



sunday pioneer

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



Ready to conclude FTA that worked for India and Britain

Will set up coop bank, milk PRODUCERS' union in every district



Daydream a lot OR STARE into space?



QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The pioneer

There is no difference between the BRS and the Congress in inducting MLAs. The Congress said in its manifesto that public representatives must resign if they change their party, but they are not implementing their manifesto. Congress leaders have been claiming that 26 BRS MLAs are in touch with them. If they resign and by-elections are held the BJP will win all 26 seats and become the main opposition party.

- **Bandi Sanjay Kumar**, Union MoS, Home Affairs

P2

DON'T MISS...

Govt will strengthen...

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy assured full support for strengthening the judiciary's infrastructure in Telangana. He was addressing the Capital Foundation Society's annual awards and lecture programme at the NALSAR University of Law on Saturday. The event was attended by Attorney General R. Venkatarmani, Chief Justice of Telangana High Court Justice Alok Aradhe, NALSAR University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao and other...

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Dalai Lama turns 89, says he is...

Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama turned 89 on Saturday and in his birthday message said he is physically fit and is determined to continue his service to Lord Buddha's teachings. The Dalai Lama is in the US where he is recovering from a knee-replacement surgery. "I am nearly 90 now but don't feel unwell, except for the slight discomfort in my legs and would like to thank all my fellow Tibetans in and outside Tibet for your prayers on my birthday," he said in the text message issued here by his office. "Despite the..."

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Only 7% of MSME credit to women...

Reserve Bank's executive director Neeraj Nigam on Friday said low labour force participation among women is a barrier to financial inclusion efforts and also to broader economic growth. He said there is also a need to up the credit supply to women, pointing out that only 7 per cent of the overall outstanding loans to micro, small and medium enterprises are to women-led businesses. "One significant barrier for financial inclusion and indeed to economic growth and development is more participation of females in economic..."

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BMI alone not sufficient...

Obesity can no longer be just defined by body mass index (BMI) and rather should be about how body fat is distributed throughout one's body, researchers said while launching a new framework for diagnosing and managing obesity. Published in the journal Nature Medicine, the framework looks specifically at fat accumulated in the abdomen, measured as 'waist-to-height ratio' -- an increased value of which is related to a higher risk of developing cardiometabolic complications, according to the researchers. An 'important novelty' of the framework is including a waist-to-height ratio higher than 0.5, along with a BMI of 25-30, for diagnosing obesity, the authors, representing the European Association for...

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NAIDU, REVANTH DISCUSS BIFURCATION ISSUES

8 issues to be resolved in a fortnight



NAVEENA GHANATE
 ■ HYDERABAD

The meeting of Chief Ministers seems to have come out with a positive outcome for Telangana. Sources said that Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari listed out eight issues which can be sorted out at the officer level. Then Deputy CM Bhatti suggested setting up an officials committee to which Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu gave his nod and reportedly said, "Okay agreed, that is the way."

The CS of AP also acknowledged the issues. The solution to it is likely to be achieved in a week. Sources indicated that there is some money pending as part of labour cess which is just lying in the bank which some-



CM Revanth and AP CM Chandra Babu at a crucial meeting held at Praja Bhavan on Saturday

one can use. Both states agreed to it. It is learnt that Revanth spoke on drugs and the initiatives to curb them in schools, pubs etc. Both states exchanged agenda items which include re-transfer of five villages, TTD recommendation etc. Among the issues listed, Andhra Pradesh is likely to positively respond to Telangana's request to re-transfer the five villages of Pichukalpadu, Kannagudem, Yetapaka, Gundala and Purushothapatnam which were merged with Andhra Pradesh under the AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Act in 2014.

The much-awaited meeting between Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart N. Chandrababu Naidu was held at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan on Saturday to discuss inter-state issues. Ministers and senior officials from both states are attending the meeting, focussing on resolving the issues arising out of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu

enue blocks to Andhra Pradesh. Sources said that a letter will be sent to the Union Home Ministry requesting to transfer it back. Then an ordinance would be introduced in Parliament.

In good news to the Tirumala devotees of Telangana, the recommendation letters issued by

Telangana public representatives may be accepted. Sources said the issue was listed and there might be a positive response.

Another request placed by Andhra Pradesh is for a CM camp office in Hyderabad which could be used whenever they visit.

Revanth, CBN decide to set up panels to solve problems

■ HYDERABAD

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Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu

Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Ponnampalapati and others welcomed CBN when he arrived at the Praja Bhavan in Begumpet at around 6 p.m. The meeting lasted for around 1.30 hours.



Revanth gifts 'Naa Godava' to Naidu

■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy presented the book 'Naa Godava' written by Kaloji Narayana Rao to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Sources said the book is the heart of Telangana and that the CM is telling Chandrababu to listen to his 'Naa Godava'. With this book coming out, the famous words written in the book were extensively shared. Kaloji said, "We will shoo away the outsiders who loot us. If an insider does it we will bury him. If you are a friend, we will be your friend and give our life. This is the Telangana which is far from the coast. If you try to drown us, you will drown yourself."

Keshava Rao appointed govt Advisor

■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government appointed K. Keshava Rao, who recently joined the Congress, as the Government's Advisor on Public Affairs with Cabinet rank. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders regarding this.



Keshava Rao resigned from the Rajya Sabha on Thursday by submitting his resignation letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankad. He said that it is his moral responsibility to resign from his post when joining another party.

Keshava Rao donned the Congress scarf in the presence of AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge. He had two years remaining in his Rajya Sabha term.

Keshava's resignation sparked interest among leaders who missed out on key posts and they are now eyeing his post. However, it appears that their hopes may not be fulfilled as the Congress high command is reportedly considering offering the seat to prominent Supreme Court lawyer and AICC spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

'Conspiracy to rule TG indirectly'

■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy launched a scathing attack on TPC President Revanth Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu over their recent meeting. Speaking to the media at the Telangana Bhavan, Niranjan questioned the rationale behind holding

such a meeting in Telangana when the issues pertain to Andhra Pradesh.

"If the groom is from Andhra, why is the wedding ceremony being held in Telangana?" Niranjan quipped, criticising the political theatrics. He accused both leaders of reopening old



wounds and conspiring to create unrest. He stated that while it is acceptable to hold discussions for resolving inter-state issues, the political grandstanding in Telangana is unnecessary and raises questions about their intentions.

Continued on Page 2

'Cong delaying panchayat poll fearing defeat'

■ HYDERABAD

BJP Legislature Party leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy accused the Congress government of delaying panchayat elections due to fear of defeat.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office here on Saturday, Maheshwar said that the rule of special officers in panchayats for so long is against the spirit of democracy. He said that the Congress, which is not holding panchayat elections, should be ashamed to say that it is a people's government.



He expressed concern that due to the lack of governing bodies, there are no funds in gram panchayats resulting in villages suffering.

He demanded immediate elec-

HC allows minor to undergo abortion of 26-week foetus



P3

Ghose panel to grill pump house engineers

■ HYDERABAD

The Justice PC Ghose Commission will investigate the engineers working in the Kaleshwaram Project's pump houses. The commission plans to question the engineers of the Lakshmi, Saraswati and Parvathi pump houses. Engineers from the posts of Chief Engineer (CE) to Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of these three pump houses are scheduled to appear before the commission on Monday. The commission has already asked the

government to provide all documents connected to the Kaleshwaram Project within two weeks. It has also sought final reports from the Vigilance and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). The commission has also sent its representative to the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) in Pune for further study. The PC Ghose Commission has also requested a report from an expert committee. After examining the affidavits the commission will issue further notices.



Another jolt to BRS, MLA Bandla joins Cong

■ HYDERABAD

The BRS received another jolt when another MLA joined the Congress on Saturday, just a day after six of its Members in the Legislative Council crossed over to the ruling party.

Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, the MLA of Gadwal, joined Congress in the presence of Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy. The Chief Minister welcomed him into the party.

Krishna Mohan represents Gadwal in Revanth Reddy's home district of Mahbubnagar.

Krishna Mohan is the seventh BRS MLA to join the ruling party after the BRS lost power in December 2023.

The BRS' strength in the 119-member Assembly has come down to 31 now. It also lost the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly by-election to the Congress. The tally of the Congress party has now gone up to 72.

The BRS lost many of its senior leaders to the Congress in the last seven months.

Uproar at GHMC council meeting over defections

■ HYDERABAD

The GHMC council meeting was held after around five months on Saturday but it ended without taking up any public issues.

During the meeting, councillors raised slogans over the defections of Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi and Deputy Mayor Sri Latha and disrupted the meeting.

A clash erupted between BJP and AIMM councillors over a placard and cartoon. The protests at the meeting led to adjournment of the House four times in around five hours.

The protests of the BJP and BRS councillors started inside the GHMC office even before the meeting started in the morning. The councillors of both parties dis-



played placards and raised slogans over several issues.

The disruption of the House started in the first minutes itself. The Congress and BRS councillors displayed placards and raised slogans in the House. The councillors disrupted the Mayor's speech and

she abruptly ended her speech.

The House became silent only when it consoled the dead councillors and former Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Lasya Nanditha and former MLA D. Srinivasa Rao.

When BRS councillors raised

slogans about defections and resignations, the Mayor asked who started defections first, the BRS or the Congress. "If you have read the GHMC Act, then don't speak like that," she said.

During the five-hour council meeting, the Mayor tried to control the councillors of all parties. After the council meeting concluded the Mayor referred to councillors as "after all they are councillors."

The Mayor said that during the council meeting, councillors should discuss the street dog menace, monsoon preparation and other issues. However, the BJP and BRS disrupted the session. "It is sad that they stopped the Mayor's speech too," she said.

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New biweekly express train from Sec'bad to Goa

Kishan thanks PM, Railway Minister Vaishnav

■ HYDERABAD

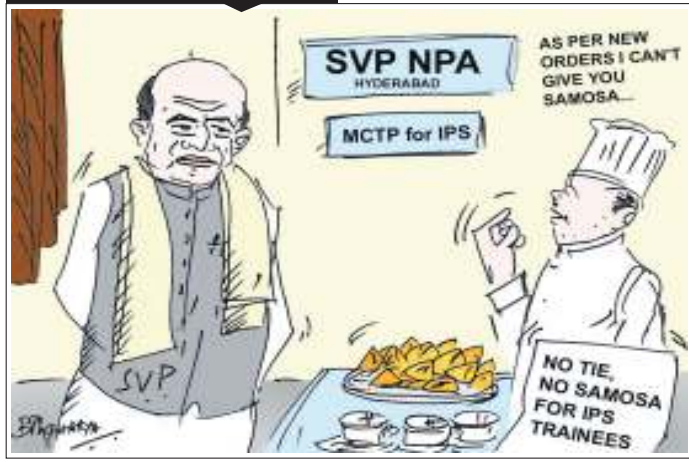


The Railway Ministry has cleared a new express train (17039/17040) from Secunderabad to Vasco da Gama in Goa.

Until now, one train with 10 coaches used to operate from Secunderabad to Guntakal every week where it would add another 10 coaches from Tirupati and go to Goa.

Continued on Page 2

OBTUSE ANGLE



Revanth takes a leaf out of KTR's book

In Telangana, there seems to be a significant level of disguised employment among politicians. The other day Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a three-hour-long 'meeting', following fiery protests by those battling for unemployed youth. Interestingly, those who attended the reactive meeting took everyone by surprise, giving chance for opposition Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi to mock at the participants. BRS said that CM Revanth Reddy had discussed the problem of unemployment with "the politically unemployed". Scribes have elephantine memory. Immediately, reporters could draw a parallel with BRS working president KT Rama Rao. A

bouquet and of course draped with a shawl. However, Revanth Reddy has been giving Nandi figurines to visiting dignitaries. He gave silver Nandi to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Earlier, he gave Nandi to Union Ministers JP Nadda and Manohar Lal Kattar. Sometimes he gives silver filigree items such as peacock to dignitaries. Social media has lumped them as 'Nandi Awards', including the ones that the CM gave to PM, HM et al. Fun apart, this led to a discussion on what happened to Nandi Awards which were renamed as 'Gaddar Awards' to better reflect Telanganiat. It looks like they have been postponed to next year. Ex-

did not encourage defections and has courage in fighting with the ruling Telugu Desam Party. People say Jagan is of the considered opinion that it is not wise to depend on defectors to remain relevant in politics.

Taking scribes for granted

These days there is hardly any difference between a 'chit-chat' (informal conversation) and a 'press meet' (formal interaction involving queries and responses) held in BJP's Telangana unit office. For, at least half a dozen leaders other than the main person who is supposed to interact with the media come

in advance and get on the nerves of scribes. The same thing happened on Saturday in the BJP state office, after newshounds entered the small room

where Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar was supposed to chat with the media. Dozen other BJP leaders trooped in, one after the other, but Bandi Sanjay Kumar kept media persons waiting. One of the scribes wondered whether it reflected another dimension of the 'discipline' that the saffron party leaders pride on. One of the scribes left the room after he got a call from his office. Another scribe observed that it had been the case usually whenever BJP Telangana unit president addressed the media. Now, Bandi Sanjay seems to be following suit, since he too has become a Union Minister. A senior scribe considered 'boycott' of the interaction, but junior members of the fraternity prevailed over him, saying: "those days are gone". Meanwhile, the office staff served snacks twice, followed by tea. After all that, Bandi Sanjay arrived, precisely one hour late. With the other BJP leaders seated beside him, Bandi Sanjay then chit-chatted with newsmen scattered at a considerable distance from him. His initial 'sorry' was not enough; it took him some time to pacify the scribes for his (OK, unavoidable) delay. The chit-chat lasted half an hour, prompting a scribe to exclaim: "It should have lasted at least the waiting period."

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, SNCN Acharyulu and K Venkateshwarlu)

REPORTERS' DIARY

CM K Chandrasekhar Rao used to give Charminar, Kakatiya Kalathornam, and other such silver filigree items.

Handling differing types of post-poll defectors

Like rats leaving a sinking ship, defections are quite natural in a political party that has been dumped by people in an election. However, defections that are engineered post elections are different. The stark contrast between the two types of defections and how a leader must face the consequences has become apparent in the wake of the defeat of the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) in Andhra Pradesh and the washout of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana.

In Telangana, ex-CM K Chandrasekhar Rao is worried over the defections of even his jigris from BRS and is moving heaven and earth to check them. However, in Andhra Pradesh, ex-CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is playing it rather cool. Unlike KCR, he is taking the defections in his stride. Jagan has been telling his aides during his pep talk: "If someone wants to leave the party, let them leave. Those who want to stay in the party will remain". People feel the difference in the attitudes and mentality of the two former Chief Ministers. They reason that KCR "encouraged defections and depends on defectors". But YS Jagan

Congress needs helping hand for its social media wing

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi's social media warriors have gained an upper hand over their counterparts in the Congress post Assembly elections when it comes to sensitive posts. In fact, the counters of the ruling Congress are so bad that even BRS leaders feel that those behind the ineffective posts are doing "beginners' mistakes". Social media profiles that had been active during the Telangana Assembly election campaign are all of a sudden posting frantically again. Some of the handles attributed to poll strategist Sunil Kanugolu's team have been activated. Nonetheless, BRS is very confident that post elections, organic and real followers have come on social media without much effort. What keeps BRS' spirits high are the tell-tale signs that the Congress social media team is an abject failure without Sunil Kanugolu. If impending changes in TPCC result in recast of frontal organisations as well, then the new TPCC should consider revamping the party unit's social media wing.

Did Revanth give Nandi Awards?

Generally when the Chief Minister of a state meets a dignitary, the latter is given

Revanth enters Modi's good books like Jagan

SNCN ACHARYULU
HYDERABAD

It was Jagan then and now it is Revanth. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is special to Prime Minister Narendra Modi like former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy earlier.

Both Revanth and Jagan do not belong to the BJP or are in the NDA. But both have become special to Prime Minister Modi for the same reason. The reason is that in the 2019 AP Assembly elections Jagan defeated the TDP headed by N. Chandrababu Naidu. In the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections TPCC President Revanth Reddy defeated the BRS headed by K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

now K. Chandrasekhar Rao were bitter political enemies of the BJP and Prime Minister Modi. Both tried to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections but both were defeated in the Assembly elections in their states.

In the 2019 simultaneous elections to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and the Lok Sabha as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu tried to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. For this, Chandrababu joined hands with the Congress. However, the BJP retained power at the Centre but Chandrababu was defeated in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections.

The YSR Congress headed by Jagan Mohan Reddy won 151 of the 175 Assembly seats in AP and became dear to Modi as he defeated

Chandrababu who tried to defeat him.

In Telangana, the same thing was repeated. BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao became the bitter enemy of the BJP and Prime Minister Modi. KCR tried his best to defeat the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. But KCR was defeated in the Telangana Assembly elections by TPCC chief Revanth Reddy. Like in Andhra Pradesh, in Telangana, KCR who wanted to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections was defeated.

After becoming the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan gained importance in the Prime Minister's Office and whenever he wanted to meet the PM he used to get an appointment. As the CM, Jagan met Modi on more occasions than even BJP Chief Ministers. Now, Telangana Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy is also likely to get the same privilege.

Usually, Congress Chief Ministers meet the Prime Minister rarely. If any Congress CM wants to meet the Prime Minister it is not easy to get an appointment. But Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met the PM twice in the last six months even though he belongs to the Congress.

As Chief Ministers, Chandrababu and KCR levelled serious allegations against Modi. Both Chandrababu and KCR tried to defeat Modi in the Lok Sabha elections but both were defeated in the Assembly elections in their respective states in 2019 and 2024.

This cheered up Modi and like Jagan, Revanth is now getting appointments with the Prime Minister whenever he wants.

Be careful as some are waiting to rake up TG sentiment: Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Welcoming the talks between the two Telugu Chief Ministers on pending issues connected to the Division Act, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, appealed to Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu to be careful as some people are waiting like foxes at a burial site to rake up the Telangana sentiment once again. Sanjay said the two Chief



Ministers should hold talks in a manner useful to the people of the two states and added that the fish and prawn soup of former AP Minister Roja deceived KCR. "I may have my opinion regarding the talks between the two CMs.

However, as a Union Minister, I would appeal to the two that they should ensure that injustice is given to the people of the two Telugu states. Some are waiting like foxes at a burial site to rake up the TG sentiment once again. I am appealing to the two not to allow that again," Sanjay said.

During a chit-chat with journalists at the state BJP office here on Saturday, Sanjay said that there is no difference between the BRS and the Congress in inducting MLAs.

BNS implemented without discussions



PNS ■ SANTINIKETAN

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on Saturday said he does not consider replacing the IPC with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) a "welcome change" as it was done without holding a wide-ranging discussion by involving all stakeholders.

Speaking to reporters in Santiniketan, Sen said extensive discussions were needed before enacting new laws.

"There has not been any evidence that any such wide-ranging talks had preceded before enacting this with all the stakeholders. Also in this vast country, the problems faced by a state like Manipur and another state, say Madhya Pradesh, cannot be the same," he said.

'KCR destroyed Telangana'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Recalling that seven mandates of Telangana were merged with Andhra Pradesh when KCR was the Chief Minister of Telangana, the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduates' constituency MLC, Theenar Mallanna, said that KCR destroyed Telangana like dogs tearing up a leaf.

He said the BRS is trying to use the two CMs of Telugu states for its political gains and to throw mud at the Congress government. Mallanna said that KCR and his family simply cannot digest the talks between the two CMs.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan here on Saturday, Mallanna said that former CMs KCR and Jagan Mohan Reddy did not discuss pending issues between the two states except their politics.

'A serious concern relating to life, liberty, and dignity of women'

NHRC issues notices to states, UTs over women being 'forced' into sex trade by anti-social elements

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NHRC has issued notices to the chief secretaries and the police chief of all the states and union territories over reports that women are allegedly being forced into sex trade by anti-social elements on the pretext of providing them with lucrative job opportunities.

In a statement on Friday, the National Human Rights Commission observed the content of a news report quoting statements by women arrested during a raid, if true, raises a serious concern relating to the life, liberty, equality and dignity of women, irrespective of caste, religion and geographical boundaries.

The media report, carried on July 1, indicates that most of the arrested women during a raid at a hotel in Ranchi, Jharkhand, got into sex trade out of compulsion and helplessness. Many of them were



pushed into this web by their relatives and some of them were forced to enter into this ugly business to fulfil the needs of their families and could not come out of the vicious network of anti-social elements once got into their grip," it said. The news report indicates that the victim women are natives of different places, "trapped in the name of a job" and their handlers are reportedly operating from distant locations. This indicates the "depth of the crime syndicate" across the country, which requires a pan-India action against such criminal elements, the statement said. The NHRC,

after taking suo motu cognisance of the media report, issued notices to the chief secretaries and the director generals of police of all the states and UTs, seeking a detailed report on the steps taken and proposed to be taken to deal with the anti-social elements pushing women into sex trade, it said.

Issuing the notices, the commission further observed that despite several laws and schemes in the country for the protection, safety and welfare of women, the anti-social and criminal elements manage to target the vulnerable sections of society, particularly women.

Rangareddy BRS MLAs meet Minister Sridhar, seek funds for projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A group of six BRS MLAs from Rangareddy district met district in-charge IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the Secretariat on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by Bandaru Laxma Reddy, Madhavaram Krishna Rao, Arikepudi Gandhi, Marri Rajasekhar, and KP Vivekanand and Sudheer Reddy. During the meeting, Sudheer Reddy from LB Nagar requested funds for his constituency. He specifically asked for the construction of two new flyovers in the



LB Nagar area and the allocation of Rs 100 crore for new SNDP works and another Rs 100 crore for new water drainage works.

Sridhar Babu responded positively and assured that work would be carried out without political considerations and promised to sanction the requested funds.

'Cong delaying...'

Continued from page 1

Till now Sarpanches have been taking loans to continue development projects in villages. Since six months special officials have been taking loans and executing development projects in villages, he said.

Maheshwar said they will not remain silent if the interests of Telangana are compromised and that the Centre is in favour of solving division issues.

He commented that people would lose confidence in democracy if the law fails to cancel the Assembly membership of Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender.

He said the Speaker has been behaving indifferently and is not accepting the petition on the Danam Nagender issue. The Speaker is not present at any time in his chamber, he said and added that the Speaker's office is sending back letters sent through registered post. He said that he will approach the Supreme Court if the need arises regarding this.

Maheshwar said the TG government was stuck in neck deep corruption and has failed in all sectors and that the BJP had exposed the government's corruption with evidence.

Revanth, CBN decide to set...

Continued from page 1

All pending issues of the AP Reorganization Act will be addressed through a new three-level committee system which will be constituted in a couple of weeks, announced Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu after the meeting.

The committees will operate on three levels: an officers' committee, a ministers' committee and a final Chief Ministers' committee.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu emphasized that the meeting was held to resolve issues that remained unresolved after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh 10 years ago. He stated that they did not expect to resolve all issues from the Bifurcation Act in the first meeting itself, but there is a need to establish a system for solving prob-

lems.

Representatives of both states held talks and decided to set up committees to tackle the issues.

A three-member committee of Chief Secretary level high-ranking officials from both states will be constituted and will meet within two weeks to explore solutions at their level. There will be three officials from each state in this committee.

Uproar at GHMC council meeting...

Continued from page 1

Reacting to the Mayor's words on councillors, Seethapalmandi councillor Hema Samala took to X and posted, "Mayor garu, referring to councillors as 'after all they are councillors' is highly disrespectful to the elected members who serve their communities diligently. Let's not forget Ma'am, you were also a councillor till KCR and KTR made you the Mayor with the support of BRS councillors and for the record, you joined the Congress without resigning your Mayor post won by a BRS

ticket."

A dramatic scene occurred at the council meeting after it was adjourned when a clash erupted between BJP and AIMIM councillors over a photo on the placards.

The ruckus happened twice at the meeting when the council was adjourned. The AIMIM councillors tried to take the placards from BJP councillors which led to commotion.

Finally, AIMIM councillors seized the placards from BJP councillors and tore it.

During the council meeting, BRS councillor M. Kavitha said that funds were allotted for

roads and canals before elections. When we asked officials regarding the work, the officials said the budget had collapsed. "When I met Executive Engineer E. Vijay regarding the works, he told me that only when we get a letter from Ponnampet Prabhakar the official would sanction money for works. But I am not sure whether it is true," she said.

When HMWSSB officials were introducing themselves during the meeting, the councillors said that Water Board officers were not responding to their complaints.

The Mayor told the commissioner that next time the HMWSSB MD should come to the general body meeting.

"Everybody has a problem with the Water Board. Since the last three years, pollution has been increasing. When we requested the MD to come and speak on the issue he always send people who cannot solve problems," she said.

Irrespective of parties, all councillors raised complaints about the Water Board at the council meeting. When the Mayor could not control the situation she adjourned the house.

HC allows minor to undergo abortion of 26-week foetus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has allowed a 12-year-old girl, a rape survivor, to abort a 26-week foetus and accordingly directed the Superintendent of state-run Gandhi Hospital here to terminate the pregnancy.

The court also ordered that the termination of pregnancy or surgical procedure, as the case may be, shall be performed by a senior most gynaecologist of the hospital and collect the tissue and blood samples of the foetus for conducting DNA and other tests.

If the victim girl or her mother gives consent for termination of pregnancy through medical procedure, respondent No.4 - the Superintendent, Gandhi Hospital, Hyderabad, shall forthwith admit the victim girl, conduct medical examination and by taking all necessary precautions, terminate pregnancy of victim girl medically or through surgical procedure as may be required, within 48 hours," Justice B



Vijaysen Reddy said in his orders on Friday.

Justice Reddy on Thursday directed the Gandhi Hospital Superintendent to constitute a medical board and examine the victim girl with regard to the gestation period of her foetus, feasibility to terminate the pregnancy and submit a report to this court in a sealed cover without disclosing the identity of the girl.

Vasudha Nagaraj, counsel for the petitioner argued that the victim was sexually abused

The court also ordered that the termination of pregnancy or surgical procedure, as the case may be, shall be performed by a senior most gynaecologist of the hospital and collect the tissue and blood samples of the foetus for conducting DNA and other tests

and raped by several persons and if she is made to continue with the pregnancy, it will cause mental anguish to her.

She also put forth her argument saying that it is not only the victim, but also the child born will face physical and mental trauma; further, there is no guarantee that the mother and foetus will have good health if the pregnancy is continued and eventually the baby is delivered.

Gopalpuram Police nab 3 inter-state peddlers; 6.960 kg marijuana seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force South West Zone in coordination with Gopalapuram police on Saturday arrested three persons and seized 6.96 kg of marijuana from them.

The accused were identified as Elateriya Parichha (40), Budhadeb Nayak (44) both labourers and Chandan Kumar Swalsingh, an employee at the Zee hotel. All of them are natives of Odisha.

Chandan recently came to Hyderabad in search of livelihood. In a bid to make a fast buck, he hit upon a plan to sell dry marijuana. He contacted his associates in Odisha and asked them to bring the drug with them. On July 4 Nayak and Parichha arrived in Hyderabad and brought marijuana. Nayak and Parichha met Chanda at a hotel and planned to sell the contraband.

Based on a tip off, the Commissioner's task force and Gopalapuram police nabbed the accused. They were arrested under sections 8(c) r/w 20(b), (ii) B of NDPS Act r/w 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanahita (BNS).

UoH alumni awarded for Excellence in Science & Engineering

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two alumni of the University of Hyderabad (UoH) Dr Markandeya Gorantla, CMD of ATGC Biotech Pvt. Ltd and Dr VB Reddy, Executive Director of ATGC Biotech Pvt. Ltd, have received award for 'Excellence in Science and Engineering'. The award was presented by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI).

Gorantla and Reddy are alumni of Nizam College and the UoH; Dr Gorantla and Dr Reddy who did PhD in Plant Science from UoH were recognised for their groundbreaking work in agricultural biotechnology, particularly their innovative 'Insect Family Planning' approach to disrupt pest mating cycles and protect crops.

Dr Gorantla, a visionary in his field, has been instrumental in advancing eco-friendly agricultural practices. With 14 patents granted and 12 more filed in India, he has ambitious plans to file over 200 patents globally. ATGC Biotech, co-founded by Dr Gorantla along with Dr VB Reddy and Prof Arjuna R Reddy, epitomises the vision of creating a pesticide-free world. The company boasts a pheromone library of over 100 compounds and a 100+ member R&D team, validated by nine multinational corporations across continents.

One of Dr Gorantla's notable achievements includes the development of the world's first small farm Mating Disruption product, CREMIT PBW, targeting pink bollworm and promoting eco-friendly farming.

In Telangana, his launch of Akarsh ME has significantly mitigated fruit fly damage, thereby expanding fruit crop cultivation. As a pioneer in synthetic biology, Dr Gorantla's efforts led to the creation of the world's first net zero carbon pheromones. His collaborations with DBT, DST, USDA, US Forestry, USISTEF, and USAID have been crucial in managing pheromones to control insect epidemics globally.

Dr Gorantla and Dr Reddy are receiving the award in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The award ceremony was held at the FTCCI premises in Hyderabad. Dr Gorantla and Dr Reddy were presented with the award by the FTCCI President, Dr. S. Venkatesh Reddy. Other dignitaries present included the FTCCI Vice President, Dr. S. Venkatesh Reddy, and other members of the FTCCI.



UoH alumni Dr Markandeya Gorantla and Dr VB Reddy receiving Excellence in Science & Engineering award in Hyderabad on Saturday

Chartered accountants told to adopt digital technology

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

NVS Reddy, Managing Director of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL), on Saturday emphasised the need to adopt digital technologies to stay ahead and make Indian cities global accounts processing hubs.

Participating as Chief Guest in the Chartered Accountants Association's CA Day 2024 celebrations here, NVS Reddy urged chartered accountants to play a vital role in India's economic development with ethics, commitment, and innovation. He explained how Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and data analytics are transforming all professions and advised the Chartered Accountants to adopt these digital technologies.

He stated that adopting high ethical standards and careful auditing practices can prevent corruption and fraud. Ensuring financial integrity is essential for an emerging economy like India to attract significant foreign



Managing Director of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited NVS Reddy speaking at the Chartered Accountants Association's CA Day 2024 celebrations in Hyderabad on Saturday

and domestic investments for infrastructure and industrial development.

He also mentioned that AI and Machine Learning can bring transparency and efficiency to corporate functioning. Using the example of how stock markets and banking transactions have gained speed and efficiency through digital technologies and fintech innovations, he praised how quickly the ordinary masses of India have adopted digital payments, even ahead of those in developed countries.

Explaining the scale of engineering and financial innovation

achieved in the Hyderabad Metro Rail project, Reddy informed the CAs that no other city in the world has built a three billion dollar, 69 km Metro Rail project in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode as successfully as Hyderabad. He encouraged the CAs to dream big, be innovative, and create world-class accounting firms in India.

Regional Passport Officer and CA J Snehaja, past President of Chartered Accountants Association CA Devaraja Reddy, CA M.P. Vijay Kumar, and CA Ms. Lakshmi Reddy also addressed the gathering.

Two burglars arrested, gold jewellery worth Rs 27 lakh seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Film Nagar police on Saturday arrested two persons on charge of burglary and seized gold and silver ornaments worth Rs 27,00,000.

The accused were identified as Syed Ali Huzaifa, (20), a resident of Asifnagar; Mohammed Ajmal Sharief (19), a resident of Asifnagar and Mohammed Abid Biyabani (19) a resident of Bahadurpura. They were arrested following the disarming drill by the Filmnagar police at Brindavan colony.

The police said that the arrested persons were chased and caught while they were fleeing on a bike. During interrogation, it was revealed that Huzaifa Sharief and Abid were involved in 10 house burglaries across various police stations.

The police recovered 30 tulas of gold, 45 tulas of silver, two cell phones, US \$ 100, five wrist watches and the two wheeler from the accused.

Traffic advisory ahead of Bonalu celebrations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Traffic police on Saturday announced traffic restrictions to be followed during Bonalu celebrations on July 7. The Sri Jagadamba Mahankali pooja will be held from July 7 to August 4 at the Golconda fort.

The restrictions will remain in place for a month from 8 am to 11 pm.

Poojas will be held at the fort during the aforementioned period. During this period heavy traffic is expected on the following routes to Golconda fort; Ramdevguda to Golconda Fort (via Makkai Darwaza; Langar Houz to Golconda Fort (via) Fateh Darwaza and Shaikpet Nala and Seven Tombs to Golconda Fort (via) Banjara Darwaza.

Commuters using the above roads are advised to avoid these routes and take alternative routes to avoid inconvenience on the above mentioned dates during the



Alternative route from Ramdevguda and the Parking will be at Military Ground Opp: AOC Centre Ramdevguda; The Devotees coming from Shaikpet and Seven Tombs towards Golconda Fort are requested to park their two wheeler vehicle at Golf Club parking and Three and four wheeler vehicle at Deccan Park.

The devotees are requested to park their vehicles at the designated parking places only in an orderly fashion at the parking places and the commuters are requested to take alternative routes to reach their destinations to avoid traffic congestion.

In case of any emergency during travel, the commuters are requested to call our traffic help line 9010203626 for travel assistance.

All commuters and devotees are requested to follow the above traffic advisory and cooperate with the traffic police.

period from 8 AM to 11 PM. Parking arrangements have been made at the following places. The Devotees coming from Ramdevguda side towards Golconda Fort via Makkai Darwaza are requested to park their two wheeler vehicles at Military Ground Opp: AOC Centre, Ramdevguda and Ashoor khana parking and reach Golconda Fort by foot.

The devotees coming from Langar Houz towards Golconda Fort are requested to note that no two and three wheeler vehicle will be allowed Via Fateh darwaza. They are advised to take the

Miyapur Police arrests 3 accused in a murder case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Miyapur police arrested three accused in a murder case on Saturday. The murder took place at a tea stall following a clash between rivals.

The Miyapur police said that when Chakali Sailu went to a tea shop beside Balaji Dhabba near Miyapur X roads to drink water and take water in a bottle, the owner of the tea stall abused him. The tea stall owner, along with his friends, clashed with Sailu and beat him on July 5.

The police arrested Naram Sathish alias Sattibabu, Gandhigari Jagadeesh alias Lucky and Palleboina Bhanu Prasad for killing a person named Chakali Sailu.

The case was filed under 103(1) r/w 3(5) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on July 5. Accused persons were arrested and produced before the court and sent to judicial remand.

T-SAT to telecast special orientation programmes for DSC aspirants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Skills, Academic and Training (T-SAT) Network to telecast special live programmes to create awareness among DSC exam aspirants from July 8 to 11, T-SAT Chief Executive Officer Bodanapally Venugopal Reddy announced in a statement on Friday.

These Subject-wise orientation sessions are being organised following the Telangana Education Department's notification to fill over 11,062 government teacher posts.

According to T-SAT, the special live orientation pro-

grammes, assisted by expert faculty, will be broadcast from 11 am to 12 pm on the T-SAT Nipuna channel. The programmes will focus on English on July 8, Science on July 9, Mathematics on July 10, and Telugu, Hindi, and Urdu on July 11.

The CEO said that since February 2024, T-SAT has broadcast 320 hours of special lessons and crash course content on TET and DSC. The upcoming special live programs will help aspirants of School Assistant, SGT, Pundits, PET, and Special Category posts. The programs will be re-telecast on the Vidya Channel from 7-8 pm.

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Goel urges journalists to remain updated through continuous learning

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A two-week Training Programme on Media Management for Media Professionals from Sri Lanka at Dr MCR HRD Institute concluded on Saturday.

Sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, the training is event aimed to enhance media skills.

The Director General of the Institute and Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana Shashank Goel emphasised the programme's importance given the rapid transformation in media driven by technology. He urged participants to keep their skills updated through continuous



Director General of Dr MCR HRD Institute Shashank Goel was speaking at the valedictory session of ITEC training programme in Hyderabad on Saturday

learning and professional development while maintaining honesty, integrity, and accountability.

As per the ITEC, the programme included sessions from senior professionals in print, electronic, and social

media, as well as field visits to T-Hub, Deccan Development Society, Ramoji Film City, and the Hyderabad Police Command and Control Centre. Cultural and historical site visits to Hyderabad, Warangal, Nagarjunakonda,

and Buddhavanam were also part of the timetable. Goel highlighted that the programme not only improved media capabilities but also strengthened India-Sri Lanka relations. Sugeeswara P Senadhira, Media Advisor to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, praised the programmes combination of lectures and field visits for providing a detailed understanding of media management.

A cultural program was presented by the media professionals. Madhavi Ravulapati, Course Director, noted that the ITEC Program has significantly increased its participant numbers, with over 11,000 trainees in the current financial year. Prof. Abbas Ali proposed a vote of thanks.

2 tourists from Hyd dead after being hit by boulders in Uttarakhand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two tourists from Hyderabad died in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Saturday after being hit by boulders following a landslide, police said.

They said the accident occurred on the Badrinath National Highway near Chatwapeel between Gauchar and Karnaprayag. Police said Nirmal Shahi (36) and Satya Narayana (50) were returning from the Himalayan temple on a motorcycle when they were hit by the boulders rolling down the hill. Their bodies have been pulled out of the rubble of the landslide, police officials added.

Landslides triggered by heavy rains over the past few days have left the Badrinath national highway blocked at more than half a dozen places, including

Kameda between Gauchar and Rudraprayag, Bhanir Pani near Pipalkoti, Pagalnala near Tangni, Pinola between Joshimath and Badrinath and at Kanchanganga beyond Hanumanchatti. National Highways Authority of India and Border Roads Organisation personnel are busy clearing the roads. The Rudraprayag-Kedarnath national highway is also blocked owing to a landslide.

All government and private schools in Rudraprayag district were shut on Saturday as a precautionary measure.

A red alert for 'heavy to very heavy rainfall' has been issued by the meteorological department for both the Kumaon and Garhwal regions for Saturday and Sunday.

Bal Mahotsav for Cubs & Bulbuls concludes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The regional-level Bal Mahotsav for Cubs and Bulbuls concluded on Saturday at Railway Mixed High School, South Lallaguda, Secunderabad.

Arun Kumar Jain, Patron of SCR Bharat Scouts and Guides and General Manager of SCR, attended as the Chief Guest for the valedictory function.

The general manager awarded prizes and certificates to the children. The event, hosted by South Central Railway State Bharat Scouts and Guides, took place from July 3 to 7, 2024.

Addressing the gathering, Arun Kumar Jain expressed his happiness to be with the young Cubs and Bulbuls, aged from 5 to 10 years. He highlighted the importance of the event, the first of its kind hosted by South Central Railway for Cubs and Bulbuls, and emphasised the theme "Save Nature for Our Future." Arun urged everyone to avoid using plastic and switch to eco-friendly materials.

State Chief Commissioner P Kishore Babu advised children to develop good habits, such as conserving water and electricity and growing more greenery. Later, cultural pro-



Arun Kumar Jain, Patron of SCR Bharat Scouts and Guides and General Manager of SCR speaking at a meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday.

grams were presented by the participating Cubs and Bulbuls.

AK Rawat, State Secretary of SCR Bharat Scouts & Guides and Dy. CMM, Coaching, SCR, presented the Vote of Thanks.

Other notable attendees included Lokesh Vishnoi, President & Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division; P. Kishore Babu, State Chief Commissioner; Principal Chief

Personnel Officer, SCR; and senior Scout officials.

During the 5-day Utsav, 225 Cubs and Bulbuls, along with Cub Masters and Flock Leaders from Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Southern Railway, and South Central Railway, participated in various activities. These featured adventure games, jungle dances, storytelling, play acting, making handicrafts from waste materials, group singing, quizzes, social service, food plaza, and folk dances. These activities aim to promote spiritual development, religious tolerance, and respect for their own religion.

VJIT celebrates 2024 graduation ceremony

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Vidhya Jyoti Institute of Technology (VJIT) held its annual Graduation Day ceremony at the JPL Convention in Moinabad on Saturday, celebrating the Class of 2024. The event brought together students, faculty, and distinguished guests to honor the graduates' achievements.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Dr UB Desai, Chancellor of Amurag University and Former Director of IIT Hyderabad. Dr E. Saibaba Reddy, Principal of VJIT, congratulated the graduates, praising their hard work and

dedication. He highlighted the institute's strengths, including a 95% placement record with many students joining top companies like Capgemini and Tech Mahindra.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PANCHAYATI RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice: 01.05.07.2024
Tenders are invited for the works shown in tender notice comprising of (06) NITs with an estimate cost of Rs.11.32 Crores. NIT will be available from 08.07.2024 to 31.07.2024.
Other details can be seen at <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PR Region, Warangal
R.O.No: 251-DR/CLAD/VT/1/2024-25, Dt. 06.07.2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 03/EE-2/HVGHMC/2024-25 Date: 06-07-2024
Name of the Work: Providing of fencing. Estimated amount: Rs. 17.20 Lakhs. Start Date: 08-07-2024 @ 03:00 PM. Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 16-07-2024 @ 03:30 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: O/o Executive Engineer-2 (Housing), GHMC, 1st Floor, Municipal Building, Hari Hara Kala Bhavan, Secunderabad - 500003. For any queries, Contact, Y. Shankara Ganesh Dy. EE (H), GHMC, Cell No.: 9701362882, e-mail id: eehr2jnum@gmail.com. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov. Sd/- Executive Engineer-2 Housing, GHMC
R.O.No: 1576-PP/CLAD/VT/1/2024-25, Dt. 06-07-2024



BASIC COURSE ON CONSTITUTION IN TELUGU LAUNCHED

Govt will strengthen judicial infrastructure: Uttam Kumar

- Uttam asks NALSAR VC to increase intake of local students
- World-class HC complex coming up in Rajendranagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy assured full support for strengthening the judiciary's infrastructure in Telangana.

He was addressing the Capital Foundation Society's annual awards and lecture programme at the NALSAR University of Law on Saturday. The event was attended by Attorney General R. Venkataramani, Chief Justice of Telangana High Court Justice Alok Aradhe, NALSAR University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao and other dignitaries.

Uttam highlighted the introduction of 20% reservation for local students at NALSAR by an earlier Congress Government. He requested



Minister for Irrigation N Uttam Kumar Reddy speaking at Capital Foundation Society's annual awards and lecture programme at the NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad on Saturday

the VC to increase the intake of local students.

Recalling his long association with NALSAR, Uttam said the university is emerging as the country's top law school.

Expressing the Telangana Government's highest regard for the judiciary, he said a

world-class High Court complex was coming up on 100 acres at Rajendranagar in Hyderabad. The foundation stone has already been laid, and the new HC complex will be ready soon. He also assured Chief Justice Alok Aradhe that courts would have excellent facilities.

Uttam pledged to convey the suggestions received at the event to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Renowned environmentalist Prof. K. Purushotham introduced the Capital Foundation, while former Supreme Court Judge Justice AK Patnaik gave the welcome address. The annual lecture on 'Technology, Law and Humanity' was delivered by Attorney General Dr R. Venkataramani.

Uttam also launched a basic course on the Constitution in Telugu. Chief Justice and NALSAR University of Law's Chancellor Justice Alok Aradhe released Justice Leila Seth's book 'We, the Children of India, The Preamble of our Constitution' in Telugu translated by Shridevi Muralidhar and published by EMESCO Books Pvt Ltd of Hyderabad.

Gram panchyats told to organise sanitation drive from Monday

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayan Reddy has directed the Gram Panchayati authorities through teleconference to organise a special sanitation drive in all the villages from Monday to Wednesday compulsorily. On the occasion of the special sanitation drive, clean all the premises of government institutions, Gram Panchayats, roads, drains, etc.

He instructed the officials to purchase the grass cutting machines and distribute them to every Panchayat. He said that after conducting of Prajواني programme on Thursday, the village-level team should check all the institutions and roads and drains. If any road and drain filled up with garbage, bushes, action would be initiated against the Gram Panchayat officials concerned. He also reviewed the Mandal-level Prajواني programme being held on every Monday. He said that the



Nalgonda Collector C Narayana Reddy reviewing the functioning of Gram Panchayats through teleconference from Nalgonda on Saturday

Prajواني programme should be held without fail every week.

Further, the District collector said that the district-level Prajواني would be conducted on Monday. The special officers may attend the Prajواني at district level, and after completion of Prajواني, all the MSOs should be available at their offices, since, as was clearly instructed previously,

the district-level offices and premises would be inspected by the in-charge authorities appointed to the inspection of Special Sanitation Drive.

Additional Collector P Poornachandra, and Additional Collector J. Srinivas, Mandal Special Officers, District Officers, and Gram Panchayati Secretaries are participated in the Teleconference

MCC violation case against Shah, Kishan dropped

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana police on Saturday dropped Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy's names from the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violation case.

The case was booked in May during the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections under a complaint sent by Congress leader G Niranjan to the election commission alleging that Amit Shah and Kishan Reddy, then chief of BJP Telangana, were seen with a few minor girls holding the party flag, violating the guidelines of Election Commission Model Code of Conduct.

City police commissioner K Srinivas Reddy was ordered by the Election Commission to conduct an inquiry into the incident in May. The Commissioner directed south zone DCP Sneha Mehra to investigate and submit a report.

Niranjan slams Rahul's double standard in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a public letter to senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy questioned the actions of the Congress in Telangana, particularly the induction of BRS MLCs and MLAs into the party.

He accused Rahul of breaking the promises he made during the Lok Sabha elections and disrespecting the Constitution.

Niranjan criticised Rahul for swearing by the Constitution while simultaneously welcoming BRS MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy into the Congress.

He highlighted the inconsistency in Rahul's statements about protecting democratic governments and strengthening the Anti-Defection Law introduced during Rajiv Gandhi's rule.

He questioned why Rahul, if committed to political values and principles, does not ask the newly joined members



Niranjan Reddy accused Rahul of double standards pointing to the lack of similar action for members like Keshava Rao, who was asked to resign before joining

to resign and seek public mandate again.

He accused Rahul of double standards pointing to the lack of similar action for members like Keshava Rao, who was asked to resign before joining.

He emphasized that as a citizen, he finds it troubling how Rahul reconciles these contradictions and suggested that the nation would consider his actions as double standards.

Niranjan also brought up past instances when bipartisan support was shown for Rahul

during his legal troubles and questioned why similar constitutional adherence is not being demanded now.

Highlighting the increasing demand for foreign investments in electric vehicles, Niranjan suggested that foreign investments should be attracted and assured government cooperation for that.

He concluded by saying that these issues will be raised at the national level and demanded a response from Rahul.

Vehicles in GHMC limits to double by 2024

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The number of vehicles in the GHMC limits would be doubled from 68,05,432 in 2024-25 to 1,60,46,853 2033-34 vehicles.

In reply to a question of Seethaphalmandi Corporator Hema, the Joint Transport Commissioner (JT) and the Transport Commissioner replied that the estimated vehicle growth would touch 74,85,975 in 2025-26, the next year it would go to 82,34,573 vehicles. In the 2027-28 it would touch 90,58,030 vehicles. In the 2028-29 the vehicles would increase to 99,63,833 vehicles.

The transport officials department estimated that in the 2029-30 the vehicles number would increase to 1,09,60,216, in the 2030-31 year vehicles would increase to 1,20,56,238. In 2031-32 the number would increase to 1,32,61,862. In 2032-33 the vehicles number would increase to 1,45,88,048 and in 2033-34 the number would increase to 1,60,46,853 vehicles.

Street dogs mauled 8 children to death in 10 years

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) said that since 2014, there are only eight children were mauled to death by street dogs in the GHMC limits during the last ten years.



Replying to the Uppal corporator M Rajitha's question in the council meeting, the GHMC official said that as per the reports obtained from Institute of Preventive Medicine, at total of 3,36,767 persons were bitten by the street dogs, pet dogs, cats, monkeys and other animals since 2014 to till date.

The GHMC received 3,60,469 complaints regarding dog menace including repeated complaints from the public during the last ten years. The GHMC has sterilised and vaccinated 7,21,291 street dogs during the last ten years.

As per a recommendation of the High Level Committee, the GHMC has engaged additional 20 dog catching vehicles on hire basis along with manpower, plying dog catching vehicles in three shifts, conducted awareness to 1,161 Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Slum Level Federations (SLFs) & 2,28,614 school children in 1,066 Government and Private Schools about the Anti Birth Control- Anti Rabies (ABC-AR) programme. The GHMC took up special drive for catching of street dogs on the banks of Musi River, facilitated adoption of 3,007 street dogs, served notices to 3,263 non-vegetarian establishments for proper food waste disposal and placed 3,900 water bowls for the street dogs across the GHMC limits during the Summer.

Collector urged to order inquiry into food poisoning incident in medical college

PNS ■ SIDDIQPET

The PDSU and PSY have been demanding that Collector Manoj Chaudary visit the Surabhi Medical College, a private institution, and take steps to ensure that the college management provides quality food and amenities to the students.

A delegation of the PDSU and PSY visited the medical college and the hostel on a fact-finding mission to enquire about the frequent food poisoning incidents in the college hostel.

The delegation interacted with the college students and the hostellers about the incidents. The students complained that the students suffered food poisoning time and again.

PDSU state general secretary Srikanth alleged that the college management has been providing substandard food to students. As a result, many students suffered due to incidents of food-poisoning. College chairman Surabhi Harender Rao turned a deaf ear to representations made by the students on a number of occasions. The college collects Rs 1,20,000 to Rs 1,50,000 from each student, but it is not providing quality food to students, he said.

Govt to support EV, lithium battery makers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said the government will provide incentives and infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) and lithium battery manufacturing companies.

On Saturday, during a meeting with representatives of the ETO (Electric Tricycle Vehicles) company led by Goldstone Prasad, the Minister assured that attempts are being made to position the state as a leading centre for EV production.

He suggested expanding the ETO Auto Electric company's facility in Jachcherla, which has an annual manufacturing capacity of 10,000 units. With the global demand for electric vehicles increasing, he emphasized attracting foreign investments and assured full cooperation regarding this. Sridhar also praised the ETO's initiative to support female autorick drivers and encouraged the company to provide driving training to women in Hyderabad and district centres.



He said the government would announce decisions on incentives depending on suggestions from industry.

Tummala writes letter to Revanth on Tirupati darshan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao addressed a letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy requesting him to discuss with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to ask the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) to give priority to the recommendation letters of Telangana public representatives for Lord Venkateswara Darshan in Tirumala.

He sent the letter a couple of hours before the meeting between the two Telugu Chief Ministers at the Praja



Bhavan on Saturday.

In his letter, Tummala requested Revanth to appeal to Chandrababu to make TTD officials give priority to the recommendation letters of Telangana public representatives for Lord Sri Venkateswara Darshan as well as boarding.

Meanwhile, Telangana Endowments Minister Konda Surekha request-

ed Chandrababu to allot two TTD Board Member posts to Telangana. She appealed to Revanth to discuss the matter with Chandrababu during the meeting on Saturday. She also appealed to Revanth to discuss endowment land issues and reminded that Telangana temples have to get Rs 10 lakh from TTD.

Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar also made the same request to the Andhra Pradesh Government when he had darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara a few weeks ago.

Food Safety Commission staff inspect two hotels in Suryapet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Food Safety Commission conducted inspections in two hotels in Suryapet and found multiple violations on Saturday.

The task force team inspected Sri Thirumala Grand Hotel and found no proper hygiene in cooking and storage areas. Open dustbins were found and were placed near cooked food. Food items (raw/cooked) were stored without lids. Raw items such as ginger garlic paste and meat were stored in plastic covers. Water pipelines in the kitchen were found to be rusted. The FSSAI license was not displayed in a prominent location.

The officials also inspected Hotel Balaji Grand and found rotten vegetables and carrots with fungus. Synthetic food colors were detected in some food items. Spoiled foods were identified and disposed. Flies and dust were observed on uncovered food items. Cooking was done in rusty food containers. Dustbins near food items lacked lids, potentially contaminating the food. Soaps, detergents, and floor cleaning liquids were stored along with food in the store-room. The Food Safety Commission officials issued notices to the establishments and informed them that further action will be taken accordingly.

Hostel students teach lesson to 'tipsy' principal

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Catching the principal Sailaja on a wrong foot, students of the District Social Welfare Residential Degree College hostel at Balemla village in the district on Thursday night recovered four beer bottles and locked her room and took photos on their mobile phones. They showed the photos captured on their mobile phones before the media, according to reports reaching here on Saturday.

The authorities praised the courage displayed by students in exposing the alleged misdeeds of the principal.

Following the incident, Deputy Collector and other higher officials visited the college hostel and received a written complaint from them. The students demanded immediate suspension of the principal. They told the authorities in one voice, "We do not want his

madam." They alleged that the principal, along with the caretaker of the hostel, had guzzling beer at night in the hostel, forgetting the dignity associated with her office and position.

If the students to wrong, the teacher should correct them. It appears to be a case of the vice-versa. Objecting to her behaviour, the hostel students felt that her conduct has been worrying them. It is very common for some women in Telangana state to drink alcohol, but that is not going to justify the principal sipping the beer in office which is unbecoming of her noble profession as a teacher.

Being the principal of a residential college, she should take care of hundreds of the girl students. Is it not a crime to consume alcohol?

While speaking to media, the students objected to the principal beating them though they are all majors. They said that she has had



no self-control and charging her with shooting her mouth off at them.

They have been questioning, "What if he does anything to them at night under the influence of alcohol?"

BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar through a message posted in "X" (twitter) responded on beer bottles appearing in residential college and wondered at educational institutional standards going down during the Congress regime.

Further, they objected to the

principal's son staying put in the hostel for one six days

"We felt very uncomfortable due to the presence of her son in the hostel," they said.

If the students raise any issue, the principal targets the student for punishment and would not hesitate throwing water bottles, sticks and go to the extent of beating the whistle blowers and would not even mind strangulating them, the students said.

Further, they questioned the males supplying LPG cylinders and essential commodities after 7 pm.

The students alleged that the Sailaja madam has support of the government officials, they said explaining the need to exposing her. In fact, the hostel girls noticed the caretaker lady of the hostel clandestinely smuggling four beer bottles into the hostels keeping them in a bag and covering them with the pallu of her sari.

FORM-VII
(SEE - SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE - 25 AND SECTION - 19 (1) OF THE ACT - 30/2013)
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Collector/ Special Deputy Collector(LA)
PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION

File No. B/022922 Date: 18.05.2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana, Collector that a total of 385 Sq.Yards Patta land is required PA.Pally Village of PA.Pally Mandal District Nalgonda for Akkamarri Balasingh Reservoir under AMRP, earlier the same is acquired vide Proceeding No. A/874/2005, but persons scheduled below not given the compensation for the land. Hence the present notification issuing.

Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring more or less 385 Sq.Yards Patta land standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the Village PA.Pally Mandal PA.Pally District Nalgonda whose detailed description is as following:

SCHEDULE

Mandal: PA.Pally					Village: PA.Pally				
Sl. No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area under Acquisition in Sq.Yards	Name & Address of person interested	Boundaries	North	South	East	West
1						7	8	9	10
1	Open Plot With Basement	385 (Base ment 154 Sq.Yds composition Patta)		Dandekarani Bharathi Bai W/o Anand Jee now partitioned Family settlement on non judicial paper dt. 15.08.2021 among of three along with primary beneficiary i.e., Dandekarani Rajashekar S/o Anand Jee Dandekarani Kamalakar S/o Anand Jee Dandekarani Dayakar S/o Anand Jee		405	488	373	388
						382	488	371	385
						373	487	372	382
Total 385 Sq. Yards									

This declaration is made as no objections received as provided U/s 15 of the Act. No.30/2013 does not arise, but petitioners in W/P. No. 23327 of 2023 is requested to brought them on record, hence they were added. The number of families likely to be resettled due to land Acquisition nil and no adverse affect on livelihood of the landowners and others.

Wines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & AMRP Project, Unit-4, Nalgonda on any working day.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (LA), AMRP, Unit-4, Nalgonda.
Sd/- Additional Collector, Nalgonda.
Sd/- Dist. Collector, Nalgonda.
DPR No.183/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

Ready to conclude FTA that worked for India and Britain

Keir Starmer tells Modi in first call as UK PM

PNS ■ LONDON

Britain's newly-elected Prime Minister Keir Starmer spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday morning and said he stood ready to conclude a Free Trade Agreement that worked for both sides, Downing Street said.



India and the UK have been negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for over two years with a Conservative Party-led government but the talks were stalled in the 14th round amidst the general election cycles in both countries.

It is now expected to be picked up by the new Starmer-led Labour government, which was voted in with a landslide this week. "The Prime Minister [Starmer] said he looked forward to further deepening the strong and respectful relation-

ship between both countries, and welcomed Prime Minister Modi's leadership on key global challenges, such as climate change and economic growth," the spokesperson noted.

The leaders are then said to have discussed the importance of the "living bridge" between both countries, and the 2030 Roadmap and are said to have agreed that there was a wide range of areas across defence and security, critical and emerg-

ing technology, and climate change, for the two countries to deepen cooperation on.

"Discussing the Free Trade Agreement, the Prime Minister said he stood ready to conclude a deal that worked for both sides. The leaders hoped to meet at the earliest opportunity," the spokesperson added.

Both sides have been working towards clinching a pact to enhance the GBP 38.1 billion bilateral trading partnership

since January 2022, when Boris Johnson was the British prime minister. The talks have since had to contend with political turmoil in the UK that first led to a short-lived Liz Truss premiership followed by Rishi Sunak as Britain's first prime minister of Indian heritage.

The Labour Party's election manifesto for Thursday's polls committed to clinching the deal, stating: "We will seek a new strategic partnership with India, including an FTA, as well as deepening cooperation in areas like security, education, technology and climate change."

The new Starmer-led government's new Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, is also on the record saying that he wants to "finish the job" on the FTA and said he plans to visit India within the first month of being elected.

AIKS demands law against mob lynching, hate crime

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) on Saturday demanded a stringent law against lynching and hate crime, following a meeting with families of three cattle transporters who were killed after allegedly being chased by a mob in Chhattisgarh last month.

It was a "planned killing", the AIKS said in a statement issued after a delegation comprising its and the All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU) members met the victims' families on Friday.

The delegation met the families of Teshim Qureshi in Banat town, and Chand Mian and Saddam Qureshi in Lakhnauti village of Uttar Pradesh and handed over cheques of Rs 1 lakh each, it said.

ASSAM FLOOD SITUATION REMAINS GRIM

Heavy rain disrupts daily life in U'khand, Himachal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy rain disrupted daily life in vast swathes of north India, including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, on Friday while the flood situation in Assam remained grim with major rivers flowing above the danger mark and nearly 24 lakh people affected.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited several flood-hit areas in Dibrugarh, one of the 30 affected districts in the state, which is reeling from the worst deluge in recent years.

In Uttarakhand, which has received heavy rain over the past few days, a five-year-old drowned in a rainwater-filled pit in Dehradun and a teenager in a Haridwar rivulet.

Daily life was disrupted in the hill state as the rain triggered numerous landslides, blocking key roads, including the nation-



highway leading to Badrinath. Heavy rain also lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh, leading to the closure of 64 roads. The regional Met office warned of moderate flash flood risk in few areas of Kangra, Kullu, Kinnaur, Mandi, Sirmour and Shimla districts in the next 24 hours.

In Rajasthan, heavy rain continued to batter the state with Malpura in Tonk district recording 176 mm rainfall in a 24-hour period.

In Assam, 77 wild animals

have died -- either due to drowning or during treatment -- while 94 have been rescued from the flooded Kaziranga National Park as on Friday, an official said.

The flood situation was critical with nearly 24 lakh people affected in 30 districts and all major rivers flowing above the danger mark.

Chief Minister Sarma reviewed the situation in Dibrugarh town, which has been under water and facing severe power shortages for the past eight days. He visited some areas on foot and interacted with the people.

Two persons, including a child, were killed and another was injured in a landslide following incessant rainfall in the Dispur area of Kamrup Metropolitan district, taking the death toll in this year's floods, landslides and storms to 64.

Delhi CM victim of political conspiracy, alleges Sunita Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal alleged on Saturday that he was made the victim of a "deep political conspiracy" and arrested by the ED in the excise policy case based on a false statement by a witness.



In a video message, she said Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the ED based on the statement of TDP MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy (MSR). The Telugu Desam Party is a constituent of the ruling NDA.

Sunita Kejriwal also asked people to support the Delhi chief minister, saying he is an honest, educated and patriot-

man, and if the public does not support him, no educated person would want to join politics given the treatment meted out to the AAP leader.

She claimed that MSR changed his statement to the ED about his meeting with the Delhi chief minister after his son Raghava Magunta Reddy was arrested and bail was denied.

"The government wants to generate maximum investment and employment in the state. Our government will provide full support to the existing industries and those who want to set up industries here," he said.

He said the state government has already prepared a startup policy.

"Startups are a little behind in the state. But, the government will soon take concrete steps to strengthen and promote startups," he said.

"The government will move forward with the idea that youth should get employment through startups and also provide employment to others," he added.

Committed to create employment opportunities in Jharkhand: Soren

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday said that his government was committed to creating employment opportunities in the state.

He encouraged the youth of the state to take up entrepreneurship and assured them that the government would provide full support.

Soren was addressing startup conclave 'Srijan', organised by the Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI), at the Aryabhata Auditorium.

"The government wants to

generate maximum investment and employment in the state. Our government will provide full support to the existing industries and those who want to set up industries here," he said.

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"Startups are a little behind in the state. But, the government will soon take concrete steps to strengthen and promote startups," he said.

"The government will move forward with the idea that youth should get employment through startups and also provide employment to others," he added.

VP Dhankar slams Chidambaram over 'part-timer' remark

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar on Saturday lashed out at Congress leader P Chidambaram over his comment that the three new criminal laws were "drafted by part-timers", terming it as "inexcusable" and urging him to withdraw his "derogatory, defamatory and insulting" observation.

Dhankar said he was "shocked beyond words" when in the morning

he read Chidambaram's interview to a leading national daily wherein he had said that "the new laws were drafted by part-timers".

"Are we part-timers in the Parliament? It is an inexcusable insult to the wisdom of the Parliament... I do not have words strong enough to condemn such a narrative being set afloat and a MP being labelled as a part-timer. I appeal to him (Chidambaram) from this platform, please withdraw this



derogatory, defamatory and highly insulting observations about the Members of Parliament (MPs). I hope he does it," the Vice President said while addressing the 12th convocation of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) here.

Dhankar further said that "when informed minds knowingly lead you astray, we need to be on guard".

"This morning, when I read a paper, an informed mind, who had

been the Finance Minister of this country, a Parliamentarian for long and currently a member of the Rajya Sabha, stunned me," the VP said.

Dhankar said that he took pride in the fact that the Parliament did "a great thing" by "unshackling us from the colonial legacy" and giving three laws that were of "epochal dimension".

"From Dand Vidhan (penal law) we have come to Nyay Vidhan (law of justice)," he said.

HATHRAS STAMPEDE

Key accused held; police say he was contacted by political parties

PNS ■ NOIDA

Devprakash Madhukar, the main accused in the July 2 Hathras satsang stampede, was arrested from Delhi by Uttar Pradesh Police which claimed he was recently contacted by some political parties and suspected that self-styled godman Bhole Baba's events were "funded" by a political party.

Two more suspects -- Ramprakash Shakya, 61, and Sanju Yadav, 33, were held in Hathras in connection with the stampede that left 121 people dead, according to the police.

Madhukar, 42, was arrested late Friday from Delhi's Najafgarh area by a Special Operations Group of Hathras police, Hathras Superintendent of Police Nipun Agarwal said.

The officer said Madhukar worked as a fundraiser for events of self-styled godman



Surajpal alias Narayan Sakar Hari alias Bhole Baba and collected donations. The police will apply for remand of Madhukar, he said.

"His financial transactions and money trails are being looked into, and call records are also being checked," Agarwal added.

However, on Friday night, Madhukar's lawyer A P Singh had claimed he had surren-

dered to the police in Delhi, where he had come for medical treatment.

Around 2.15 pm on Saturday, Madhukar was brought by the police to the Bagla Combined District Hospital in Hathras for a medical examination amid heavy security deployment in and around the government hospital.

Madhukar had his face covered with a handkerchief and a stole tied around his head.

Madhukar, the 'mukhya sevadar' of the satsang where the stampede occurred. He is the only accused named in the FIR lodged at Sikandra Rao police station in Hathras in connection with the incident.

Agarwal said the investigation also revealed that some political parties had contacted him some time back.

It is better DMK-Cong show compassion: Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president J P Nadda on Tuesday sought to corner the DMK-Congress government in Tamil Nadu over the murder of state BSP chief K Armstrong, saying the incident has reaffirmed its disregard towards the poor and marginalised sections of society.

He said on X, "Several of those affected by the spurious liquor tragedy were also from these sections of society.

It is better DMK-Congress show compassion instead of indulging in petty politics 24X7." The gruesome murder of Armstrong has angered the entire nation, Nadda said. "The killing of Thiru Armstrong has also reaffirmed what is widely known- the disregard of the DMK-Congress towards the poor and marginalised sections of society," the BJP chief said.

INDIA CORNER

Five Naxalites surrender in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district



Five Naxalites surrendered before the security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Saturday, police said. Two of them together carried a reward of Rs 3 lakh on their heads. The Naxalites turned themselves in before senior officials of the police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) citing disappointment with atrocities committed by the Maoists on tribals and the "inhuman and hollow" Maoist ideology, an official said. They were also "impressed" by the state government's Naxalism elimination policy and the Sukma police's rehabilitation drive 'Puna Narkom' ('new dawn' in Gondi language), he said.

President Murmu arrives in Odisha on four-day visit



President Droupadi Murmu arrived here on a special IAF flight on Saturday on a four-day visit to Odisha. Governor Raghubar Das and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi received her at the Biju Patnaik International Airport. Murmu then went to a programme held on the occasion of the 96th death anniversary of Odia icon 'Utkalmani' Pandit Gopabandhu Das, who played a pioneering role in the formation of Odisha as a separate state in 1936. Murmu, who hails from Mayurbhanj district of the state, is also scheduled to witness the Rath Yatra in Puri on July 7, officials said. She will visit Udayagiri caves and interact with the students of Bibhuti Kanungo College of Art and Crafts and Utkal University of Culture the next day, they said. On July 8, the President will inaugurate the Divine Retreat Centre of Brahma Kumaris at Haridamadada village near Bhubaneswar and launch the "Lifestyle for Sustainability" campaign. Murmu will grace the 13th graduation ceremony of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) in Bhubaneswar on July 9. She is scheduled to leave Odisha that day.

Twin encounters between security forces, terrorists in J-K's Kulgam



A soldier lost his life as security forces and terrorists were engaged in gunfights at two places in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. The first gunfight took place in Modergam village of the south Kashmir district after security forces launched a cordon and search operation there following specific inputs about the presence of terrorists, the officials said. The terrorists opened fire at the security forces and an encounter broke out. The officials said a soldier of the Indian Army sustained fatal injuries in the exchange of fire. In another gunfight, contact with terrorists was established in the Frisal Chinnigam area of Kulgam. "Police and security forces are on job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X.

Conduct NEET-UG again in transparent manner: Kcharge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday demanded that the medical entrance exam NEET-UG be conducted again and all "paper leak scams" thoroughly investigated under the Supreme Court's supervision.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kcharge alleged that it NCERT books or leakage in exams, the Modi government is bent on "destroying our education system".

The Congress also took a swipe at the government over the NEET-UG, 2024 coun-

selling session, which was likely to begin in the first week of July, now expected to start by the end of this month.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The whole NEET-UG issue is getting worse by the day. The non-biological PM and his biological Education Minister are adding further proof to their demonstrated incompetence and insensitivity."

"The future of lakhs of our youth is simply unsafe in their hands," Ramesh said.

Amid the growing clamour for the cancellation of the controversy-ridden NEET-UG



2024 over alleged malpractices, the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) told the apex court on Friday that scrapping it without any proof of large-scale breach of confi-

dentiality would be counter-productive as it could "seriously jeopardise" lakhs of honest candidates.

The NTA, which conducts the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses, and the Union education ministry have been at the centre of media debates and protests by students and political parties over alleged large-scale malpractices ranging from question paper leaks to impersonation in the test held on May 5.

One nation one election is essential: Tripura CM

PNS ■ AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Saturday asserted that 'one nation one election' is the need of the hour as the model code of conduct imposed for various polls has been affecting the pace of development activities.

After the Lok Sabha elections, the Northeastern state is set to witness polls for three-tier panchayat, autonomous council and civic bodies, he said. "Development works get stalled for several months as elections are held in a cycle. The 'one nation one election' model is the need of the hour," Saha said at a government programme here.

A high-level panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind had, in March, submitted its report on 'one nation, one election' to President Droupadi Murmu.

It recommended simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.

During the programme, the chief minister urged government officials to complete their assigned work in the stipulated time. Saha said his government has already introduced e-Bidhansabha (Assembly), and e-cabinet as part of the digitisation of administrative work.

Dalai Lama turns 89, says he is physically fit

PNS ■ DHARAMSALA (HP)

Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama turned 89 on Saturday and in his birthday message said he is physically fit and is determined to continue his service to Lord Buddha's teachings.

The Dalai Lama is in the US where he is recovering from a knee-replacement surgery.

"I am nearly 90 now but don't feel unhealthy, except for the slight discomfort in my legs and would like to thank all my fellow Tibetans in and outside Tibet for your prayers

on my birthday", he said in the text message issued here by his office.

"Despite the surgery, I feel physically fit and wish to ask you to be happy and relaxed," he said, adding "I am determined to continue my service to Buddha's teachings."

"Today, Tibetans inside and outside Tibet are celebrating my birthday with much joy and festivity and all Tibetans and people in the Himalayan regions also pray for me as well and I wish to say, thank you, everyone," he said. "I feel a little physical dis-



comfort but that is inevitable, isn't it, due to the ageing process.

Basically, I am doing very well. So, please relax and be at ease," he added.

"Until now, with the title of the Dalai Lama, I have made a contribution to a certain extent to people in and outside Tibet and many parts of the world with regard to the Buddha's teaching and I am determined to continue my service to teaching and resolve to do so with all my heart," the message said.

His birthday was celebrated with fervour at Mcleodganj here with Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang attending as the chief guest along with Lok Sabha member from Arunachal Pradesh

Tapir Gao, Sikkim Assembly Speaker Mingma Norbu Sherpa, Deputy Speaker of Ontario State Parliament Bhutula Karpoche, some ministers from Sikkim and other dignitaries.

In a statement, the Tibetan government in exile wished a long life to the Dalai Lama.

"Live long, and may all your wishes be fulfilled devoid of obstacles.

May the truth of our cause prevail, and may there soon be the reunion of Tibetans inside and outside Tibet," it said.

Will set up coop bank, milk producers' union in every district

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Centre has set a target to have a co-operative bank and a milk producers' union in every district of the country and also establish in the next five years multipurpose primary agriculture credit societies (PACS) in two lakh panchayats that have no cooperative institution.

Addressing the 'Sahkar se Samridhhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) programme organised to mark the 102nd International Day of Cooperatives, Shah thanked the Gujarat government for announcing a subsidy of 50 percent on Nano-urea and Nano-DAP and said their use will increase production and save the soil.

He said the cooperative sector is making very important contribution in the rural and agricultural economy, and urged for the promotion of 'cooperation among cooperative' institutions.

"The Union Ministry of Cooperation has taken many important steps. The government has set a target that there

should not be any state or district in the country where there is not a viable district cooperative bank and a viable district milk producers' union. Even



today there are two lakh panchayats in the country where there is no cooperative institution. In the next five years, we will work to create multipurpose PACS in these two lakh panchayats," Shah said.

The Centre will soon bring

a National Cooperative Policy, he said, adding that 1100 new Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) have been formed in the country,



and more than 1 lakh PACS have accepted the new bylaws.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will be able to work for the welfare of more cooperative institutions with the issuance of bonds worth Rs

2000 crore, Shah said. He urged National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and state cooperative banks to



make arrangements for PACS and other cooperative institutions to open their accounts in the district or state cooperative banks, which will strengthen the cooperative sector and increase capital and confidence.

M3M India expects Rs 4k cr revenue from new Gurugram housing project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm M3M India is expecting a revenue of around Rs 4,000 crore from its new luxury housing project in Gurugram.

The company has launched a new residential project 'M3M Altitude' on Golf Course Extension Road in Gurugram where it will build 350 luxury apartments. M3M will invest Rs 1,200 cr to develop this 4-acre project, while the estimated sales revenue is around Rs 4,000 cr.

The company is selling apartments in a price range of Rs 10 crore to Rs 30 crore each.

In a statement on Saturday, the company said it has already

sold about 180 units for Rs 1,875 crore. Sudeep Bhatt, President, M3M Group, said: "Since the unveiling of M3M Altitude, we have seen a huge influx of inquiries and interests from the home buyers."

This 4-acre project is a part of the 60-acre M3M Golf Estate township. According to real estate data analytic firm PropEquity, housing sales in Delhi NCR, sales rose to 10,198 units during April-June this year from 9,635 units in the year-ago period.

Gurugram housing market has seen strong housing sales in projects of many developers including DLF, Signature Global, and M3M.

India has deep expertise, scalability to become global player in semiconductor industry: IT Secy

PNS ■ CHENNAI

India has the talent and deep expertise to become a global player in the semiconductor industry which is a vital sector for the country, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Secretary, S Krishnan said.

The government was helping industries to create the ecosystem to build the semiconductor, he said.

Krishnan made those comments at a conference organised by fabless semiconductor firm iVP Semiconductor Pvt Ltd here on Saturday.

Global management consulting firm McKinsey has predicted that the semiconduc-



tor industry is expected to become a trillion dollar industry worldwide, while India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) estimates the sector to touch US\$ 100 billion by 2030.

India is rapidly becoming one of the biggest markets for electronics, automotive, Electric



'PM Modi's goal to make India high-income country by 2047 unlikely to be achieved'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of making India a high-income economy by 2047 is unlikely to be achieved, but the country should become an upper middle-income nation by then, Financial Times chief economics commentator Martin Wolf said.

Wolf further said that India would also become a superpower by 2047.

"India wishes to become a high-income country by 2047. That is unlikely to be achieved. But it should become an upper middle-income country by then," he said at an event

organised by CUTS.

Wolf noted that the slow-growing, shock-prone, and fragile world we now confront will make India's rise difficult.

"India will have to work hard to use its influence to shape that world in a favourable direction," he said, adding that it will also have to shape itself to exploit the opportunities it will have.

Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day speech last year said, "I have an unwavering belief that in 2047, when the country celebrates 100 years of independence, my country will be a developed India."

We should have done better, no secrets about it, says Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma on Saturday spoke about his learnings from the RBI action on Paytm Payments Bank, admitting that it was an emotional setback at a personal level while professionally it was a lesson learnt about fulfilling responsibilities better.

Without mincing words, Sharma said "at a professional level, I would say we should have done better, there are no secrets about it, we had responsibilities, we should have fulfilled much better."

Speaking at the 7th JIIF Foundation day, Sharma was asked about Reserve Bank of India (RBI's) action on Paytm Payments Bank and how it impacted him as a founder who had painstakingly built his company. Sharma said individually it was an emotional setback, and that professionally "obviously we learnt a lesson, and we are much better..." Sharma admitted he has



"But at a professional level, I would say we should have done better, there are no secrets about it, we should have understood better... we had responsibilities, we should have fulfilled much better," he said

been through more challenging moments.

"When I was fundraising 2013-2014-2015 timeframe, our funds were drying up... I thought if we disappear (go down) no one will be bothered. Today it matters. As a founder, metaphorically speaking... my company is

like my daughter... as a company we were getting mature... it is just as if a daughter who is a school topper has met with an accident on way to an entrance test... that is the kind of feeling which is little personal, emotional feeling.

"But at a professional level,

I would say we should have done better, there are no secrets about it, we should have understood better... we had responsibilities, we should have fulfilled much better," he said.

Earlier this year, Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) came under regulatory glare as RBI ordered it to stop accepting new deposits in its accounts and its digital wallet from March on the grounds of "material supervisory concerns" and non-compliance with rules.

On Saturday, Sharma addressed questions about his dreams and ambitions, and his highs and lows.

Sharma said that his personal ambition is to build a USD 100-billion company, and added that he wants the Paytm brand to be recognised globally, as an Indian company.

He further said that listing a company brings "lot more responsibility and maturity" which has its own value and joy.

Labelling of salt, sugar, fat on packaged food items in bold letters, bigger font to be mandatory

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Food regulator FSSAI on Saturday approved changes in nutritional information labelling on packaged food items, proposing that total salt, sugar and saturated fat should be displayed in bold letters as well as bigger font size.

The FSSAI will issue a draft notification on this and seek comments from stakeholders.

In an official statement, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it has approved "a proposal to display nutritional information regarding total sugar, salt and saturated fat in bold letters and relatively increased font size on labels of packaged food items".

The decision to approve the amendment in the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 regarding nutritional information labelling was taken in the 44th meeting of the Food

Authority, held under the chairmanship of Apurva Chandra, Chairperson, FSSAI.

"The amendment aims to empower consumers to better understand the nutritional value of the product they are consuming and make healthier decisions," the regulator said.

The draft notification for the said amendment would now be put in the public domain for inviting suggestions and objections.

The information regarding per serve percentage (% contribution to Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) would be given in bold letters for total sugar, total saturated fat and sodium content, the FSSAI said.

The regulator said that regulation 2 (v) and 5(3) of FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulation, 2020 specifies requirements to mention serving size and nutritional information on the food product label, respectively.

Only 7% of MSME credit to women; low female labour force participation drag on growth: RBI ED

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank's executive director Neeraj Nigam on Friday said low labour force participation among women is a barrier to financial inclusion efforts and also to broader economic growth.

He said there is also a need to up the credit supply to women, pointing out that only 7 per cent of the overall outstanding loans to micro, small and medium enterprises are to women-led businesses.

"One significant barrier for financial inclusion and indeed to economic growth and development is more participation of females in economic activi-



ties," he said, pointing out that official data suggested female labour force participation at 32.8 per cent in FY22, as against over 77 per cent in men.

Women constitute only 7 per

cent of the outstanding credit to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), he said, adding that this is very low when compared to nearly a fifth of the MSMEs being

women-led. Speaking at the 'Financing Women Collaborative' conference organized by Niti Aayog and Transunion Cibil here, Nigam expressed satisfaction on the access to financial services front, pointing out that the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme and social security transfers have helped.

With the challenges on supply taken care of, he said there are issues on the demand side which warrant attention.

There are structural issues like low level of capital, labour participation, societal norms like restricting women from inheriting property that limit their

ability to show collateral for lending and also lower access to education and training.

Nigam also said that there is some "stereotyping" of women borrowers by financiers as well, like them being considered as higher risks which leads to higher interest rates, greater insistence on collateral or outright rejection of loan applications.

The RBI ED also flagged some "behavioural issues" among women borrowers including them being more risk averse, less confident in negotiating loan terms and are less likely to apply for new loans because of the fear of rejections.

iVP Semiconductor eyes revenue of US\$ 70-100 million in 3-4 yrs

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Fabless semiconductor startup iVP Semiconductor Pvt Ltd has plans to set up a production test facility as part of its drive to produce semiconductor chips in the domestic market, a top official said.

The company has also secured US\$ 5 million in a pre-series A Funding for its expansion plans, Co-founder and CEO Raja Manickam said. An industry veteran, Manickam said his aspiration was to first serve the clients in the domestic market and later expand the company to become a global brand.

"Today domestic semiconductor industry is being served by several global companies. I want to serve the industry as an

MONEY MATTERS

'Top line can grow to Rs 2.5 L cr in 5-10 yrs if we execute well'



Quick commerce Unicorn Zepto revenue can grow multifold to Rs 2.5 lakh crore in 5-10 years if the company can execute the business well, a top official said on Saturday. Speaking at the 7th JIIF Foundation Day, Zepto Co-Founder and CEO Aadit Palicha said grocery and household essentials are the mother of all categories sold on leading e-commerce platforms Flipkart and Amazon in India. He said the grocery and household essentials market was around US\$ 650 billion in India in FY23 and is growing at 9 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) and is expected to get to about US\$ 850 billion by FY29. "If we execute well, we can realistically take this business from Rs 10,000-plus crores in top line today to potentially to... Rs 2.5 lakh crore of top line over the next 10 years or next five years," Palicha said. "Your grocery is bigger than all the other categories that Amazon and Flipkart serve combined."

Bandhan Bank appoints Ratan Kumar Kesh as interim MD & CEO



Ratan Kumar Kesh, executive director and Chief operating officer of Bandhan Bank, has been appointed as interim MD & CEO of the private lender with effect from July 10. The present MD&CEO and founder of the bank will retire on July 9. In a regulatory filing with the stock exchange on Saturday, the lender said Kesh will be the interim MD & CEO for a period of three months or till the new incumbent takes charge, whichever is earlier. The appointment of Kesh is pursuant to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and on the basis of the recommendation of the nomination and remuneration committee and the board of directors of the bank at its meeting held during the day. Kesh is not debarred or disqualified from holding office of director by virtue of any order of the SEBI or any other such authority, the filing stated. The appointment of Kesh is also subject to approval of shareholders of the bank. Kesh has been the executive director and chief operating officer of Bandhan Bank since March 2023.

Vedanta chairman and Odisha CM discuss collaboration



Vedanta group on Saturday said its Chairman Anil Agarwal met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and discussed new areas of collaboration to accelerate the state's transformative journey and enhance its industrial development. During the meeting, Agarwal reiterated the group's commitment to the progress of the state. Vedanta said in a statement. The discussion focused on identifying new areas of collaboration that could further accelerate Odisha's transformative journey, enhancing the state's industrial and socio-economic development, it said. "My meeting with Majhi Ji was highly productive, and we discussed our shared vision for Odisha's growth. Under his capable leadership, our longstanding partnership will continue to thrive, driving the state to greater heights," Agarwal said. Vedanta group has made significant investments in Odisha, amounting to more than Rs 1 lakh crore. This is the conglomerate's largest ever investment anywhere in the world. These investments have led to the establishment of the world's largest integrated aluminium smelter plant at Jharsuguda with a capacity of 1.8 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) and a world-class alumina refinery at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district with a capacity of 3.5 MTPA.

Govt meets auto industry to onboard firms on Right to Repair Portal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) held a meeting with automobile associations and companies on Saturday to encourage their participation in the newly launched Right to Repair Portal India, aimed at empowering consumers with easier access to product repair information.

The meeting, chaired by DoCA Secretary Nidhi Khare, focused on address-

ing consumer concerns about restricted access to repair tools, high costs, and service delays in the automotive sector, an official statement said.

Khare emphasized the need to "democratize repair manuals and videos" and foster a robust ecosystem for third-party repair services. She also suggested introducing a "reparability index" for vehicles to inform consumers about product lifespan and ease of repair.

facility in Chennai and similar facility in southern parts of the country.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
TRIBAL WELFARE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NT No. SET/11/2024 to 15/2024-25, Dt. 04-07-2024
Name of the work: Certain Road works in Jagtysai & Rajanna Siricilla District 3 Nos for Rs. 574.00 Lakhs. Bid Starting Date: 09-07-2024 at 5:00 PM and Closing Date: 24-07-2024 at 3:00 PM. Further details @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/>. Ph. No: 9492770365. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad R.O.No: 253-DP/CLADVT/11/2024-25, Dt. 04.07.2024

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G. LTD.
TENDER NOTICE No.03/2024-25 (Paper Notification)
TGSFDCL intends to float tenders are invited from various contractors having experience for "TSpec.No.27/2024-25" - Providing of House Keeping and Maintenance Services to Habisiguda Circle office located at Uppal, Hyderabad for the period of 2 Months From 01.06.2024 to 31.07.2024. For further details, please visit www.tgsouthernpower.com. Sd/- Superintending Engineer Operation, Habisiguda Circle. R.O. No: 1561-PP/CLADVT/11/2024-25, Dt. 06-07-2024

“See how the Ganga flows by and what a nice building! I like this place. This is the ideal kind of place for a Math”
— Swami Vivekananda



BKP SINHA

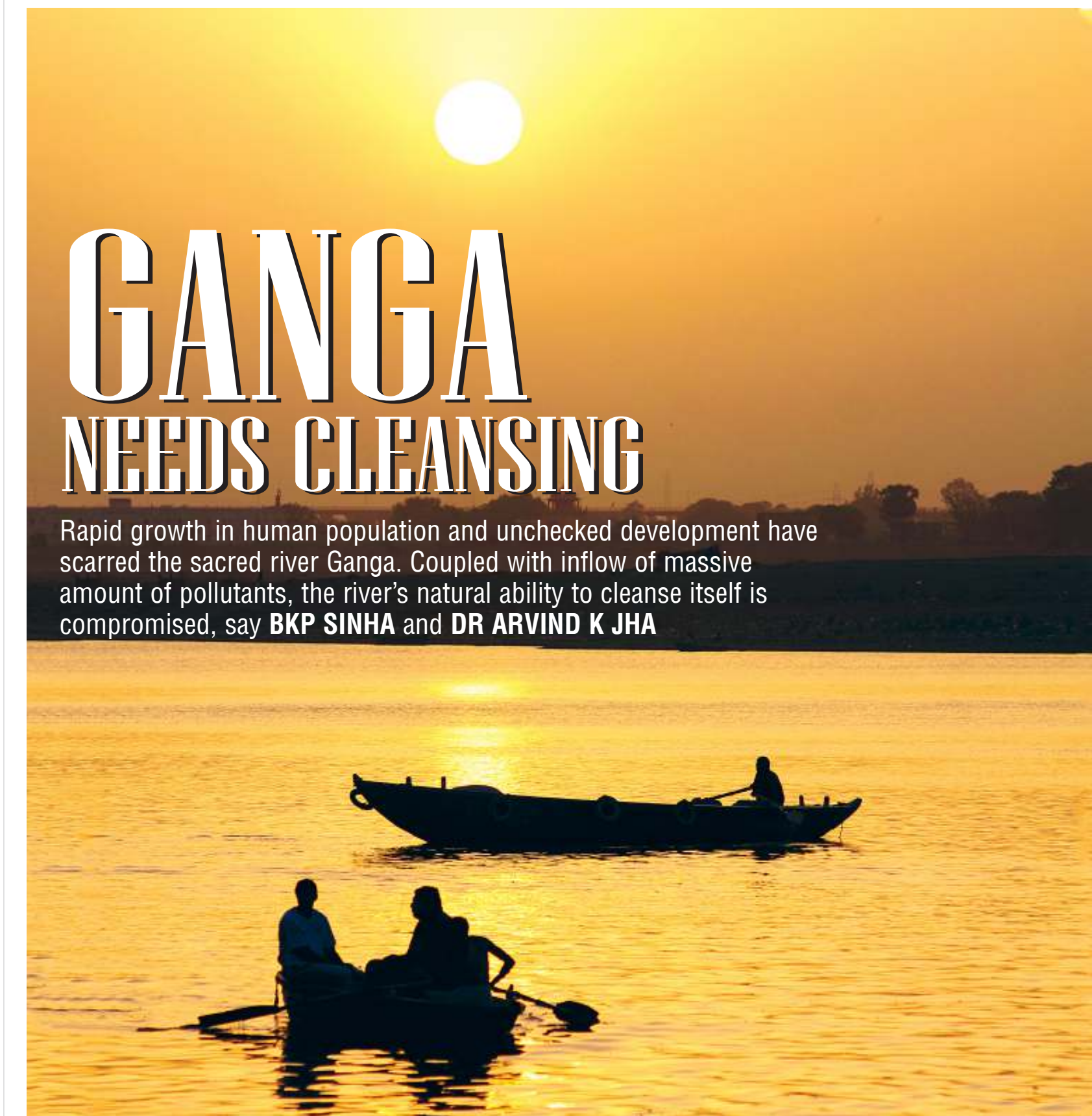


DR ARVIND K JHA

The Ganga River, also known as the Ganges, is the longest river in India with the most populated basin, the home to 600 million people. Originating from the Gangotri glacier in Uttarakhand, it embarks on a journey of 2,525 kilometers, meandering through five states - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal before it merges with the Bay of Bengal. It nourishes a variety of life forms, provides livelihoods to people, and contributes to country's economy, trade, and commerce. The Ganga basin, spanning an area of 10.16 lakh square kilometers, contributes around 40% of the country's GDP. As per Hindu mythology, the river is believed to have descended from heaven when King Bhagiratha performed intense austerities for the river to descend to Earth. Considering river's immense force, Lord Shiva received the celestial river in his matted locks releasing it in a controlled flow. The Ganga is revered as a goddess; its journey symbolizes purity, life, and redemption; and its water is believed to wash away sins and facilitate *Moksha*, the liberation from the cycle of life and death. The Ganga itself, however, is under severe threat today.

The rapid growth in human population and unchecked development have degraded its catchments. With obstruction and diversion of its flow coupled with inflow of massive amount of pollutants from industrial, human, and agricultural sources, its natural ability to cleanse itself is compromised. The polluted water in the changed flow regime poses serious threat to humans and river's own biodiversity alike. While the future of 140 fish species and 90 amphibian species is threatened, Gharial and endangered Ganges River dolphin respectively are classified by IUCN as critically endangered and endangered. Severity of the issue that impacts the life, health and livelihoods of people and even undermines the cultural and spiritual significance of the Ganga deserves to be realized in its entirety and tackled with promptitude.

Efforts have been made to clean and preserve the Ganga. During the late 1980s the Ganga Action Plan was implemented. This initiative led primarily to



Photos: Pankaj Kumar/The Pioneer

GANGA NEEDS CLEANSING

Rapid growth in human population and unchecked development have scarred the sacred river Ganga. Coupled with inflow of massive amount of pollutants, the river's natural ability to cleanse itself is compromised, say **BKP SINHA** and **DR ARVIND K JHA**

the construction of wastewater treatment facilities at selected places in addition to the closure of a number of polluting industrial plants along the river. In 2008, the Ganga was declared as the national river of India. Subsequently, in 2014, the Government of India initiated the Namami Gange project that aimed to rejuvenate and protect the Ganga River by addressing pollution sources and promoting sustainable practices for improving its biological richness. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), popularly known as the Namami Gange Mission, was billed as a "scientific programme" by the Indian government that aimed to clean the river using advanced technologies at a project cost of INR 20,000 crores with the dual objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga River.

“EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CLEAN AND PRESERVE THE GANGA. DURING THE LATE 1980S THE GANGA ACTION PLAN WAS IMPLEMENTED. THIS INITIATIVE LED PRIMARILY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES AT SELECTED PLACES IN ADDITION TO THE CLOSURE OF A NUMBER OF POLLUTING INDUSTRIAL PLANTS ALONG THE RIVER. IN 2008, THE GANGA WAS DECLARED AS THE NATIONAL RIVER OF INDIA”

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (MWRRDG) issued a notification on 7th October 2016, defining the River Ganga to include the entire length of six head-streams in the State of Uttarakhand, namely, Rivers Alakananda, Dhauri Ganga, Nandakini, Pinder, Mandakini and Bhagirathi, as well as the main stem of the river up to Ganga Sagar, including all its tributaries up to Ganga Sagar. The establishment of sewage treatment plants and sewerage networks with a primary focus on bioremediation figured predominantly in the Namami Gange project and accounted for about 80 percent of the overall project outlay. On the conservation and rejuvenation front, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared in 2016 by Forest Research Institute, ICFRE, Dehra Dun had a projected outlay of Rs. 2,293.73 crores. Investments were planned to begin from 2016-17 itself. The five-year plan considers riparian corridors, nature of channel morphology, and the dynamics of the river. A unique geographical area of 83,946 km²

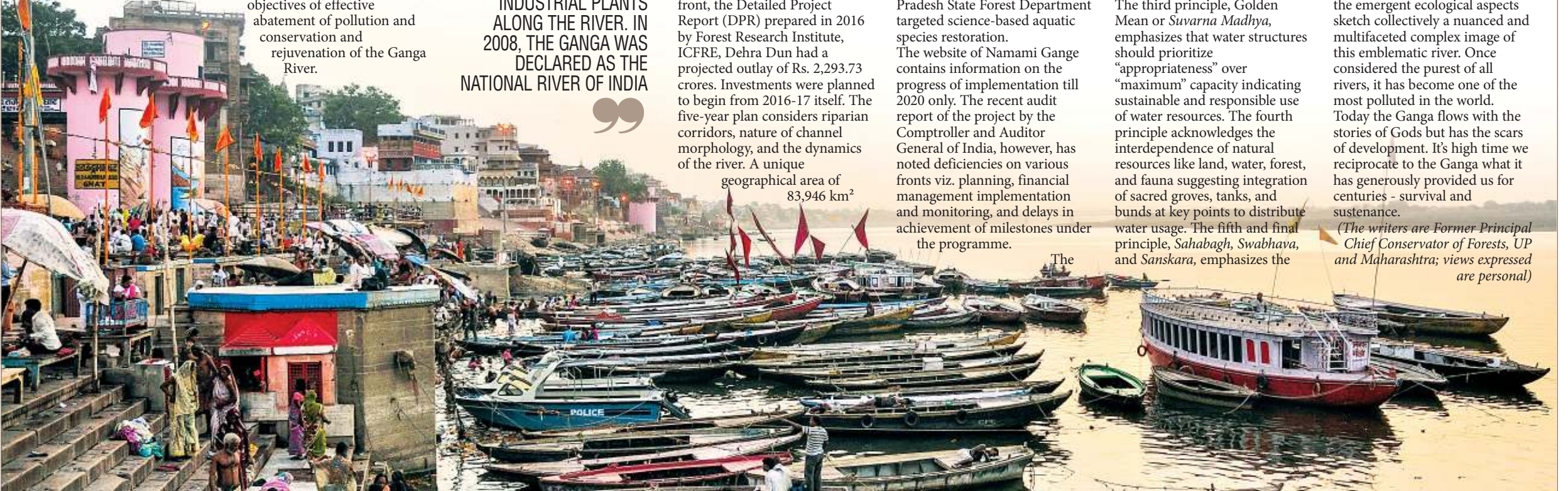
delineated as 'Ganga riverscape' along the Ganga has been identified for planning, assessment, and implementation of measures that include activities like reforestation or afforestation, managing vegetation to prevent soil erosion, and creating buffer zones to protect the river from pollutants. Further, the Wildlife Institute of India prepared the 'Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation' plan with focus on development of local level 'Ganga Prahari' volunteers for playing a crucial role in conserving the ecological integrity of the Ganga and reducing the direct dependency of locals on the river. The projects of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) and the Uttar Pradesh State Forest Department targeted science-based aquatic species restoration. The website of Namami Gange contains information on the progress of implementation till 2020 only. The recent audit report of the project by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, however, has noted deficiencies on various fronts viz. planning, financial management implementation and monitoring, and delays in achievement of milestones under the programme.

The current scenario warrants improvement not only on the above aspects but also introduction of innovative and effective approach. In this context, one can draw inspiration from an ancient text by Sage Kashyapa on agriculture. He outlined five principles for water resources development. The first principle, *Udhgamsthana*, suggests that conservation should commence at the river's source. This includes construction of temples for protection, management of upper catchments, and redirecting streams and rivulets to enrich river's source. The second principle, *Nyunatam Gati-avarodh*, advocates for minimal disruption to the natural flows of water and air to maintain the hydrological cycle. The third principle, *Golden Mean* or *Suvarna Madhya*, emphasizes that water structures should prioritize "appropriateness" over "maximum" capacity indicating sustainable and responsible use of water resources. The fourth principle acknowledges the interdependence of natural resources like land, water, forest, and fauna suggesting integration of sacred groves, tanks, and bunds at key points to distribute water usage. The fifth and final principle, *Sahabagh, Swabhava, and Sanskara*, emphasizes the

need for community participation that takes care of the needs of all stakeholders. The concept of Rejuvenation defined as 'restoring a living entity to a previously agreed state of health and wellness' is most relevant in the context of the Ganga. Given the definition of Ganga by the MWRRDG, it's high time that the rejuvenation approach for Ganga targets the entire riverscape in an integrated manner while drawing and utilizing funds from all concerned departments. All the tributaries require treatment to ensure they remain clean and flowing and contribute to the flow of the Ganga. In order to foster larger community engagement in the rejuvenation mission, catchment areas of tributaries can be named after revered personalities or temples at their origin, followed by the suffix 'Namami Gange Van'. For instance, the catchment of Ramganga, originating from the Doodhatoli ranges of Pauri in Uttarakhand, could be named 'Veer Chandra Singh Gadwali: Namami Gange Van'. Similarly, as the Ghagra river converges with the Ganga after the confluence of Mahakali (Sharda) at Tanakpur housing the Purnagiri temple, the catchment could be named 'Purnagiri: Namami Gange Van'. Likewise, the catchments of Gomati in Pilibhit could be named Vashishtha, that of Sai river meeting Gomti in Parsai village (Hardoi) as Adi-Ganga, that of Saryu and lower Ghagra as Ram, and those of Gandak, Kosi, and Budhi Gandak as Valmiki, Kausika, and Champakaranya respectively. The origin of Ganga's tributary, the Sone River at Amarkantak could bear the name Sone, the catchment of Punpun river originating in Jharkhand as Punpun, and the Namami Gange Van of Damodar, Mayurakshi, Ajay, Bansloi, and Ghumani could respectively be prefixed with the names Sarhul, Trikut, Ajay, Venu, and Rajmahal. Restoration of suitable forest cover, construction of water conservation structures, keeping river beds encroachment-free, prevention of water diversion, and curbing exploitative livelihood systems near the banks shall have to be prioritized in these areas as in the main stream of the Ganga.

The overarching strategy for rejuvenation must combine pollution prevention through stricter regulations and rigorous implementation in order to transform Ganga's biological profile making it 'NIRMAL' and the restoration of status of its stream to 'AVIRAL'. In 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court declared the rivers Ganga and Yamuna as 'legal persons' with all corresponding rights of a living person. Considering it together with the concepts of spiritual ecology and earth stewardship, one should come up with innovative strategies in the Indian context. Standing on its banks, one is left with a profound sense of awe and a lingering question—what will the next chapter in the Ganga's story be? The narratives connected with religious, mythical, political, historical, and the emergent ecological aspects sketch collectively a nuanced and multifaceted complex image of this emblematic river. Once considered the purest of all rivers, it has become one of the most polluted in the world. Today the Ganga flows with the stories of Gods but has the scars of development. It's high time we reciprocate to the Ganga what it has generously provided us for centuries - survival and sustenance.

(The writers are Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views expressed are personal)



In an extraordinary celebration of music and heritage, the inaugural World Santoor Day brought the global music community together in a magnificent tribute to the legendary Santoor maestro, Pandit Bhajan Sopori. Hosted by the Sopori Academy of Music and Performing Arts (SaMaPa) last week, this event marked not only the birth anniversary of Pandit Bhajan Sopori but also established a new tradition in the world of classical music. The choice of 22 June for World Santoor Day is profoundly fitting, honouring the 76th birth anniversary of Pandit Bhajan Sopori, celebrated as the 'Saint of Santoor' and the 'King of Strings'. His unparalleled contributions to the Santoor and Indian classical music have left an indelible mark, and this day served as a perfect homage to his legacy.

The evening at Triveni Kala Sangam was nothing short of spectacular. The event featured an impressive lineup of performances by distinguished Santoor players like Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori and Padmashri Pandit Satish Vyas. The programme included a rich tapestry of Indian classical music, Kashmiri Sufiana and international performances from Iranian, Chinese and Argentinian artists, showcasing the Santoor's universal appeal. The celebration began with heartfelt tributes to Pandit Bhajan Sopori, followed by a captivating performance of Kashmiri Sufiyana Mausiki by Ustad Shabir Saazanawaz. Maestro Siamak Aghaei from Iran mesmerised the audience with his classical Santur piece, while disciples of Pandit Bhajan Sopori, including Dr Mi Xuanye from China and Guido Estrada from Argentina, added an

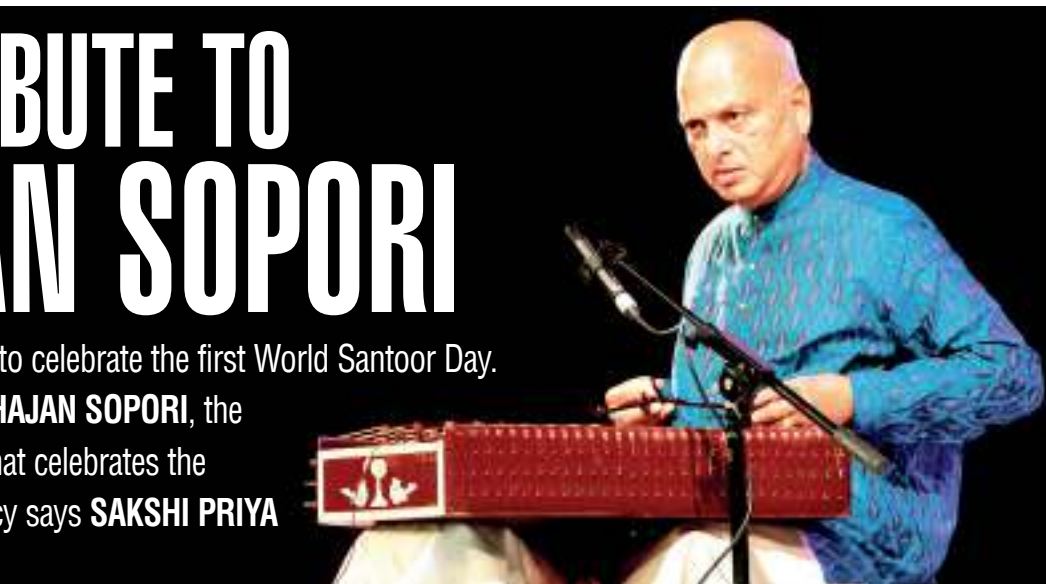
A RESOUNDING TRIBUTE TO PANDIT BHAJAN SOPORI

A symphony of strings fills the air as the world unites to celebrate the first World Santoor Day. This poignant tribute honors the legendary **PANDIT BHAJAN SOPORI**, the "Saint of Santoor," while ushering in a new tradition that celebrates the instrument's captivating melody and rich cultural legacy says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



international dimension with their renditions, all presented via online projector. The live performances were a testament to the enduring legacy of Pandit Bhajan Sopori. Divyansh Srivastava, a disciple of Pandit Bhajan Sopori and Pandit Abhay Sopori, opened the live

segment with a mesmerising rendition of Raga Kaushik Dhvani, followed by a series of intricate compositions in the Sopori Baaj style. Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori himself took the stage, presenting Raag Jog with a blend of Tantra and Gayaki, accompanied by Ustad Akram



Santouri in Greece, Yangqin in China, Hammered Dulcimer in America and Cimbalom or Hackbrett in Europe." Prof. Aparna Sopori, Chairperson of SaMaPa, emphasised the historical and cultural significance of the Santoor, noting, "World Santoor Day will spotlight the rich heritage, historical significance and legacy of the Santoor, or Shatantri Veena, on a global stage, emphasising its deep roots in Kashmir Shaivism culture." The event also saw tributes and wishes from renowned personalities through video messages, including AR Rahman, Kailash Kher, Anup Jalota, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Vidushi Sumitra Guha, Ustad Akram Khan, Ustad Rafiuddin Sabri, Siddharth Kak, Dr Agni Shekhar, and Utpal Kaul. The presence of many eminent musicians, such as Pt. Rajinder Prasanna, Pt. Chetan Joshi, Pt. Bholanath Mishra, Ustad Asghar Hussain, Ustad Saad Zafar Khan, Pt. Ajay P Jha, and Pt. Ajay Prasanna, added to the



Khan on Tabla. The evening culminated with Padmashri Satish Vyas, accompanied by Pandit Ram Kumar Mishra on Tabla, who performed Raag

Rageshwari with remarkable finesse, leaving the audience spellbound. Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori eloquently captured the spirit of the day, stating, "There couldn't be a better event than 'World Santoor Day' to pay tribute to a legend like Pandit Bhajan Sopori. This day will promote greater appreciation and understanding of the Santoor and its cultural philosophy. Papa's contribution to the Santoor is immense, and this day shall not only honour the Indian Santoor but also similar instruments worldwide, such as the Santur in Iran,

occasion's grandeur. Sohrah Sopori expressed his gratitude and vision for the future, saying, "This first edition is being celebrated in cities across India and around the world. We are fortunate to have so many voices come together to mark 22 June as World Santoor Day. From next year, it will be organised in a grander way with more cities and musicians joining hands." Reflecting on Pandit Bhajan Sopori's enduring legacy, Pt. Vijay Shankar Mishra remarked, "Pandit Bhajan Sopori's legacy is great. He was a visionary, keeping things simple yet broad enough to touch the souls of music lovers through his music. His contribution is immense, and Abhay Rustum Sopori is carrying it forward to the next generation. He will always be among us." Padmashri Pandit Satish Vyas echoed these sentiments, stating, "It is a grand occasion and I am delighted to present my recital here and pay my tributes to Pandit Bhajan Sopori." Attending the first World Santoor Day was an experience steeped in both reverence and celebration. The event not only honoured the profound legacy of Pandit Bhajan Sopori but also showcased the Santoor's rich cultural heritage and its universal resonance. The evening's performances were a powerful reminder of music's ability to transcend boundaries and connect souls. As the Santoor's enchanting melodies filled the air, one couldn't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude for the maestros who continue to enrich our lives with their art. The first World Santoor Day was a resounding success, setting a high standard for future celebrations. It was a fitting tribute to a legend and a testament to the timeless beauty of the Santoor.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

A Celebration of Artistic Diversity and Creative Dialogue

Step into the dynamic realm of art at CONFLUENCE 24, where each masterpiece narrates an alluring tale. This lively gathering of established and emerging artists explored diverse creative practices, embracing art and community for an enriching week-long celebration. says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In the world of art, where every individual in the exhibition appreciates and understands the worth of each artist, the immersive experience of CONFLUENCE 24 truly stood out. The Welham Old Boys Society (WOBS) proudly presented this spectacular event, a week-long art exhibition and community engagement initiative held at The Stainless Gallery, New Delhi. This second edition of CONFLUENCE 24 was an evolving platform that supported diverse creative practices and upheld constructive dialogue across multiple communities. During this eight-day group art exhibition, featuring established and emerging artists, architects, designers and photographers from diverse backgrounds, the exhibition featured prominent Indian artists Anupam Sud and Ananda Moy Banerji, both renowned for their significant contributions to art education. Akshay Raj Singh Rathore's artwork, grounded in social realities and Viveek Sharma's powerful pieces offered immersive and thought-provoking experiences for visitors. Amongst the artists from the younger generation, New York-based photographer Nanki Singh stood out with her focus on social documentaries. Her work, "Aaine Tak Ka Safar," was immersive and beautiful, featuring a series of photographs depicting survivors of acid attacks. Kunal Batra, a water-colourist photographer, enthralled viewers with his artwork that evoked the serene beauty of Himalayan landscapes, complete with charming huts that felt like scenes from a dreamy, fairytale-like midnight. Artist Divyam Raghunath, presented his work on subconscious interpretation, titled "Architectural Demise." His journey began with photographing Indian urban architecture, which he used as references in his paintings. However, the mesmerising aspect of his work was his ability to paint without direct

references, relying instead on his imagination. As he explained, "I let the brushstroke create curiosity within the painting," which added a unique beauty to his art. His architectural pieces formed abstract shapes, with one painting inspired by Bangalore's MG Road. Exhibition attendees perceived his work in diverse ways, some recalling the Durga Puja of Kolkata, while others were reminded of the streets of Japan, showcasing the varied perspectives his art elicited. Delhi-based sculptor Pratima Narang's iconic sculptures, 'Divide' and 'Gaze,' added significant value to the exhibition with their beautiful craftsmanship. A journal depicting a 'Trip to the Andamans' was also displayed, resonating deeply with visitors by capturing every detail of the journey in a visually appealing form. Artist Saksham Singh's paintings, created with natural pigments like turmeric and pomegranate, highlighted the connection to nature using everyday materials. His other works, made with indigo, were inspired by his experiences in the forests and grasslands of Bangalore and the Western Ghats. Singh aimed to help people connect with nature, finding landscapes within themselves as well as outside. Photographer Aliza Mirza's lino-cut depictions of the 'Nasreen Building' were truly immersive and glorious. Additionally, artist Guncha Sharma's beautiful depictions of European streets, adorned with pink bougainvilleas under the summer sun, and her hand-painted rhododendrons transported viewers back to childhood holidays in the hills. Her work combined the tactile texture of hand-painting with a vibrant mix of colours, creating an evocative and nostalgic experience for all who viewed it. CONFLUENCE 24 unfolded as a mesmerising window of artistic expression, showing a rich array of artworks by talents like Usha Chengappa, Archita Bharadwaj,

Harshi Agarwal and Tushar Sharma. The exhibition further illuminated the creative landscape with the contributions of educators like Nirupama Sekhri, photographers including Dr. Abhishek Gaurav and Harsh Bansal, wildlife conservationist Mohit Dang and the promising advertising student Ujjwal Gupta, captivating visitors with their unique perspectives and creative flair. After the well-deserved success of the first edition, Rohit Jaiswal, President of Welham Old Boys Society, and his team were enthusiastic about staging this year's CONFLUENCE 24. The focus on art education, particularly in regions facing multiple challenges, underscored the exhibition's commitment to assist and promote creative talent. As one artist at the exhibition poignantly noted, "Nothing is more valuable for us than having people here see every artwork and create their own understanding and thoughts. It feels surreal." CONFLUENCE 24, a week-long collective gathering featuring photography, architecture, design, conversations, sessions and more. This evolving platform supported diverse creative practices and encouraged constructive dialogue within and across multiple communities. Visitors at The Stainless Gallery witnessed the beauty and depth of CONFLUENCE 24, where every piece of art told a story and every individual found a unique connection. As the curtains close on CONFLUENCE 24, the echoes of creativity and the spirit of artistic expression linger on. The exhibition not only showcased the immense talent of artists but also served as a platform for meaningful conversations and reflections. It was a celebration of art, culture and creativity, reminding us of the profound impact of artistic expression on our lives. CONFLUENCE 24 was more than an exhibition; it was a tribute to the power of art to inspire, provoke thought and bring people together.

CAPTURING HOPE THROUGH THE LENS

In the bustling world of photography, Nanki Singh stands out as a beacon of compassion and change. This young, New York-based photographer has made waves with her powerful exhibition "Aaine Tak Ka Safar" which shines a light on the lives of acid attack survivors in India. Singh's work goes beyond mere images; it's a call for empathy and action says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Photographers are the lens of everyone's life as they have the power to deliver a message that needs to be seen by everyone. Every photograph has the ability to share unspoken messages to the world that words can't express. This is where Nanki Singh excels, using her photography not just to capture moments, but to tell compelling stories that resonate deeply with audiences around the globe. Nanki Singh is an emerging New York-based photographer who is passionate about social photography. Her work reflects a deep involvement and an undeniable soul, making her lens a viaduct that connects the hearts and minds of viewers to diverse stories, emotions, and journeys. Focusing largely on the determined women of India, Singh offers a glimpse into their often challenging lives, creating powerful narratives that demand attention and inspire change. Nanki Singh's journey as a photographer began in an unexpected manner. As a shy and diffident schoolgirl, she struggled to express her thoughts until she started experimenting with her cousin's camera. It was during a holiday to Namibia at the age of 16, while shooting wildlife on a borrowed camera, that Singh discovered her voice. The diversity of the world around her became her muse, and through photography, she found a means to articulate her innermost thoughts and feelings. "Fashion, weddings, and product photography are enjoyable, and I love being in a studio, but it is photo-documentation that truly captivates me," Singh reflects. This love for capturing real-life stories led her to focus on social issues, with a particular emphasis on the struggles and triumphs of women in India. Singh's latest exhibition, "Aaine Tak Ka Safar," at the Confluence 24 art exhibition holds special significance for her. The title, which translates to "Journey to the Mirror," was inspired by the stories of acid attack survivors who found it



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

excruciatingly difficult to look at themselves in the mirror post-attack. While society often considers their physical pain, medical journey and psychological trauma, the everyday anguish of facing a mirror is frequently overlooked. Singh wanted to highlight this overlooked aspect and offer viewers a glimpse into the survivors' mirrors. Her collaboration with the Chhanv Foundation, an organisation supporting acid attack survivors, was pivotal. Singh's initial attempts to work with medical professionals were stifled by restrictions that threatened her artistic voice. However, Chhanv Foundation welcomed her interpretation, allowing her to portray the survivors not as victims, but as strong, resilient individuals who had worked hard to overcome unimaginable pain and trauma. Starting this project at the age of 18, Singh faced numerous challenges, the foremost being making the survivors feel comfortable and at ease. "I set very strict boundaries for myself," she explains. "I was always mindful of their trauma and decided to sensitively depict their story without sensationalising it. I gave them full agency over how they were portrayed, engaging them in discussions about their representation." Her creative process was slow and deliberate, nurtured over four years. She embraced a simple, documentary style, ensuring her subjects were depicted true to their personalities. "My work should aim to empower the subjects and give them a voice," Singh states. "It's crucial to represent women authentically and respectfully,



avoiding stereotypes and clichés." The reaction of the survivors to being photographed and having their stories shared was overwhelmingly positive. Singh's empathetic approach and long-term commitment made the survivors comfortable with her being their voice. They drew her into their lives with their positivity, resilience and strength. Singh always raises awareness and drives societal change by capturing and sharing the stark realities of issues like acid attacks in a way that is accessible and emotionally engaging." Through her visual storytelling, Singh humanises victims, educates the public, challenges societal norms, and inspires action. The impact of Singh's work is profound. By presenting these images to the public, she provokes deeper reflection on cultural and societal norms. "How does our society perpetuate conditions that

enable such acts?" she asks. "What roles do power dynamics, gender roles and lack of legal protections play?" These are the questions Singh hopes her work will inspire viewers to consider. Singh's exhibitions have garnered attention both in New York and New Delhi. While the Chelsea exhibition was a success, raising \$13,000 for the survivor's cafe, Singh found the Delhi exhibition particularly meaningful. "What made The Confluence '24 in Delhi exhibition better was the girl's presence," she says. "I have always felt it was their story and they were there that day to tell it." Nanki Singh's "Aaine Tak Ka Safar" is more than an exhibition; it is a powerful narrative of strength, resilience and hope. Through her empathetic and authentic approach, Singh bridges the gap between viewers and the often overlooked stories of acid attack survivors. Her work not only raises awareness but also inspires change, challenging societal norms and advocating for justice. In a world where brutalities like acid attacks reveal a disturbing undercurrent of violence and misogyny, Singh's photography serves as a beacon of hope and a call to action. Her lens captures not just images, but the very essence of human experience, making the invisible visible and the forgotten remembered. Through her work, Nanki Singh continues to prove that photography has the power to change the world. Nanki Singh is not just a photographer to watch - she's a vital voice in the ongoing dialogue about gender, violence and human rights in India and beyond.



CHESA VEGLIA ST MORITZ



THE NEWEST AND BIGGEST OUTDOOR POOL AT ST MORITZ



BADRUTTS PALACE

ST. MORITZ SUMMER'S RICH ALPINE PALETTE

Apart from being famous for its enchanting winter charm, St. Moritz also changes its appearance during the summer. It unveils a collection of lush green scenery which offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy nature, engage in thrilling sports, and fully embrace the peaceful Alpine way of life

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

Setting off on an enchanting Swiss journey armed with an eight-day Swiss Travel Pass and a carefully crafted plan, my travels unfolded like a dream aboard a selection of prestigious panoramic trains - the Bernina Express, Glacier Express,

and GoldenPass. The quintessential Swiss adventure began with my first lengthy train ride from Zürich to Chur. Emerging from a dark tunnel, the train revealed a stunning mountain view against the vast sky, almost like a scene from a perfectly set movie. This

was the Switzerland I had always imagined - reminiscent of the landscapes found in Heidi's stories and the ads for Ricola. The sight of quaint chapels perched daringly on rocky cliffs amid lush meadows and glimmering peaks brought me immense joy. Changing trains at Chur, I arrived in the elegant town of St. Moritz. Despite its small year-round population of under 6,000 residents, this former host of the Olympics and luxurious mountain escape has captured the hearts of the wealthy and famous. During the summer, St. Moritz transforms into a place that feels more like the Mediterranean than northern Europe, with most days filled with abundant sunshine.

A SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA With just a single word, Badrutts Palace exudes allure. It's renowned among a select few for its post-ski parties in the King's Social House, chance meetings with well-heeled billionaires in Moncler gear, and hosting one of the most sought-after New Year's Eve celebrations globally. Additionally, it conjures images of lavish bedrooms with views of the frozen lake, making it a top choice for winter getaways among the elite. Another facet of Badrutts, lesser-known but equally captivating, comes alive in St. Moritz during the summer. This version offers a fresh experience



waiting to be explored. During our stay, our suite featured a balcony opening to a picturesque terrace. On our first night, we enjoyed a horse-drawn carriage ride, soaking in the stunning scenery of the lake, the majestic mountains, and the vast Engadin valley. In the summer, the mountains transform from a monochrome landscape of snow and rock to a vibrant tapestry of colours and textures. From lush green forests hugging the calm blue lake to vivid emerald meadows and the rugged peaks dusted with remnants of winter snow, the view

from our balcony was awe-inspiring. Unlike many hotels that claim to be palaces, Badrutts lives up to its regal status. The grand state rooms exude a palace-like atmosphere, inviting guests to wander in elegant attire. While casual wear is allowed, formal dress seems more appropriate. In Le Restaurant and Le Relais, the elegant dining options call for formal attire to match the graceful setting. The ambiance is truly exceptional and sets Badrutts apart as a regal retreat where luxury meets sophistication effortlessly.

SUMPTUOUS FEASTS, MOUNTAIN MAJESTY

As I set foot on Paradiso Mountain Club & Restaurant for my initial summer escapade under the stewardship of Badrutts's Palace Hotel, I awaited eagerly the promise of sun-soaked days amidst stunning vistas. Paradiso, embodying a steadfast commitment to local traditions and unwavering standards of excellence and openness, presents a menu that encapsulates the essence of St. Moritz's Mountain lifestyle - a tribute to delectable fare, pure mountain breezes, and abundant sunshine. The dining experience at Badrutts transcended mere expectations. Our culinary voyage led us to the enchanting Chesa Veglia, a quaint heritage abode just

a skip across the street, metamorphosed into what can only be described as the epitome of high-class pizzerias. Here, within this tucked-away gem, Badrutts's Palace seemed to unfurl a more carefree, laid-back persona, akin to a majestic retreat momentarily letting loose, bedecked in an Italian leather bracelet, relishing in copious servings of Ornellaia. The pizzas served were sheer perfection - a symphony of flavours that would satisfy even the most discerning pizza aficionado. The ambiance at Chesa Veglia exuded an air of joviality, with the staff mirroring the joy and enthusiasm of the guests, creating an atmosphere where every bite felt infused with a sense of shared merriment and contentment.

RECHARGE IN ENGADIN

Nestled in the heart of Palace Wellness, we had the pleasure of enjoying a refreshing swim in the newest and largest outdoor pool in St. Moritz at a luxurious hotel in Engadin. The pool overlooks breath-taking views of the mountains and the lake, creating a picturesque backdrop for a delightful lunch at La Diala. The restaurant's name, which means 'mountain fairy' in Romansh, reflects its deep connection to the surrounding environment and offers a light and wholesome

menu. Even on the one cloudy day we experienced during our week-long stay, we found solace in the expansive indoor pool area, complete with its own artificial rock mountain perfect for kids to dive off. The deep-tissue massages at the spa were as rejuvenating as expected, adding to the overall relaxation experience in a mountain spa setting. St. Moritz's charm in the summer goes beyond extravagant lunches, indulgent spa treatments at Palace Coiffeur, savouring ice creams at Gelateria, and admiring the panoramic views of the lake. Engaging in activities like kitesurfing on Lake Silvaplana, sailing on Lake St. Moritz, and exploring the scenic nature trails by bike or on foot offers guests of Badrutts's Palace a diverse range of outdoor adventures at their fingertips. Moreover, the distinction of Badrutts's Palace as one of the World's 50 Best Hotels further solidifies its reputation as a top-tier destination for discerning travellers.

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

Rejoice in the Monsoon Magic This Season

Embark on a journey to charming monsoon retreats for a blissful vacation, writes SHARMILA CHAND

With monsoons round the corner, it is time to plan a vacation to soak in the beauty of nature. Immerse in the rich tapestry of exotic destinations across the country. From the mist-laden cliffs of the Western Ghats to the tranquil backwaters of Kerala, and lush green landscape of Goa, enjoy an alluring escape into nature's lap. Let the droplets of rain be musical notes and characteristic scent of the wet earth allure all your senses. Rain Soaked Offerings At Radisson Blu Resort and Spa, Alibaug After braving a hot summer, you deserve to cool off and enjoy the rainy season, and a luxury resort lets you do that while providing every comfort your heart could desire. Whether you are traveling on holiday or business, the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Alibaug invites guests to experience unparalleled luxury and the tranquility of natural beauty. Guests can enjoy a leisurely walk around the landscaped gardens, or simply sit beside the stillness of the Lotus pond. For adventure seekers, the resort offers activities such as cycling guided tours, nature trails, and bird watching. By being close to historical sites such as the Kolaba Fort and Alibaug Beach, there are also opportunities for exploration and adventure to ensure a rich and fulfilling stay for all. Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Alibaug is designed around wellness and relaxation, with moments of mindfulness offered in the form of daily yoga and meditation sessions - the resort provides a sanctuary for rejuvenation of the body and mind.

RAINDROPS AT THE MACHAN - A TREEHOUSE RESORT, LONAVALA

The Machan, a unique eco-resort located near Mumbai and Pune, offers a selection of tree-houses that ascend 30-45 feet above ground level, allowing visitors to stay in 'treetop' accommodations. Nestled in Jambulne, a 'biodiversity hotspot' as one of the 25 globally, The Machan is a great destination for nature lovers. On the property, visitors can participate in a number of



activities such as trekking, bird watching, and exploring historic sites. The resort also offers comfortably furnished chalets and "tree houses." Feeling a bit adventurous? Start your day with a rush of adrenaline by waking up in the 'Tree House' perched 30 to 45 feet above the forest floor in Jambulne. The experience of the monsoon season at the Machan will usher in a sense of tranquility as you enjoy your endless supply of hot beverages and snacks. Along with the unique and luxurious tree house accommodations, The Machan has much to offer to keep one busy during their stay. With guided nature walks, bird watching and historical forts and caves nearby, there's always something to do. A stay at the Machan during the monsoon season rewards you with abundant waterfalls, cool breezes and lush greenery for a truly ethereal experience as you enjoy your hot drinks and comforting snacks. Plus, the resort recycles 80% of its grey water and is almost entirely powered by renewable solar and wind energy. So when you book your monsoon getaway here, you aren't just rewarding your soul - you're doing your bit for sustainability.



ENCHANTING VIEWS OF NERUL RIVER AT HILTON GOA RESORT

Nestled in the picturesque hills of Saipem, Hilton Goa Resort is a synonym for luxury and tranquility. It provides enchanting views of lush greens and Nerul River. The resort will offer you an incredible opportunity to escape from the hustle and bustle. Relax by one of the excellent four outdoor pools or break a sweat in the well-outfitted fitness center. The restaurant with a patio on the resort offers a unique dining experience with mesmerizing coastal views of Goa, while the Doce cafe and Coco lounge bar provide the taste buds with an extensive range of patisserie and Mediterranean flavors. When it comes to families, the kids club ensures your kids have a good time as you relax. The resort's location is convenient for exploring attractions such as Aguada Fort and Panjim, with Vagator Beach only being a 30-minute drive away for even more sea, sun and sand. If you are looking for a romantic getaway, family vacation, or corporate-relaxation, the resort's event facilities and group travel services offer all you will need. In Hilton Goa you can sip your morning coffee and watch the raindrops fall on the lush greenery outside as the

clouds wash away the heat of the summer. Take a dip in one of the four outdoor pools, hit the gym at the fitness centre, or simply walk about outside and enjoy the pitter-patter of the raindrops.

WATCH RAINDROPS ON PADDY FIELDS AT EVOLVE BACK, COORG

One can only imagine what it feels like to be woken up by the smell of coffee and the cold mountain breeze. That's exactly what a monsoon trip to the 300-acre Evolve Back resort in Coorg will buy you. The private pool villas are traditionally furnished as they were in ancient times, making them perfect for outdoor experiences whether you are alone or with family members. For quiet moments, the Reading Lounge is an ideal spot. Here, you can enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee while watching the rain fall on the lush paddy fields, creating a perfect ambiance for relaxation and reflection. Visit to Evolve Back is incomplete without taking part in its rich coffee culture. Right inside this place is a Coffee Museum where people have opportunities to journey through history while learning about processes involved in growing coffee plants and beans. Just by stepping into the plantation field and walking across lush coffee farms one can find better appreciation for their favorite morning drink. The resort also offers a range of cultural and wildlife experiences that highlight the region's biodiversity and heritage. Guided nature walks, bird watching tours, and interactions with local artisans provide a comprehensive understanding of Coorg's rich ecosystem and traditions. Whether you're seeking

adventure, relaxation or want to curl up with coffee in the Reading Lounge while watching the rain fall on the lush paddy fields Evolve Back, Coorg is your destination.

MISTY LANDSCAPES AT RIVERMIST RESORT CHIKMAGALUR

In the lap of the Western Ghats, Chikmagalur is known for its lush coffee plantations and misty landscapes. In the monsoons, it transforms into a vibrant tapestry of green, punctuated by cascading waterfalls and blooming flora, making it a sanctuary for rare bird species, elusive animals, and unique insects. Hidden amidst this mountainscape, is a boutique getaway called RiverMist Resorts. Perfectly situated with the Charmady Ghats in the backdrop, it provides guests with an authentic experience of this region. Traditional Malnad architecture, and local cuisine adds to its charm. Unique nature centric activities and luxury accommodations that offer mesmerising views of the mountains from wooden cottages on stilts to the Luxury Pavilion that features glamping tents with outdoor jacuzzis and showers, is an experience to behold. RiverMist Resorts is more than a place to stay; it's a story in itself. Upon arrival, guests cross a river in a 4x4 vehicle, setting the tone for the



adventures ahead. The resort boasts an infinity pool that overlooks the surrounding hills, providing a peaceful spot to relax while enjoying the vistas. Nature walks led by an in-house naturalists offers a fun and insightful journey through the diverse flora and fauna. They guide guests along winding trails through the property, revealing smaller natural wonders that you may have otherwise missed. The resort's private waterfall is in full gush during the monsoons, offering a peaceful escape to sit and enjoy the soothing sounds of flowing water. Another highlight is the Nature Connect. Every evening, as it gets dark, guests are encouraged to gather by the pool area and soak in the sounds of nature. All the lights of the resort are switched off for ten minutes and amidst the darkness, your sense of hearing begins to heighten as the sounds of birds and animals slowly waking up become louder, your eyes adjust to the darkness and you see fireflies and more stars. You begin to feel one with nature in the true sense. As night falls, the bonfire is then lit and you are welcome to join the naturalist on a night trail.

Further, RiverMist organises monsoon treks to Ballarayana Durga, Kudremukh and Nethravathi peaks for the trekking enthusiasts. If not, you can opt to go offroading around the estate or even drive up to explore the Rani Jhari viewpoint which is close by. So if you are someone who enjoys the beautiful synergy of monsoons, mountains and meaningful experiences, RiverMist Resort is an ideal destination.

MONSOON BLISS AT COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT GOA COLVA

Courtyard by Marriott Goa Colva offers a unique and enchanting monsoon getaway. Its comfortable accommodations and amenities, combined with the lush beauty of Goa's landscape, provide an idyllic setting for relaxation and rejuvenation. Whether savouring local cuisine, exploring the lush surroundings, or simply enjoying a serene stay, guests are guaranteed an unforgettable experience that captures the essence of Goa's monsoon magic. The hotel's recent opening in the midst of the rainy season perfectly showcases a different, greener side of Goa, making it a must-visit destination for those seeking a blend of serenity and revelry. Located in the serene village of Colva in South Goa, the hotel offers an immersive experience of Goa's lush, rain-kissed scenery, surrounded by verdant paddy fields and swaying coconut farms. The monsoon season breathes new life into the region, and the resort provides the perfect setting to witness this transformation. As the rain begins to fall, the surroundings of the hotel come alive with a symphony of nature's sounds and sights. The paddy fields turn a vibrant green, creating a stunning contrast against the moody grey skies. The coconut palms, tall and graceful, sway gently in the breeze, adding to the picturesque scenery. The hotel is designed to blend seamlessly with this lush environment, offering guests a comfortable and welcoming retreat amidst nature's bounty. Nestled away from the bustling tourist hubs, the hotel

provides a peaceful haven where guests can truly relax and unwind. The monsoon amplifies this sense of tranquility, as the rains cool the air and the landscape transforms into a bright green paradise. Guests can take leisurely walks or cycle through the surrounding locale, breathing in the fresh, rain-scented air, or simply relax on their private balconies, soaking in the serene views.

Courtyard by Marriott Goa Colva is more than just a hotel; it is a tribute to the destination itself. It offers the serenity of South Goa married to the vibrancy of North Goa, presenting guests with a different side of the region. This blend creates a unique experience that combines relaxation with excitement, making it an ideal destination for all kinds of travelers. Dining at Courtyard by Marriott Goa Colva is an experience in itself, especially during the monsoons. Colva Kitchen, the hotel's all-day dining restaurant, offers a menu that celebrates the flavours of the region, with an emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Guests can savor a variety of local delicacies, from traditional breakfast specials to flavourful Goan curries, ending with warm desserts. With its large glass windows, this dining area provides a perfect vantage point to watch the monsoon showers, with the sound of raindrops creating a soothing backdrop to the culinary delights.

The hotel also offers a range of activities designed to make the most of the monsoon season. Guests can indulge in spa treatments that utilize natural ingredients, providing a holistic and rejuvenating experience. The hotel's pool offers a unique opportunity to swim in the rain, adding a touch of magic to the monsoon experience. For those looking to explore, the hotel organizes guided tours of the surrounding village routes and paddy fields, providing an intimate glimpse into the local way of life. Families can enjoy quality time at the hotel's Kids Club, which offers engaging activities for children.

Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel, Food and Lifestyle

Nanoscopic motor proteins in brain build physical structures of memory

The puzzle of memory has intrigued philosophers and intellects for a very long time. Plato and Aristotle believed that memory was found only in the realm of the soul and the mind, but there was nothing corporeal or physical about it. Memory is closely tied to our sense of self and subjective experiences, but there are physical processes that are associated with remembering.

Modern analogy likes to compare computer memory to that of the brain, where the activity of brain cells called neurons are compared to the binary codes of the magnetic field patterns stored in a hard drive. However, computer devices don't change as a result of performing their jobs, unlike neurons.

Storing and processing memories uses nanoscopic motor proteins called kinesin that move materials around within neurons to construct the structural code of memory. These nanoscopic workers "walk" using alternating steps on long molecular tracks to deliver materials.

For 20 years, neuroscientists — including myself — have used cutting-edge microscopy technology in living animals to observe microscopic structures called dendritic spines constantly budding out, morphing and regressing on the dendrites of neurons.

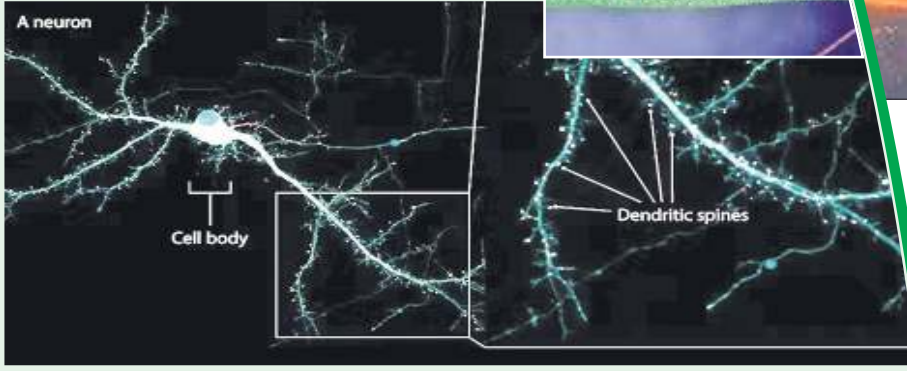
Dendritic spines are where neurons form contacts with other neurons and create electrical circuits throughout the brain. Dendritic spine plasticity, as this change of dendrite shape is referred to, is more than the random movement of neuronal structures in the brain.

BUDDING SPINES TO STORE NEW MEMORIES

In our recently published study, the extent of dendritic spine plasticity is found to be highly correlated with memory performance of animals in our lab. We taught mice to fear a harmless tone by electrocuting them each time the tone was played; then, we taught the mice to overcome the same fear by presenting the same tone repeatedly in a harmless situation.

After two days, the degree of fear, as indicated by the length of time the mice were immobile for, represents memory performance. The greater the number of dendritic spines that budded on neurons, the shorter the amount of time they remained frozen.

Similarly, scientists discovered that motor memory — as indicated by how long mice can run on a rotating rod after training — is also cor-



related with the number of budding dendritic spines on neurons.

When these newly formed dendritic spines are scratched using a sophisticated technology called optogenetics, mice lose their motor memory and perform as if they had not trained at all.

This evidence strongly impacts how we understand the way memory is stored. Beyond the all-or-nothing activity of a whole neuron, the structural traces of memory are formed by the patterns of microscopic structures called dendritic spines on neurons.

DELIVERING MOLECULAR CARGOES TO SPINES

This discovery raised another challenge: how do neurons know where specifically on their branches to "build" these memory codes? These locations must be specific as they correspond to contact points with different neurons in forming neural circuits relevant to different experiences.

Since most cellular materials are synthesized in the cell body, there must be a transporter to deliver materials within neurons to achieve the accurate construction of memory codes.

In our study, we speculated that kinesin was used to deliver molecular materials for "building" dendritic spines. To prove this, we tagged molecular cargoes known to be carried by kinesin with fluorescent markers, so that we could follow the movement of kinesin under the microscope.

Using this cutting-edge microscopy technology, we could track the movement of kinesin in the brain before and after creating and removing fear in the mice.

We also genetically removed kinesins from another group of mice to understand if the function of kinesin was indeed necessary for forming dendritic spine memory code. We found that in normal mice with kinesin, it took several hours as opposed to minutes for kinesin to move to a specific location on dendrites, where dendritic spines can bud out. If kinesin was removed from the brain, the tagged molecular cargoes showed reduced movement and as a result, the number of dendritic spines formed was completely altered and the stability of the ones formed was significantly hampered.

Without kinesin, the mice could not learn or form memory properly in our study.

UNDERSTANDING MEMORY

This is the first time that the process of structural memory code formation has been visualized, identifying kinesin as the transport for building dendritic spines following a learning experience to construct the structural code of memory in the living brain. This structural memory code can provide an even more complex dimension than binary encoding of information. Further understanding and potential mapping of these dendritic spine structural codes on a large scale in the brain could open up new ways to manipulate memory functions in medical conditions.



Daydream a lot or stare into space?

You might have cognitive disengagement syndrome

Do you find that you daydream a lot? Are you often sluggish and tend to disengage easily when doing a task? You might have cognitive disengagement syndrome, or CDS.

CDS was first described by psychologists in the 1960s and 1970s when they noticed that some people display these traits more persistently than others. But why is it considered a syndrome rather than just a quirky personality trait?

The distinction lies in the effect. For people with CDS, their behaviour significantly interferes with their daily lives, academic performance and social interactions.

While everyone daydreams occasionally, those with CDS find it hard to stay focused on tasks for extended periods. This isn't just about being inattentive or lazy, CDS is a persistent pattern that can disrupt a person's ability to succeed in various areas of life.

Unlike attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which includes hyperactivity and impulsivity, CDS is characterised by its "sluggish cognitive tempo" — an earlier name for the condition.

The condition is not recognised as a distinct "attention disorder" in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the standard classification of mental disorders used by professionals in the US. However, the growing body of research suggests that it deserves more attention and should be looked at separately from ADHD.

A way to look at the two is, if a

Parents and teachers often report this behaviour in children who seem "out of it" or who take longer to respond to questions and complete tasks.

Slow processing speed means that people take longer to take in information, make sense of it and respond. For example, at school a student with slow processing speed may take longer to answer a question or complete an assignment because they need more time to understand the material and



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person has ADHD, they are able to focus on something but they will probably become distracted and switch their focus to something else. If a person has CDS, they are unable to focus in the first place.

HOW DO WE IDENTIFY CDS?

Diagnosis is tricky because there are no official criteria. However, some psychologists use a combination of questionnaires and behavioural observations to assess symptoms like frequent daydreaming, mental foggy and slow processing speed.

think through their response. This isn't due to lack of intelligence or effort — their brain simply processes information at a slower pace.

Support and treatment for CDS are still evolving. Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is commonly used to help people develop better ways of coping and improve their focus.

Some researchers are exploring the use of stimulant drugs, similar to those used for ADHD, but the evidence is still inconclusive. Lifestyle changes, such as having a more stable sleep routine and incorporating regular exercise, are also recommended to help manage symptoms.

Three ways to eat more nutritiously

When it comes to staying healthy, diet is one of the best things you can do to look after your body.

If you want to eat more nutritiously but don't quite know how, here are a few easy changes you can make that will benefit your health.

BE ADVENTUROUS

Plenty of unusual or unconventional foods that might not be a normal part of your diet are full of nutrients and microorganisms that can have many health benefits.

Sea vegetables, for instance. These have existed for thousands of years and are a staple food in traditional Asian and coastal cultures.

These vegetables are nutrient-dense and contain antioxidants (molecules that neutralise harmful "free radicals" in the body), essential fatty acids, fibre, iodine and proteins not found in land-based foods.

This is due to the unique growing conditions and biological adaptations of sea vegetables, which lead to a distinct nutrient profile — making them a valuable addition to the diet. Some of their benefits include protecting against cancer and being antiviral, preventing blood clots, regulating cholesterol levels and having antioxidant properties. They may also prevent cardiovascular disease and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Certain sea vegetables — such as algae — can be added to other foods to boost their taste and health benefits. Research shows that adding algae to foods such as cheddar cheese and toasted bread is a great way to increase protein content.

The blue-green algae spirulina is particularly beneficial — packed with vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and protein. It's even used as a supplement by NASA astronauts on space missions.

Sea moss, edible seaweeds (such as nori) and algae (such as mozuku) are just some of the sea vegetables you might consider putting on the menu.

Bitter greens — such as dandelion, beetroot, nettles and mustard greens — are all nutrient-dense and have antioxidant properties. They're also shown to support gut health and digestion as they're packed with fibre.

Fermented foods, such as kimchi, sauerkraut and kefir, are associated with a lower risk of chronic disease (including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer) and better weight management.

They're also rich in probiotics, which promote gut health and improve digestion.

SEASON GENEROUSLY

Using a variety of herbs and spices when cooking not only enhances the overall sensory experience of your meal, they also provide several wellbeing benefits.

Spices such as turmeric, ginger, garlic, as well as cinnamon, cloves and oregano, are thought to have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties due to the array of chemical compounds they contain.

Many of these chemical compounds complement each other — and may even counteract several disorders, including heart disease, chronic inflammation and diabetes.

Gaza soccer stadium is now a shelter for thousands of displaced Palestinians

Thousands of displaced Palestinians in northern Gaza have sought refuge in one of the territory's largest soccer arenas, where families now scrape by with little food or water as they try to keep one step ahead of Israel's latest offensive. Their makeshift tents hug the shade below the stadium's seating, with clothes hanging in the July sun across the dusty, dried-up soccer field. Under the covered benches where players used to sit, Um Bashar bathes a toddler standing in a plastic tub. Lathering soap through the boy's hair, he wiggles and shivers as she pours the chilly water over his head, and he grips the plastic seats for balance.

They've been displaced multiple times, she said, most recently from Israel's renewed operations against Hamas in the Shijaiyah neighbourhood of Gaza City. "We woke up and found tanks in front of the door," she says. "We didn't take anything with us, not a mattress, not a pillow, not any clothes, not a thing. Not even food." She fled with a group of 70 other people to Yarmouk Sports Stadium — a little under 2 miles (3 kilometres) northwest of Shijaiyah,



which was heavily bombed and largely emptied early in the war. Many of the people who ended up in the stadium say they have nothing to return to. "We left our homes," said one man, Hazem Abu Thoraya, "and all of our homes were bombed and burned, and all those around us were as well." Hundreds of thousands of people have remained in northern Gaza, even as Israeli troops have surrounded and largely isolated it. However, aid flows there have improved recently, and the

UN said earlier this week that it is now able to meet people's basic needs in the north. Israel says it allows aid to enter Gaza and blames the UN for not doing enough to move it. Still, residents say the deprivation and insecurity are taking an ever-growing toll.

"There is no safe place. Safety is with God," said a displaced woman, Um Ahmad. "Fear is now felt not only among the children, but also among the adults. ... We don't even feel safe walking in the street."

BMI alone not sufficient, waist-to-height ratio more effective in diagnosing obesity: Researchers

Obesity can no longer be just defined by body mass index (BMI) and rather should be about how body fat is distributed throughout one's body, researchers said while launching a new framework for diagnosing and managing obesity.

Published in the journal Nature Medicine, the framework looks specifically at fat accumulated in the abdomen, measured as 'waist-to-height ratio' — an increased value of which is related to a higher risk of developing cardiometabolic complications, according to the researchers.

An "important novelty" of the framework is including a waist-to-height ratio higher than 0.5, along with a BMI of 25-30, for diagnosing obesity, the

An "important novelty" of the framework is including a waist-to-height ratio higher than 0.5, along with a BMI of 25-30, for diagnosing obesity, the authors, representing the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO), said.

authors, representing the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO), said. "The choice of introducing waist-to-height ratio, instead of waist circumference, in the diagnostic process is due to its superiority as a cardiometabolic disease risk marker," they wrote.

Accumulation of abdominal fat is a more reliable predictor of health deterioration, compared to BMI, even for individuals not meeting the current standard cut-off value for obesity diagnosis, which is a BMI of 30, the authors said.

They said that the current guidelines are based on evidence from studies in which participants meeting cut-off values were included for analysis, rather than on a "complete clinical evaluation". "The basis for this change is the



recognition that BMI alone is insufficient as a diagnostic criterion, and that body fat distribution has a substantial effect on health," they wrote. The researchers said that introducing the suggested changes in the

diagnostic processes could reduce risk of undertreatment in this particular group of patients — low BMI and high abdominal fat — in comparison to the current BMI-based definition of obesity.