

Army fully capable to face all future challenges: Gen Dwivedi



NATANIA
 CREATING WAVES GLOBALLY WITH HER COLLABS ALONG SELENA GOMEZ & NAOMI



Sudheer Babu to star in a pan-India supernatural mystery THRILLER



QUOTE OF THE DAY
 Revanth Reddy if you are really a man, make the six MLAs who joined the Congress from the BRS to resign and contest again. Telangana will defeat all of them. Kavitha acca will come and we both will campaign on the streets of Jagtial in local body elections.



- K. T. Rama Rao, BRS MLA

DON'T MISS...

Modalities for new hostels at...
 Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha on Monday said that the foundation stone for hostels at the Osmania General Hospital, Gandhi Hospital and Kakatiya Medical College will be laid soon and the facility will be completed in two years. Rajanarasimha further said, "Along with infrastructure, HR is also important. Currently there is an imbalance in HR. It needs to be corrected. So it has been revealed that they will be purged." Addressing a gathering on the occasion of National Doctors Day, the Health Minister...

Implementation of new criminal...
 The three new criminal laws, which replaced the British-era penal statutes on Monday, have evoked mixed reactions from legal luminaries with some hailing them as 'significant step' towards modernising criminal justice system while others terming them as 'draconian' and 'cosmetic'. The new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) -- came into effect across the country from July 1 and replaced the Indian...

Patanjali Foods to sell home...
 Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved has decided to sell its home and personal care business to listed group firm Patanjali Foods Ltd for Rs 1,100 crore. The acquisition will help edible oil firm Patanjali Foods to become an FMCG company. In a regulator filing, Patanjali Foods informed that the board has approved the "acquisition of the entire non-food business undertaking i.e. hair care, skin care, dental care and home care carried out by Patanjali Ayurved, including but not limited to all movable..."

Six Indians in ICC Team of...
 The International Cricket Council has picked six Indians in its 'Team of the Tournament' for the just-concluded T20 World Cup but there was no place for star batter Virat Kohli, who played a match-winning knock in the final against South Africa. In his new role as an opener, Kohli had an underwhelming World Cup before rising to the occasion in the big final where he was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 59-ball 76. India pipped South Africa by seven runs in a sensational comeback in the death overs...

IRONING OUT BIFURCATION ISSUES

Naidu to meet Revanth on July 6?

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
 Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has written to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to discuss issues related to the Reorganisation Act and other matters. In his letter, CM Naidu emphasised that it has been 10 years since the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He noted that there have been multiple discussions concerning issues arising from the Reorganisation Act, which have implications for the welfare and advancement of both states. "It is imperative that we address these issues amicably with utmost diligence and resolve. In light of this, I propose that we meet at your place on the afternoon of July 6, Saturday," Naidu wrote. CM Naidu also extended heartfelt congratulations to CM Revanth Reddy for the remarkable work undertaken in Telangana. He praised Reddy's dedication and leadership, which have significantly contributed to the progress and development of Telangana. Naidu stressed the importance of close collaboration between the Chief Ministers of the Telugu-speaking states to ensure sustained progress and prosperity for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He highlighted the shared commitment to cooperative development as crucial to realizing mutual goals of growth and well-being. "I firmly believe that a face-to-face meeting will provide us with the opportunity to engage comprehensively on these critical issues and collaborate effectively towards achieving mutually beneficial solutions for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. I am confident that our deliberations will lead to productive outcomes," Naidu concluded.

Setback to BRS chief KCR
 HC dismisses petition against Narasimha panel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The HC said the press conference by the Judge was held to update the media about the status of Commission proceedings. "The allegation of bias cannot be inferred but has to be established," the HC pointed out. A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti gave the orders on the petition filed by the BRS President on June 25. Continued on Page 2

'Top priority for Indiramma Scheme'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Revenue & Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the government will give top priority to constructing Indiramma houses in the budget and give Indiramma houses to all eligible persons. Minister Ponguleti conducted a review meeting on housing on Monday at the Secretariat. Speaking

CM will mortgage govt lands to raise funds for loan waiver: Alleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is going to mortgage government lands to private banks to get Rs 31,000 crore to implement the agricultural loan waiver scheme, BJLP Leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said. During a chat with journalists on Monday at the BJLP office, Maheshwar said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had created a hungama by staging a protest when the BRS government sold some lands in Kokapet. "Why is Revanth now selling government lands? He tried to get loans from private banks. Revanth

Telangana Cabinet expansion on cards

Amid speculation CM meets Guv Radhakrishnan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Monday called on Governor CP Radhakrishnan amid buzz about an imminent Cabinet expansion. The Chief Minister met Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan from 12:45 pm to 2:55 pm. The meeting assumed significance given the Cabinet expansion which is likely in the next few days. The Chief Minister had visited New Delhi last week and had discussed Cabinet expansion with the Congress brass. The names of five to six ministers have been reportedly finalised. Many hopefuls of Cabinet berths have been waiting for the expansion since the last six months. Revanth and his 11 Cabinet colleagues had taken oath on December 7, 2023. The state can have a maximum of 18 Ministers including the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister is also understood to have briefed the Governor on the Bills to be tabled in the Assembly in the upcoming Budget session. The issues of nominated MLCs also reportedly came for discussion. In March, the High Court had quashed the nomination of M. Continued on Page 2



The names of five to six ministers have been reportedly finalised. Many hopefuls of Cabinet berths have been waiting for the expansion since the last six months.

Is Talasani joining Cong with five BRS MLAs?
 Speculations are rife that the BRS MLA from Sanath Nagar Talasani Srinivas Yadav may join Congress party along with five BRS MLAs from City. Is Sanath Nagar BRS MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav joining the Congress and becoming a Minister? Speculations are rife that Talasani is going to join Continued on Page 2

'Make defectors resign and contest again'

BRS MLA KTR challenges CM Revanth
PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS Working president KTR challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to ask the six BRS MLAs who joined the Congress to resign and seek the people's mandate again. Addressing BRS's district party meeting in Jagtial, KTR said that Kavitha will soon come out of jail and that they both will campaign on the streets of Jagtial during local body elections. He also spoke about the defection of Jagtial BRS MLA Sanjay and said that Sanjay was driven by personal gain rather than developmental concerns. He said that MLC Jeevan Reddy would not allow Sanjay to be given even an MPTC ticket. KTR declared that BRS would emerge victorious in the upcoming



Dharani panel may submit report soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Dharani Committee is going to submit its report to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in a couple of days. It is learnt that the Dharani Committee is going to submit its report with around 100 suggestions to the government regarding Dharani Portal and other issues. It is also learnt that the Dharani Committee's main suggestion is that the government should bring back the 1971 ROR Act. The Committee suggested in its report that all Acts belonging lands should be brought under one roof. The Committee suggested in its report that powers should be transferred to MROs and RDOs like the Congress government, it is learnt. Continued on Page 2

Land acquisition issues hit Microsoft Data Centres expansion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Land acquisition issues are delaying the expansion of Microsoft's data centres in Hyderabad. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu addressed these concerns during a review meeting with Microsoft representatives at the Secretariat on Monday. The Minister instructed Ranga Reddy District Collector K. Sashank to resolve issues reading the 22 acres acquired in Mekaguda by evening. Microsoft officials highlighted problems with the local panchayat regarding the acquired land. Minister Sridhar Babu assured that necessary works like increasing the capacity of power substations and construct-



ing floodwater channels would be completed on time. He directed officials to expedite the conversion of the acquired lands for their intended use. The Minister emphasized the importance of completing the expansion of Microsoft's data centres by next year, stating that it would position Hyderabad as a leader in advanced data security and cloud solutions. Microsoft purchased 22 acres in Mekaguda, 41 acres in Shadnagar and 52 acres in Chandanvalle for data centres. Company representatives informed the minister that 70% of the data centre works have been completed.

TG Police registers first FIR under new criminal law

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The Charminar police in Telangana was the first to register an FIR under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on Monday against two persons allegedly riding their vehicles without number plates. Provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act have also been invoked in the case. Three new criminal laws came into effect on Monday, bringing far-reaching changes in India's criminal justice system. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Continued on Page 2

No power bill payment on UPI apps
 TGSPDCL tells public to use official app/website

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Complying with RBI directions, many Third Party Application Providers (TPAPs) ended their bill payment services to TGSPDCL consumers on July 1, 2024. As per RBI directions, the service providers, viz., PhonePe, Paytm, Amazon Pay, Google Pay and banks stopped accepting the electricity bills of TGSPDCL from 01/07/2024. Consumers have been told to make their monthly electricity payments through the official TGSPDCL website, www.tgsouthernpower.org, or the TGSPDCL Mobile App. However, the public said that this is because TGSPDCL didn't sign up for Bharat Bill Pay and urged it to register it. The RBI issued a directive for all entities to join the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) by June 30, 2024. Sumiran Komaraj, the in-charge of Social Media BJP Telangana said, "As the TGSPDCL has not complied by registering with BBPS, they will no longer be able to accept payments through these payment apps from July 1, 2024. The Government of Telangana must act immediately to reinstate UPI payments and prevent public inconvenience."





www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

Cosmetic makeover

The new criminal laws have retained old laws with minor changes while others could impact civil liberties harshly

India has finally shed its colonial legacy in jurisprudence, embracing a new era with indigenous criminal laws. The big question being asked is whether it has truly moved beyond nomenclature or if it's merely a name change.



formed a significant part of the legal framework governing criminal procedures in India. The new legal laws Replacing the IPC, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita aims to update and Indianise the criminal code.

departure is Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam which replaces the Indian Evidence Act and seeks to modernise the rules of evidence in line with contemporary technological advancements.

PICTALK



Pilgrims wait in a queue to get themselves registered for the annual Amarnath Yatra, in Jammu

A new dawn in Tibetan diplomacy



PRAFULL GORADIA

A seven-member American delegation led by US House Representatives met with the Dalai Lama, indicating a shift in the US stance on Tibet

A seven-member American delegation led by Michael McCaul, and Nancy Pelosi, both leading lights of the US House of Representatives, recently met the Dalai Lama at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh; this is a particularly significant event.



Before long, it asserted that Tibet was a Chinese province, before attempting to erase Tibet's culture, heritage and language. These events have their roots in what happened towards the end of World War II.

Un fortunately, the Leftists and communists in the country had clamoured for the (then) newly formed Red Chinese regime, which had requested its recognition within a few days of its winning the civil war.



XI JINPING MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT MAO ZEDONG'S REGIME HAD FIRST CLAIMED 'SUZERAINTY' OVER TIBET. BEFORE LONG, IT ASSERTED THAT TIBET WAS A CHINESE PROVINCE, BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ERASE TIBET'S CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANGUAGE

Unfortunately, the Leftists and communists in the country had clamoured for the (then) newly formed Red Chinese regime, which had requested its recognition within a few days of its winning the civil war.

communist regime. China's perfidious intentions can be gauged from the fact that its communist regime announced the 'liberation' of Tibet as the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) task just one day before the founding of the People's Republic of China.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REFORMING JUSTICE

Madam — India is poised to undergo a transformative shift in its criminal justice system with the implementation of three groundbreaking laws starting July 1st, 2024.

Noopur Baruah | Tezpur

India's T20 World Cup victory



India celebrated a momentous victory over South Africa in the T20 World Cup 2024 final, marking a glorious return to World Cup triumph after a 13-year hiatus since their last ICC trophy win in 2011.

and resilience, dominating the tournament with consecutive victories. This win was particularly poignant as it marked a grand farewell for two Indian cricket stalwarts, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

with their election appearing to serve only as a means to create chaos, disrupt parliamentary decorum, and hinder smooth functioning. The disarray within Parliament serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for a recommitment to democratic principles and decorum.

FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

Madam — India's head coach, Rahul Dravid, is not one to seek the spotlight. Yet, it inevitably finds him, whether during his illustrious playing career or his post-retirement role as a coach for both junior and senior Indian cricket teams.

farewell to a coach whose wisdom has guided Team India to new heights. Dravid's tenure has been marked by unforgettable victories and moments of cricketering genius, from nurturing young talent to instilling a culture of discipline and resilience.

Jayanthi S Maniam | Chennai

Unveiling the deception: Decoding food labels for healthier choices

It's vital to scrutinise food labels beyond their claims. Decoding the fine print ensures that what we eat aligns with our health goals

Decoding Food Labels As a dietician, I strive to provide the best possible tailored meal plans to my clients, so why would I not stop and flip food packages to scrutinize labels to ensure what goes on my plate and my family's? Albeit, every time I do that I stop to think about the actual intent of documenting the ingredients on the package and I feel deceived.



pher the truth. These tactics paint a picture of a healthy snack, obscuring the reality which can be quite different. So, does this mean we're doomed to fall victim to marketing tactics? Absolutely not!

rice has wooed Indian buyers, but this does not mean that brown rice syrup is any good and a healthy replacement for sugar! High fructose corn syrup, agave nectar, palm, etc are scattered through the list of ingredients keeping even the most discerning customer, from grasping the true sugar content.

you ended up twice what you thought was good for you! Ensure you keep a tab of serving size and calculate your portion and calorie/sugar intake accordingly.



KOMAL PATEL

The author is a dietician and Clinical Nutritionist Ambassador of FIT INDIA Movement of GOI; views are personal

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN THE EVOLVING PATH TO SUCCESS WITH UPSKILLING

Success is more than just good intentions. It's a journey paved with education and skill



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

The saying "Where there's a will, there's a way" offers a reassuring belief that sheer determination can overcome any obstacle. However, navigating the complexities of real-world success involves more than just good intentions. It requires a foundation built on education, experience, and often, a blend of both.

Specialists possess targeted expertise, backed by rigorous education in a specific field. Their qualifications often serve as a shortcut past initial professional hurdles, providing a clear and direct path to success. Yet, this path can be fraught with its own challenges. As industries transform and new technologies emerge, specialization that once seemed advantageous may become obsolete.



one. The most successful individuals often embody a blend of both approaches. They possess a solid foundation in a core discipline but are equally committed to continuous learning and adaptation. For instance, someone with a degree in marketing might pursue courses in digital analytics to stay relevant in an increasingly data-driven world.

These employers understand that a blend of foundational knowledge and a willingness to upskill can create a workforce capable of responding to change with confidence and competence.

The willingness to learn and grow continuously is key to unlocking a fulfilling and successful career in an ever-evolving world. So, abandon the notion of being a finished product and embrace the journey of lifelong learning. It's a marathon, not a sprint. With the right mindset, you'll be well-equipped not just to survive but to thrive in the ever-changing world of work.

The writer is an author and has penned three books; views are personal

Focus shifts to prudent public wealth management



UTTAM GUPTA

The new Govt is overhauling India's disinvestment policy. It is supporting non-profit enterprises, and maintaining a strong presence of State-run firms in strategic sectors

The new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reviewing the existing disinvestment policy to shift its focus from selling central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) to prudent public wealth management (PWM), supporting not-for-profit enterprises, and ensuring strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors.

A CPSU is an undertaking in which the Union government has majority share holding meaning it holds more than 50 percent of its shares. Disinvestment is fancy nomenclature for sale of these shares to private investors.

The extant policy on disinvestment was announced by the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech for FY 2021-22. Under it, CPSUs were classified into two broad categories i.e. strategic and non-strategic.

The strategic group covers atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors viz. industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing and so on.

As for undertakings in non-strategic sectors, it wanted to reduce its shareholding to below 50 percent in 'all' of them. Put simply, they would all be privatized. All loss-making undertakings in this category would be closed.

Also tagged to this policy was government's intent to use the proceeds from disinvestment for meeting its fiscal deficit (excess of total revenue over total expenditure) or FD target. This part was a continuation from the past when the Modi - government started selling its shares in CPSUs in 2015-16 with particular focus on 'strategic' disinvestment.

In the backdrop of devastation caused by Covid-19 pandemic and debilitating effect on its finances during 2020-21 (in that year, FD had scaled to 9.2 percent of GDP), in the budget for 2021-22, Sitharaman had put even greater reliance on proceeds of disinvestment by setting an ambitious target of Rs 175,000 crore. During that year, the government had planned big ticket disinvestments such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), IDBI Bank, NMDC Steel and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and so on.

But, the process has remained stuck in the slow lane even as the targets of proceeds from sales were missed year-after-year. Only during two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19, it achieved the target. That was primarily because, in those years, it had conducted two big-ticket sales of its shares from one CPSU to another.

During 2017-18, the government sold



51.11 percent of its shareholding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) yielding Rs 37,000 crore. In the following year, it undertook the sale of its 52.63 percent stake in the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) yielding Rs 13,000 crore. But, those sales can't be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC.

The results during 2021-22 and 2022-23 were particularly disappointing. During 2021-22, against a target of Rs 175,000 crore, the actual proceeds from disinvestment were a meager Rs 15,440 crore. During 2022-23, against a target of Rs 65,000 crore, the actual was nearly half at Rs 31,059 crore. For 2023-24, the FM had lowered the target to Rs 51,000 crore which during the course of the year was further revised downwards to Rs 30,000 crore. Even against this, the actual proceeds were a meager Rs 14,564 crore.

What does the interim Budget for 2024-25 say? In a briefing following the presentation of the Budget by Sitharaman on February 1, 2024, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan had stated that the "government no longer views disinvestment from the perspective of balancing the budget". Can it be taken to mean that it has shed its age-old stance of using proceeds from share sale for reducing FD. The answer is 'No' as it has set a target of Rs 50,000 crore for 2024-25 under the head "miscellaneous capital receipts" which includes disinvestment proceeds besides receipts from asset monetization.

The very idea of garnering resources from the sale of government shares in CPSUs is inherently flawed. This is because unlike tax revenue, which can be projected with a degree of certainty based on the existing tax rate and a reasonable assessment of the growth in nominal GDP, the same cannot be said about proceeds from disinvestment. In this case, a lot depends on the market scenario and, in particular, the perception of investors about the company in which share-sale is contemplated.

In cases where the strategic sale is mooted, the Government faces a bigger challenge as apart from a favorable market, it needs bidders with deep pockets. The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape further undermines the chances of its kicking the ball rolling just around the time when the strategic investors are ready to put in their bids.

The Niti Aayog identifies companies for disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) - a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc., for approval. After AM's approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moves a proposal for in-principle approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

In view of above, the government shouldn't put any number to receipts from share sale while preparing the budget as the end of the year, slippage is inevitable. Even so, the government's tax revenue is buoyant (for three years in a row since 2021-22, these have exceeded the target) and it is getting higher dividends from CPSUs as also higher dividends from the Reserve Bank of India (for its FY 2023-24, the RBI has made a huge dividend transfer of Rs 210,000 crore to the Centre for latter's use during 2024-25) and public sector banks (PSBs). These positive trends should be good enough for managing fiscal deficits; hence, no need to depend on 'miscellaneous capital receipts'.

What happens to strategic sale? From the emphasis on public wealth management (PWM), strong presence of state-run firms in strategic sectors, one gets sense that the government has completely abandoned the path of privatizing CPSUs in these sectors. As it is, under the 2021-22 policy, it had intended to retain at least one (and a maximum of four) undertakings in the strategic sector. Now, it seems it won't privatize even one. The government's decision to drop its plan for sale of BPCL which was on its agenda since 2019-20 is an indication of things to come.

Changing horses midstream won't be in the best interest of the country. Fundamentally, the State shouldn't be in the business of running enterprises. There always remains a risk of political interference and bureaucratic red tape which can seriously hamper the working of CPSUs. The government should continue the process of share sale and focus on de-bureaucratizing it.

The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal



IN CASES WHERE THE STRATEGIC SALE IS MOOTED, THE GOVT FACES A BIGGER CHALLENGE AS APART FROM A FAVOURABLE MARKET, IT NEEDS BIDDERS WITH DEEP POCKETS

Surviving the scorch: Strategies for managing heat waves in India

The summer of 2024 has seen record-breaking temperatures. It is imperative for policymakers to understand the underlying causes and implement effective measures

The country is in the midst of intense heat waves causing severe hardship in the entire North, Central and Western India for more than a month. India may have recorded the hottest-ever temperature in 2024. On 29th May 2024 Delhi recorded 52.3 Degrees Celsius temperature at a weather station in Mungeshpur a suburb of Delhi though later on it was proved that it was slightly on the higher side. Even cooler places like Dehradun have noticed the highest temperature of the last 53 years this year. More than 30 crore people in India are prone to high risk due to lack of means to escape heat waves. The people are feeling severe shortages of power and water and many grids are collapsing due to overload lead-



V K BAHUGUNA

ing to prolonged outages. Several people have died due to heat waves across the country. According to official sources, 150 people have died due to heat waves and around 30,000 people suffered heat stroke from March to mid-June 2024. The people from Delhi and other adjoining areas are rushing to hill stations of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and other hills to escape the heat torture

and in the process causing heavy traffic jams and throwing in disarray the civic amenities in several towns and cities. The River width of Ganga in Varanasi has reduced by 35% and similar reports are forthcoming of the narrowing of other streams and rivers. The experts have been warning the government and the society at large about the changing weather trends of the country. Now the question for the policymakers, professionals and administrators is to assess the causes of such an unprecedented rise in temperature and how to mop up resources to deal with it. If the mandarins in power in the centre and state do not change the way to deal with it efficiently and effectively many disasters will be ruining the stabil-

ity and cohesiveness in the society.

One thing all must learn is the fact that high temperatures are the results of the combined effects of global warming, increasing urbanisation/concretization leading to changing weather patterns. As far as Delhi and nearby areas are concerned the dry and warm westerly winds from Rajasthan and Haryana are the causes of the heat wave. Now these winds continue during the night and do not allow the night temperature to fall and this is further accentuated when these westerly winds lead to cloud formation in the sky which prevents cooling the temperature. To find the solution our planners and civic administrators in cities must meet the challenges of the

'urban heat island effect'.

In nature trees and other vegetation in the landscape along with green roofs help in reducing the urban heat island effects by releasing moisture through transpiration, and by shading reflecting the sun radiation back into the atmosphere. Therefore, the massive dense urbanisation, buildings, roads and pavements absorb and retain the heat and hence the urban heat island effect with disastrous consequences. On the other hand, the effects of heat waves in rural areas are different; there is less or minimal heat island effect but the heat effects mostly relate to health issues like severe dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion and gastro-intestinal diseases exacerbated by the long power cuts and water

shortage.

India is not the only country affected by heat waves. Europe is also suffering from heat waves since April 2024. The temperature is above 30 degrees Celsius in south Europe, particularly in Spain. This year in Europe the highest temperature was noticed in Zeneca and Bosnia at 33.3 degree Celsius on 14th April 2024. The European country's architecture is such that they cannot cope up well with continuous heat waves. The objective of this article is to stress that in India the Central and State governments should jointly devise a policy to effectively deal with summer weather.

The first thing to be done is to declare the temperature beyond a certain limit as a nat-

ural disaster/climate emergency and put in place standard operating procedures to deal with it for the different cities and rural areas. In rural areas, the government must ensure a supply of potable water and electricity as well as a mobile dispensary to provide quick health care services. In each village lakes and ponds should be created compulsorily so that people including farmers and cattle get water. It needs short-term planning risk assessment and early warning systems based on the India Meteorological Department forecast.

One of the fundamental requirements is the need to remould the district administration by creating an integrated and holistic approach so that climate-resilient develop-

ment is ensured and preparations are made in advance to deal with any emergent situation.

However, real change in the entire civic administration is essential in urban areas. The town and country planning needs complete overhauling as also revisit the power-centric civic bodies. The drainages are in shamble and must be protected so that the next emergency in rainy weather does not derail the life and property. Will the Urban Development Ministry set up a task national force to recommend action?

The author is the former Director-General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and Chancellor of FIU University; views are personal



ROAD TO GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Natania creating waves globally with her collabs along Selena Gomez & Naomi

every musical opportunity available at the time, including joining a choir to prove to them how serious I was!"

She presently juggles numerous balls, so anyone looking for an answer to issues about abundance of talent should turn to her. The pop singer has been relentlessly pushing her boundaries by accepting new tasks, all while utilising her skills in the entertainment industry. "I constantly create based on feeling and emotion in both realms, trying not to overthink things. I enjoy writing pop music and adding Indian portions to help convey the narrative and heighten the emotion," a Sindhi native adds.

Mumbai Magic, a new song by Desi Trill, takes the city by storm and wraps itself around millions of stories. The song is a joyous celebration of bustle, tradition and hope. The three musicians on the label, Shalmali Kholgade, Subhi and Natania Lalwani, envision a Mumbai in which time-honoured customs coexist with the energy of a contemporary city. The song pays tribute to how the city can inspire and energise people, serving as both a home and a muse, from the colonial gateway of India to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link. Conversely, we hear Natania, who was a member of The Stop Gaps Choral Ensemble, regarded as one of India's most esteemed choirs, go on to say, "I wrote the *Gulzar* song in response to a conversation I had with someone in which I chose to be extremely vulnerable and express my feelings. He had asked for my patience as he talked about his feelings, so that evening I went into the studio and stated, 'He said I have to be patient! *Gulzar* was then born.' She wants to remind people to go boldly and show their hearts by showing them who they really are. That produces only lovely things and life is too short to do anything else. *Gulzar* originated from a deeply intimate event and was a highly personal song. Furthermore, every song that she is releasing as an artist is inspired by a true event or circumstance. Sharing her music with the public and using it as a vehicle for self-expression feels really freeing.

She participated in the Boston Summer Program at the Berklee School of Music in 2010. After that, she relocated to Los Angeles and enrolled at Hollywood, California's Musician's Institute. "There is no set recipe for collaborations; they all happen so differently. I'm lucky to have a fantastic support system around me that helps me get into situations that result in amazing partnerships like these. It constantly serves as a reminder that teamwork is essential to success in all endeavours and I genuinely like assisting other artists in sharing their tales."

Buzz was generated when Natania's single *Mess Me Up* was released on Lowly Palace and Chill Nation. After that, she dropped the single *Yellow Lights*, which became the first cover of the official Spotify playlist *No Borders* and was included on other Spotify and Saavn playlists. More than 1.5 million streams have been received. It made its debut on Rolling Stone and was played on Radio One throughout India. Natania has collaborated with Not Famous on *Kissing Mouths*, Deep Chills on *Feelings and Muscle Memory* since their releases. Additionally, from this, we also learned that, "Normally, I just compose music without considering a particular brand or brief. I'm much more creative when it comes to the lyrical content of those studio sessions, so I always try to think outside the box and attempt something new. It's similar to letting go and seeing what emerges when you step into the creative sandbox."

Thankfully, thus far, brands have appeared to relate to those records of mine."

Her music is entirely focused on her personal experiences, but when she creates for other musicians, she almost acts as a best friend or therapist, helping them go deeply into their tales. It's really a privilege for her to be able to do that! She genuinely thinks that India is about to have its moment. "It's time to go worldwide because India has incredible talent! There seems to have been a change in the way that people want to hear new sounds and this is the ideal moment and place for Indian music to gain popularity," *Four More Shots* fame shared.

"I remember when I didn't have a team at all and I was sending hundreds of emails a day to try and collaborate with artists and I was so disappointed that no one was responding to me," she says, describing a particularly difficult period in her career. "It taught me to try the window if the door won't open and to accept rejections with a grain of salt! As an artist, I believe that persistence is a crucial attribute, as is having a strong enough self-belief to keep continuing."

In this interview, the *Thug Ranjha* fame looks ahead and declares, "I want to do anything and everything! As an artist, my main objective is to express my narrative from the bottom of my heart through music and establish a connection with listeners. I also want to discover methods to work with India to create music that contributes to global cultural moments. Oh and I'd like to receive a Grammy. Working with Naomi Osaka was undoubtedly an eye-opening experience! Beats absolutely adored the record we previously owned and this song was incredibly inspiring. *Shuffle the deck, I'm the queen of the pack* is the opening line and it truly reflects an icon like Naomi, so I'm glad it suited and we got to work together to create a time for her to shine."

To be honest, "*Only Murders in the Building* with Selena Gomez was a really fun project to work on. They liked a song I already had and they thought it was a perfect fit for the scene when Selena Gomez was in an art gallery. I was thrilled that it worked so perfectly there! I was particularly excited about working on *Four More Shots* because Mikey Mcleary had asked me to co-write the theme song, something I had been yearning to do for a long time. After that, I worked with him to compose the music for the entire production and we had to immerse ourselves in the characters' lives and minds. After seeing the episodes, we would modify the songs to reflect the experiences of the characters. It was a lot of joy for me to select a few of the vocalists to perform the songs."



Making a niche in the music industry for herself, Natania Lalwani has captivated audience yet again with her tracks *Gulzar* and *Thank You God*. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, she discusses anything and everything around her music and inspirations.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Joining *Desi Trill* and receiving guidance from Jay Z's Roc Nation, Natania has carved out a successful career for herself by contributing to high-caliber productions like *4 More Shots Please*, *Ruby Gillman*, *Teenage Kraken*, *Joy Ride*, *Wedding Season*, *Industry Promo* and *Only Murders in the Building*, which starred Selena Gomez.

A special interview with Natania Lalwani, currently one of the most in-demand and endearing singers. Her singing style, voice and genuine demeanour captivates the audience at numerous musical venues. Her latest track *Gulzar* is currently trending and meanwhile, her composed *Thank You God* had went viral.

She starts off with gusto, saying, "When I was growing up, my mom used to listen to music a lot. I've always liked music, thanks to artists like Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, Whitney Houston, Simon & Garfunkel and others. I believe that my passion for Bollywood Shiamak dancing, together with other factors, ultimately shaped my style."

Her most recent body of work includes songwriting credits on *Do It Like That for The Fall Guy*, starring Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt and her debut worldwide single *Gulzar*, a brand anthem for Naomi Osaka. "I think I had a level of delusion (which I still have, haha), and I didn't really overthink it. I just knew I wanted to go pursue music," the singer-songwriter adds in additional information. "Convincing my parents that sending me across the world was what I really wanted to accomplish was the difficult part at the time. In the end, I took advantage of



EMBODYING THE ESSENCE OF PRANIC HEALING

PNS| HYDERABAD

Inspired by the soul's journey toward self-realisation, Niki Hingad, the founder of Thetapegaasi, embraced both art and pranic healing. This intertwining of creativity and healing is a harmonious pursuit of spiritual growth and understanding of oneself.

An internationally acclaimed artist and a pranic healer recognised by the Art Society of India, her work has been showcased in prestigious exhibitions at venues such as Jehangir Art Gallery, as well as in London and Frisco, and has been featured in prominent New York art magazines. Her artistic approach delves into metaphysical themes, particularly the concept of "Shunya," or zero, exploring the depths of existence.

Sharing more in detail on the concept of Shunya or zero influence on her artistic creations, she shares, "I was fortunate to explore the concept of Shunya, delving into its essence of nothingness. I discovered that it forms the foundation of everything, encompassing various levels of truth. For instance, Jainism asserts that shunyata never existed, while Hinduism offers a different perspective. In science, multiplying anything by zero results in zero, and dividing by zero leads to infinity. This profound realm captivated my exploration."

Several pivotal experiences have shaped her dedication to pranic healing over the past 15 years. The intrinsic drive to know herself led Niki to integrate healing with her art. She enthuses, "Understanding and exploring the inner journey is crucial and Pranic Healing has facilitated this for me since I embarked on this path 15 years ago. Witnessing the limitations of conventional medicine in addressing chronic conditions and emotional distress motivated me to seek alternative healing methods. Pranic healing provided a holistic approach that addressed not just the symptoms but also the underlying energetic imbalances, offering profound and lasting relief."

Over the years, working with diverse patients facing critical health issues,

such as cancer, dengue and severe depression, further solidified her commitment to pranic healing. The transformative results that she observed, including significant improvements in health and well-being, reinforced her belief in the effectiveness of this practice. Each success story further fueled her passion and dedication, driving her to deepen her knowledge and refine her techniques.

The COVID-19 pandemic was another pivotal moment that underscored the importance of holistic healing. The widespread impact of the virus on both physical and mental health highlighted the need for effective, natural remedies. Her work during this time, particularly with patients suffering from post-COVID symptoms like anxiety and insomnia, reaffirmed the critical role of pranic healing in providing comprehensive care.

The journey of creating Thetapegaasi, she says, began during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. She observed the persistent symptoms like anxiety, insomnia and respiratory issues that many individuals faced post-COVID. With over 15 years of experience in pranic healing and a deep understanding of essential oils, she

was inspired to create a brand that could provide natural and effective remedies to address these issues.

She thus aims to harness the essential oils to promote natural healing and wellness. Each product is meticulously crafted with care, enhanced with the energy of crystals to amplify its impact, and sourced globally with ethical precision to ensure the highest quality.

The connection between art and healing practices is straightforward: she can infuse more creativity and thoughtfulness into the process, producing the most impactful outcomes.

And so further, she shares, "Essential oils have always

been a significant part of my healing practice, providing immediate and effective relief for a wide range of health issues. What inspired me to focus specifically on pure essential oils was witnessing their profound impact on both physical and emotional well-being. Essential oils are incredibly versatile; a single drop can uplift a person's mood, ease stress, and promote healing at a cellular level. Their ability to work on multiple levels—physical, emotional, and energetic—aligns perfectly with my holistic wellness approach. In pranic healing, we understand that true health encompasses not just the physical body but also the mind and spirit."

Additionally, her commitment to social responsibility led her to establish an art foundation, introducing art education to children nationwide in collaboration with the JJ School of Arts. She also serves as a director at the Council for Fair Business Practices.

Art and healing intersect profoundly, contributing to social responsibility and community well-being. Art serves as a powerful medium for expression, addressing social issues and fostering empathy through creative exploration. "Art therapy enhances emotional healing by providing a non-verbal outlet for individuals to process experiences and connect with others. Together, art and healing create spaces for connection and dialogue, nurturing inclusive communities and promoting mental well-being while advocating for social change."

Also, as a director at the Council for Fair Business Practices, she aims to promote fair business practices within society. As the director of this institute, she strives to incorporate the voice of holistic practices and wellness into our community.

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, internationally acclaimed artist Niki Hingad, discusses embracing art and pranic healing with the goodness of essential oils.



Managing hormonal imbalances with Keto

Hormonal imbalances can significantly affect one's health and well-being, leading to issues such as weight gain, fatigue, mood swings, and reproductive challenges. The ketogenic diet, commonly known as keto, has gained attention for its potential benefits in managing these imbalances.

Below we are discussing how keto can play a role in hormone health and how his specially designed Ketorets Method can help.

Understanding the ketogenic diet

The ketogenic diet is a high-fat, low-carbohydrate eating plan that shifts the body's metabolism from relying on glucose for energy to utilising ketones, which are produced from fat. This metabolic state, known as ketosis, can influence several hormonal pathways in the body.

Insulin and glucagon balance

One of the most significant effects of the keto diet is its impact on insulin levels. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood sugar levels, and its overproduction can lead to insulin resistance, a common precursor to type 2 diabetes and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). By drastically reducing carbohydrate intake, keto helps lower insulin levels, improving insulin sensitivity and aiding in the management of conditions like PCOS, which is often characterised by insulin resistance and hormonal imbalances.

Impact on ghrelin and leptin

Ghrelin and leptin are hormones that regulate hunger and satiety. A ketogenic diet can help stabilise these hormones, reducing hunger and aiding in weight management. This is particularly beneficial for individuals struggling with hormonal weight gain, as it promotes a more balanced appetite and can support long-term weight loss efforts.

Estrogen and progesterone

For women, the balance of estrogen and progesterone is crucial for reproductive health and overall well-being. Keto's ability to influence insulin and reduce inflammation can have a positive effect on these hormones. Lowering insulin levels helps manage

estrogen dominance, a condition that can cause symptoms like weight gain, bloating, and mood swings. Additionally, the anti-inflammatory properties of a ketogenic diet can support hormonal balance and reduce symptoms associated with menstrual cycles and menopause.

The ketorets method

Rahul Kamra has designed the Ketorets Method, a structured approach that has helped many individuals improve their hormonal health. This method integrates Intermittent Fat Fasting, Circadian Rhythm Hacking, and Caloric Deficit to create a comprehensive plan that addresses hormonal imbalances. The Ketorets Method emphasises the importance of nutrient-dense foods and personalised adjustments to maintain hormonal equilibrium.

Considerations and personalisation

While keto can offer significant benefits for managing hormonal imbalances, Kamra emphasises the importance of personalisation and caution. Each individual's hormonal

landscape is unique, and what works for one person may not work for another. Women, in particular, should pay close attention to their bodies and consult with healthcare providers to ensure their nutritional needs are met. For those with specific conditions like thyroid disorders, it is advised that a well-formulated ketogenic diet that includes a variety of nutrient-dense foods is essential. Ensuring adequate intake of vitamins, minerals, and fiber is crucial to avoid potential deficiencies and support overall health.

The ketogenic diet holds promise as a tool for managing hormonal imbalances, thanks to its effects on insulin, appetite-regulating hormones, and inflammation. However, it's not a one-size-fits-all solution. Personalised approaches, guided by professional advice, can help individuals harness the benefits of keto while maintaining hormonal health and overall well-being.

(The author, Rahul Kamra is the Founder of Ketorets.)





● Prathusha

● Srilakshmi and Saatvika

● Sheena Kaur



● Nihita

● Kruthika

● Harshita

● Rishika

Arisa Bottega has opened its doors in Hyderabad, located at Film Nagar, which boasts a diverse range of unique and thoughtfully designed indoor sets. The event was organised by Srilakshmi and Saatvika.



Sri Chakra Milk Products LLP celebrated its 10th anniversary in Hyderabad, which also marked the presence of actors Vijay Deverakonda and Satyadev. They aim to provide premium dairy products using world-class machinery and advanced milk processing technologies.



● Prakruti

● Navin S Rao

● Priya Rajiv

● Simran

The Kafan Company (TKC) has opened its first physical store in Hyderabad. It is meticulously designed to provide an immersive and personalized shopping experience



● Swathi

PARTY

Photos by - SV Chary



Oasis Fertility marked the second anniversary of its Uppal fertility center. The occasion was celebrated by honouring the couples who achieved parenthood through fertility treatments. With an impressive success rate of 69% in IV treatments, surpassing the global average of 52%, they have been dedicated to supporting couples in their challenging journey to parenthood.



Continental Hospitals hosted a National Gastrointestinal (GI) Conference 2024 in collaboration with experts from Mayo Clinic and the University of Oxford. The conference, themed "From Bench to Bedside," aimed to bridge the gap between research and practical application in GI care. The three-day event was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Hyderabad.

FUN



SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

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

- A tank for live fish
- Mix this with yellow to get green
- Stopped doing something
- A pale purple colour
- A crown-wearing woman
- A female relation
- Workers sit at these in offices
- Hot coals left after a fire
- A list of restaurant meals
- People who work in classrooms

DOWN

- An emergency vehicle
- Normal
- A feeling that makes you want to scratch
- Check the length of
- A female sheep
- Large extinct animals
- Very old
- A person from Sweden
- The largest continent
- Adult males

SOLUTION

L	W	S	S	S
G	O	V	E	R
B	R	I	G	H
R	I	G	H	P
E	O	M	C	N
A	P	P	R	O
K	N	Y	E	E
F	I	R	S	T
A	A	O	P	A
S	T	R	A	B
T	E	N	N	S

'WE STYLED JR NTR'S OSCAR OUTFIT INSPIRED BY HIS ICONIC ROAR IN RRR'

Tollywood's style icon Ashwin Mawle, who has been the stylist for the stars of Telugu cinema, speaks over an exclusive telephonic interaction with *The Pioneer* sharing his journey transitioning from international model, being recognised by Allu Arjun and styling stars representing Telugu cinema on global platform.



TEJAL SINHA

One are the days when we didn't need the advice of a stylist for our big days. Today, celebrities have their own personal stylists, making them glam barn every time on stage. Well, today we have with us one such stylist, Ashwin Mawle, onboard for our Tollywood segment. You name a celeb and he has worked with them. Ever since being noticed by *Pushpa* star Allu Arjun, he has very well won the title of being Tollywood's BFF stylist. Most recently, he has become the very first stylist from the South to style celebrities for their global awards, including styling Allu Arjun for the National Award and the Berlin Film Festival. But would you believe, if we say, that becoming a stylist happened pretty accidentally in his journey? Initially, at the age of 16, he got an international modelling offer from Switzerland. The Hyderabad-based stylist, via a telephonic call with *The Pioneer*, recalls, "It was a tough decision to make if I had to pursue my studies or to take up this coincidental offer that took me to Switzerland. I was anyways weak at studies; my parents and I had to push me to study, which I failed miserably at. It was a very young decision to make for something that had come to me very coincidentally. I never thought that I could be a model because I was all freckled, pimpled and long-haired, like that teen who was growing into adolescence. But if something was coming my way, I could see that I'd never been abroad by then, and so I thought, if nothing, I'd get a free trip abroad." "I had nothing in my mind; I didn't know what a stylist was," he humorously shares. "I did not know the spelling or anything like a stylist that exists. (we laugh). Like I told you, I was ambitious. I took up

my modelling career by fluke! The only thing in my head was that I'd get to see foreigners (he laughs out loud). I did not see the struggles or anything related to modelling too until I was trained. My agency just told me that you are photogenic and that you can do really well. That was like a learning experience there, but I had no idea what I wanted to do. In my life, many things have been coincidental and very impromptu." Having never been to a fashion school, becoming a stylist too came up very extemporarily. During his break time in his modelling work, he made sure to visit Hyderabad, or even twice a year. It was during this time that he and actor Allu Arjun became good friends, and it was him who spotted his hidden talent and asked him to style the actor for *Arya 2*. "He told me that I was not supposed to do anything much but just shop for him. He liked the way I used to dress and called me the 'best dressed guy in the city'. I love the way you spare things up and style yourself. I want something like that for me in this movie," he gleefully recalls. He, along with the star, travelled to Dubai for his shopping and it was he who also helped Ashwin out about how to pair certain things for a scene. During this, a buzz happened that Allu Arjun had hired a stylist, and the concept of a stylist was pretty new for South Indian cinema back then. He further recalls, "The buzz also claimed that the stylist was from abroad, though I was from Hyderabad. The curiosity of media and people was x100. When the pre-release stills from the film came out, everybody was like, this (*Arya 2*) has become the most-stylist film of South India back then." After that, he was poured in with a lot of offers. One of which was styling Kajal Aggarwal with 70 costumes in *Darling*. By the time he could realise, months had passed in Hyderabad and he had taken up many

offers and signed a lot of films. He suddenly became the stylist of South Cinema. He realised this was his calling and passion, which were hidden. "Kajal has been a sweetheart and she has been my first best friend in the industry," shares the stylist, who has also styled Jr NTR for the Golden Globe Award and styled megastar Chiranjeevi for the Padmavibhushan Award, as we discuss him styling the *Darling* star for the film. "Though I was a beginner and I didn't know what costume designing for a film was like, she's always been there and taught me. She was the first actress I styled. Styling a male actor was very easy because it was like I was styling myself. However, on the other hand, styling an actress involves a lot of things. Kajal was so helpful and understanding and sometimes she'd simply let my mistakes just go away." The industry, he says, has taught him a lot throughout his career. While there was his initial calling by Allu Arjun, Jr NTR has always been a big supporter in the industry to teach him a lot of things. Then there's director Sukumar, who, to him, was like his school teacher. It was the support he has received from the stars that, he says, has made his journey flow so smoothly. "Jr NTR and I go back almost eight years or even more. I have been styling him in all his films, appearances, projects and advertisements. When it came to the Oscars, it was a surreal moment for all of us. The only thing I knew, even before he told me, was that I had to make something special for him. We had to make sure to create something that made the world turn around and look at him. We sat down and I presented a few of them and he zeroed in like two or three and we locked in Gaurav Gupta to design. We came up with the concept of the most iconic scene in *RRR*, where Jr NTR roars like a tiger. We took that as

inspiration and incorporated it into his black velvet sherwani. This was done in no time by Gaurav Gupta. All thanks to him and his team for creating it in 2 days. And that's how his outfit was the most talked about on the red carpet at the Oscars." Styling for *100% Love* with Naga Chaitanya and Tamannaah was one of his most challenging projects, with the transitions that Tamannaah's character brings into the film. He further credits both actors for making it easier for him to work. Then the next challenging one was *Temper*, since the film demanded a new look for Jr NTR. He also adds that *Nannaku Prematho* was more challenging than *Temper* because it had Jr NTR in a look never seen before. "I took up that challenge to make this look because it was an entire game-changer look for NTR. The pre-planning was certainly challenging, but the outcome was worth it. He gave me the freedom to try out different looks." You go by his portfolio, and just like we mentioned, he has worked with many celebrities. Well, the cutie couple Varun Tej and Lavanya Tripathi, one could just not stop to adore their wedding pictures. And guess what? The couple was styled by none other than Ashwin! "When they called me and my partner, they were like, There's something we wanted to share with you. We, of course, knew what was coming. It took us a couple of months to go to the locations, and we came up with colour palettes and the theme. I gave them a presentation and they just loved it. They just left it to us. It was just not both of them, but we had styled the entire guest list, right from Allu Arjun to the brothers and cousins of the couple. We did almost 90 wedding looks for all of them in just one month." Well, for him, it would be a dream come true to work with Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra and Varun Dhawan as well.



TEASER FOR THE BIRTHDAY BOY LAUNCHED BY MEHAR RAMESH

Bomma Barusu Productions has released a teaser for *The Birthday Boy*, directed by debut NRI team Whisky and partner. Tollywood director Mehar Ramesh unveiled the teaser, appreciating the filmmakers' creative approach. The film will be released on July 19. The teaser features a classic TV broadcast and a joyful birthday party that takes a dark turn when the police arrive. The movie follows five friends as they navigate life in the United States, combining humour, drama and real-world situations. The makers have employed the sync sound (live

recording) technique to ensure authenticity and a realistic mood. Whisky and his producing partner have invested all their savings into this high-quality, technically superior film. To enhance the film's visual appeal, a Hollywood technician from Turkey has also been brought on board for a unique type of colour grading. *The Birthday Boy* promises to be a captivating blend of humour, drama and real-life experiences, brought to life by a passionate team of newcomers.



Sriram's Kodi Burra launched with a grand pooja ceremony



Hero Sriram, who has impressed the Telugu audience with films like *Okariki Okaru*, *Rojapulu*, *Snehithulu* and *Raagala 24 Gantallo*, has officially launched his new movie *Kodi Burra* on Monday at the Hyderabad Film Nagar Daiva Sannidhanam temple. This film is produced by Kancharla Satyanarayana Reddy, Gattu Vijay Goud, Chinni Chandu, Vattam Raghavendra and Samudrala Mahesh Goud under the V4 Creations banner. Chandrasekhar Kanuri serves as the director. Shruti Menon and Aarushi play the heroines. Mahaveer also plays an important role. MLA Malireddy Rangareddy, who was a guest at the *Kodi Burra* movie launching ceremony, turned on the camera. Producer Bekkem Venugopal applauded, while director Bharat Kamma handed over the script afterwards. Director Chandrasekhar Kanuri stated, "We are excited to begin filming *Kodi Burra*. Sriram, the hero, will be portrayed differently in this film. So far, he has appeared in films about love and romance. Sriram will appear as a police officer in this film! Shruti Menon, the heroine, is playing a doctor." According to hero Sriram, the *Kodi Burra* movie will have a crime thriller narrative. "When you hear the title of our film, you will have a better sense of what it is about. I am delighted to be working on this film with V4 Creations. This is our director Chandrasekhar's fourth film. The *Kodi Burra* movie is being made with an interesting narration to appeal to everyone. Shruti Menon has made films in both Tamil and Malayalam. Now, with this film, she is being introduced to Telugu. I'm happy to be a part of an interesting film."

#BSS11 officially launched

Shine Screens' much-anticipated 8th film, directed by Koushik Pegallapati of *Chaavu Kaburu Challaga* fame, was officially launched on Monday with a grand pooja ceremony at Annapurna Studios. Set in a distinctive world with a captivating premise, this horror-mystery film has already created a buzz with its intriguing first look. The film stars the action-hulk Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and the ever-charming Anupama Parmeswaran in lead roles, promising a gripping narrative that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Adding to the buzz around the project, both stars are slated to portray parts they have never played before in their lives. Regular filming is scheduled to begin on July 11 and will proceed at full speed. With a talented cast and crew and an innovative storyline, this film is sure to capture the attention of cinegoers and leave a significant impact on the audience.



APSARA RANI TO FRIGHTEN IN RACHARIKAM!

Apsara Rani, Vijay Shankar and Varun Sandesh Starrer's upcoming film *Racharikam* is a first-of-its-kind blood-curdling thriller. This movie is being produced by Eswar under the banner of Chill Bros. Entertainments. This movie is directed by Suresh Lankalapalli, who also provided the story and screenplay. The post-production work for this movie, which has already completed its shooting, is in full swing. The makers are making the movie without compromising anywhere and are set to give a never-before experience to the viewers. Recently, a special poster from the movie featuring heroine Apsara Rani was released, and there was a huge response from the audience. The poster showed Apsara Rani in an aggressive avatar like Kaali Maa, with blood all over the body. As the poster suggests, the movie will have great significance for Apsara Rani. This movie is being made with a thrilling concept, different content and

scenes that will hook the average viewer. The post-production activities of this film are going on at a fast pace in Saradhi Studios. Expectations have been created among the audience about this movie, which is in the final stages. Hyper Aadi, Rangasthalam Mahesh, Vijay Ramaraju, Srikanth lyengar, Mahboob Basha, Rupesh Marrapu, Prachi Thaker, Latha, Ishwar and others are playing important roles in this film. Varun Sandesh's role in the film will please the mass audience. While Vengi provided the music for this movie, Arya Sai Krishna worked as the cameraman. Ram Prasad provided the dialogue. Chanakya is the executive producer and JP is the editor. The release date of this movie will be announced soon.

Sudheer Babu to star in a pan-India supernatural mystery thriller

Sudheer Babu, the celebrated Telugu star also known as Nawa Dhalapati, will be leading an upcoming supernatural thriller film. This pan-Indian film is set to break new ground with its unparalleled visual effects and a storyline that promises to be larger than life. Directed by debutant Venkat Kalyan, this film will offer an extraordinary cinematic experience. Sudheer Babu, fresh off the success of his latest theatrical release, *Harom Hara*, which premiered on June 14, 2024, has been widely praised for its intense action sequences and engaging narrative. This ambitious film will be presented by Prerna Arora. The makers are on the verge of announcing a major heroine from Bollywood who will join this stellar cast. The film will be released around Shivratri in March 2025. This project is set to be the biggest pan-India release, marking a significant milestone in Indian cinema. It will depict an epic battle between good and evil energies, adding depth and intrigue to the story! Sudheer adds, "I've been travelling this path for a year now, delving into this script and genre and I can't wait to share this journey with our audience. Prerna Arora, our dedicated team and I are pouring our hearts into delivering a world-class cinematic experience. We're excited to bring a story that truly resonates and we hope it leaves a lasting impact on everyone who watches."

Demi-Leigh Tebow in Calendar Song captivates all



The anticipation for *Bharateeyudu 2 (Indian 2)*, the highly anticipated vigilante-thriller starring the Universal Star Kamal Haasan, is reaching a fever pitch. The film, directed by the S Shankar, sees Haasan reprise his iconic role as Senapathy, the aged freedom fighter. The excitement surrounding the film reached a new peak with the release of the catchy new single, *Calendar Song*. The song, a vibrant blend of energy and style, is sure to appeal to the masses, featuring a special appearance by Miss Universe 2017, Demi-Leigh Tebow. The visuals, reminiscent of Shankar's visual style, promise a treat for the senses. *Calendar Song*, composed by the musical maestro Anirudh Ravichander, is a mesmerising track featuring enchanting vocals by Sravana Bharagavi. The lyrics, penned by Chandra Bose, add another layer of depth to the song. Produced by Subhaskaran's Red Giant Movies and Lyca Productions, *Bharateeyudu 2* promises a grand cinematic spectacle, blending high-octane action with a powerful message of social justice.

