, a new study has found answers to how this continues to happen over one's lifetime without running out of neurons or brain cells. Researchers found that at certain times during deep sleep, certain parts of the hippocampus — one of the brain regions involved in learning new things and forming memories — go silent, allowing those neurons to 'reset'. This mechanism could allow the brain to reuse the same...

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**Sebi comes out with modalities...**

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday outlined the process and conditions for Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) for migrating to the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) rules. The regulator, in July, permitted VCFs registered before the introduction of AIF regulations to transition to the current regulations by becoming migrated venture capital funds. In its circular, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that VCFs can now choose to migrate to AIF Regulations to handle unliquidated...

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**Deepti shines as London Spirit...**

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma played a crucial role with both bat and ball as London Spirit lifted their maiden Women's Hundred title, beating Welsh Fire by four wickets in the final at the Lord's here. Deepti snapped a wicket giving away 23 runs and then smashed a run-a-ball 16, including the winning six off Hayley Matthews, as the Indian and England's Charlie Dean jumped into each other's arms in celebration. Two years ago, Deepti had controversially dismissed Dean after running...

-SPORTS

## CM opens 15 projects, lays stone for 7

**Investors urged to focus on cost reduction and global competitiveness**



PNS ■ SRI CITY-TIRUPATI

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has appealed to industrialists to focus on reducing product costs and logistics costs. Stating that Andhra Pradesh is more logistics cost-effective with better connectivity, the Chief Minister invited industrialists to invest in AP and make Sri City the best economic zone and infrastructure zone. The Chief Minister inaugurated 15 industrial projects with a total investment of Rs 1,570 crore, with the potential to create 8,480 jobs. He also laid the foundation for 7 new projects worth Rs 900 crore with a

potential of 2,740 jobs. Additionally, five companies signed MoUs on Monday, promising an investment of Rs 1,213 crore and the creation of 4,060 jobs. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction with the remarkable progress Sri City has made since its inception, hosting over 200 companies from 30 countries on a single premises, stressing the need for product perfection to meet global competition. He said that the NDA government aims to achieve zero poverty, and industries play a key role in creating wealth and uplifting the economy. He added that the State government has been

focusing on hybrid solar and wind power generation. At the round table conference, the CEOs congratulated him on his resounding victory in the Assembly Elections and conveyed their enthusiasm for his new term, expressing confidence in the implementation of industry-friendly policies under his leadership. Stating that "Andhra Pradesh has always been at the forefront of industrial development," the Chief Minister said, "With our strategic location, skilled workforce, and proactive government, Andhra Pradesh is the ideal destination for industries."

- ◆ Five companies sign MoUs, promising Rs 1,213 crore in investment and 4,060 jobs.
- ◆ Naidu happy with Sri City's progress and emphasises importance of product perfection.

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## AP turning into investment hub: Lokesh Holds talks with Foxconn representatives

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education, Information Technology (IT), and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, is making strides towards his election promise of creating 20 lakh jobs for the youth. The Minister met with Foxconn representatives at his residence in Undavalli on Monday.

During the meeting, Lokesh provided a detailed overview of the resources available in the State for establishing their units and outlined the measures taken from 2014 to 2019 to attract investments, including the establishment of IT companies. He shared insights into the successful invitation of Kia Motors to the State, referring to it as a case study. Lokesh assured the Foxconn delegation that a



"I will personally oversee any assistance required for establishing a mega manufacturing city and we will devise a special plan for this."

new policy would be formulated to offer subsidies aimed at job creation. He announced that a novel electronics policy would soon be introduced. Highlighting the efforts made by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Lokesh noted that several companies, including Foxconn, had set up operations in the State between 2014 and 2019, resulting in 14,000 jobs for women. "You are planning to expand your activities across India, and I urge

you to establish not just another unit, but a mega manufacturing city in the State. We will provide all necessary support for this endeavour," Lokesh told the delegation, reiterating the State Government's target of creating 20 lakh jobs for the youth. He expressed confidence that Foxconn would play a significant role in achieving this goal. "I will personally oversee any assistance required for establishing a mega manufacturing city and we will devise a special plan for this," Lokesh added.

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## Centre approves 25% enhancement in security deployment at central hospitals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry has allowed enhancement of security deployment by 25 per cent at all union government hospitals, official said, amid protests by resident doctors demanding a central law following the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a Kolkata hospital.

Officials said that apart from the standard security protocol, the deployment of marshals would also be approved based on individual demands by government hospitals after they conduct their security assessment.

Official sources, however, said bringing a central law based on the RG Kar case "will not make any huge difference" as the alleged rape and murder of the junior doctor at the Kolkata facility was not a case of patient-doctor violence.

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## Rs 300 cr to be spent on repairs to projects: Naidu

**Rs 5.4 cr for restoration of Somasila gates and construction of apron**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has stated that Andhra Pradesh, once known as the "rice bowl" of the nation, has seen its agricultural conditions deteriorate over the last five years due to misguided policies.

He assured that under the TDP-led NDA government, farmers would receive Rs 20,000 annually from both central and state governments. During his visit to the Somasila project in Nellore on Monday, the Chief Minister affirmed the government's commitment to making agriculture profitable by reducing cultivation costs for farmers.

The Chief Minister emphasised that his government would take responsibility for ensuring the optimal use of the Somasila project and would implement the necessary measures to achieve this. He inspected the Somasila project in the Nellore district and inquired with officials about the project's current status.

The Chief Minister announced that the government would repair the damaged Somasila gates and construct an apron, along with a wall at the sluice.

A sum of Rs 5.40 crore will be allocated for these repairs. Additionally, Rs 300 crore will be spent on repairing various projects across the State, with Rs 140 crore dedicated to the Somasila project alone. The gates, which have been malfunctioning due to poor maintenance, will be restored.

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## 4 students die after having stale food at orphanage

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a tragic incident, four students died after consuming stale food at the Kotauratla orphanage in Kailasapatnam of Anakapalli district on Monday. Two days ago, the students were served samosas, and after consuming them, around 28 of them fell ill. Four of these students died, while the others are currently receiving treatment.

The deceased have been identified as Nitya, Joshna, Bhavani, and Sharadha. They were all between eight and nine years old and succumbed while undergoing treatment, according to officials. Seven children are receiving care at Narsipatnam Area Hospital, while 17 others have been admitted to the government hospital in Anakapalli. Four of those in critical

- 24 kids undergo treatment at Anakapalli, Narsipatnam & Vizag
- Home Minister Anitha says orphanage has no govt approval



condition were transferred to King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam for more advanced treatment. Several students fell ill on Saturday after consuming food served at the Kailasapatnam Parisuddhathma Agnistuti

Aradhana Trust Orphanage in the Kotauratla block of Anakapalli district. The orphanage, operated by the Aradhana Trust, a minority institution, houses over 80 children, most of whom are orphans. Many students began experiencing symptoms such as vomiting and discomfort on Sunday.

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## Ensure best treatment to affected kids: CM

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Education Minister Nara Lokesh, and YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Reddy expressed shock and grief over

the tragic deaths of four students in Anakapalli district after consuming stale food. Chandrababu ordered officials to ensure the best treatment for the affected students and sought a detailed report. Lokesh confirmed that district authorities have been directed to provide proper care to the students receiving treatment. Jagan criticised the government's negligence, urging systemic improvements and support for the victims' families while advising against spreading false propaganda.



## 'Salakatla Brahmotsavams' schedule released

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## Hostel organiser held, murder case filed: SP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The organiser of the hostel (orphanage) in Kailasapatnam village, Kotauratla mandal, Anakapalli district, where four lives were tragically lost, was arrested on Monday evening.

The district Superintendent of Police, Deepika, stated that the hostel organiser, Kiran Kumar, was taken into custody by the police, and

a murder case has been registered against him.

It has been confirmed that 86 inmates of the hostel consumed stale food served at the facility, leading to the deaths.

The SP emphasised that the deaths were solely due to the consumption of contaminated food. She further mentioned that if there are any other hostel organisers involved, they will also face arrest.

**ACTS OF OMISSION & COMMISSION**

## CM orders probe against AP's ex-I & PR commissioner TVK Reddy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former Information and Public Relations Commissioner Tumma Vijay Kumar Reddy is under scanner by the TDP-led NDA government. Sources indicate that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad to issue orders for a thorough investigation by the Vigilance and Enforcement Department into the alleged acts of omission and commission committed by Vijay Kumar Reddy during his tenure as I&PR Commissioner under the YS Jagan



Mohan Reddy government. The 1990-batch Indian Information Service officer was deputed to Andhra Pradesh on 11 June 2019, shortly after YS Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power in the State. He has been accused of engaging in quid pro quo deals with various agencies and of granting undue favours to the Sakshi media group. The Chief Minister reportedly obtained a preliminary report indicating that during YS Jagan's regime, the I&PR department awarded advertisements worth more than Rs 400 crore to Sakshi media house, owned by Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Continued on Page 2

The Union Health Ministry has asked all airports as well as authorities at land ports on borders with Bangladesh and Pakistan to remain alert about incoming international passengers reporting Mpxo symptoms, official sources said on Sunday. The ministry has identified three Centre-run hospitals -- Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge -- as nodal centres in the national capital for isolation, management and treatment of any patient with Mpxo. All state governments have been asked to identify such designated hospitals under their jurisdiction, the sources said. P K Mishra, the principal secretary to the prime minister, chaired

## MPOX SCARE

## Centre tells international airports to be vigilant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

- Asks all states to identify such designated hospitals under their jurisdiction



a high-level meeting on Sunday to review the country's preparedness for Mpxo amid enhanced surveillance for prompt detection. Officials said there is no report-

ed case of Mpxo in the country as of now. As per the current assessment, the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is low, they said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Mpxo a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

"The virus strain this time is different and is more virulent and infectious. But the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is low in the country as per the current assessment," an official source said.

The health ministry has directed officials to enhance surveillance and effective measures to be taken for prompt detection of Mpxo cases. It has stressed that the network of testing laboratories should be geared up for early diagnosis of the disease.

At present, 32 laboratories in the country are equipped for testing Mpxo. Mishra on Sunday said protocols for prevention and treatment of the disease should be disseminated on a large scale, stressing the importance of running an awareness campaign among healthcare providers about the signs and symptoms of the disease and the need for timely notification to the surveillance system.

An earlier statement from WHO stated that 99,176 cases and 208 deaths had been reported due to Mpxo from 116 countries globally since 2022. Mpxo cases have been steadily increasing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



# PM Modi's contribution to space research is commendable: MP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contribution to space research in India is commendable. The National Space Day-2024 celebrations, under the auspices of the Department of Water Resources under the National Hydrology Project, Andhra Pradesh, were held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetra on Monday. The MP was the chief guest of the programme and inaugurated the stalls set up by students and various colleges, interacting with those who used space technology to create machines beneficial to daily life. He expressed his delight at being part of the first National Space Day celebrations.

On this occasion, MP Sivanath noted that the use of space technology in daily life has increased significantly. The services of scientist Vikram



Sarabhai, former President and scientist Abdul Kalam, in achieving such development in space research in India cannot be forgotten. August 23, 2023, marked a historic milestone in India's space exploration. He highlighted that ISRO's Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover have made Indians proud by touching the surface of the South Pole of the Moon. To mark this unprecedented achievement, he thanked

Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring August 23 each year as National Space Day to inspire the youth.

He added that, beyond celebrating the progress in space research and the success of the first step on the Moon, it is essential to understand the impact of space technology on our daily lives.

Eminent scientists and officers from central organisations who attended include

Bharath Kumar Reddy K, Scientist/Engineer-SD, ISRO - NRSC; Mannu Upadhyay, Director, CWC, Hyderabad; BC Parida, SOI - Director, AP & TG Geospatial Directorate; Dr SV Vijay Kumar, Scientist-G, NIH, Kakinada; VS Jeyakanthan, Scientist-F, NIH, Kakinada; N Srinivas, Joint Director, GW & AD, AP; Rani VR, Scientist-D, CGWB; and Murali K Reddy, TAMC, NPMU, NHP - Procurement Expert.

Officers and engineers from various State government organisations, such as the Water Resources Department and Ground Water and Water Audit Department, also attended the conference. Students, along with their faculty from KL University, VR Siddhartha University, and VIT AP University, and children from various schools, attended and showcased their models in the exhibition.

# 'Salakatla Brahmotsavams' schedule released

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

Tirumala, renowned for its constant celebrations with over 450 festivals held throughout the year, is going to celebrate the 'Navahnika Salakatla Brahmotsavams' in about one-and-a-half months from now. This grand nine-day religious festival is set to take place from October 4 to 12, with the 'Ankurarpana' ceremony scheduled for October 3.

The daily schedule includes 'vahana sevas' in the morning from 8 am to 10 am and in the evening from 7 pm to 9 pm, except on October 4.



**Schedule for 'Vahana Sevas'**  
**October 4, Friday:** 5:45pm to 6:00pm - Dwajaroohanam; 9:00pm to 11:00pm - Pedda Sessa Vahanam.  
**October 5, Saturday:** 8:00 am to 10:00 am - Chinna Sessa; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Snapanam; 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Hamsa.

**October 6, Sunday:** 8:00 am to 10:00 am - Simha; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Snapanam; 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Muthyapu Pandiri.  
**October 7, Monday:** 8:00 am to 10:00 am - Kalpavriksha; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Snapanam; 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Sarva Bhoopala.  
**October 8, Tuesday:** 8:00am to 10:00am - Mohini Avataram; 6:30pm to 11:30pm - Garuda Vahanam.

**October 9, Wednesday:** 8:00 am to 10:00 am - Hanumanta; 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm - Golden Chariot; 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Gaja Vahanam.  
**October 10, Thursday:** 8:00 am to 10:00 am - Suryaprabha; 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Chandraprabha.  
**October 11, Friday:** 7:00 am onwards - Rathotsavam; 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Aswa Vahanam.

**October 12, Saturday:** 6:00 am to 9:00 am - Chakra Snanam; 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm - Dwajaroohanam.

Additionally, 'Snapana Tirumanjanam' will be conducted for the 'utsava' deities of Sri Malayappa Swamy, Sridevi, and Bhudevi at the Ranganayakula Mandapam on the second, third, and fourth days of the annual Brahmotsavams.

# Heavy rain likely in north coastal Andhra, R'seema

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Sunday's cyclonic circulation over north interior Karnataka now lies over Rayalaseema and extends up to 0.9 km above mean sea level, the Meteorological Centre said on Monday. In a daily weather report here, it said that the trough now runs from cyclonic circulation over Rayalaseema and extends up to 0.9 km above mean sea level.

The southwest monsoon has been normal over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and weak over Rayalaseema. Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next 48 hours. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and strong surface winds with speeds ranging from 30-40 Kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next 48 hours.

Strong surface winds with speeds ranging from 30-40 Kmph are likely to prevail at isolated places in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next five days and in Rayalaseema from August 21-23.

# Unique protest marks Raksha Bandhan by AP JUDA

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a unique protest, the Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors' Association (AP JUDA) marked Raksha Bandhan on Monday, by organising 'Abhaya ka Bhai', a symbolic event as part of their ongoing protest against the rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata. This protest entered its seventh day with a clear message demanding the safety and protection of healthcare professionals.

At AIIMS Mangalagiri, doctors staged a protest by observing Red Apron Day. In a poignant display of solidarity, female participants tied rakhis to each other. The Resident Doctors, Interns, and students of AIIMS Mangalagiri reiterated their commitment to the indefinite boycott of all non-emergency services, including OPDs, IPDs,



Elective OTs, Lab services, and Academic Activities. This boycott aligns with the national movement advocating for the safety and protection of healthcare professionals. The Raksha Bandhan event, where women tied rakhis to one another, underscored their demand for a safe working environment. The peaceful protest will continue until their demands are met, with further actions to be determined based on the evolving national situation.

In a parallel demonstration, junior doctors from Rangaraya Medical College staged a hunger strike, with 30 participants demanding justice for the victimised doctor in Kolkata and the implementation of the Central Protection Act.

As a show of solidarity, co-students and juniors tied rakhis to their seniors, symbolically recognising them as protectors within the college. Similar events were held across all government medical colleges in the State.

# Jagan demands completion of R&R works for Veligonda project

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has demanded that Chandrababu Naidu immediately focus on completing the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) works of the Veligonda project and make immediate payments so that water can be stored this season, meeting the irrigation and drinking water needs.

Taking to the social media platform X, the former Chief Minister wrote that the Veligonda project, which is the lifeline for the drought-stricken Prakasam district, is being neglected by the TDP coalition government under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Despite the critical need to complete this project and provide its benefits to the people, no significant attention has been given by the current administration, he said.

He mentioned that under the governance of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), they successfully completed two tunnels of the project, overcoming several technical challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that Tunnel-1 was



completed and dedicated to the nation in January 2021, followed by the successful completion of Tunnel-2 in January 2024. Jagan emphasized that this achievement realized the vision of the late great leader Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy, who had initiated the construction of the project in 2005.

He pointed out that while the two tunnels were completed, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) work remains unfinished. He stated that an immediate payment of around Rs 1,200 crores is needed to finalize the R&R process and store water this season. He also mentioned that the previous YSRCP government had already prepared detailed plans for R&R, but after three months in power, Chandrababu Naidu's adminis-

tration has shown no visible effort to address the issue.

He stated that Chandrababu has been conveniently inflating civil work estimates and awarding contracts for personal gain while neglecting the rehabilitation of displaced people. He also pointed out similar negligence in the Gandikota project, which delayed water storage. He highlighted that only after the YSRCP government took over, Rs 1,000 crores were paid to displaced families, enabling the storage of 27 TMC of water.

YS Jagan mentioned that his government completed the R&R for the Chitravathi project with Rs 250 crores, enabling the storage of 10 TMC of water.

He also noted that Rs 60 crores were spent to finish the diaphragm wall at Brahmasagar, along with the completion of the Telugu Ganga Canal lining, which allowed for the transport of 17,000 cuses of water and storage of 17 TMC. Additionally, Jagan highlighted that during Chandrababu's tenure, the R&R for the Pulichintala project was neglected, but the YSRCP government allocated Rs 140 crores to complete it, enabling full capacity storage of 46 TMC of water.

# Revanth helps girl who held mother's funeral with donations

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday directed officials to take care of the education, medical and other needs of a 12-year-old girl Durga from Nirmal district who had to perform her mother's final rites with the help of donations from others.

After the girl's plight came to his notice, the Chief Minister asked Nirmal district Collector Abhilasha Abhinav to take care of the girl's needs, an official release said. As per the CM's directive, Durga, who lost both her parents, would be admitted to a State-run social welfare residential school. She would be provided free education, medical treatment, if necessary, and other facilities, it said. The girl's mother, a daily wage earner who was into drinking, allegedly took her life by hanging on Thursday night.

With no money to conduct the funeral, the bereaved girl sat outside her house helplessly. Residents and local police contributed money to meet the expenses. The little girl then performed the funeral with the help of locals.

# CM opens 15 projects, lays...

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Since 2015, we've been ranked No. 1 in Ease of Doing Business, but it's time now to focus on the 'Speed of Doing Business' to truly elevate our industrial landscape."

The Chief Minister added, "Let us work together to bring down the cost of production and create an integrated logistics and infrastructure network to make Andhra Pradesh a global industrial hub." Chandrababu Naidu emphasised that AP aims to become a leader in product-perfect manufacturing, ensuring zero poverty, and promoting Telugu entrepreneurs globally. He urged industry stakeholders to participate in achieving this goal.

# AP turning into...

Continued from Page 1

Vi Li, the Indian representative of Foxconn, commended Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's efforts to attract investment to the State. Although he acknowledged past challenges faced by the company in Andhra Pradesh, Li highlighted the company's strong relationship with the State.

Li stated that Foxconn is prepared to establish units for electric vehicle manufacturing, semiconductors, digital health, and component manufacturing in Andhra Pradesh. He assured Lokesh that the company would support the goal of creating 20 lakh jobs and agreed to invest significantly in the State. Lokesh encouraged Foxconn to begin their plans as soon as possible.

The meeting was attended by Vi Li, Senthil Kumar (Director of Foxconn Chairman's Office), Bharat Dandi (Deputy Director), Vector Chen (Manager), Sourabh Gour (IT and Electronics Principal Secretary), and other officials.

# Rs 300 cr to be...

Continued from Page 1

The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of proper maintenance, including greasing and desilting of canals, which the previous government had neglected for five years.

The Chief Minister also noted that the capacity of the Somasila project, originally 38 TMC, was increased to 78 TMC during NTR's tenure as Chief Minister, with 5.84 lakh acres currently irrigated by the project. He mentioned the potential to store 68 TMC in Kandaleru, which could provide water to 3 lakh acres.

With water in both these projects, it would be possible to supply water to Nellore, Tirupati, and Prakasam districts. This year, the reservoirs on the Krishna River are full due to good rains. If the Penna River receives floodwaters, Kandaleru and Somasila will also be filled.

The Chief Minister asserted that timely water supply to farmers would lead to bountiful harvests. He added that, of the total 983 TMC storage capacity of reservoirs in the state, 692 TMC has been stored so far.

This marks the first time in 20 years that all reservoirs in the state have been full in the month of August.

# 4 students die after having...

Continued from Page 1

Three of them died in the morning, and a fourth, a girl in critical condition, passed away while being transported to Visakhapatnam. Officials reported that the children had been served biryani, samosas, and chocolates on Saturday night after a prayer meeting, and some also ate leftover biryani the following morning.

In response to the incident, State Home Minister V Anitha stated that the orphanage was operating without government approval and assured that stern action would be taken against its management. After visiting the sick children at King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam, she remarked that many hostels are operating without proper permissions. She emphasised that government-approved hostels are not permitted to serve outside food, but in this case, the children became ill after consuming food brought from outside. In response to the crisis, authorities from the police and medical and health departments have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the food poisoning. District Collector M N Harendhira Prasad personally visited KGH to check on the children's well-being. He reassured the community, saying, "I want to assure everyone that the children are receiving the best possible care under the supervision of our dedicated medical team.

The doctors are closely monitoring their progress, and I'm pleased to report that their condition is stable."

Collector Prasad further elaborated on the efforts being made, stating, "A total of 14 children were brought from Anakapalli, and all of them are currently in the children's ward, where they are receiving advanced treatment. There is no need for concern as their recovery is progressing well."

# CM orders probe...

Continued from Page 1

In addition to Sakshi, Reddy faces allegations of large-scale corruption in the release of advertisements to various print, electronic, digital, and social media outlets over the past five years.

Reddy managed to secure his repatriation to the Union Information and Broadcasting Department, where he was appointed as Director General (Media and Communication) in the Press Information Bureau, Kolkata, with immediate effect and until further orders. Initially, the General Administration Department of the Andhra Pradesh government refused to relieve him, pending an inquiry into the acts of omission and commission during his tenure over the last five years.

However, he reportedly used his connections in Delhi to facilitate the repatriation.

## ON TOP OF THE WORLD

# Preetham mounts Kilimanjaro

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Preetham Goli, a 16-year-old student of Delhi Public School, has made history as one of the youngest climbers from Hyderabad to successfully summit Mount Kilimanjaro. The ambitious young climber reached the summit on July 17, 2024, after an eight-day expedition that tested his physical endurance and mental resilience.

Preetham, who is currently in the 12th grade, embarked on his journey on July 12 with a group of four climbers, guided by experienced mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta. The group faced numerous challenges during the ascent, but Preetham's determination and perseverance saw him through to the top.

Sharing his experience, he said, "One of the main reasons I wanted to summit Kilimanjaro was that after finishing Everest Base Camp, I was not satisfied. I wanted to do more, climb more, achieve more." "While climbing Kilimanjaro, sometimes I felt lonely, but I learned to enjoy it. Being away from



*While climbing Kilimanjaro, sometimes I felt lonely, but I learned to enjoy it. Being away from everyone and everything made me realise how simple our life was.*

*The feeling when I reached the summit was just magical - all the problems I had while climbing just disappeared. At the summit, Preetham proudly unfurled the Indian national flag, the NCC flag and his school flag, a moment that he describes as one of the best feelings in the world*

everyone and everything made me realise how simple our life was. Sometimes I felt really peaceful, which I had never felt before," he added.

The summit day was particularly gruelling, starting at 3 am in freezing conditions.

The summit trail was very hard due to the steep ascent and slippery ground made of fine gravel or sand. Right before reaching the summit, I started having a really bad headache, which I know is common due to

the altitude, so I kept pushing on. The feeling when I reached the summit was just magical - all the problems I had while climbing just disappeared," he added.

At the summit, Preetham proudly unfurled the Indian national flag, the NCC flag and his school flag, a moment that he describes as one of the best feelings in the world. Although the group had planned to stay at the Crater Camp, bad weather forced them to descend to Barafu Camp the same night.

# Centre approves 25%...

Continued from Page 1

Crimes and rapes are already covered under existing laws, they said.

They further said that 26 states and Union Territories including West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka and Kerala have passed legislations to protect healthcare personnel. In all these states these offences are cognisable and non-

bailable. "So, bringing in an ordinance or even a Central law, that too based on the RG Kar case which was not a patient-doctor violence incident, will not make any huge difference," an official source said.

They said they have held meetings with some Residents Doctors' Associations and have explained these aspects to them too.

More so, a committee will be constituted under the chairman-

ship of Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to look into various aspects of security and facilities at hospitals for residents like duty room, working hours and conditions, and canteen services.

"Hospitals being public facilities cannot be turned into a fortress. We have urged the doctors to call off their strike because patient care is getting affected," an official source said.



# Throngs of devotees take part in 'Giri Pradakshina'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada has hosted the commencement of the 'Giri Pradakshina' ritual, led by the temple's Executive Officer (EO) KS Rama Rao. The sacred event began at the Sri Kamadhenu Ammavari Temple, located at the entrance of the Ghat road, following special pujas performed on Monday.

On the occasion of Pournami (Full Moon Day), the temple's Vedic scholars conducted special prayers, accompanied by the chanting of Vedic mantras and traditional Mangal instruments for the welfare of society.

The 'Giri Pradakshina' saw the participation of numerous devotees, temple officials, and staff. The ritual procession started at the entrance of the Ghat Road and passed through significant landmarks including Kummariapalem Centre, Nalugu Sthambala Centre, Sitaru, Kabela, Milk Project, Chittinagar, Kothapet, Nehru Bomma Centre, Brahmina Street, and Ghat road, eventually reaching the temple atop Indrakeeladri. During the ritual, devotees



Durga Temple EO KS Rama Rao participating in 'Giri Pradakshina' on the Pournami day in Vijayawada on Monday

performed pujas to Durga Devi, who was seated on a specially designed ratham (chariot). Many devotees believe that participating in Giri Pradakshina can fulfil their desires, and they offer prayers,

The temple authorities warmly welcomed the Minister's family, facilitating their darshan.

Minister Subhash and his family members later offered special pujas, after which the Vedic scholars bestowed blessings upon them at the Veda Ashirvachana Mandapam. The Minister was also presented with Seshya Vastram, Laddu Prasadam, and a portrait as a token of reverence.

The Minister's family also participated in the Anna Prasadam.

## Fishermen stage dharna

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Members of the All India Fishermen's Association staged a dharna in front of the District fisheries office here on Monday demanding immediate payment of Rs.20,000 as a fishing ban period allowance.

Association Central Committee Member Ch Ramani while addressing the demonstrators alleged that previously fishing ban allowance used to be credited to the fishermen's accounts within 15 to 20 days of the fishing ban period but now even after four months, not even a single rupee was paid to them.

Association district unit leader Uppada Satyanarayana appealed to the government to pay the fishing ban period allowance to all the eligible fishermen without linking it to the white ration cards. He warned that fishermen would be forced to take up an agitation if the allowance is not paid without further delay.

# Lokesh extends wishes to women on Rakhi Pournami



Education Minister Nara Lokesh with Telugu Mahila leaders at Undavalli on Monday

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The event, organised by Telugu Mahila State president Achanta Sunitha, saw many women tying rakhis to Lokesh as part of the Rakhi Pournami festivities. Among those who participated in the celebrations were Minister for BC Welfare S Savitha and former minister Peethala Sujatha, who also tied Rakhies to Lokesh. During his address, Lokesh

highlighted the TDP's long-standing support for women's empowerment, noting that the party has championed equal rights to assets for women and established a special Mahila University dedicated to their education and advancement. He emphasised that TDP has consistently been at the forefront of initiatives aimed at uplifting women since its inception.

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# Massive turnout at Vizag Marathon-2024

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Beach Road came alive with the rhythmic pounding of feet as thousands of enthusiastic runners participated in the third edition of the Vizag Marathon on Monday. Organised by the Vizag Runners Society in collaboration with Sandhya Marines, the event was a testament to the city's growing fitness culture. Runners of all ages, from young children to seasoned athletes, lined up at the starting point near the iconic Kali Matha Temple. The marathon offered four categories: 21k, 10k, 5k, and 3k, catering to participants of varying fitness levels.

MP M. Sribharat and Police Commissioner Dr. Shanka Brata Bagchi joined the runners, showcasing their support for a healthy lifestyle. "It's inspiring to see the community come together for such a positive cause. Events like these



not only promote fitness but also foster a sense of unity and pride in our city," said the MP. Beyond the competitive spirit, the marathon served as a platform for social causes. The Vizag Runners Society partnered with the GVMC to promote 'Eco Vizag' and with the city police for the Drug-free Vizag campaign. Participants actively engaged in raising awareness about these crucial issues.

Kancheti Srinivas, secretary of the Vizag Runners Society, expressed his delight at the

event's success. "Our aim is to make Vizag a running hub and showcase its beauty to the world. The overwhelming participation is a testament to our efforts," he said. The winners of the marathon were celebrated with great enthusiasm. Ar. R. Naik and Soumya Saraswati emerged victorious in the 21k category for men and women, respectively. Harish and Grace

clined the top spots in the 10k race. Balakrishna Rai, president of Vizag Runners Society, thanked the participants, sponsors, and volunteers for making the marathon a resounding success. "This event is more than just a race; it's a celebration of health, unity, and the spirit of Visakhapatnam."

# Develop government schools, NRIs urged

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao inaugurated the dining hall built at the Mukkamala Jagadeeswara Rao Zilla Parishad High School at Davajjigudem in Krishna district on Monday.

On the occasion, the MLA felicitated the Maganti Murali couple, who sponsored the dining hall constructed at a cost of Rs.29 lakh. He urged the public to come forward and donate generously for developing the infrastructure facilities at ZP high schools. Later, he served the mid-day meal to the school

students.

MLA Venkata Rao said that the government aims to strengthen the government schools so that they provide quality education. He appealed to NRIs to take inspiration from Maganti Murali and come forward to participate in developing schools' infrastructure facilities. "Nowadays, people give top priority to money instead of humans. However, the donor Maganti Murali is different," he added.

Buddhavaram Sarpanch Badugu Balamma, Gannavaram DSP Murali, and others were present.



MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao inaugurating the dining hall built on the premises of the ZP High School at Davajjigudem in Gannavaram on Monday

# VMC chief stresses importance of mosquito control efforts

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra has stressed the importance of controlling the mosquito menace to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. He directed officials to spray ML Oil on the water in the Budameru drain using drones as part of the city's mosquito control efforts.

## Officials directed to spray ML Oil in Budameru drain using drones

On Monday, as part of his visits to various divisions in the city, Commissioner Dhyanaachandra inspected several areas under VMC Circles 1, 2, and 3, including NTR Circle, Kanaka Durga Nagar, the Major Outfall Drain at Gunadala, Budameru drain, and Gollapalem Gattu. At NTR Circle and Kanaka

Durga Nagar, the Commissioner provided necessary instructions to the officials, particularly focusing on maintaining proper sanitation in coordination with ILA officials at the VMC borders. To combat the mosquito problem, he emphasised the need to spray ML Oil in the drains and directed the removal of silt

from the drain at Kanaka Durga Nagar. Commissioner Dhyanaachandra then proceeded to Circle 2, where he inspected the Budameru major drain and observed the ongoing ML Oil spraying. He reiterated the importance of these measures to ensure that residents do not suffer from mos-

quito-borne diseases. Later, he visited Gollapalem Gattu in Circle 1, where he inspected a survey on household drinking water tap connections.

VMC Chief Medical Officer Dr P Ratnavali, Executive Engineer Samrajyam, biologist Surya Kumar, and other officials participated in the inspections.



VMC Commissioner Dhyanaachandra giving instructions to the officials regarding spraying MLOil in the drains in Vijayawada



## Nuclear power crucial for India's net-zero goals: Dr. Saraswat

He advocates for paradigm shift from large reactors to small modular reactors

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Dr. VK Saraswat, a member of NITI Aayog, has emphasised the critical role of nuclear power in India's journey towards achieving net-zero energy emissions by 2070. Addressing the International Syn Fuels Conference 2024 organised by GITAM Deemed to be University here on Monday, Dr. Saraswat underscored the need for a balanced energy mix comprising both nuclear and renewable energy sources. "India's current energy landscape, heavily reliant on fossil fuels, particularly coal, necessitates a significant shift towards cleaner alternatives," Dr Saraswat noted. He highlighted the advantages of nuclear power, including its clean energy generation, reduced reliance on critical minerals, and proven track record of safety and reliability. Advocating for a paradigm shift from large reactors to small modular reactors (SMRs), Dr. Saraswat stressed the impor-

tance of industry involvement in this transition. He expressed optimism about recent budgetary allocations for the research and development of Bharat Small Modular Reactors and advancements in nuclear technologies. Additionally, he called for exploring alternative nuclear fuels like thorium to reduce the country's dependence on uranium imports.

Prof Y Gowtham Rao, In-charge Vice-Chancellor of GITAM, echoed Dr. Saraswat's views, and emphasised the need for clean, affordable electricity to achieve net-zero goals. He urged the scientific community to innovate and develop new energy sources for the benefit of society. The conference brought together experts including Prof. KS Krishna, Dean of GITAM School of Science; Prof. VSRK Prasad, Founder Director of IPIE; Prof. M Ganapati, Director of VT India Nuclear Energy Partnership (USA), and Prof K Vedavathi, Principal of GITAM School of Science.

# Photography a tool for social change: Addl Commissioner

Photo expo marks World Photography Day observance

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Underscoring the profound impact of photography, Dr Y Srinivasa Rao, Additional Commissioner of GVMC, asserted that the art form serves as a potent medium to connect with people and catalyse social change. He was addressing a gathering of photographers and enthusiasts at the 185th World Photography Day event, hosted by the Vizag Photojournalists Association at the Visakha Museum on Monday.

Inaugurating a photo exhibition, Dr Srinivasa Rao commended the association for curating a display of over 300 photographs, including rare glimpses of the city's evolution. He emphasised that the exhibition effectively brought to light pressing social issues through the evocative power of imagery.

"Photography is more than just capturing moments; it's about telling stories that resonate with people," Dr. Rao said. "It has the incredible ability to evoke emotions, spark conversations, and inspire action."

He expressed his delight at witnessing the enthusiasm of schoolchildren who were captivated by the photographs. Recognising the significance of photography as a tool for



social awareness, the GVMC officially extended the corporation's full support to the Vizag Photojournalists Association in organising an annual free photography exhibition at the Visakha Museum on World Photography Day. "This will not only promote photographic talent but also create a platform for dialogue and reflection on important

societal issues," he added. PN Murthy, president of the Vizag Photojournalists Association, expressed gratitude for the GVMC's support.



## Lensmen honoured

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The 'Tracks of Time' Photography Exhibition organised by the Vijayawada Division of the South Central Railway culminated at Vijayawada railway station on Monday. The five-day exhibition, held from August 15 to 19, showcased captivating railway-themed photographs. On the momentous occasion of World Photography Day, a ceremony to honour the photojournalists was organised by the Public Relations Department of the Vijayawada Division. Ch VS Vijaya Bhaskara Rao, veteran photojournalist, graced the closing ceremony as the chief guest, while DRM Narendra A Patil was the guest of honour.

Narendra Patil felicitated Ch VS Vijaya Bhaskara Rao with a Certificate of Recognition as a token of respect. Addressing the gathering, he praised Vijaya Bhaskara Rao's 40 years of experience and his achievements, including the prestigious UNESCO and numerous other international and national-level awards. He said that Vijaya Bhaskara Rao's exemplary work is a source of inspiration for young and aspiring photographers seeking a career in the industry. They examined all the 91 photos which were part of the

## CM extends wishes to photojournalists

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu extended greetings to the photographers on the occasion of World Photography Day at his residence at Undavalli on Monday. Meanwhile, many photojournalists working in various print media met CM Naidu. The CM interacted with the photojournalists and asked about their day-to-day duties. He said working as a photojournalist is hard, and praised those who have excelled in the field.

exhibition. After careful evaluation, Narendra A Patil and Vijay Bhaskara Rao jointly declared the top three winners. Y Sai Krishna bagged the first prize, while Sai Krishna and Ansar N received second and third prizes, respectively.

They also presented 'Certificates of Appreciation' to the 136 members of the Andhra Pradesh Photojournalist Association from 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh.



# Prepare Vision Document for WG, DC tells officials

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani directed the official to prepare a 'Vision Document' to achieve 'Vikasit Andhra Pradesh 2047'. The Collector held a meeting with the officials of various departments here on Monday and reviewed various issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that the Andhra Pradesh government is preparing a road map for comprehensive development of the state under "Vikasit Bharat Bharat@2047" under "Vikasit Andhra Pradesh by 2047". In this direction, Andhra Pradesh is in the last stage of finalising the draft vision document to achieve 15% growth annually.

The Collector said that the Prime Minister of India would release this document on October 2, 2024, adding that economic and social planning at the district, mandal level is necessary to achieve



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the growth rate targets. For this, a visionary district plan for the next 5 years (2024-29) should identify the strengths, potential areas, growth engines and emerging sectors, she told them.

Collector Nagarani said that the government has directed every district to prepare such vision plans with the primary goal of achieving 15% annual growth rate by 2024-29. The planning department of the

state government is preparing this document with the support of NITI Aayog. Similarly, a district vision document should be prepared at the district level, she revealed.

"To achieve 50 per cent GVA in the next five years, what can be done at the bottom level and what can be done to increase the GVA should be made a realistic plan. If we can raise the living standards of the people, we

will be successful," the Collector made it clear.

She highlighted that the WG district is rich in aqua and coconut products and directed the officials to evolve plans to develop the sectors further and prepare a vision document adding all the issues. DRO J Uday Bhaskar Rao and district planning officer M Mohan Rao were among those who attended the meeting.

# Minister pays tributes to freedom fighter Addepalli

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Minister for Water Resources Development Nimmala Ramanaidu paid tributes to freedom fighter, educationist and social activist Addepalli Satyanarayana Murthy on Monday in Palakollu.

Addepalli Satyanarayana Murthy's birth anniversary was organised on the campus of Government Junior Women's College in Palakollu. The Minister garlanded the portrait of Addepalli and paid rich tributes.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said freedom fighter Addepalli Satyanarayana Murthy had given his property for the promotion of education. He sold his rice mill and gave the money to establish a College in Palakollu in those days, he recalled.

"In 2014, when I was elected to the Assembly, the 125th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar was celebrated here. In 2019 I was elected again and that time the 125th anniversary of freedom fighter Alluri Sitaramaraju was celebrated. Now we are celebrat-



ing the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of freedom fighter Addepalli Satyanarayana Murthy," Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu noted.

He said that Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to this area during the freedom struggle stayed in the house of Addepalli Satyanarayana Murthy in Palakollu, he recalled. The 125th anniversary celebrations of Addepalli Satyanarayana Murthy, who was also the first municipal chairman of Palakollu, are being organised for a year by the Dharma Rao Foundation.

Later the Minister distributed notebooks and bags to 260 students. The Minister highlighted that Education Minister

Nara Lokesh had already taken steps to revamp the education sector and provide facilities to the government colleges and schools on par with the corporate educational institutions. He acknowledged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu made the first sign-on to conduct the DSC examination to fill 16,500 teacher posts. The coalition government has aimed to churn out 20 lakh jobs in the next five years, he made it clear. On the occasion, the Minister also inaugurated a blood donation camp in which many people donated blood. Former MLA B Usharani and College Principal B Appa Rao were among those who were present.

# Three killed as bike rams stationary lorry

PNS ■ NARASARAOPEET

Three persons, including two women, were killed when the motorcycle on which they were travelling rammmed a stationary lorry at Anjanapuram village near the toll gate in Piduguralla mandal on the night of Sunday.

SI Mohan said that the deceased Maruri Naga Teja Reddy (25), Indu (30) and Amulya (15) went to Gurajala to attend a marriage.

When they were going back to their native village, their bike rammmed a stationary lorry at the rear end.

All three persons were killed instantaneously. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH in Gurajala for post-mortem.



# Officials directed to take steps for 'Grama Sabhalu' on Aug 23

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj K Pawan Kalyan has said that 'Grama Sabhalu' will be organised in 13,326 village panchayats on August 23 to discuss and take decisions on various vital issues including MGNREGA works and directed the officials to take steps to organise them successfully.

Pawan Kalyan held a meeting with the officials in his camp office at Mangalagiri and reviewed various issues including the holding of 'Grama Sabhalu'. 'Gram Sabha' is the right forum to decide what works to be undertaken and developed through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, he opined. Through this, the people will have the opportunity to discuss and decide what works are needed



for your town, he stated. The amount of funds received for those works and how they would be spent would be informed by the 'Gram Sabhas', Pawan Kalyan revealed, adding that many said that 'Grama Sabhas' should be held across the state on the same day. "That is why, we have decided to organise 'Grama Sabhas'

in 13,326 panchayats on the 23rd of this month. The work to be undertaken in the villages in the financial year 2024-25 will be discussed and approved in the 'Gram Sabha'. Panchayat officials should make people fully aware of the management of Gram Sabhas," the Minister noted.

Pawan Kalyan directed the officials to inform the people about the Gram Sabha two days before. "Steps should be taken to conduct the Grama Sabha meaningfully. It is necessary to conduct the Grama Sabhalu with the participation of the people. So that people can be part of the development of their villages," he told the officials.

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Principal Secretary Seshibhusan Kumar and Commissioner Sri Krishna Teja were among those who attended the meeting.



Minister Vasamsetti Subhash inaugurating the Gunadala ESI hospital's new building complex in Vijayawada on Monday

# Past glory of ESI hospitals in AP will be restored: Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Labour, Factories, Boilers and Insurance Medical Services Vasamsetti Subhash has stated that his government is striving to bring back the previous glory to all Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals in the State. He pledged that free treatment up to Rs.10 lakh will be offered for all ESI card holders. Additionally, he stated that the ESI hospital at Gunadala will

be upgraded from a 110-bed hospital to a 300-bed one.

Minister Subhash, along with Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rama Mohana Rao and MLC Paruchuri Ashok Babu, inaugurated the new building complex of the ESI Hospital at Gunadala on Monday.

# Govt committed to uplift of goat and sheep breeders: Kolusu

PNS ■ ELURU

Minister of Housing and Information & Public Relations, Kolusu Parthasarathy, has said that the State government is committed to the economic development of sheep and goat breeders. The Minister inaugurated an awareness programme for sheep and goat breeders at Agiripalli Gollagudem in Agiripalli mandal on Monday. On this occasion, sheep and goats were vaccinated.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Parthasarathy noted that the trade of meat products is worth around Rs 500 crore across the state. He suggested that a change in perception is needed so that this highly profitable profession gains more respect. He added that only 10 to 15 per cent of Yadavs are shepherds, and only 10 per cent of Toddy tappers remain in their professions. If they are provided with loans for their economic development, they could advance significantly.

The Minister mentioned that



the Chief Minister has been urged to implement measures for rural economic development and to advance the information technology sector. He requested the Chief Minister to focus on farmers, SCs, and BCs in rural areas and to improve their lives, to which the Chief Minister responded positively.

Minister Parthasarathy highlighted that the Chief Minister has made it clear that the development of weaker sections, Dalits, and castes will be part of the Vision 2047 initiatives. Under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, State Minister Nara

Lokesh, and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the weaker sections and Dalits are expected to benefit significantly.

Animal Husbandry Department Joint Director Dr G Nehru Babu, DD N Chandrasekhar, State President of Sheep and Goat Breeders D Venkata Krishna, Animal Husbandry Department Assistant Directors ADM Venkateswara Rao, B Lakshminarayana, N Rama Rao, Sucharita, along with several veterinary assistants and public representatives, were present.

# New office-bearers elected for Rotary Club of Vijayawada Icons

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The installation ceremony of new office-bearers of Rotary Club of Vijayawada Icons for the year 2024-25 was held at Icon Public School on Monday. The newly-elected office-bearers took oath of office on the occasion. Subba Rao Revuri (Datta), installation officer and chief guest, presided over the programme.

The club's new president is M Vijay, secretary B Suresh



Babu, assistant convener Dr Guthikonda Sriharsha, club advisor and district secretary, Yadda Partha Saradhi. Rotarians

K Rajendra, members of Rotary Club of Vijayawada and members of Coastal Andhra were present on the occasion.

# Milk Society building complex inaugurated at Anantavaram

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath along with Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad, inaugurated the Milk Producers Mutually Aided Cooperative Milk Society building complex in Anantavaram of Mylavaram mandal on Monday. The new building was built at Rs. 4.25 lakh, marking a significant development for the local milk producers.

During the inauguration, MP Chinni criticised the previous YSRCP government for attempting to undermine cooperative milk societies by bringing the corporate entity Amul from Gujarat State. He praised the resilience of the milk producers, who remained united despite the challenges posed by the State government.



MP Kesineni Chinni, Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad and Krishna Milk Union chairman Anjaneyulu participating in the Anantavaram Milk Society building complex inauguration near Mylavaram on Monday

He also commended the Krishna District Milk Producers Mutually Aided Cooperative Society Limited for its support of farmers during this difficult period, specifically recognising the efforts of union chairman Chalasani Anjaneyulu.

MP Chinni further highlighted the enduring legacy of

late Chief Minister Dr NT Rama Rao, whose efforts ensured the successful continuation of cooperative societies in the State. He emphasised that current Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is committed to supporting farmers and milk producers, ensuring they do not face financial difficulties.

# Recounting to be held in 12 wards till Aug 24

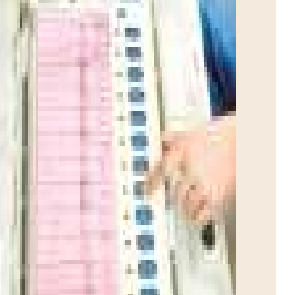
PNS ■ ONGOLE

As per the order of the court, recounting in 12 wards will be conducted till August 24 in the Ongole constituency.

YSRCP leader Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, who unsuccessfully contested the Assembly from Ongole constituency, approached the court raising doubts on the Electronic Voting Machines and sought recounting of votes.

The court ordered the officials to conduct a recounting in 12 wards in the Ongole Assembly constituency from August 19 to August 24.

District Collector Thameem Ansaria informed YSRCP leader Balineni Srinivasa Reddy that the recount would be conducted in 12 wards.



Srinivasa Reddy has paid Rs 5.44,000 to the Election Commission as the recounting expenses.

The officials have made all arrangements to conduct recounting in the 12 wards.

Meanwhile, senior leaders opined that if discrepancies were found in the recounting of votes, it would give way to doubts about the efficacy of EVMs.

# Will KCR join Cong as he started his career from it: Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Criticising BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's statement that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy started his career as an ABVP activist and Revanth would join again BJP, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar questioned KTR to tell whether former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will join Congress as he started his political career from the Congress

Speaking to the media on Monday, Sanjay described both the BRS and the Congress as corrupt, family parties. These two parties would certainly merge or else the Congress government would have jailed KTR already, he pointed out.

Sanjay said that talks were completed between the Congress and the BRS regarding a vehement and gave only BRS leaders joining the Congress left.

Bandi Sanjay said, "Hence the phone tapping case, Kaleshwaram scam, Drugs case become silent. Land and sand scams buried. The BRS will certainly merge with the Congress on some good day."

He reiterated that there is no need for the BJP to induct BRS MLAs into the BJP. The Congress has that need, he said. Sanjay said the BJP will announce an action plan on loan waiver scheme soon. He asked the Congress government to release a white paper on loan waiver schemes if they are confident that they did justice to the farmers.

# Collector asks officials to safeguard key documents

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr G Srijana has issued a strict directive to all district officials in light of recent incidents involving the burning of key government files in various offices. She emphasised the importance of safeguarding key documents and instructed officials to prioritise their protection. Dr Srijana warned that any official found to be involved in the burning or damaging of these files would face severe consequences.

Collector Srijana conducted the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS), also known as the 'Mee Kosam', at the Pingali Venkaiah Meeting Hall on the premises of the Collectorate in Vijayawada on Monday.

Alongside the district officials, she received petitions from the public and gave necessary instructions to the officials for speedy resolution.

# Rs 220-cr project will be taken up to provide drinking water to every household: Minister

PNS ■ MACHILIPATNAM

Minister for Excise and Mines Kollu Ravindra has said that a project worth Rs 220 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission will be taken up to provide protected potable water to every household in Krishna district.

Addressing a programme here on Monday, the Minister said that Rs 160 crore was sanctioned to the district for carrying out the works under the MGN-REGS. He said that proposals of Rs 30 crore have been

sent to the government for the construction of compound walls for roads, drainages and graveyards at various places in Machilipatnam constituency. Similarly, under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme, a Rs 220 crore project would be taken up to provide a protected drinking water tap to every household.

The Minister stated that proposals of Rs 105 crore for development works were sent to the government to carry out works from Chilikalapudi railway track

to Pedapatnam and to village panchayats from Khalekan Peta below Sharada Nagar.

Kollu Ravindra said that he is making efforts to get matching grants sanctioned for the Machilipatnam municipality under Amrit Phase 2.

Houses would be allocated to every eligible beneficiary and housewarming would also be held by the end of Sravana Masam, he assured. Gudivada former MLA Ravi Venkateswara Rao was among those who attended the programme.





ACROSS THE STATES



CDS holds talks with top Russian Navy commander

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on Monday held wide-ranging talks with Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy Admiral Aleksandr Moiseev with a focus on boosting maritime cooperation between the two sides. Admiral Moiseev is on a visit to India. The discussions underscored mutual commitment towards enhancing maritime security, deepening strategic cooperation and fostering a stronger defence partnership between the two nations, the headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff said. Indian Navy's frontline frigate INS Tabar visited St. Petersburg in Russia last month, in reflection of growing maritime security ties between the two sides. The ship participated in the 328th Russian Navy Day Parade celebrations. The visit by INS Tabar was aimed at strengthening the longstanding friendship and exploring newer avenues of bolstering maritime ties, the Indian Navy had said.



Goa woman gets rakhi gift of kidney from younger brother

The Raksha Bandhan festival became extra special for a 43-year-old woman from South Goa as her younger brother gifted her a new lease of life by donating one of his kidneys to her earlier this year. The woman, who suffered from polycystic kidney disease, received a kidney from her 35-year-old brother at a private hospital in April. While the names of the brother-sister duo have been kept under wraps on request from the family, they have become an inspiration for organ donors. "My wife was emotional when she tied rakhi to her brother. Right from childhood, they have been ideal siblings, the woman's husband said. A nephrologist at the private hospital said the woman suffered from polycystic kidney disease and was in the final stages, requiring an urgent transplant. The patient's younger brother, who is married, was ready to donate his kidney.



CRPF inspector killed in terror attack in J-K's Udhampur

In fresh bloodletting in the Jammu region, a CRPF inspector was killed when terrorists opened fire on a patrol party in Udhampur district on Monday. The personnel of CRPF and Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police were attacked by terrorists around 3:30 pm in the remote Dudu area of Basantgarh, officials said. They said inspector Kuldeep Kumar of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) belonging to the 187th battalion was hit by a bullet and later succumbed to injuries while being taken to hospital. A police spokesman said an exchange of fire took place between terrorists and joint parties of police and CRPF during the area domination patrol at Chill village of Dudu. "In the encounter, one inspector of CRPF suffered bullet injuries and has attained martyrdom. (The anti-terrorist) operation continues," he said. His mortal remains were being brought to district headquarters for postmortem.

There's no need for secret ties with BJP, says TN CM Stalin

The ruling DMK does not have any need for secret ties with the BJP merely because it invited Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to release a commemorative coin marking the birth centenary of its leader M Karunanidhi, DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said on Monday.



The party was strongly moored to its principles and its stance on "whether to oppose or extend support" was based on DMK's ideology, Stalin said a day after Singh released the Rs 100 coin of the five-time chief minister. At the event held here on Sunday, the Defence Minister lauded Karunanidhi as one of

the "most revered leaders of the country, a titan of Indian politics, an able administrator, an advocate for social justice, and a cultural stalwart." "Just because we invited the Central Minister, there's speculation that we have ties with the BJP. There's no need for us (the DMK) to have a secret pact with the BJP," Stalin said

India-Japan defence ties vital to ensure free, open Indo-Pacific: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa arrived here on Monday to hold the third India-Japan 2+2 dialogue that is expected to review the situation in the Indo-Pacific region and explore ways to expand bilateral strategic ties.



FM Kamikawa Yoko of Japan arrives in New Delhi for India-Japan 2+2 Foreign & Defence Ministers' meeting

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will hold the talks with their Japanese counterparts Kihara Minoru and Kamikawa on Tuesday. "Strengthened India-Japan defence partnership is vital for ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific in the prevailing global environment," India's defence ministry said.

The two sides are expected to delve

into further expanding cooper-

ation in the Indo-Pacific in the face of China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region.

The first edition of the dialogue was held in India in 2019 while the second one took place in Japan in 2022. Besides the 2+2 dialogue, Singh and Jaishankar will also hold separate bilateral talks with Defence Minister Minoru and Foreign Minister Kamikawa on Tuesday. "During the bilateral talks and 2+2 meeting, the ministers will review the bilateral cooperation and explore new initiatives to further strengthen the engagements between the two countries," the defence ministry said in a statement. It said the ministers will also exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

"India and Japan share 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' based on the shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law," the ministry said.

India seen as reliable 'Vishwa Bandhu': Murmu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that India is engaging the world with renewed vigour to find solutions to global challenges, including climate change or taking a principled stand against international terrorism, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said the country is seen as a reliable 'Vishwa Bandhu' in a fast-changing and conflict-ridden world.

Addressing officer trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (2023 batch), who had called on the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, she asked them to always be there for fellow Indians abroad.

"In my recent visits abroad, I have seen for myself, the immense goodwill generated by our development partnership projects, in the field of infrastructure, education, health and agriculture; particularly in countries of the Global South," Murmu said.

There is also tremendous interest in Indian soft power, including films, Yoga, Ayurveda and Indian art, crafts, dance and music, she said.

"I have also sensed that our friends and partners abroad

now have very high expectations from us, which we must deliver on. This is where your role becomes crucial. You must engage constructively with a wide range of stakeholders in your host country, including the business and scientific community, cultural representatives and the media," the President said.

Equally importantly, "you have to carefully cultivate and promote the crucial role played by the vibrant Indian Diaspora," she said.

Murmu said, in her meetings with the Indian diaspora while travelling abroad, she has been impressed by their many achievements and their enthusiasm to connect and contribute to their motherland.

"Please remember that in times of distress, the Indian Mission is a second home for Indian nationals abroad and you are their only hope," the President said.

Vande Bharat Mission (COVID), Operation Ganga (Ukraine), Operation Kaveri (Sudan) and Operation Ajay (Israel), where "our diplomats brought millions of Indians back home safely", were exemplary efforts, she said.

Centre defends law on triple talaq in SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending its 2019 law criminalising triple talaq, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that the practice is "fatal" for the social institution of marriage.

In an affidavit filed in response to petitions challenging the law, the Union of India said despite the top court setting aside the practice in 2017, it has "not worked as a sufficient deterrent in bringing down the number of divorces by this practice" among the members of the community.

"It is submitted that Parliament in its wisdom has enacted the impugned Act to protect the rights of married Muslim women who are being divorced by triple talaq.

Quota must in govt jobs, no ifs and buts

Chirag Paswan over lateral entry issue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP ally and Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Monday slammed any move for appointments in government positions without following reservations and asserted that he would raise the issue with the Centre.

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president's reaction came over the recent advertisement to fill posts through lateral entry on a contract basis that the opposition has alleged snatches away reservations for the disadvantaged communities.

"Reservation provisions must be there in any government appointment. There is no ifs and buts in this. No reservation exists in the private sector and if it is not implemented in government positions as well... The information came up before me on Sunday and it is a matter of concern

for me," he said. Paswan said as a member of the government, he has the platform to raise the issue and he would. The Union minister also said that as far as his party is concerned, it is absolutely not in support of such a measure.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) last Saturday advertised 45 posts -- 10 of joint secretaries and 35 of directors/deputy secretaries -- to be filled through the lateral entry mode on a contract basis. It is the biggest tranche of lateral recruitment being undertaken by the Centre, an official said.

Opposition parties slammed the move, claiming it would snatch reservations from SCs, STs and OBCs. The BJP hit back, stating the NDA government was bringing transparency to this mode of recruitment started by the Congress-led UPA.



Rahul highlights gig workers' plight, posts video of his ride in Uber cab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday highlighted the plight of gig workers and asserted that the Congress governments in states would make concrete policies to solve their problems while the INDIA bloc would strive for ensuring their nationwide implementation.

Gandhi made the remarks on X, where he posted a video of a recent ride he took in an Uber cab and the interaction he had with the driver.

"Low income and inflation ruining lives -- this is the



plight of India's gig workers! In discussion with Sunil Upadhyay ji during a Uber ride and then, after meeting his family, took stock of the problems faced by gig workers such as cab drivers and delivery agents in the country," the former Congress chief said in Hindi on X.

INDIA bloc leaders 'political vultures': BJP

Demands Mamata to resign over medic's rape, murder

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday called West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee "shameless" and demanded her resignation, alleging that crucial evidence was destroyed at her behest to save the culprits in the rape and murder of a medic in Kolkata.

It also slammed leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc, including the Congress' Rahul Gandhi, and called them "political vultures", alleging that they "generalised" the trainee doctor's rape and murder by expressing a general concern over such cases reported in different parts of the country, including those in BJP-ruled states.

"Mamata Banerjee has become Mamata, the destroyer. By her misdeeds she destroyed the dignity of a woman, a doctor who was serving the society. Mamata Banerjee is the destroyer of the rule of law and the Constitution," BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said at a press conference at the



BJP headquarters here.

While the chief minister did not take concrete steps to ensure a swift probe into the "possibil-

'Break fingers of those blaming Mamata'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Senior TMC minister Udayan Guha has sparked controversy by claiming that fingers of those blaming Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and demanding her resignation over the



alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor would be broken. His threat was heard in a video clip that has gone viral. PTI, how-

ever, could not independently verify the authenticity of the video.

ity' of gang-rape and murder of the medic, she got crucial evi-

dence of the heinous crime destroyed, he charged.

Rift in TMC widens amid public outrage

The alleged rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, which sparked widespread outrage across West Bengal, exposed a rift within the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) over how to handle the issue and the ensuing protests.

"There are differences within the party on how the inci-

dent should have been tackled. Some feel the state's response has been slow, allowing the protests to escalate. Others believe that opposition parties have seized the opportunity to use the protests against the government," a senior TMC leader said on condition of anonymity.

The TMC leader said these differences of opinion among

leaders have created the impression that the party is not united on the issue.

"The fact that what the party's top leadership is saying on the issue has not been echoed by other leaders is a matter of concern. It is sending out a wrong message not only among the masses but also among the entire rank and file," he said.

'Women face harassment in Malayalam film industry'

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Justice Hema Committee report released on Monday sheds light on the widespread and persistent sexual harassment faced by women in the Malayalam cinema industry, with many alleging they were subjected to unwanted advances even before commencing work.

The report highlighted the widespread nature of the issue, sparking concerns about the safety and well-being of female professionals in the industry. The much-awaited report of the Justice Hema Committee, the government appointed panel in 2019 that studied issues faced by women in the Malayalam film industry, comprises explosive accounts of harassment, exploitation, and ill-treatment being faced by women.

"It has come out in evidence that certain men in cinema, who are well-known and well-reputed for their ability as artist, director or whoever he be in the film industry have shocked certain women in cinema by sexual harassment and physical advances made by them towards them," the expert panel said. The copy of the report was



In a series of shocking and shameful revelations, the report stated that female actors faced harassment, including instances where the doors of their rooms were knocked on by intoxicated individuals in the film industry

given to the media under the RTI Act after five years of its submission to the government.

In a series of shocking and shameful revelations, the report stated that female actors faced harassment, including instances where the doors of their rooms were knocked on by intoxicated individuals in the film industry.

Many of them, who suffered sexual harassment, were reluctant to complain about this to the police due to fear, it said.

"The sky is full of mysteries, with the twinkling stars and the beautiful moon. But scientific investigation revealed that the stars do not twinkle, nor does the moon look beautiful," the report said.

'How brain 'resets' itself while sleeping, allows lifelong learning'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While sleep is known to help with forming and storing memories during the day, a new study has found answers to how this continues to happen over one's lifetime without running out of neurons or brain cells.

Researchers found that at certain times during deep sleep, certain parts of the hippocampus -- one of the brain regions

involved in learning new things and forming memories -- go silent, allowing those neurons to 'reset'.

"This mechanism could allow the brain to reuse the same resources, the same neurons, for new learning the next day," said Azahara Oliva, an assistant professor of neurobiology and



behaviour at Cornell University, US, and corresponding author of the study published in the journal Science.

While we sleep, the brain cells go over everything we learn or experience during the day by repeating the pat-

terns that were activated the

first time, thereby helping with how memories are stored. The process is called 'memory consolidation', following which the memories are then stored in a large area in the brain called the cortex. Both the hippocampus and the cortex play a role in memory, with the hippocampus transferring temporary or 'short-term' information to the cortex to form permanent or 'long-term' memories.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Women safety is non-negotiable

The apex court's suo moto cognisance of Kolkata rape case could lead to stronger security measures in workplaces

The Kolkata rape and murder case has shaken the nation, sparking widespread outrage and a call to end such horrific crimes. While similar cases in the past, like the Ranga Billa case in the 1970s and the Nirbhaya case in 2012, also provoked national anger, real change has been limited, with crimes against women continuing sporadically. The recent assault and murder of a resident doctor in Kolkata serve as a stark reminder of the ongoing vulnerability women face in the workplace. The Supreme Court of India has taken suo motu cognisance of the Kolkata doctor rape-murder incident. A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will hear the matter on August 20, 2024. Earlier, the Calcutta High Court expressed displeasure over the handling of the case by the State Government. The incident took place at R G Kar Medical College in Kolkata. The case has been transferred to the CBI. The Supreme Court's decision to take up this case underscores a growing concern about the safety of women in public spaces, including professional environments.



The matter, while primarily focusing on doctors' safety, also opens a window to address the broader context of women's safety across the country. In a country where women's safety continues to be a major societal concern, the Supreme Court's intervention in the Kolkata case regarding the safety of doctors brings to light a parallel issue—the precarious conditions under which healthcare workers, especially women, operate. While India grapples with various cases of violence against women, the healthcare sector has seen its share of attacks on women professionals, prompting national attention and legal action.

India's struggle with women's safety is long-standing and complex. High-profile cases of sexual violence, harassment, and workplace discrimination have repeatedly sparked public outrage. Despite legal reforms and awareness campaigns, incidents of violence against women remain alarmingly high. Public spaces, including hospitals, which should be places of care, have become dangerous for many women, underscoring the systemic nature of the problem. The healthcare sector is particularly concerning because female doctors and nurses not only face violence from patients' families but also internal issues such as sexual harassment from colleagues and superiors. This dual threat makes their professional life increasingly challenging and unsafe. With the Supreme Court stepping in, it is hoped that this case will lead to more robust security protocols in hospitals and other public institutions. As the Supreme Court examines the Kolkata case, there is hope that this will lead to a more comprehensive approach to women's safety in India. The focus should not just be on doctors but also on broader societal reforms that ensure women can work, travel, and live without fear of violence or discrimination. If the court's ruling leads to enhanced safety measures for doctors, it could set a precedent for other professions as well, where women face similar threats.

### PICTALK



Women tie 'rakhi' on wrists of BSF personnel on the occasion of Rakshabandhan at Attari-Wagah Border, Amritsar PTI

## UK-India Free Trade Agreement set for a green shift under Labour leadership

As the UK pushes for greener economic practices, the FTA with India will need to balance trade facilitation with stringent environmental standards

With the Labour Party now leading the UK, international trade dynamics, particularly the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, are set for transformation. The Labour Party's emphasis on climate change and its advocacy for mechanisms like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will likely influence the future of this trade deal.



with the global urgency to meet and exceed Paris Agreement targets. As a result, the party's approach to trade, including the India-UK FTA, will likely reflect its commitment to green policies. Labour's aggressive stance on climate action will shape its trade policies, embedding sustainability into international agreements.

**Labour Party's Environmental Agenda**  
A key aspect of Labour's policy is its strong commitment to environmental sustainability. Under the leadership of Keir Starmer, the party has set ambitious goals to tackle the climate crisis, aiming to decarbonize the UK economy by 2030, significantly earlier than current targets. Labour plans to invest heavily in renewable energy and enforce stricter regulations on carbon emissions. The UK's Climate Change Act 2008 mandates that the UK achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and Labour's policies intend to accelerate this shift. The Labour Party's Green New Deal is a central component of this push, aligning

heavily depends on fossil fuels. This poses a challenge in aligning with Labour's stringent environmental requirements. The transition to greener energy will require significant investments, and India's economic growth might be affected by these demands. Balancing trade promotion and environmental sustainability will be a central issue in the FTA discussions.

**The Role of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**  
Labour's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a policy designed to impose a carbon tax on imported goods based on their carbon content, leveling the playing field for domestic industries. This ensures that foreign producers face the same carbon pricing as local ones, preventing carbon leakage and promoting emission reductions globally. For India, CBAM poses a significant challenge, especially for industries like steel, aluminium, and cement, which have high carbon footprints. As the world's second-largest steel producer, India's exports to the UK would face higher

production costs under CBAM, potentially impacting competitiveness. To manage this, Indian industries would need to adopt cleaner technologies and low-carbon production methods. The Indian government might need to offer subsidies or incentives to ease this transition.

**Green Trade Opportunities**  
Despite challenges, the CBAM also presents opportunities for India and the UK to expand green trade. Labour's focus on renewable energy and green technologies could open doors for collaboration in sectors like solar energy, wind power, and electric mobility. India's growing renewable energy market positions it as an ideal partner for the UK in achieving mutual sustainability goals. By aligning trade policies with environmental objectives, both nations can ensure that economic progress is achieved responsibly. Labour's leadership brings a new era for the UK-India FTA, with climate change and the CBAM taking center stage. (The writer is founder and managing director, Earthood)



KAVIRAJ SINGH

# Bangladesh questions Sheikh Mujib's legacy



SIDHARTH MISHRA

With institutions under siege and the legacy of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under attack, the parallels with the French Revolution become starkly apparent

We have had an uprising in the neighbouring country of Bangladesh. Despite an interim government led by a Nobel laureate economist and entrepreneur Muhammad Yunus in place, the rule of the 'hoi polloi' continues. Mass power is forcing a 'purge' of the various institutions of the state of what are believed to be compradors of the ousted regime.

Even the judiciary has not been spared. It's unlikely that we would have stability returning to the nascent nation founded by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman following liberation from Pakistan in 1971. Mujibur Rahman's legacy, politically represented by his daughter Sheikh Hasina, the ousted Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is today under attack. Though there are those in the revolution mass and leadership, who would want to distinguish Sheikh's legacy from Hasina's regime. But in the current situation of social turmoil, a manifestation of an ideological bent could be catastrophic. Public uprisings of the world over, especially in the post-colonial democracies of the 20th and the 21st centuries, have drawn inspiration from the French Revolution of the 18th century.

The revolution which started with the symbolic fall of Bastille and the establishment of the Estates General of 1789, ended with the coup of 18 Brumaire in November 1799 and the formation of the French Consulate with the military under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte capturing power. The French Revolution was driven by the ideas of the fundamental principles of liberal democracy. Its causes are generally agreed to be a combination of social, political, and economic factors, which the ruling establishment led by Emperor Louis XVI was unable to manage. What spurred the fall was a financial crisis and widespread social distress. The fall of Louis XVI saw radical reforms including the abolition of feudalism and a declaration of rights. But this did not bring an end to political instability.



The next decade was dominated by the struggle for political control, worsened by economic depression. To overcome the crisis the revolutionaries formed the Committee of Public Safety, which unleashed a reign of terror in which about 16,000 people were executed. Finally in 1799 following a military coup, Napoleon Bonaparte came to seize power marking the end of the revolution. The quick recall of the events of the French Revolution was to establish the fact that insurrection doesn't generally guarantee one thing, the stability of governance. This is best seen in the case of Bangladesh. Ever since its birth, the country has witnessed numerous coups and uprisings with Sheikh Hasina's 15-year regime from 2009-2024 being an exception to the general rule. This period was, till the fall of the government, seen as a period of not only stable authority but also economic growth. Then what brought the fall? Conspiracy theorists are blaming the American Deep State and the Chinese interest but no uprising can happen without local discontent. After coming to power in 2009 through a free, fair, and credible election, Sheikh Hasina subsequently presided over largely non-participative



THE COUNTRY'S PER CAPITA INCOME TRIPLED IN A DECADE, AND THE WORLD BANK ESTIMATED THAT OVER 25 MILLION PEOPLE WERE LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

and controversial polls on three occasions — 2014, 2018, and 2024. She appeared to be near-invincible, but muzzling democracy was an increasing indication of her growing political frailty. There isn't a doubt that Hasina's rule saw noteworthy economic achievements. Under her Bangladesh transformed from one of the world's poorest nations into one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, even outperforming India. The country's per capita income tripled in a decade, and the World Bank estimated that over 25 million people were lifted out of poverty in the last 20 years. But then why the downfall, such anger against a regime that was bringing prosperity to the nation? The answer probably lies in the fact that economic progress alone cannot sustain a leader's popularity in the face of eroding democratic values and civil liberties. Democracy, like the proverbial 'jinn', cannot be put back in the bottle once unleashed with whatever power at hand. The Indian sub-continent, which the Americans decided to call South Asia, is the best example of the sins of democracy. Across the five nations of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, authoritarian leaders

have met nemesis. India is the only exception, where the change of power has always been through a democratic process and sans violence. The Indian leadership of different political and ideological hues have maintained the delicate balance between socio-economic progress and democratic values. Political setbacks have happened when a government has been seen to be promoting crony capitalism, nepotism, high-handedness and corruption, in that order. Such perceptions have overshadowed acts of major social welfare and economic and development successes. Muhammad Yunus becomes the second economist in the sub-continent to head a government after Dr Manmohan Singh. While Manmohan Singh has been credited with steering the country out of financial turmoil, expectations from Yunus is to take his nation out of a social and political tumult. The challenges for Yunus is equal in measure to what the Indian economist faced. Dr Manmohan Singh is largely seen to be successful in overcoming the challenge, would Yunus too succeed? history would judge. (The writer is an author and president, the Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LIFE OF SPORTSPERSONS IS NOT EASY

Madam — It was heartwarming that the celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat received a rousing welcome at Delhi after her disappointing day at the Paris Olympics. It's not the bed of roses for anything in life and especially for the sportsmen and more to the sportswomen. I can quote a classic example of a great Indian cricketer G R Viswanath. Fondly addressed as Vishy by his fellow players, a selector then was against him by mentioning he was 'too short' and 'lean' to play cricket. Finally when he got selected for the Karnataka State team he made an unbeaten double century on debut. When he was spotted by Tiger's eye the then Indian skipper Tiger Pataudi included him at the Kanpur test in 1969 against the mighty Australians. While scoring a 'duck' in the first innings the enraged fans hurled matkas at him. Vishy was so much disappointed by sitting in isolation and the pat came from Pataudi by his word of confidence 'Just relax boy, you will get a hundred'. Rest became history by Vishy scoring 137 at debut in the second innings with 25 fours to his credit. In his career span of 14 years Vishy had scored 6080 runs in 91 tests with 14 hundreds to his credit. Barring his debut century which ended up in a draw, the remaining 13 matches in which Vishy scored a hundred were all won by India. Vishy's strong wrists in his heydays was a nightmare for world class bowlers and whenever he plays a square cut the art in him flourishes and ripples to the boundary line like a bullet. There can never be a better role model than him for all sportsmen to learn that failure alone can bring success to get into the history in any field. AP Thirvadi | Chennai

### FAKE MEDICINES FOR SALE ONLINE

Madam — Lifestyle diseases are on the rise due to the increasing tendency of eating fast food. Obesity is one of those

## Ensure safer workplace for women



Amid the nationwide protests, the Supreme Court (SC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the recent rape and murder case at R G Kar Medical college and Hospital in Kolkata. It is a small victory for the protesters across the country for the speedy justice against the crime and the Bengal government's failure to address the

issue properly, stand beside the victim's family, and provide efficient safety to the women in the state. After Kolkata Police's insignificant progress in the case, the high court intervened to hand over the case to the CBI, and now SC's intervention will definitely be crucial considering the many attempts to subdue this case.

The Indian Medical Association has also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding the fundamental right to life. It may be a doctor or any woman working at any place; there need to be strict rules in place for their safety, and the centre should look into the fact that incidents like these do not occur. Apart from that, there should also be strict punishment in our laws, like in the Middle East. It would be significant so that people having the slightest thoughts of such a crime should be terrified and show respect to the other gender. Sumit Saha | New Delhi

### RETHINK THE FOREST ACT

Madam — The article about Forest Acts (18-8-24) presents fact that needs to be pondered over by one and all. In the present course of reforms what is predominant is that everything is a commodity - education, healthcare, relationship, forest, wind and water also. In the process forest also is allowed to be commercially exploited. Result is that the forest cover which is, supposed to be one third of the land mass is reduced to one fifth. This threatens the wild animals, environment, carbon sink and the natives of the forests. The amendment to the concerned act made last year poses further threats as forests can be used for sikar also. We must exert democratic pressure over the government to ensure protection to forests and the animals and natives. They have been at the receiving end and have suffered in silence for long. A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

## SOOTHING A STRESSED MIND

Through spiritual practices and positive affirmations, one can find the peace



RAVI VALLURI

A student of archery, in all sincerity, asked his Guru how long it would take to master the craft. The Master ponders and with his prescience provides a measured reply. "It would take ten years." The student is stupefied. The Guru is promised by the student that he will strive hard to achieve proficiency by putting in extra hours of work. Thereby he would become an ace, an unrivalled archer.

The teacher paused and gravely replied that it would take twenty years to become an expert. So how do ten years become twenty? The simple answer is anxiety and increasing levels of stress. A stressful mind cannot scale the summit. The Guru knew the potential of the candidate in question and the time required to harness the skills. The anxiety, feverishness and desperation of the student can never compress the period of learning. Humans live in highly stressful and disharmonious conditions. Pressure is exerted on their minds, resulting in an unhealthy lifestyle. Stressful conditions are also created by our feverish attitude and desperation: A mental state when our expectations far exceed the actual requirement. Not living in the NOW and a covetous nature also contribute to mental disequilibrium. The memory of past events has a double whammy on the mind. A pleasant occurrence brings peace, but turbulent experiences make us stressed and fret. Unfortunately, the human mind gives more credence to negative experiences and that leads to the gathering of stress in the mind. A stressful mind can be smoothened only through a 3C policy, namely commitment, control, and challenge. The energy of the mind needs to be channelled productively and this can be done



through proper training and a firm commitment. Challenging situations and tasks endear the human mind: to try something new or different and think out of the box. Renowned psychologists Endler and Parker have enunciated a three-factor model to overcome stress or manage this ailment.

(a) Task-Oriented Strategy: The individual should ensure proper time management to complete the task at hand. Also, box out stressful conditions when through experience we are aware of negative possibilities and results.

(b) Emotion-Oriented Strategy: Create a space in the mind to vent anger and frustrations. Literally to let go of the emotions. Develop a belief and hope in a higher power through the power of surrender and sublimate all the muddles.

(c) Avoidance-oriented Strategy: Create a shield or envelop the mind with an aura of positive thoughts. This works like magic and it mitigates the seriousness of the situation and stressful situations get obliterated.

The model merely provides the framework. In reality, relaxation techniques, practising yoga, dwelling deep into meditation, engaging in visualisation (which incorporates features such as imagery and positive imagination), learning breathing techniques like Vipassana and Sudarshan Kriya or even hitting the gym are some of the tools to implement the model.

All these strategies uplift the mood of the person and assist in combating stress. Stress can also be dealt with effectively by acquiring knowledge, taking up responsibility and inculcating a feeling of genuine compassion, love, and concern for humanity. The mind should become bigger than the problem or stress. This, only a true seeker or sadhakan achieve and that too by resolute practice or sadhana. Only positive thoughts, realistic ambitions and limited wants and desires can enable the mind to reduce the magnitude of stress. "In time of great stress or adversity, it's always best to keep busy, to plough your anger and your energy into something positive," says Lee Iacocca.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

# Why India needs a secular civil code



GOURAV VALLABH

As India approaches its 76th Republic Day, the question of whether laws should be shaped by religion or remain universally applicable becomes ever more urgent



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, dispelled all misconceptions and rumours about the stability and strength of his coalition and showed that he has complete control over the government. His address also revealed that his goals have remained the same. His speech was filled with energy and strong determination, as it always is. He stressed the implementation of the Secular Civil Code (SCC). He said the Supreme Court has repeatedly discussed and given orders on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) because a large section of the country feels, and it is correct, that the present civil code is a communal and discriminatory civil code. There is no place for them in modern society. The need of the hour is a Secular Civil Code (SCC). The Prime Minister's use of the phrase "Secular Civil Code" was interesting. A "Secular Civil Code" (SCC) was used instead of the possible "Uniform Civil Code" (UCC) so that opposition parties could support it appropriately. On November 23, 1948, Article 44 was introduced in the Constituent Assembly by Dr B R Ambedkar as draft Article 35 and was unanimously passed. "Uniform Civil Code for the citizens -



“NEXT YEAR, ON JANUARY 26, 2025, WHEN WE CELEBRATE THE 76TH REPUBLIC DAY, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES: 'DO WE WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN AN ERA WHERE LAWS ARE BASED ON RELIGION, GENDER, OR ANY OTHER CLASS OR COMMUNITY?'”

The State shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India for the citizens." So states Article 44 of our Constitution. During the Constituent Assembly discussion, amendments were moved by Hussain Imam and some other members. "That any group, section or community or people shall not be obliged to give up its own personal law in case it has such a law, and, provided that the personal law of any community which is guaranteed by the statute shall not be changed except with the previous approval of the community." Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, in his reply to the discussion, stated that our country has a Uniform Code of Laws covering nearly every aspect of human relations. We have a uniform and comprehensive criminal code throughout the country, contained in the Penal and Criminal Procedure codes. We also have the law of transfer of property, which deals with property relations and applies throughout the country. Additionally, there is the Negotiable Instruments Act, among other acts,

which proves that this civil code that is uniform and applicable throughout the country. Dr Ambedkar argued in the Constituent Assembly that the Uniform Civil Code should be viewed as a secular law applicable to all. In 1985, the former Chief Justice of India, YV Chandrachud, shared similar views during the 'Shah Bano' case. This case revolved around Shah Bano Begum, a Muslim woman who had sought maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure after her divorce. The initial judgment ruled in her favour. However, her husband, Mohammed Ahmed Khan, appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that Section 125 should not apply to Muslims as it contradicted Muslim Personal Law. The Supreme Court disagreed with this contention, asserting that Section 125 applies to all individuals, irrespective of religion or personal law, and dismissed the husband's petition. Eminent Muslim jurists like Chaudhary Haider Hussain and former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court M C

Chagla had also strongly upheld Article 44 (UCC). In the case of John Vallamattom vs Union of India in 2003, the Supreme Court once again expressed regret that Article 44 of the Constitution had not been implemented. The Supreme Court also asked the government if they were ready to implement the Uniform Civil Code. Next year, on January 26, 2025, when we celebrate the 76th Republic Day, we must ask ourselves: "Do we want to continue living in an era where laws are based on religion, gender, or any other class or community?" If the answer is NO, then the Secular Civil Code (SCC) must be implemented. Implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would be equivalent to fulfilling the vision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar because the codification of laws should be independent of any specific religion. The current times require a secular civil code, leading to freedom from religious discrimination. (The writer is Professor of Finance - XLRI Xavier School of Management and BJP Leader; views are personal)

## Safeguarding India's Future: The urgent need for a critical infrastructure protection act

This legislation is essential to fortifying India's vital systems against emerging challenges, ensuring both national security and sustained economic growth

India's critical infrastructure is increasingly vulnerable to attacks and sabotage, a threat amplified by regional instability, particularly in neighboring Bangladesh. Recently, radical groups in Bangladesh have targeted essential infrastructure, with the intention of causing widespread disruption. This trend of sabotage is concerning for India, where similar threats loom large. The need for a legislative framework, such as the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act (CIPA), is more pressing than ever. Such a law would establish a robust defense mechanism for safeguarding critical assets against both internal and external threats, addressing a significant gap in national security.



PADMALOCHAN DASH

**Geopolitical Necessities for CIPA:** India faces numerous challenges from both regional and internal security threats. The South Asian region, marked by political and social unrest, poses a direct threat to India's stability. Radical ideologies and terrorist groups in the region, often driven by external adversaries like Pakistan and China, aim to target India's infrastructure, aiming to disrupt its economy and

social harmony. These groups are adept at exploiting vulnerabilities in India's critical infrastructure, using methods like cyberattacks and hybrid warfare, which combine traditional and unconventional tactics. To effectively counter these evolving threats, India must urgently enact CIPA to protect its critical assets and systems.

**Safeguarding Economic Growth:** As India emerges as a global manufacturing and supply chain hub, protecting its infrastructure becomes vital. CIPA would not only shield key sectors but also ensure sustained economic growth. A well-defined legal framework would boost investor confidence by demonstrating that India is prepared to tackle both physical and cyber threats.

Additionally, CIPA would enable swift recovery from disruptions, helping India maintain its position as a global player.

**Evolving Threat Landscape:** India's critical infrastructure is vulnerable to various threats, including terrorism, cyberattacks, and geopolitical tensions. These risks are dynamic and rapidly evolving, necessitating a proactive legislative response. CIPA can provide the legal tools to assess and mitigate these risks effectively, shifting the country's security strategy from reactive to proactive. By implementing comprehensive protocols for sectors such as energy, transportation, and financial systems, CIPA would bolster national security and protect public safety.



**Coordinating Protection Efforts:** Protecting critical infrastructure requires coordination among multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector players, and security forces. CIPA would facilitate this collaboration by establishing a clear framework for joint efforts, ensuring efficient

responses and minimizing fragmented actions.

**Aligning with Global Standards:** Enacting CIPA would also bring India in line with global standards for infrastructure protection. By addressing emerging technologies like digital infrastructure and the Internet of Things (IoT), and integrating advanced cybersecurity measures, India can ensure its protection strategies remain up-to-date. The act should incorporate technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain to stay ahead of evolving threats.

**Securing Critical Sectors:** CIPA must prioritize the protection of essential sectors such as power, transportation, and manufacturing, which are vital to India's economy.

Ordnance factories, which produce military equipment, and water reservoirs, crucial for public health, must also be protected.

Furthermore, nuclear power plants, chemical factories, and airports require robust security measures. Social, political, and economic infrastructure—including government buildings, financial institutions, and public places—are critical to national stability and must be secured under CIPA.

**Learning from Global Examples:** Global responses to infrastructure threats highlight the importance of legislative frameworks. The United States passed the Homeland Security Act after 9/11 to protect vital systems from terrorism, while the United Kingdom enhanced measures

after the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017. Countries like Australia and Germany have created specialized agencies to address cyber threats and improve coordination.

To protect its critical infrastructure and maintain its trajectory as a global economic power, India must prioritize the enactment of CIPA. The government should take immediate steps to establish a centralized coordination authority responsible for overseeing protection measures. A comprehensive risk assessment framework must be developed, and public-private partnerships should be enhanced to ensure efficient responses to threats. (The Author is affiliated with an Independent Think Tank; views are personal)



IN BRIEF



**BTL EPC secures Rs 413 cr contracts**

BTL EPC Ltd, a Kolkata-based EPC and engineering company, on Monday announced new contracts valued at Rs 413 crore inclusive of GST from public sector companies such as BHEL and SAIL. The company has secured a Rs 267 crore contract from BHEL for NTPC's Lara TPS Stage-II (2x800 MW) project. BTL EPC will provide turnkey solutions for conveyor systems and electromechanical equipment for handling coal, limestone, gypsum, and biomass at the power plant located at Pussore in Chhattisgarh, a company statement said. In addition, BTL EPC has bagged a Rs 96 crore contract from SAIL-Bhilai for the replacement of equipment in its By-Product Plant. This project is expected to be completed within 18 months. The company has also secured over Rs 50 crore worth of contracts for underground mining conveyor supply for several other public and private sector mines.



**India allows Nepal to export additional 251 MW of power**

India has allowed Nepal to export an additional 251 MW of electricity to the country, marking the first time the Himalayan nation will supply power to Bihar under a medium-term sales agreement, an official statement said on Monday. "India's Designated Authority for Cross-Border Trade has approved an additional 251 MW of power exports from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal," the Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a statement. With this, Nepal would be exporting 941 MW of hydropower from 28 projects. Earlier, Nepal was exporting 690 MW of electricity from 16 projects, it added. Even before this 251 MW approval, Nepal had already become a net exporter of electricity and net revenue generator in the last fiscal year, selling NPR 16.93 billion worth of electricity, the statement said. In October 2021, New Delhi approved 39 MW of electricity exports from Nepal to India for the first time, it said, adding that in less than three years, this figure has grown by more than 24 times.



**Airfares climb up to 25% for Diwali, Onam season**

Airfares are heading northwards for the festival season, with the average one-way ticket price on key domestic routes being 10-15 per cent more for Diwali and 20-25 per cent higher for certain flights to Kerala cities for Onam, according to an analysis. An analysis done by travel portal ixigo for PTI showed that the average one-way economy class fare for non-stop flight on Delhi-Chennai route during October 30-November 5 period is 25 per cent higher at Rs 7,618. This is in comparison to the fare during November 10-16 period last year. For the given comparison period, the ticket price is 21 per cent more at Rs 5,162 on Mumbai-Hyderabad route and 19 per cent higher at Rs 5,999 and at Rs 4,930 on Delhi-Goa and Delhi-Ahmedabad routes, respectively. On certain other routes, fares are higher in the range of 1-16 per cent, as per the analysis. ixigo's Group Co-CEO Rajnish Kumar said travel demand for Diwali is on the rise with airfares higher than last year.

NIRMALA MEETS HEADS OF PSBS

**FM urges banks to undertake special drive for deposits**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday held a performance review meeting with heads of public sector banks and asked them to make concerted efforts to garner deposits.

Deposits have been growing 300-400 basis points lower than the credit growth in the last few months, creating an asset-liability mismatch for banks.

During deliberations on the deposit mobilisation, she said that while the credit growth has picked up, mobilisation of deposits could further be improved to fund the credit growth sustainably, and asked banks to make concerted efforts to garner deposits by conducting special drives.

Sitharaman also advised public sector banks (PSBs) to have better relationships with their customers for efficient customer service delivery, an official statement said.

She asked banks to ensure that employees reach out to connect with their customers, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

The minister also urged the PSBs to explore collaboration to leverage their respective strengths by sharing best practices in emerging areas and equip themselves to keep pace with changes in the banking sector.

While acknowledging the efforts made by the banks to improve the asset quality, the



minister suggested optimising the scope of resolution and recovery offered by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).

According to the statement, the issues related to digital payments and cyber security framework were also deliberated in the meeting.

Observing that the issues of cyber security should be seen from a systemic perspective, she emphasised the need for a collaborative approach between banks, the government, regulators and security agencies for mitigating cyber risks.

She urged that every aspect of the IT system should be reviewed periodically and thoroughly from the cyber security angle to ensure that the security of the bank systems is not breached or compromised.

**'Devise suitable products aligning with MSME clusters'**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to devise suitable products aligning with MSME clusters to increase banking penetration. During a review meeting with chairpersons of RRBs and CEOs of their sponsored bank, the finance minister emphasised active outreach by the RRB branches located in MSME clusters to ensure credit to small and micro enterprises in areas like textile, wooden furniture, leather, food processing, packing materials etc. that hold immense potential for increasing the loan portfolio. Sitharaman also asked sponsor banks and RRBs to recognise the challenges ahead and continue focusing on

maintaining asset quality, expanding digital services, and ensuring robust corporate governance. During the meeting, Sitharaman underlined that all RRBs must have their own up-to-date technology stack to stay relevant and noted that digital banking services like mobile banking will be a boon for regions with relatively challenging physical connectivity (like northeastern states and hilly regions). The sponsor banks have a significant role in these endeavours by providing technical assistance, sharing best practices, and ensuring that RRBs have access to the resources they need to succeed, an official statement issued after the meeting said.



**Sebi categories dues worth Rs 76,293 crore as 'difficult to recover'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has segregated dues to the tune of Rs 76,293 crore under "difficult to recover" category at the end of March 2024, marking an increase of 4 per cent from the preceding year.

Of this, a huge chunk is on account of cases pending before court-appointed committees.

Difficult to recover (DTR) dues are those that could not be recovered even after exhausting all modes of recovery.

"Segregation of such DTR dues is purely an administrative act and this will not preclude the recovery officers from recovering the amount so segregated as DTR as and when there is a change in any of the DTR parameters," Sebi said in its annual report for 2023-24.

As of March 31, 2024, Sebi identified 807 cases as DTR, with a total outstanding of Rs 76,293 crore, up from 692 cases amounting to Rs 73,287 crore the previous year, according to the report. Among these 807 cases, 36

are pending due to ongoing proceedings in State PID courts, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) involving Rs 12,199 crore.

Additionally, 60 cases are before court-appointed committees, with Rs 59,970 crore at stake.

These two categories together account for 95 per cent of the total amount yet to be recovered.

With regard to 140 DTR certificates falling under untraceable category, 131 relate to individuals and nine relate to companies amounting to Rs 13.3 crore and Rs 15.7 crore, respectively.

The Sebi has been disseminating data on the composition of difficult to recover cases from 2021-22 onwards through its annual report in order to enhance transparency of its enforcement proceedings. The markets regulator said a total of 6,781 recovery certificates were generated till March 31, 2024, of which 3,871 recovery certificates were pending as on March 31, 2024.

**Govt's ethanol blending goal will need more sugarcane: Report**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The government's aim to blend 20 per cent ethanol in petrol by Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025 will require more sugarcane utilisation, a report said on Monday.

This is also likely to improve sugar inventory level and cash flows of millers, it added.

An ESY runs from November to October.

India's aim to blend 20 per cent ethanol in petrol by ESY 2025 -- or 990 crore litres annually -- will require effective utilisation of both grain and sugarcane feedstock to increase its supply, Crisil Ratings said in a report.

The annual ethanol production from grains is expected to see a significant

increase to 600 crore litre by the next season (this season's production estimate is 380 crore litre), it stated.

The balance will have to be produced by processing ethanol from sugarcane, which is viable given the substantial capacity in place, it said. This, in turn, can help optimise the sugar inventory, particularly considering the high carry-over stock expected at the end of the current season owing to the government restriction on diversion for ethanol production and exports, Crisil Ratings said. Blending ethanol will help reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports. The ethanol blending rate has steadily risen 200-300 basis points each season since ESY 2021, said the report.

**LIC sells stake in Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 cr**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Monday said it has sold a 2.09 per cent stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 crore through an open market transaction.

The insurance behemoth has sold a total of 2,01,62,682 shares, or 2.085 per cent stake, in Hindustan Copper, according to a regulatory filing. The shares of Hindustan Copper were sold at an average cost of Rs 221.64 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 446.8 crore.

With this, LIC's stake in the state-owned company has reduced to 6.09 per cent from 8.17 per cent.

**RBI for periodic revision of deposit insurance coverage**

PNS ■ JAIPUR

A periodical upward revision of the deposit insurance coverage limit, currently at Rs 5 lakh, may be warranted considering multiple factors like growth in the value of deposits, inflation, and increase in income level, RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao has said.

Delivering the valedictory address at IADI Asia-Pacific Regional Committee International Conference 2024 hosted by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) here last week, the Deputy Governor said it is important to ensure adequacy of insurance coverage for customer deposits.



In India, he said, the number of fully protected accounts constitute 97.8 per cent as on March 31, 2024 of the total number of accounts in the banking system as against the international benchmark of 80 per cent. While the scope and coverage appear satisfac-

tory at this juncture, there are likely challenges going forward, Rao said.

"Today we count India to be amongst the fastest growing large global economies and this healthy growth rate is expected to continue in the near future.

LACKLUSTRE TRADE

**Sensex, Nifty settle almost flat**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note in a lacklustre trade on Monday, as investors preferred to remain on the sidelines awaiting further triggers.

Participants booked profits in select blue-chip stocks amid high valuation concerns, while selective buying in metals, oil & gas and IT shares supported the indices, according to experts.

In a range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 12.16 points or 0.02 per cent to



settle at 80,424.68. During the day, it hit a high of 80,724.40 and a low of 80,332.65. The NSE

Nifty edged up 31.50 points or 0.13 per cent to 24,572.65. "The Indian market failed to

catch up with the initial gains as there is a degree of profit booking witnessed in auto stocks due to a slowdown in demand.

"However, oil stocks gained momentum with the reduction in windfall tax on crude oil. The recent healthy US economic data diminished the likelihood of a US recession while a slide in the dollar index supported the hypothesis of a rate cut in the September FOMC meeting," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

**OVL secures contract extension for Vietnam oil blocks**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's flagship overseas oil firm ONGC Videsh Ltd has secured a 16-year contract extension for producing oil and gas in Vietnam, alongside getting three more years to explore a separate block in the contested waters of the South China Sea, officials said.

Vietnamese authorities have extended the production sharing contract (PSC) for the producing Block 06.1 in the offshore Nam Con Son basin till 2039. They have also granted an eighth extension for exploring for oil and gas in Block 128 in the

South China Sea, according to officials. OVL, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), holds a 45 per cent stake in Block 06.1, an offshore block located in Vietnam's Nam Con Son Basin. Acquired in 1988, the block has Zarubezhneft EP BV as the operator with 35 per cent interest and PetroVietnam holding the remaining 20 per cent. The block, which produces about 1 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas, recently got a 16-year extension of the production sharing contract effective from May 19, 2023.

VENTURE CAPITAL FUND

**Sebi comes out with modalities to migrate to AIF**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday outlined the process and conditions for Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) for migrating to the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) rules.

The regulator, in July, permitted VCFs registered before the introduction of AIF regulations to transition to the current regulations by becoming migrated venture capital funds.

In its circular, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that VCFs can now choose to migrate to AIF Regulations to handle unliqui-

dated investments after their scheme tenure ends.

This option is available until July 19, 2025.

A 'Migrated VCF' is a VCF that transitions to become a sub-category of VCF under Category I - Alternative Investment Fund as per the AIF norms.

On application requirements, Sebi said that VCFs wishing to migrate must submit their original registration certificate and specific information as outlined by the regulator.

With regards to the conditions for VCFs with active



schemes, Sebi said that if the liquidation period hasn't expired, they can migrate, with

the scheme's tenure continuing as originally disclosed or determined with investor approval.

If the liquidation period has expired, they must not have any unresolved investor complaints and will get an extra year (until July 19, 2025) to liquidate.

On post-migration considerations, Sebi said that after migration, existing investors, investments, and units will be transferred under the AIF Regulations without change.

With regards to VCFs not opting for migration, Sebi said that VCFs with active schemes will face stricter reporting requirements and VCFs with expired schemes may face regulatory action.

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee appreciated by 8 paise to close at 83.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a weak US dollar and a decline in crude oil prices.

Forex traders said fresh foreign fund inflows boosted investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.88 against the greenback, then gained ground and touched an intra-day high of 83.84, and a low of 83.93 against the American currency.

The local currency finally settled for the day at 83.88 (provisional) against the American currency.

On Friday, the rupee moved in a tight range and settled just 1 paise lower at 83.95 against the American currency.

Over the past shortened week, the rupee showed minimal fluctuation and narrowly steered clear of the critical 84-mark.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on rise in risk appetite in global markets and a weak US dollar. Softening of crude oil prices may also support the

rupee," said Anuj Choudhary -- Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Traders said geopolitical tension in the Middle East may cap a sharp upside for the local unit.

Investors may remain cautious ahead of PMI data from the US and Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium for any cues on rate cuts by the central bank.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.28 per cent to 102.17.





## BLAKE LIVELY'S SARCASM SPARKS OUTRAGE!

Blake Lively has recently come under fire for her approach to promoting her latest film, *It Ends With Us*, which centers around the topic of domestic violence. Amidst the backlash, Norwegian journalist Kjersti Flaa has resurfaced a troubling interview experience she had with Lively in 2016. Flaa described the interview as "nightmarish" and recounted a particular comment made by Lively that left her deeply hurt, especially given her personal struggle with infertility. Flaa shared her feelings in a recent interview, stating, "It was incredibly painful because I wasn't pregnant, and I couldn't get pregnant. That comment felt like a bullet... it was a traumatic experience for me. I was there to do my job, but they made it as hard as possible."

She continued, "I was invited to interview them to promote a movie, but it didn't feel like that at all. I felt belittled and dismissed, which made me question whether I wanted to continue doing these types of interviews." The incident in question occurred when Flaa congratulated Lively on her pregnancy during their 2016 interview, to which Lively sarcastically responded, "Congratulations on your little bump!" The interaction left Flaa so distressed that she considered quitting her job.

A source close to Lively told that while they hadn't spoken to the actress about the interview, they understood her frustration. "You're a female journalist in Hollywood interviewing a working mom, and the best you can start with is 'Congrats on your little bump?' Of course Blake was annoyed," the source said. Despite the controversy, *It Ends With Us* is expected to perform well at the box office, featuring a cast that includes Blake Lively, Justin Baldoni, Brandon Sklenar, Jenny Slate and Hasan Minhaj.

## Vicky Kaushal transforms into a Maratha warrior

The much-anticipated teaser for Vicky Kaushal's upcoming film, *Chhaava*, has finally been unveiled, offering a glimpse into a powerful historical drama that promises to be a visual and emotional spectacle. In this film, Kaushal takes on the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the valiant son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, marking a significant departure from the roles he has played in the past. The teaser suggests that audiences are in for a treat, as Kaushal's portrayal of the legendary Maratha warrior is unlike anything we have seen from the actor before.

The teaser opens with a dramatic scene, where Vicky Kaushal, as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, charges fearlessly into battle. His fierce expression and commanding presence immediately draw viewers into the intensity of the moment. The depiction of Sambhaji Maharaj as an unstoppable force of nature, single-handedly confronting an entire army, sets the tone for what is expected to be an epic retelling of a crucial chapter in Indian history. Kaushal's transformation into the revered warrior king is nothing short of remarkable, showcasing his dedication to bringing authenticity and depth to the role. But the teaser doesn't stop at highlighting Kaushal's compelling performance. It also surprises the audience



with a brief yet impactful glimpse of Akshaye Khanna, who appears in a role that is shrouded in mystery. Khanna's appearance is so drastically altered that he is almost unrecognisable, adding an extra layer of intrigue to the film. His character, though not fully revealed in the teaser, seems poised to play a significant role in the unfolding

narrative, leaving viewers eager to learn more. The teaser of *Chhaava* was initially screened with *Stree 2*, giving theatergoers an exclusive first look at the film. Those who have seen it on the big screen have been quick to praise Vicky Kaushal's intense and transformative performance, fueling excitement for the film's release. Directed by Lakshman Utekar, *Chhaava* began its production in October 2023, and has since been one of the most talked-about projects in the industry. The film not only explores the life and struggles of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj but also delves into his personal relationships, particularly with his wife, Yesubai Bhonsale, played by Rashmika Mandanna. Rashmika's casting adds another layer of depth to the film, as her character's influence and support were pivotal in Sambhaji Maharaj's life!

Set to release in theaters on December 6, 2024, *Chhaava* is poised to be a significant entry in the canon of Indian historical cinema. With its powerful performances, grand visuals, and a story that resonates with the rich history of the Maratha empire, the film is expected to captivate audiences and leave a lasting impression. As the release date approaches, anticipation continues to build, with fans eagerly awaiting the full cinematic experience that *Chhaava* promises to deliver.

## THE MYSTERY BEGINS

The anticipation for *The Buckingham Murders* has reached new heights with the release of its new poster. This suspense thriller featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan promises to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. The poster, unveiled today by the makers, exudes an air of mystery and intrigue, capturing the essence of the film's thrilling narrative. Designed to engage and captivate, it sets the stage for what is expected to be a compelling cinematic experience filled with suspense.

Kareena Kapoor Khan is arriving with yet another stellar performance. Under the expert direction of Hansal Mehta, acclaimed for his ability to craft gripping narratives, and with Ektaa R Kapoor backing the project, the film is set to be a standout addition to the mystery genre and ensures a captivating script and a thrilling watch. Kareena and Ektaa have collaborated in the past as well on multiple projects and with this movie they are entering into the world of Hansal Mehta, the masterful storyteller, has carved a niche for himself in the realm of mystery filmmaking. His directorial are a testament to the power of storytelling, where the truth is slowly unraveled, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

The excitement doesn't stop here, the teaser for *The Buckingham Murders* is set to drop tomorrow, promising an even closer look at the film's suspenseful and intriguing elements. *The Buckingham Murders* will be released exclusively in cinemas on September 13, 2024. The film features an exceptional ensemble cast, including Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ash Tandon, Ranveer Brar, and Keith Allen. Directed by Hansal Mehta and written by Aseem Arora, Kashyap Kapoor, and Raghuvar Raj Kakker. It is a Mahana Films and TBM Films production, presented by Balaji Telefilms and produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ektaa R Kapoor.



## BONEY KAPOOR REVEALS STUNNING TRANSFORMATION

On August 19, producer Boney Kapoor took to Instagram to unveil his remarkable physical transformation, celebrating a significant milestone in his journey. Kapoor, who recently made his acting debut in the film *Tu Jhooti Main Makkaar*, revealed that he has successfully shed 14 kilograms and is now focused on losing an additional 8 kilograms. In his Instagram post, Kapoor shared a photo showcasing his changed appearance and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his late wife, the acclaimed actress Sridevi, whom he credited as his primary inspiration. He wrote, "Hair is getting thicker, I am looking better, I lost 14 kg, and I have 8 more to go. My inspiration is my Jaan; her art is behind me, and her thoughts are always with me. She remains with me all the time."

The post garnered significant attention, with Kapoor's brother, Sanjay Kapoor, proudly commenting on the transformation, while his daughter, Janhvi Kapoor, and family friend Ory responded with heart emojis. Veer Pahariya also took to the comments to show his support. Many followers were intrigued by Kapoor's rejuvenated look, especially his fuller hair. Earlier in February, Kapoor hinted at a possible hair transplant, adding to the speculation about his hair restoration. Kapoor's journey reflects not only his commitment to personal wellness but also his deep connection to his late wife's memory, which continues to inspire and motivate him.



## ABHISHEK RELEASES A STATEMENT ADDRESSING A MISCOMMUNICATION!

Abhishek Banerjee, a rising star in Bollywood who is currently reveling in the success of his latest films *Stree 2* and *Vedaa*, has recently become embroiled in an unexpected controversy involving Dharma Productions. A recent interview in which he recounted a past experience with Dharma Productions has sparked a flurry of misinterpretations, leading the actor to issue a statement to clear the air.

The controversy began when Banerjee shared an anecdote from his early days in the industry, specifically regarding his and Ahuja's involvement in the casting process for the 2012 blockbuster film *Agneepath*. During an interview, Banerjee revealed that they were removed from the project due to their inexperience and inability to align with the vision of the film's director, Karan Malhotra. This revelation, however, was misconstrued by some as a criticism of Dharma Productions, leading to widespread speculation and controversy.

In response, Banerjee felt compelled to issue a formal statement on Monday, August 19, to clarify the situation and express his respect for Dharma Productions and its head, Karan Johar. He emphasized that his intention was never to portray the situation negatively and that the decision to remove his casting agency from the project was made by the director's team, not by Dharma Productions. Banerjee's statement aimed to dispel any notion of bad blood between him and Dharma Productions, stressing that the incident was a learning experience rather than a point of contention.



## John Aprea, Beloved *Godfather Part II* actor, passes away at 83

John Aprea, the actor best known for his portrayal of a young Salvatore "Sal" Tessio in *The Godfather Part II*, has passed away at the age of 83. Aprea died of natural causes in Los Angeles on August 5, surrounded by his loved ones, as confirmed by his manager, Will Levine. "I am deeply saddened by Mr. Aprea's passing," Levine told. "He was an incredibly talented actor, a true gentleman, and loved by his friends. One of the classiest individuals I had the pleasure of knowing."

Born in 1941 in Englewood, New Jersey, to Italian immigrant parents, Aprea's career in acting spanned several decades, with his first significant role in the 1968 Steve McQueen classic *Bullitt*, a crime drama that marked his entry into Hollywood. However, it was

his role in *The Godfather Part II* as a younger version of Salvatore Tessio, originally portrayed by Abe Vigoda, that left an indelible mark on cinema. Before filming, Aprea reached out to Vigoda for guidance on how to portray the character. Vigoda's response, as reported, was simple yet profound: "I don't know what I did. Just have a good time, kid." Throughout his career, Aprea



became known for his performances in various crime dramas and soap operas. He was also recognized for his role as John Stamos' on-screen father, Nick Katsopolis, in the beloved family sitcom *Full House*. This role was reprised years later in the Netflix reboot, *Fuller House*, allowing Aprea to bring his character to a new generation of viewers. Gregori J. Martin, the show's creator and showrunner, paid tribute to Aprea following his death, expressing his admiration and respect for the actor. "It was a great honour to work with an icon like John on *The Bay*," Martin said. "I have always been a fan of his work. He was a true gentleman and an absolute

professional who brought beautiful moments to the role of Jack in these later seasons. We will all miss him dearly." Aprea's legacy in the entertainment industry is not only marked by his roles but also by the respect and affection he garnered from colleagues and fans alike. His passing leaves a void, but his work continues to resonate with those who appreciated his talent and dedication to his craft. John Aprea is survived by his wife, Betsy Graci, his daughter Nicole from a previous marriage, and stepchildren Marika Parker and Valentino Graci. He was previously married to Ninon Aprea and Cherie Latimer. His life and career remain a legend, thanks to his passion for acting and his ability to bring complex characters to life on screen.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



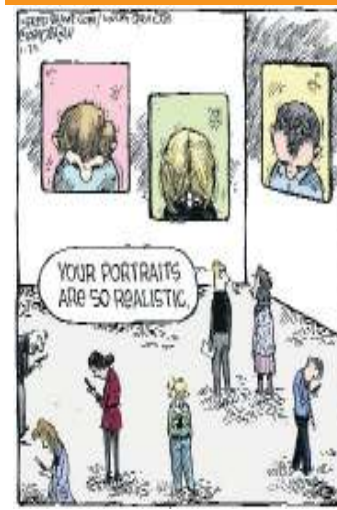
### GINGER MEGGS



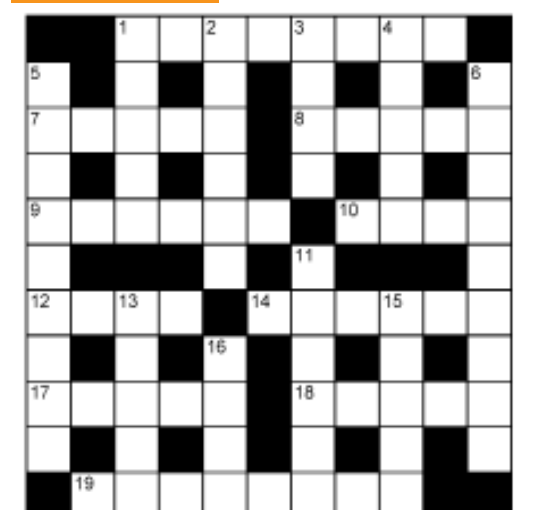
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU

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| 3 |   | 2 |   | 5 | 6 |   |   |  |
|   | 2 |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |  |
|   | 8 |   | 1 | 7 |   |   |   |  |
| 9 | 4 | 6 |   |   | 3 | 2 |   |  |
|   |   | 9 |   | 8 |   |   |   |  |
| 6 | 7 |   |   | 5 | 9 | 8 |   |  |
|   |   |   | 7 | 9 |   | 5 |   |  |
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Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

### ACROSS

- Keep live fish in this
- An archer fires this
- Very mean and unkind
- Sad because you are on your own
- Scheme
- A red gemstone
- Defeated
- Wearing nothing
- Stage dramas
- These are pushed around a supermarket
- Normal
- A graceful dancer
- Loss of eyesight
- Humans
- A maker of bread
- Shed these when crying
- A worshipped statue

### DOWN

- Wear this over clothes to keep them clean
- Sick
- Eat this grain cooked





## ADITI MANGALDAS ON 'THE EVOLUTION OF KATHAK'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

In the recent past, Aditi Mangaldas's live stage debut of *Lost... in the Forest* took place. A captivating dance spectacle created, choreographed, performed and recorded by her during the pandemic was shown in this presentation. Aditi Mangaldas's extraordinary ability to meld the ancient traditions of Kathak with modern themes was on display. But given that Mangaldas is regarded as one of the best Kathak dancers in the world, both in India and abroad, it was a signal for us to interview her. That is correct! "Yes, classical Kathak dance is the foundation of my dance path. Tradition is a river that never stops flowing, which is why I have always been inspired to push the limits of the traditional form and investigate modern manifestations. My family is diversified, with businessmen on one side and intellectuals with a background in philosophy and science on the other, unlike many Kathak practitioners who come from well-established dance traditions," shares Mangaldas, who received training from Pundit Birju Maharaj and Kumudini Lakhia. She was raised in an eclectic environment, which gave her a sense of freedom and an open mind to ideas and creativity. She does not believe that the traditional and the modern are incompatible. She approached Kathak with a "NOW!" mentality. The highly recognised Kathak dancer goes on, saying, "Kathak is a solid foundation from which I derive energy to develop and attempt to create new, varied and pertinent forms of expression. I build a future-oriented language using the rich legacy of the past as a starting point. Treat Kathak like a seed and nourish it with modern sensibilities; the resulting tree will have its roots in Kathak while reaching for the sky of the present. Respect and awareness of our rich history and geography are important, but don't let them consume you."

The original sources of inspiration for her recent live stage debut were many. The poet Kunwar Narayan's text, *Maav Mein Nadiya* (River in the Boat), was provided to her by Shubha Mudgal, who also created and performed the song. "The idea of *LOST... in the forest!* was impacted by these observations. The piece was composed of two parts, "The River in the Boat" and "Now Seen... Now Not," which examined themes of confusion, unpredictability and the quest for purpose in the face of the pandemic's turmoil. Due to the lockdown's creative restrictions, I was obliged to create symbolic narratives inside my own house, utilising found things like abandoned wooden frames. The process of change and adaptation at that time was a reflection of the human condition as a whole. The artwork served as both a window into my personal path and a celebration of the human spirit's inventiveness and resiliency in the face of extreme adversity. For the live performance, a third piece called *Walking Into The Sunbeam* was added, a fragment of the human spirit's resiliency and optimism."

She approaches her work from two different perspectives, by the way. Kathak is one and "contemporary work based on Kathak" is the other. As the only form she has ever learned,

One of the most renowned Kathak dancers in the world, Aditi Mangaldas, explores the core of her art form in an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*. Famous for her remarkable ability to blend modern themes with age-old Kathak customs, she enthralled audiences with her live stage premiere of *Lost... in the Forest* in her most new productions

been taught and is able to breathe, she believes in planting the seed of Kathak. But when modern sensibilities, imagery, poetry, textures and social concerns are added to this very seed, a tree with strong roots in Kathak but a contemporary resonance begins to bloom. The National Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winner continues, saying, "My greatest guru is life itself. My sources of inspiration include people, things we have done together and shared moments. This idea informs my choreography, as does the wisdom of my gurus and the conversations I have with students and peers. I like to give my pieces a lot of leeway so that listeners can add their own meanings and resonances. I think art should convey the same sense of flexibility and possibility as life itself. By doing this, I encourage the audience to actively engage with the artistic process and forge their own, personal connections with the performance."

Another deeply meaningful production, "Forbidden," also had a personal and reflective creative process. Her urge to inquire as to why female sexuality has always been regulated and approved in all civilisations was the catalyst for it. She felt driven to use dance as a means of expressing herself as an artist and a woman! Resolving the deeply embedded notions about female sexuality in classical dance itself was one of the primary obstacles. For example, although the *Chedd-Chadh* act in classical dance is frequently executed very well, it sends the erroneous message that 'no' equates to 'yes'. A big part of her artistic process was identifying and confronting these subtly prevalent concepts in our own art form. Additionally, "we conducted a thorough investigation and spoke with individuals from a range of backgrounds to comprehend different viewpoints on female sexuality. This influenced the piece's storyline and emotional tone. In addition, we worked with a Japanese designer to produce a skin-toned kurta and pajamas that represent a blossoming flower with delicate pink embellishments. The clothing had to communicate the notion of feminine sexuality while balancing the traditional and modern aspects of the choreography." Using dance to tackle such a delicate subject while striking a balance between impact and nuance

presented another difficulty. Each movement has to be expertly choreographed by her to be both potent and subtly explicit. She painted the "forbidden" parts of female desire using modern, abstract language, layered over a rich base of Kathak vocabulary. Making a performance that was, in her words, "innocent and ferocious" was probably the most difficult task!

We continue this fascinating conversation with Aditi, an artistic director, who says, "In addition to technical skill, I look for dancers who have a genuine love for the art form and are willing to explore new things. I really appreciate skills like curiosity and a willingness to push limits because they are indicative of the innovative culture that I try to foster within my organisation that's Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company—The Drishtikon Dance Foundation. I urge these young dancers to get intimately involved with Kathak's traditional foundations in order to motivate them to create while honouring tradition. This starts with a strong base in Kathak terminology, which acts as a springboard for imaginative investigation. I stress how crucial it is to comprehend the form's cultural relevance and historical background without becoming overtaken by it in order to make it current and representative of the times."

She searches for those who are willing to participate in creative discovery and who have a strong passion for the art form when selecting colleagues. She put together an outstanding team of artists for the creation of *LOST... in the forest!* which included, among others, the talented sculptor Manish Kansara, the well-known vocalist and composer Shubha Mudgal and the sensitive light designer Govind Singh Yadav. She finds that working together allows her to draw on a variety of viewpoints, creative mediums and subject matter expertise, which is why it is so fulfilling for her. By combining dance, music, visual design and technical production, she weaves a beautiful tapestry of elements that enhances the performance in ways that would be impossible to achieve separately. She is motivated to think creatively and beyond her comfort zone by the conversations, exchanges and encounters.

"I make it a point to surround myself with as much as possible during rehearsal—movement possibilities, music, poetry, images, imagination and all that the natural world and human experience have to offer. I give myself over to the production, letting my body and mind become part of its ethos. These are not religious rituals; rather, they are ways for me to concentrate myself and express gratitude before a performance. From my perspective, they represent the "religion of humanity, the religion of life itself"—a means of paying tribute to the innumerable individuals and events that have influenced my development as a dancer and choreographer," says the dancer,

who has performed in *Festivals of India* in the US, UK, and USSR back in the day. Nonetheless, she is incredibly appreciative of the few priceless institutional settings that have continuously aided different artists and given Kathak the tools and creative freedom she needed to succeed. However, she believes that having these venues alone is insufficient and that they also require a new generation of artists who aren't afraid to take chances, push limits and rise to the challenges of the modern day. Aditi Mangaldas hopes to contribute to the development of these youthful, innovative voices in the future by giving them the skills, insight and social awareness necessary to advance Kathak in ways that are audacious and revolutionary.



## Why kids aged 4 to 10 years need their own skincare products!

In the modern world, skincare has grown to be an integral part of everyday routines for both adults and, increasingly, children. Children's skin experiences major changes throughout the important developmental stage between the ages of 4 and 10 years. During this time, children's skin is very delicate and vulnerable to a number of ailments that could negatively impact their general health and wellbeing. It is essential to supply them with skincare products that are tailored to their individual requirements as a result.

### Understanding a kid's skin:

**The skin of children is very different from that of adults in a number of ways:**

**Thinner epidermis:** Children's skin is more prone to irritation and the absorption of toxic substances since it has a thinner epidermis. Due to their skin's increased water content and more active sebaceous gland function, they may be more vulnerable to dryness and eczema.

The skin of children recovers more quickly than that of adults, but it is also more vulnerable to environmental harm from things like pollution and sun exposure.

**Developmental changes:** During the ages of 4 to 10, children experience significant skin development. This stage is crucial for establishing a healthy skin barrier, which protects against infections, allergens, and irritants. Providing the right skincare products helps support this development and ensure long-term skin health.

### Common skin issues in kids

**Eczema:** Children that suffer from eczema frequently have dry, itchy, and irritated skin. It can negatively affect a child's quality of life and cause them great suffering. By keeping skin hydrated and lowering inflammation, specialized skincare products can help control and prevent flare-ups of eczema.

**Dry skin:** Another common problem among kids is dry skin. Dryness can be caused by a variety of factors, including a hereditary tendency, exposure to severe weather, and regular hand washing. Gentle, moisturizing components found in children's skincare products can help relieve dryness and maintain soft, supple skin.

**Sensitivities and allergies:** Children's immune systems are still developing; therefore, they are more vulnerable to allergy responses and skin sensitivities. Children's skincare products are usually hypoallergenic and free of common allergens, which lowers the possibility of negative reactions.

**Sun sensitivity:** Children are more vulnerable to sunburns and long-term damage because their skin is more sensitive to UV light than adult skin. Applying sunscreen made especially for kids, which is frequently devoid of irritating ingredients and scents, can offer good protection without causing skin irritation.

**Benefits of skincare products for kids:** Gentle components that are less likely to irritate skin or trigger allergic responses are used in the formulation of kids' skincare products. These products don't include harsh chemicals, artificial perfumes, or dyes that could irritate sensitive skin.

Kid's moisturizers contain natural oils and glycerin, which help seal in moisture and stave off dryness. Young skin has to be shielded from the elements, including UV radiation, pollution, and bad weather. Antioxidants and sunscreens, among other additional protective compounds included in skincare products, can help protect their skin from these dangerous substances. Early skincare routine introduction to kids promotes the development of lifelong healthy habits. Instilling in children early on the value of skin care nurtures a feeling of accountability and self-care.

(The author, Prasanna Vasanadu, is a Parent Educator and Founder of Tikitoro.)

## ANGRY YOUNG MEN: SCRIPTING LEGACY WITH TIMELESS MAJESTIC SAGA

TEJAL SINHA

**A**ngry Young Men delves deeply into the legendary Bollywood careers of iconic writing duo Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar. The three-part series provides a touching and motivational look at the lives of Salim and Javed, who revolutionised Indian cinema in the 1970s with their innovative scripts. By bringing in the archetype of the 'angry young men', they changed Bollywood's emphasis from romance to adrenaline-fuelled drama, completely transforming the Indian film scene.

### PLOT

*Angry Young Men* shows rare archival clips, providing a nostalgic peek into their personal connections, teamwork and innovative talent, highlighting their famous characters and hit films like *Deewar*, *Don*, *Sholay*, *Trishul* and *Dostana*, among many others.

The duo of Salim-Javed, who collaborated on 24 movies, 22 of which were major successes, were the series' focus until their separation in 1982.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

The series to a fare-thee-well diverged into three parts, with each of them carrying its own significance into the legacy of the duo. The first part of the docu-series takes us through the legacy of THE Salim-Javed from scratch, which begins with a much-inspiring truism when the

interviewer asks Khan to wipe the sweat and he says, *Woh kya hai taqdeer hai, mit nahi jaaye. Taqdeer ghis gayi toh hum toh gaye. Thakur (from Sholay) toh gayo!* This pretty much sums up how their characters have created a mark, doesn't it? From the Galaxy Apartments to the Akhtar house, that brings us to the beautiful scenery and a candid-fun barter with Javed Akhtar. Following this, we hear the glorious *Sholay* dialogue: *Kitne aadmi the? Sardaar Do* and the legendary duo Salim-Javed's old picture pop in, which throws a light on the years of their partnership in a way. As the part progresses, Salman Khan, Farhan Akhtar, among others, speak of how they've created their own mark and been an inspiration and how their small dialogues have created a 'char-chaand' in the films that they worked on. Each line for that matter, felt so relatable with one another. To cite an example, a clipping of AR Rahman's speech from the Oscars was put in where he is heard saying



the famous dialogue *Mere Paas Maa Hai* from the film *Deewar*. Salim-Javed, who were known as "The Kings and 'The Brats' of those times, had created such a niche that while other writers would get a minimum pay, they, on the other hand, charged lakhs. The episode then takes us to the formative days, struggles and how Salim Khan married Salma Khan. As the episode progresses, we understand how they turned up and up things for writers and made them get their due credit.

Well, how? You need to head towards Prime Video to watch it, though! And there is a pretty shocking and fun backstory to it!

Then comes the second part, which begins with Arbaaz Khan saying how he and the Khan siblings looked like their father Salim Khan at one of their stages of life, but never wrote like him ever in their journey. The part further talks about two of their many blockbusters, *Sholay* and *Deewar*, which were both released in 1975. *Sholay*, which has to date been an iconic hit, then turned out to be a flop and on the other side, *Deewar* created waves at the Filmfare Awards with not one or two but six awards. The duo revealed that what really stood out was its on-screen narration. The episode

further takes us through the emotional times when Javed Akhtar speaks of missing his mom and how it would be difficult for his dad to meet Javed.

Subsequently, comes the final part! The part takes us through Khan-daan's kids and Akhtar's siblings' growing years together. As they say, 'nazar lag jaati hai, so did it with the duo, who announced their split in 1982, which eventually called for celebrations by many in the industry. The duo being together for over 18 hours of the 24 hours came to an end. Basically, it was the climax of the Salim-Javed era. But on the other hand, there were also stories of love, romance and splits on the personal front. While Salim spoke about the moment, he informed the kids about his being in love with Helen and then there was Javed Akhtar at one point in time, ending his marriage with Hony Irani.

What sets the docu-series apart? *Angry Young Men*, without sounding preachy over the learnings from the duo, makes it a docu-series that brings out what truly a legacy is about. There's emotion, humour, fun, love, romance and everything else that the duo has forever been known for. Every part brings a different aspect of the legacy, along with their own lives. They are excellent at being frank, clever and outspoken storytellers. Both profound insights and delightful anecdotes fill their narratives. It's a voyage into the grandiose world of 1970s cinema.

### THE DRAWBACKS

While every Bollywood freak would wish to stay hooked all throughout, the

sudden shifts from their professional lives to some personal moments of their respective lives would maybe faze, in a few parts here and there. But again, in Bollywood, you can always expect unexpected turns.

### TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The visual narrative is incredibly skillful. The music remains prominent throughout, and believe me, the rap in a particular scene (sorry, no spoilers) will absolutely amaze you!

### VERDICT

*Angry Young Men* is a notable homage to the writer pair Salim-Javed. The documentary series provides a remarkable experience that is deep and reflective. This docu-series is essential viewing for fans of Hindi cinema, particularly from the golden era and classic Indian cinema, where storytelling and realistic characters mirror the complexities. If turned into a proper film, it would have been a sensational hit.

Directed by: Namrata Rao

Produced by: Salman Khan Films, Excel Media & Entertainment and Tiger Baby

Executive produced by: Salma Khan, Salman Khan, Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar, Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti

Rating: 3.5/5



# Deepti shines as London Spirit lift maiden women's Hundred title

PTI ■ LONDON

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma played a crucial role with both bat and ball as London Spirit lifted their maiden Women's Hundred title, beating Welsh Fire by four wickets in the final at the Lord's here. Deepti snapped a wicket giving away 23 runs and then smashed a run-a-ball 16, including the winning six off Hayley Matthews, as the Indian and England's Charlie Dean jumped into each other's arms in celebration. Two years ago, Deepti had controversially dismissed Dean after running her out at the non-striker's end during the third ODI against England in 2022, triggering a debate over the spirit of the game. It was ecstasy for Deepti and despair for Dean that day but here the two were on the same side, engineering the maiden victory after chasing down a victory target of 116 in 98 balls. Besides Deepti, Eva Gray (2/26) and Sarah Glenn (2/17) snapped two wickets each, while Tera Norris (1/18) also chipped in with a wicket to restrict Welsh Fire to 115 for 8 in stipulated 100 balls, which was mainly built on the 41-ball 54 by Australia's Jess Jonassen.



In reply, Georgia Redmayne anchored the chase with a 32-ball 34. Heather Knight (24) and Danielle Gibson (22) also

chipped in with useful contributions even as Shabnim Ismail threatened to derail the chase with figures of three for 24 in her 20 balls.

But Deepti then took the onus on herself and produced the only maximum of the match in the nick of time to take her team home.

# Tyson feels good after health scare and ready for his rescheduled bout with Jake Paul

AP ■ NEW YORK

Mike Tyson is 58 years old and coming off a health scare that forced the postponement of his return to the ring. The boxer once considered the most dangerous man in the world could be putting himself in danger by putting the gloves on again. Yet he was quick to respond Sunday when asked why he was going through with his bout against Jake Paul. "Because I can. Who else can do it but me? Who else is he going to fight to make this happen?" Tyson said, motioning toward the crowd at a packed press conference where fans cheered the former heavyweight champion and booed Paul. "We've just got to listen to the facts. We've got a YouTuber fighting the greatest fighter that ever lived." Tyson and Paul restarted the buildup to their match that is now scheduled for November 15 at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. They had been set to meet July 20 before Tyson became nauseous and dizzy on a flight from Miami to Los Angeles in May, with his representatives attributing the episode to an ulcer problem. Tyson said on Sunday he resumed training two or three



weeks ago and feels fine. "Hey listen, I'm just ready," Tyson said. The undisputed heavyweight champion 1987 to 1990, Tyson (50-6, 44 KOs) retired in 2005 before coming back for an exhibition match against Roy Jones in 2020. Fans seem excited for his return, with a number of them turned away Sunday because too many showed up for their press conference on the final day of the Fanatics Fest event in New York. Paul (10-1, 7 KOs) sparred as much with the fans who booed him as with the fighter

across the stage. "Hey New York, you're just like Mike Tyson," Paul said. "You were good 20 years ago." Tyson's most dominant days are actually longer ago than that, and Paul understands that he probably wouldn't get much credit for a victory against such a diminished opponent. Yet the former Disney Channel star who insists he will become a boxing champion said there is benefit to fighting Tyson even now. "Big moments, big pressure, big stages, one of the greatest to ever do it, more experience than me, more fights than me,

I'm going to learn a lot in this fight and through this training camp," Paul said. "So this is helping me in my future fights and everything that I want to accomplish." He took a fight after Tyson had to pull out, stopping bare-knuckle fighting champion Mike Perry in the sixth round on July 20. Perry, like many of the fighters on Paul's resume, comes from the mixed martial arts world, rather than from a boxing background. He preferred to fight Tyson then and is eager now for his second chance. "I was ready before, you needed a little break," he said to Tyson. "Your tummy hurt still?" The fight that will stream on Netflix will be an official bout, though contested with eight 2-minute rounds and heavier gloves than usual. The truest boxing match on the card might be the one that precedes it, when super lightweight champion Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano have a rematch of Taylor's thrilling victory in 2022 in the first women's boxing match to headline at Madison Square Garden. Then Paul will try to show what he hopes to become in boxing, or perhaps Tyson can demonstrate what he once was. He said his health problems won't prevent that.



# Conte has work to do after Napoli melts like snow in the sun at Verona

AP ■ MILAN

Antonio Conte has a lot of work to do. Conte became Napoli's fifth coach in little more than a year when he was hired in June and on Sunday he saw his new team crumble 3-0 at Hellas Verona in his first match back in Serie A. "We melted like snow in the sun after the first goal," Conte said. "We should apologise to the Neapolitan people, who follow us with passion. I am the coach and it is right that I take full responsibility. In the second half there was an unacceptable performance. We should be ashamed, and I have to be ashamed as I am coach. Those who know me know that today my heart is bleeding, and I hope that some of the players are also bleeding so that would mean that at least we are on the right path." Dailon Livramento and Daniel Mosquera - twice - scored on their league debuts to hand Verona the win



on the opening weekend of the Italian league season and there was further bad news for Napoli as it lost key player Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to injury. Napoli has been in a slump since Luciano Spalletti left last summer after steering the club to its first title in more than 30 years. The southern team finished 10th last season and it hoped for much better under Conte, who led Juventus and Inter Milan to the title.

However, it drew 0-0 with Serie B side Modena in the Italian Cup on Conte's debut, going through on penalties, before Sunday's second-half horror show. Conte's side had the better of the early stages in Verona and had chances with Matteo Politano, André-Frank Anguissa and Stanislav Lobotka before the home side almost gifted it the lead in first half stoppage-time. Verona defender Martin Frese played a woefully short back pass to goalkeeper Lorenzo Montipò and Kvaratskhelia raced onto it but Jackson Tchatchoua came flying in for a heroic last-ditch tackle. Kvaratskhelia had to come off immediately afterward, appearing to be indicating that he was feeling dizzy. Frese played another poor back pass moments later that forced Montipò into an acrobatic clearance. Verona came out a different team after the break and Grigorios Kastanos curled just past the far post with its first real chance of the match before the home

side took the lead when Livramento managed to get enough on Darko Lazovic's cross to poke the ball into the bottom right corner. Anguissa hit the crossbar in the 61st but Verona doubled its lead when it won the ball in a midfield tussle and Ondrej Duda played it through for substitute Mosquera to fire past Alex Meret in the 75th. Mosquera had only been on the field for less than two minutes. The Colombian forward doubled his tally in stoppages as he was left completely unmarked by the Napoli defense. Verona was one of only two teams to win so far in the opening round. The other was Lazio, which rallied from conceding an early goal to beat newly promoted Venezia 3-1. In Sardinia, both Roma and Cagliari hit the woodwork and had other chances but could only draw 0-0. Bologna drew 1-1 at home to Udinese. There were four draws on Saturday, including for defending champion Inter Milan and AC Milan.

# Top-ranked Sinner reaches final in Cincinnati, but women's No. 1 Swiatek falls to Sabalenka

AP ■ MASON (US)

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner outlasted Alexander Zverev in a third-set tiebreaker to reach the final of the Cincinnati Open, while No. 1 Iga Swiatek was defeated in the women's semifinals by No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka. Sabalenka will face American Jessica Pegula in Monday's final, while Sinner will play either American Frances Tiafoe or No. 15 seed Holger Rune. Sinner on Sunday emerged with a 7-6(9) 5-7 7-6(4) victory after 3 hours, 7 minutes, tying Casper Ruud for the ATP Tour lead by reaching his fifth final of the season. Sinner leads the tour with four titles this season. The first set lasted more than an hour and the match also was suspended for 30 minutes by rain. Zverev, the No. 4 seed, had won four straight meetings against Sinner. Sinner finished

with a 124-121 edge in total points. "I think we both raised our level when it counted," Sinner said. "The tiebreaker can go both ways. I just tried to stay there mentally. Obviously, I'm happy to be in the final." Sinner, who's been dealing with a right hip issue, was seen grabbing that area early in Sunday's match but said he came through fine physically. "Sometimes I feel it," Sinner said. "I have to check after this tournament here. I haven't had too much time to recover before coming here. I'm not worried yet. I'm happy to play." Sabalenka reached the finals in Cincinnati for the first time with a 6-3 6-3 victory over Swiatek, ending the five-time Grand Slam winner's 15-match winning streak and avenging losses in the finals in Madrid and Rome. "Really happy with the win, especially against Iga, who is

always a tough battle," Sabalenka said. "To get the win in straight sets, that's kind of an achievement for me." Swiatek, who's been on top of the WTA rankings for 116 weeks, was satisfied with her week in Cincinnati. "I pretty much did better than I expected, honestly, especially on this surface," Swiatek said. "I'm happy with the result anyway, and already focusing on what I need to do to feel even better in New York." The US Open begins there on August 26. Swiatek won the title in 2022. Pegula, the No. 6 seed, beat Paula Badosa 6-2 3-6 6-3 after their semifinal was suspended more than an hour by rain. She is the third American to reach the finals at the Canadian and Cincinnati Open in a calendar year, the first since Serena Williams in 2013. "We've had a lot of great battles in the past," Sabalenka said.

# No goal for Mbappé in his Spanish league debut as Real Madrid draws 1-1 at Mallorca

AP ■ MADRID

Defending champion Real Madrid couldn't manage more than a 1-1 draw at Mallorca in Kylian Mbappé's first Spanish league match. In his second game with Madrid after debuting midweek, Mbappe failed to break through on Sunday. The France great had scored in Madrid's 2-0 win against Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti started with the same squad that beat Atalanta, with Rodrygo, Vinicius Junior and Mbappé in attack. "They change position from time to time," Ancelotti said of Vinicius and Mbappé. "Sometimes Mbappé plays more centrally and sometimes one of the two has to occupy this flank, without a particular plan. It depends on how they feel about it." It was Rodrygo who put

Madrid ahead against Mallorca 13 minutes into the match, but the hosts equalized with Vedat Muriqi's goal in the 53rd. "We got off to a good start, taking the lead and then had a chance to get the second goal," Ancelotti said. "We didn't find the balance in the second half. We could have lost as there was no balance at the back. It wasn't a good game. We need to defend better. We're a very attacking

team, but defensive balance is a fundamental factor." Madrid defender Ferland Mendy was sent off deep into second-half stoppage time for a hard foul on Muriqi. "I don't want to make excuses for anything, but we just need to do better and with a better attitude," Ancelotti said. "We can learn a lot from this match. It's quite clear where our problems could come from." Rafael Nadal, who is from the

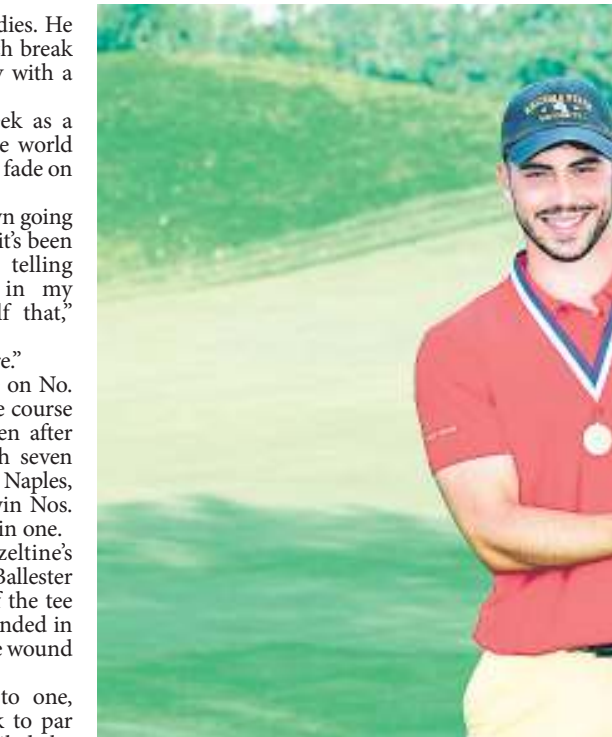
island of Mallorca, was among those watching the match at the Son Moix Stadium. Mallorca's players provided a guard of honour for the Super Cup winners, lining up to applaud the Madrid team as they entered the field before kickoff. Sociedad stunned at home. Real Sociedad, which finished sixth last season, was upset 2-1 at home by Rayo Vallecano, which fought to avoid relegation in the last campaign.

# Ballester becomes 1st Spaniard to win US Amateur, fending off Iowa's Noah

AP ■ CHASKA (US)

Jose Luis Ballester, a senior-to-be at Arizona State, became the first player from Spain to win the US Amateur, fending off Iowa sophomore Noah Kent 2 up Sunday at Hazeltine in the 36-hole match on his 21st birthday. Ballester, who was the only player in the top 10 of the world amateur ranking to reach the round of 16, took the lead on the second hole and never trailed. He joined Jon Rahm as the only players from Spain to win a USGA tournament. Rahm, who also played for the Sun Devils, won the US Open in 2021. "We have many great Spaniards, many great legends," Ballester said. "Being able to add my name into that history is pretty sweet." Both finalists gained exemptions for the Masters and the US Open next year, and Ballester also got a spot in the British Open. Ballester trailed at some point in his last three matches before taking control in the grueling final. Wearing a red polo, yellow shorts on loan from Spaniard he beat in the semifinals, Luis Masaveu, and black socks to match his country's colors, Ballester went 3 up after

four holes on two early birdies. He had a 4-up lead at the lunch break on a vintage 82-degree day with a slight late-summer breeze. Kent, who entered the week as a long shot at No. 560 in the world amateur ranking, refused to fade on the exhausting final day. "You don't want to be 4 down going into an 18-hole match, but it's been done before, and I kept telling myself that. Everybody in my corner kept telling myself that," Kent said. "I fought like crazy out there." He hit a long putt for eagle on No. 25 - the seventh hole on the course - to move within two. Then after falling behind by four with seven holes to go, the player from Naples, Florida, snapped back to win Nos. 31, 32 and 34 and pull within one. On the 34th hole, Hazeltine's signature lakeside No. 16, Ballester hit into the thick rough off the tee and, after clipping a tree, landed in worse shape in the reeds. He wound up with a bogey. But with his lead down to one, Ballester got back on track to par the final two holes. He nailed the shot off the No. 17 tee within striking range on the green. "I was juiced. I could feel the



adrenaline in my veins, in my forearms," Ballester said. Kent hit into the bunker off the No.

18 tee, then the rough. His last-chance chip overshot the hole. Once the victory was secured, Ballester began to cry as he thought of friends and family in Spain, including his grandmother who's

been ill this summer. "It was a hard summer back in Spain, so I feel like all those emotions kind of came out," Ballester said. Wearing a white polo with a Hawkeyes logo, Kent was attempting to become first Iowa player to win the event. The 19-year-old had the clear edge in fan support with dozens in gold Caitlin Clark shirts cheering from the gallery. "I knew it was going to be like that from yesterday. I kind of liked it a little bit," Ballester said. "When the other guy is feeling it and he's kind of grabbing that momentum and you see all the supporters that are going for him, it can be a little depressing. So it's important to face it with a nice mindset." Kent hadn't trailed since the 12th hole of his second round match until Ballester took the early lead. Kent beat 17th-ranked amateur and Big Ten rival Jackson Buchanan of Illinois in their 18-hole semifinal match. Ballester, who won the European Amateur last year, took a congratulatory call from fellow Spaniard Sergio Garcia after his

semifinal win. He shined with the short game all week. "I think it's in the blood," Ballester said. "It has to be." Hazeltine, which was designed by Robert Trent Jones and opened in 1962 in what was then mostly farmland and now a suburb filled with lakes and cul-de-sacs about 25 miles southwest of Minneapolis, last hosted the men's amateur in 2006. Since then, the course has seen the PGA Championship (2009), the Ryder Cup (2016) and the Women's PGA Championship (2019). The Ryder Cup is due back in 2029. The event began Monday with 312 players over two courses, the 130th edition of the tournament that has helped launch many greats of golf into a decorated career on the pro tour. Jones, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson are among the dozens of notable names who won the U.S. Amateur. Jones won the event a record five times. Woods won three. The last European to win the U.S. Amateur was Viktor Hovland of Norway in 2018 at Pebble Beach.



# Rao Ramesh steps into the limelight in *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*

**Rao Ramesh has long been hailed as the epitome of a character actor in Telugu films, leaving a lasting impression with his unforgettable characters and dialogues. Ramesh is all set to take up on a new role as the main man in Lakshman Karya's *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*. This is a significant divergence from his typical supporting parts, giving him an opportunity to show off his skills in a pivotal role that plays out over the whole movie.**

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Rao Ramesh is one of the best character actors in Telugu cinema, who is known for his roles and dialogues, well-liked by the audience. Irrespective of the film's fate, Rao Ramesh's character has always been a highlight in the film. Now, with Lakshman Karya-helmed *Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam*, he will be seen playing the lead role.

In the last fifteen years, he has played different kinds of character roles, but for the first time, he puts himself in the shoes of a lead.

When asked about it, he said he was very happy. "Till now, I have played character roles in different films, where I used to spend only a few days on the sets. There were times, I wasn't aware about the film's story and director's used to just inform me about my role. But this is the first time I am playing a lead character and I will appear throughout the film. The story revolves around me; I had to be involved in the story discussion and dialogues and also interact more with the director about my scenes," said Rao Ramesh. So, these all give him a really good feel, he added.

Irrespective of the film's success or failure, Rao Ramesh's role is always a talking point. Speaking of getting into the skin of the character and doing the homework, he shares, "I never do any homework for any of my characters. When the director narrates my role, I just grasp at him, and when the shooting happens, I simply follow the director." He further added that he does what the director wants, and he never adds anything to the scene.

When asked, did he feel any pressure as a first-time lead actor? He enthuses, "Instead of pressure, I feel more responsibility. This is a hilarious role, and the story is also an out-and-out comedy. I make every character I do responsible, but when I do this film, I give full commitment to the filmmakers to complete the film in a shorter time. We completed this film in nearly 33 working days."

In other film industries like Marathi, Malayalam and Tamil, among the others, he says, they come up with different stories and many of the character artists played lead actors. But when it comes to Telugu, he goes on to shares, "It is not like that. Many of the directors write their stories keep-

ing the stars in mind, and they often come like this. If this film is successful, I am confident that many more films will come in the near future."

When director Lakshman Karya first approached Ramesh for this film, he was keen to know whether it was for OTT, with many of the star films not running successfully in theaters. The director says this film is going to be a theatre release because many of the Telugu audiences like Rao Ramesh and his dialogues.

Doing a lead role in this film, will he now be avoiding character roles in the coming days, we ask, to which he says, "I always choose my roles; that's why I can do different kinds of roles. I will continue to do character roles, but not for everyone; I will choose which one is best for me and also the audience."

Ramesh's father, Rao Gopala Rao, is one of the most inspired and well-known actors in Telugu cinema. On the comparisons, the *RX100* fame says, "When I was young, my father passed away.

Initially, I never thought of acting, as I was interested in photography. I want to work behind the camera, but now I am working in front of the camera." He added that in the initial days of his career, he never used his father's name.

"People didn't know that I was the son of Rao Gopala Rao because I didn't want to use his name. I want to show my potential. I want to work hard and get a name for myself. Apart from these, I didn't get my father's voice or his looks. So there is no comparison with him," said Ramesh.

In fact, Ramesh admires his mother and it was because of her that he ventured into acting. "My mother used to tell me that I would shine as an actor. I believed in her words, and that is how I entered into acting. She was a pillar for my initial days of career; now she is not there, but she predicts that I will one day play the lead actor and achieve something like this," he added. Having a lead character is a big achievement for him. "There are many actors doing it, but for me, it came now. I always believe in my hard work, and it pays me now," he added.

In the Telugu film industry, many of the directors wrote some characters, especially keeping him in mind. However, due to budget constraints they'd go with the other actors. The Telugu audience owns Ramesh as a family member because of his impeccable acting and the way he rendered the dialogues.

On the work front, he has signed another film with director Nakkina Trinadha Rao, in which he plays one of the leads along with Sundeeep Kishan. "The story revolves around a father and son; the story is hilarious," she says about the film. He also has a Tamil film with Jeeva as the lead actor. "I played a different role in the Tamil film, and I am confident that it will get a good name for me," he signs off.



## Shock to Harish and Puri Jagannadh!

Last week was a four-day long weekend for film lovers, with three Telugu films and a dubbed film released. On the occasion of Independence Day, two big films were released: one was director Harish Shankar and Ravi Teja's *Mr Bachchan*, and the other is Puri Jagan and Ram Pothineni's *Double iSmart*. *Mr. Bachchan* gets positive talk before its release because of its publicity, and with that confidence, they started premiere shows also. But unexpectedly, the film was a big flop at the box office, as audiences right away rejected it. *Mr. Bachchan* is an adaptation of the Hindi film *Raid*. But director Harish Shankar completely failed to do a better remake in Telugu.

This is a crucial film for Harish Shankar, as it was released after a five-year gap, but he still delivered a big flop. The film collected nearly Rs. 7.78 crore after the fourth day, which is very low. The film's pre-release business was done for around Rs 28 crore. The film's failure is a big shock to Harish Shankar and even to the industry. Industry people expect that audiences come to theaters to watch films, but this film disappointed a lot.

The other one is the Puri Jagannadh and Ram Pothineni combination *Double iSmart*. It seems director Puri didn't learn anything from his earlier failure, *Liger*. Though Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt is playing a negative role, the impact is nothing. Without a proper story, double-entendre dialogues, and unnecessary exposure, audiences rejected the film. This is another film in Ram's career, as he is seeing continuous flops one after another. The film collected nearly Rs. 10.78 crore worldwide after four days, which is not even Sanjay Dutt's remuneration.

*Aay*, which was released on August 16 is doing better than the two big films. *Aay* was made with a low budget, and it collected a good amount of money to become a hit.

The pre-release business of this movie was approximately around Rs. 3.25 crore, and now the movie collections are around Rs. 4 crore. The breakeven is done, and it is now in the profit zone. The Vikram and Malavika Mohan starrer *Thangalaan* is also released and it is going well at the box office. Pa Ranjith is the director, and apart from his narration, Vikram's acting is also a highlight of the film.

## Seerat Kapoor collaborates with OG JD Chakravarthy for her next psychological thriller

Seerat Kapoor, a name that has swiftly become synonymous with talent and versatility in the Tollywood industry, is once again making waves with her latest project. The actress, known for her compelling performances and striking screen presence, has officially announced her collaboration with two of Tollywood's most celebrated actors, JD Chakravarthy and Naresh Agastya.

In a heartfelt and exuberant post on her social media, Seerat shared her excitement, writing, "Someone pinch me! Every artist is destined for their own journey. I am soo grateful to be collaborating with the OG #jdchakravarthy for a movie closest to my heart and craft! @nareshagastyaYou're going to take thetheaters ba storm! I can't wait for you all to meet my stellar team. Stay tuned! @shravan\_jonnada @arjunrajadft."

The announcement, accompanied by a series of captivating photos with JD Chakravarthy and Naresh Agastya, has set the internet abuzz. In the pictures, we could see Seerat Kapoor and Naresh Agastya engrossed themselves in conversation with legendary JD Chakravarthy. Fans and industry insiders alike are eagerly anticipating what promises to be one of the most intriguing films of the year.

Seerat Kapoor, who will be taking on a lead role in this project, is expected to bring her game to a narrative that revolves around her enigmatic character. The film, shrouded in suspense and drama, is set to unravel a story filled with unexpected twists, keeping the audience on the edge of their seats. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting project as Seerat Kapoor, JD Chakravarthy and Naresh Agastya prepare to bring a cinematic masterpiece to life.



## Three films deal with Bhagyashri Bhorse

Another leading actress, Bhagyashri Bhorse, made her debut in Telugu with the film *Mr. Bachchan*. The film was released on the occasion of Independence Day, but it failed to impress the audience. Directed by Harish Shankar and produced by Peoples Media Factory, the film has Ravi Teja as the leading actor. It was a remake of the Ajay Devgan-starrer Hindi film *Raid*. Bhagyashri Bhorse is the female lead, and this is her debut film in Telugu. She made her debut with a Hindi film titled *Yaariyaan 2*.

According to a source, the production house of this *Mr Bachchan*, Peoples Media Factory, roped in Bhagyashri with a three-film deal. Now, she did *Mr. Bachchan* and then she was supposed to do two more films for the same production house. The source added that the production house initially didn't want her to sign any other Telugu film but agreed to do opposite Vijay Deverakonda in a film directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri. "It takes time to do another film with her, so the production house accepted her request to do a film with another production house," added the source. Though *Mr. Bachchan* has failed at the box office, Bhagyashri has not failed as a female lead. She is in demand here in Tollywood, as many directors want to rope in her for their films. Before she signs any other film, she has to get permission from Peoples Media Factory, added the source. So has to complete two more films with them, and then she can sign other films.



## Vettaiyan is set to unfold on October 10

Lyca Productions is gearing up for a grand cinematic spectacle as their highly anticipated film, Superstar Rajinikanth's *Vettaiyan (Thalaivar 170)*, is set to hit theaters worldwide on October 10th. Helmed by acclaimed director T.J Gnanavel, known for his socially relevant narratives, the film marks his prestigious collaboration with Superstar Rajinikanth.

This pan-Indian venture solidifies the successful partnership between Lyca Productions and Rajinikanth, with *Vettaiyan* being their fourth collaboration following the blockbusters *2.0*, *Darbar*, and the recently released *Lal Salaam*. The film also reunites the dynamic duo of Rajinikanth and music maestro director Anirudh Ravichander for the fourth time,



following their chart-topping collaborations in *Petta*, *Darbar* and *Jailer*.

Producer Subaskaran has assembled a stellar cast that has generated immense excitement. The film boasts a phenomenal ensemble, including Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who will share the screen with Rajinikanth for the fourth time after their iconic collaborations in *Andhaa Kanoon*, *Geraftaar* and *Hum*. Joining this illustrious cast are Manju Warrier, Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh and Dushara Vijayan, who are all set to make their on-screen debut with the Superstar. The film also features Rohini and Abirami in pivotal roles.

With post-production in full swing under the administration of Lyca Productions Head GKM Tamil Kumaran, *Vettaiyan* is poised to captivate audiences with its grandeur and compelling storytelling. The film will be released simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi, promising a pan-India cinematic experience.

## 'Janaka Aithe Ganaka is based on real life'

Dil Raju Productions' newest movie is *Janaka Aithe Ganaka*. This film features the multi-talented actor Suhas and was created by Harshith Reddy and Hansitha Reddy, with Sandeep Reddy Bandla as the director. The movie is scheduled to have a big premiere on September 7. The song *Na Favorite Na Pellame* from the film was released on Monday in celebrating Suhas's birthday. Speaking at the event, music director Vijai Bulgani said, "I am grateful to our producers, Harshith and Hansitha, for giving me the opportunity to work on *Janaka Aithe Ganaka*. I also want to thank our director Sandeep Reddy Bandla for creating a great environment and bringing out the best in the music. Happy birthday to one of my favourite heroes, Suhas. I was eagerly waiting to see when Dil Raju would be involved in this project. That dream has now come true. Thank you!"

Meanwhile, director Sandeep Reddy Bandla expressed his gratitude to Dil Raju for encouraging new talents. "He is the only producer who can create hits like *Arya* and *Balagam*," shared Sandeep adding, "Having worked in the same organization for nearly seven years, I am thankful for this opportunity. I sincerely appreciate producer Dil Raju for believing in our potential. After hearing the script, we were



confident in its success. My first hero was Suhas, and the heroine was Sangeerthana. Thank you to the successful team for making this project a reality.

The star of the show, Suhas was all by virtue of the love and support by the team as he shares, "Thanks to Harshith and Hansitha garu for presenting me with this story. It's a very good story. A big thank you to Dil Raju garu for his support. Our director Sandeep has delivered an unforgettable film. Also thanks to Vijai

Bulgani for the great music and KK garu for the lyrics and my heroine Sangeerthana." Producer Dil Raju went on to wish Suhas for his birthday and further shares, "When Sandeep first told me about the concept of *Janaka Aithe Ganaka*, I was immediately on board. Later, he joined Prashant Neel as writer. We developed the script and many people were excited about the story, including Suhas. After *Balagam*'s success, I spoke to Sandeep and Harshith and decided that Suhas would be a great fit for this role. The story will resonate well with audiences. This script, featuring a middle-class man who is content with his salary and wants children after marriage, humorously addresses the balance between financial needs and emotional desires. Director Sandeep has based the story on real-life incidents, presented in a humorous and engaging way. We believe you will enjoy this film, which will be released on September 7. Suhas and Sangeerthana make a good pair on screen, and Suhas portrays the middle-class boy excellently. We've seen many love songs, but Sandeep has crafted a special one about a wife's love. Every husband should dedicate *Na Favorite Na Pellame* to his wife. On September 7, we look forward to presenting *Janaka Aithe Ganaka* to you all."

