



sunday pioneer

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All communities must join hands to fight terrorism
Jitendra Singh

India a preferred investment DESTINATION for investors: Goyal

Bhongir BACKBENCHER

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer
Kamma is like Amma. Kammass are known for their hard work and affectionate demeanour like a mother's love. We wanted Venkaiah Naidu to be the President. The absence of Telugus at the national level is noticeable. We should encourage Telugus to excel nationally transcending caste and religion.
- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

DON'T MISS...

Helpline for complaints...

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has set up a helpline for complaints against stray dog menace. Citizens are advised to call toll-free at 040-21111111 or contact support at 040-23225397. GHMC decided to conduct a survey of street dogs and implement the ABC-AR programme to ensure 100 per cent sterilisation. Sterilisation helps control the dog population, reducing aggressive behavior and the number of dog bites. Additionally, all street dogs will be vaccinated against rabies...

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Gang making counterfeit...

In a major crackdown on counterfeit diesel manufacturing, vigilance officers conducted surprise raids in the Shadnagar constituency, leading to the arrest of a fake diesel gang. The authorities seized two diesel lorries carrying 12,000 liters of diesel each. The operation led uncovering of an oil mafia operating in the region. The operation took place in Nandigama Mandal, Rangareddy District, along the Hyderabad-Bengaluru National Highway. Acting on reliable information, vigilance officers...

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Study estimates 11.9 lakh excess...

In India, 11.9 lakh excess deaths occurred in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 per cent higher compared to 2019, an international study has found. The estimate is about eight times higher than the official COVID-19 deaths in India, and 1.5 times the World Health Organization's estimates, researchers, including those from the University of Oxford, UK, said. Using data of over 7.65 lakh individuals, the study estimated changes in life expectancy at birth, by gender and social group between 2019 and 2020 in India, a country where one-third of global pandemic excess deaths are thought to have occurred, according...

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ONGC acquires Equinor stake in...

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has acquired Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in an Azerbaijan oilfield and an associated pipeline for US\$ 60 million, the firm said in a statement. OVL "has signed a definitive sale purchase agreement (SPA) for directly acquiring 0.615 per cent participating interest (PI) in offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field in Azerbaijan from Equinor. The agreement also includes acquiring 0.737 per cent shares of..."

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OBTUSE ANGLE



Administrative reshuffle in TG

Vikas Raj appointed Special CS of Transport, Housing

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has transferred some IAS officers. Vikas Raj, IAS (1992), who was awaiting posting, has been appointed as the Special Chief Secretary of Transport, Housing and Urban Administration (Coordination with Centre and smart governance) Department.

Benhur Mahesh Dutt Ekka, IAS (1995), who was also awaiting posting, has been appointed as the Principal Secretary (Services) of the General Administration Department.



A. Sharath, IAS (2005), the Secretary of the Tribal Welfare Department, has been given FAC of the post of Commissioner of Tribal

Welfare. Korra Lakshmi, IAS (2012), the Director of Sports, has been given FAC of the post of the Managing Director of the Telangana State Warehousing Corporation.

S. Harish, IAS (2015), the Joint Secretary of the TR&B Department, has been given FAC of the post of Special Secretary of the Revenue (Disaster Management) Department.

Radhika Gupta, IAS (2021), the Additional Collector of Local Bodies, Hanumakonda, has been transferred and posted as the Additional Collector (Local Bodies) in Medchal Malkajgiri district.

State Budget to be presented on July 25

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari convened a meeting of senior officials in connection with the Assembly's budget session which starts on July 23.

She directed officials to send replies to all questions raised by legislators promptly and emphasized that senior officials should be present during the budget session to ensure that there is no communication gap. The Special Chief Secretary of Finance, K. Ramakrishna Rao, said that the annual state budget will be presented on July 25. There will be discussions on the demands of various departments on subsequent days.

Continued on Page 2

CM launches Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastham



Declaring that the Congress government is trying to avoid paying Rythu Bharosa funds to farmers in the Kharif season too as it was done during the Rabi season, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy lashed out at the government saying that it placed Rythu Bharosa in the Assembly for a debate only to avoid paying Rythu Bharosa funds to farmers. He asked the Congress govern-

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TELANGANA GOVT ASKS NDSA

Show way forward on Kaleshwaram project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government on Saturday held a review meeting with the officials of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) over the "damages" to Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project. Telangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy told PTI videos in New Delhi that the NDSA was asked to ascertain the cause of failure and give guidance on the way forward. "So, we have given the work of ascertaining the cause of failure and the way forward



to the National Dam Safety Authority, which is a Central government body," Reddy said.

2

'Govt failed on many fronts'

BRS legislators meet Gov; file complaint on defections, unfulfilled promises

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A delegation of BRS MLAs, MLCs and other leaders led by BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) met Governor Radhakrishnan to file a complaint regarding defections from the party and the unfulfilled promises made by the Congress to the unemployed.

"We brought to the Governor's attention the attacks on the Constitution in Telangana and other critical issues. Our party MLAs, MLCs and available leaders met the Governor to discuss how the Congress has blatantly ignored its promises to the unemployed and students. We detailed their announcements and promises concerning two lakh jobs and the job calendar. We informed the Governor about



their failure to increase the number of posts for Groups 1, 2 and 3 as promised. We also explained the repressive atmosphere created by the Congress through coercion, suppression, arrests and filing of false cases against students who demand implementation of the promises given during the election campaign," KTR

said. "We also highlighted incidents like the lathi charge at the City Central Library and attacks on OU students, which mirror the suppressive tactics used during the TG movement and is now being repeated by the Congress government."

2

Govt planning to deprive farmers of Rythu Bharosa: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

ment why the Rythu Bharosa scheme was being discussed in the Assembly as the government had implemented the Farm Loan Waiver Scheme without any discussion in the Assembly. There is a scam in every scheme launched by the Congress government, he said. Speaking to the media at the Assembly Media Hall on Saturday, Maheshwar said the Revanth government is not a people's government but an anti-people government.



He asked the Congress govern-

2

Aadhaar hurdle hits 3 lakh farmers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Three lakh farmers had problems with their Aadhaar cards and so they did not get Farm Loan Waiver Scheme funds although they had taken loans amounting to less than Rs 1 lakh, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said. He said the government will solve the problem and will deposit the money in their bank accounts in the second phase of the loan waiver scheme. Speaking to the media at the Secretariat on Saturday, Tummala said that there is no need for farmers to get worried if they did not get



Tummala said that there is no need for farmers to get worried if they did not get loan waiver scheme funds in the first phase. Some farmers have problems with their Aadhaar, bank accounts and RBI data.

loan waiver scheme funds in the first phase. Some farmers have problems with their Aadhaar, bank accounts and RBI data. Bank and agriculture officers will give an explanation within 24 hours if anyone's loan waiver application is rejected due to technical issues. The Minister said the government is waiving the loans of farmers based on the old system and that

loans are being waived even if there are four bank accounts in a family. However, some people are politicizing it wilfully resulting in farmers getting tensed, he said. Tummala said that some farmers took less than Rs 1 lakh as loan but the money repayable exceeded Rs 1 lakh with interest and they have to wait till the second phase.

2

19,277 registered firms not filing GST returns

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) and the Telangana Commercial Taxes Department organised an awareness programme on 'GST Registration & Benefits for Small Traders and Manufacturers' at the Federation House in Red Hills on Friday.

Dr TK Sreedevi, the Commissioner of the Commercial Taxes Department, who was the chief guest emphasized that GST is



a significant reform measure which standardized indirect tax rates and structures across the country enhancing the ease of doing busi-

ness. Despite being in its seventh year, revenue collection is lower than anticipated hindering the state's development goals. "The public

must voluntarily pay taxes if they want Telangana to be number-one," Dr Sreedevi said.

She highlighted the need to raise legitimate revenue for the exchequer and called for a partnership between industry and trade with the government. She also answered questions posed by industry representatives, trade associations and dealers.

"I took charge as the Commissioner of Commercial Tax six months ago. At that time, tax compliance was 68%."

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Musi to have facelift

Rs1.5 lakh cr will be spent for Musi riverfront and Hyd: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Gopanally flyover on Saturday and announced the Musi Riverfront Development project with an investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

In his speech, Revanth emphasised the government's commitment to the rapid development of Serilingampally and introduced a new system called HYDRAA to address civic issues and disaster management in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister outlined plans to transform the Musi River into a tourist destination like the Thames River in London. He highlighted the government's dedication to promoting Hyderabad as a global city and noted the current condition of the Musi River and the foul smell it gives.

The plans for Musi development aim to attract tourists from around the world within the next five years. Revanth assured that the Musi Riverfront Development Project would be a legacy of the people's government.

He appealed to the public to join as partners in the development of Hyderabad and requested their cooperation to achieve the objective of making Hyderabad a global city in the next 10 years.



Cabinet expansion, PCC on agenda

CM Revanth to meet Kharge, Rahul today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will go on a two-day visit to New Delhi on Sunday. He will reach Delhi from Hyderabad on Sunday and will meet Union Ministers along with top Congress leaders.

It seems that there is a possibility of discussing the selection of the new TPCC president with the high command especially along with the expansion of the Cabinet. Revanth will also discuss with the high command how to respect seniors who did not get posts as some nominated posts have already been filled.

The CM will meet AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi and will discuss party issues. As eight months have passed after the formation of the government, it seems that Revanth is likely to discuss with the high command about expanding the cabinet. Apart from explaining the latest political situation in the state, the issue of inclusion is likely to be discussed in this meeting.

There is a chance of getting clarity especially on the selection of the TPCC chief during the current visit to Delhi.

Continued on Page 2

85 MEDIGADDA GATES OPEN

No storing of water: Govt

73 TMCs flowed to sea from Medigadga

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the BRS claims that the Medigadga Barrage is stable, government sources said that not even a single drop of water can be stored. In the last six days, approximately 73 TMCs of water has been released into the sea from the Medigadga Barrage of the Kaleshwaram project. The barrage is witnessing significant inflows due to widespread rains in Telangana and Maharashtra. Outflows from the Medigadga Barrage on July 15 was 41,200 cusecs, on July 16 41,200 cusecs, on July 17, 49,500 cusecs, on July 18, 53,400 cusecs, on July 19, 34,100 cusecs and on July 20, 28,800 cusecs.

Floodwaters surged into the



Medigadga Barrage which has sunk in the Pier 7 area in October 2023. The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has warned of potential risks to the project and advised the state government not to store water in the barrage. Following these advisories, 85 gates have been kept open, allowing floodwaters to flow downstream.

2

UPSC chairman Manoj Soni resigns citing 'personal reasons'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

UPSC chairman Manoj Soni has resigned citing personal reasons before the expiry of his tenure in May 2029, official sources said on Saturday.

His resignation is "not in any way connected to controversies and allegations surrounding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar issue came to the fore," they said.

"The UPSC chairman had tendered his resignation citing personal reasons over a fortnight back. It is yet to be accepted," a source said.

Eminent educationist Soni, 59, took over as a member of the Commission on June 28, 2017. He took oath as the UPSC chairman on May 16, 2023 and his term was to end on May 15, 2029.

BRS social media: a Frankenstein monster for KTR

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi's social media wing seems to have gone beyond the control of those shaped it and its sutradhari. This is a given among journalists who are active on social media platforms, particularly 'X'. In fact, many journalists have complained to the party's social media conveners about the way they are being constantly trolled. The conveners have proved to be incapable of stopping the trolls. So, some of the targeted scribes complained to party working president and legislator K T Rama Rao. It is learnt that the BRS' social media wing is a divided house when it comes to justifying the need to troll journalists. Whatever be the rationale of its trollers, they need to know who BRS' opposition is. Are they journalists simply doing their job or Congress as well as Bharatiya Janata Party leaders? If the BRS' social media wing continues in its weird ways, it might end up becoming a Frankenstein monster for KTR, who relies heavily on it. Interestingly, it is unlikely that they want to beat the Congress' social media wing. For, the Congress' SM wing is weak; so, their armies end up trolling journalists who call a spade a spade. Already journalists are discussing that KTR's tweets, which once used to serve as peg for news of the day, hardly figure anywhere in the mainstream media these days.

panions, including six-month-old son and other family members. They laid their life for justice and humanity. Although a few people did point out the incongruity, the tweets continue to fester as unintended wounds in the social media sphere. This is not the first time. On Bakrid, Bhongir MLA Kumbam Anil Kumar Reddy's greetings on social media included a graphic image of a cow. After the not-so-dolce post sparked a political row; he removed it, and apologised for the 'inadvertent error'.

No phalam from palabhishekam

To simulate public gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for initiating the implementation of the farm loan waiver scheme, Congress workers banded together people to perform palabhishekam, which involves ritualistic bathing of the images of venerable personalities. And then there was Kadiyam Srihari, who performed palabhishekam on the portrait of

jelu, chekkalu, jonna ragi mixture, hara boondi, sarva pindi, and hot punugulu. While chatting among themselves, the Mayors posed for photographs along with the Mahila Shakti canteen organizers. While Vijayalaxmi appreciated the snacks for their 'very good taste', Sudharani replied that they prepare these items at home and have them regularly. Taking her at her word, Vijayalaxmi asked Sudharani: "Why don't you send them to me?" Sudharani replied: "I will definitely send them soon". Much to the satisfaction of the canteen organizers, Vijayalaxmi purchased a bottle of pickle for use at her home. The Mayors had landed at the Secretariat to congratulate K Keshava Rao, who has taken charge as Government of Telangana's Public Affairs Advisor.

When KCR talks of good governance

With legislators competing with one another to deflect the anti-defection law and switch sides depending on which way the wind blows, Bharat Rashtira Samithi leaders were not surprised the other day when their supremo declared with supreme confidence "good days are ahead" for them. Amid the talk of 'BRS merger with BJP' in some circles, they read between the lines that KCR has still not given up his plan to topple the Congress government. If they had any doubts about their leader's chatmatkar, those were cleared when KCR told them one 'senior politician' told him that he would bring about 40 Congress MLAs. This implies that KCR can do it if the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre is ready to help him. The BJP has eight MLAs while the BRS has 28 MLAs post defections. Thus, the toppling game can begin only if 25 Congress MLAs evince interest to defect. That is a tall order going by the mood among Congress MLAs. People and some of BRS' circles feel that KCR would do well to protect his flock, instead of still scheming to topple the Congress government.

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

REPORTERS' DIARY

Indiscretions that put Cong's 'secular' credentials at stake

There has to be a visible correlation between a political party's professed secular credentials and its outreach to minority communities during festivals and solemn occasions. In Telangana, the Congress' thought leaders and the state government's wordsmiths are not able to always word properly greetings and messages to suit the occasion. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's social media handle conveyed inappropriate wishes on Muharram. Similar was the case with DGP's handle and that of TPCC working president B Mahesh Kumar Goud. The Chief Minister's handle said: "Wishing everyone a blessed and prosperous Muharram". Muharram is day of mourning and it is not a day of celebration. This is a day of martyrdom of Imam Husain (The Prophet's grandson) & his 71 com-

his daughter Kadiyam Kavya, Member of Parliament from Warangal. Not to be left behind, AICC secretary Sampath Kumar was seen pouring milk on his own photo. Naughty netizens, especially those believed to be sympathizers of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, had fun with these visuals. Well, palabhishekam without phalam sounds gratuitous.

Mayors' day out at Mahila Shakti Canteen

In a strange coincidence, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Mayor Gadwala Vijayalaxmi and Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani, both of whom quit the Bharat Rashtira Samithi and joined the Congress recently, had a day out at the Secretariat Mahila Shakti canteen on Saturday. The Mayors, along with corporator Mamatha and their followers, relished their favourite items from the lavish spread of sweets and savouries that included sakinalu, murukulu, ariselu, sunnundaalu, belam gavalu, boondi laddu, ragi laddu, gar-

'Hard work and affection in the community's DNA'

Kamma is Amma, says CM at Kamma Global Summit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy attended the Kamma Global Summit in Hyderabad on Saturday and said that Kamma is like Amma. "It's in Kamma's DNA to help, don't lose it," he said.

In his speech, he emphasized the values and contributions of the Kamma community. Revanth said the term 'Kamma' signifies hard work and maternal affection, noting that the community is known for its presence in fertile areas.

He praised the basic character of Kammars, who are known for their hard work and willingness to help others, and acknowledged the respect and affection they have for him. He reflected on the influence of NTR, stating that many, including himself, had benefited



Revanth appealed to the Kamma community to join hands for promoting Hyderabad as a global, cosmopolitan city, assuring that his government is ready to support their skills.

from NTR's library, which helped them reach high positions.

He credited NTR with creating a brand of leadership and providing political opportunities through coalition politics. "When the country was witnessing the Indira Gandhi wave, coalition politics was introduced by NTR. The BJP

won two seats and one was from Telangana which was due to the coalition," he said.

Revanth appealed to the Kamma community to join hands for promoting Hyderabad as a global, cosmopolitan city, assuring that his government is ready to support their skills.

He reiterated the government's commitment to non-

discrimination, emphasizing respect for all castes and creeds.

"Dissent is a right in democracy. You have seen the consequences when attempts were made to control dissent on December 3, 2023," he said.

He asserted that staging protests is a democratic right and warned against suppressing citizens' rights. He also addressed the lack of Telugu leaders in national politics and called for support of Telugu leaders who excel at the national level, irrespective of caste and religion.

The CM said that he would solve the dispute concerning the five acres which was allotted to the Kamma Sangam and promised government funds for constructing a community building. He urged the Kamma community to continue their tradition of helping others.

Congress leaders looting as much as they can: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leaders are looting as much as they can and mega corruption is continuing in the state, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said. He said that the only change that came after the Congress came to power is "the way it is misusing power."

Addressing the Nirudyoga Maha Dharna at the Indira Park on Saturday organised by the BJP Yuva Morcha, Kishan



said that KCR inducted Congress MLAs ignoring the people's verdict and the Congress is also doing the same now. He said that only the ruler's flag has changed in

the state and that nothing else has changed. Making it clear that the BJP will work hard in raising the people's voice,

Kishan said that the CM had forgotten the job calendar and the assurances given by his party. He said the Congress government is fast losing ground and that they will teach it a lesson. The KCR government took 10 years to lose public confidence but the Revanth government needs just five, Kishan added.

Harish blames govt for Pedda Vagu breach

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly criticized the government for the recent breach of the Pedda Vagu project near Gummadivalli in Aswaraopeta mandal. He blamed the breach, which washed away the embankment and caused losses of Rs 100 crore, on the negligence and slow action by officials.

Harish emphasized that the disaster could have been prevented if the collector and irrigation officials had acted on farmers' warnings and opened the project gates in time.

Sri Dasharathi Krishnamacharya Award for Jukanti Jagannatham

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In honour of Dasharathi Krishnamacharya's birth anniversary, the Sri Dasharathi Krishnamacharya Award for 2024 has been awarded to Jukanti Jagannatham, the government said. The decision

was made by a government-appointed committee and official orders were issued accordingly. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1,01,116 along with memento. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated Jagannatham for winning the esteemed award.

19,277 registered...

Continued from page 1

Now it is 82% due to constant monitoring. We plan to reach 90% tax compliance by the end of this month," she said while addressing the gathering of around 150 people.

When GST was launched, registering for GST was considered a big thing. However, today, 19,277 registered companies are not filing returns. Meanwhile, Samyuktha Rani, the Joint Commissioner of the Commercial Taxes Department, announced a GST Registration drive for 10

days. She explained registration requirements and observed that many taxpayers have not filed returns after registration.

Numerous businesses continue operations with VAT registrations or have cancelled their GST registration even though carrying on business, she said.

Ashok Kumar Singhal, the President of FTCCI, highlighted the plus points of GST and sought time to present FTCCI's recommendations on GST and Direct Taxes to the Finance Ministry and the Chief Minister.

No storing...

Continued from page 1

Sources said that at present the Meddigada Barrage cannot store even a drop of water.

Around nine months ago, the Meddigada Barrage was damaged, and during this period, there were no significant inflows into the Godavari River. However, the recent heavy rains resulted in a surge of floodwaters. By Friday evening, the inflow at Meddigada had reached 3,10,080 cusecs and increased to 3,84,400 cusecs by Saturday morning. The flow slightly subsided by Saturday evening.

Similarly, at the Annaram Barrage upstream of Meddigada, inflows reached 12,500 cusecs. After the NDSA's warnings, 66 gates have been opened there ensuring that floodwaters pass through.

It may be mentioned here that KTR said that they would visit the Meddigada Barrage again as it has not collapsed.

Govt to announce MSME policy soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Vatsala Mishra, the Director of MSME and Retail, announced that the overdue MSME policy will be unveiled within a month.

She was attending the inauguration of the 4th edition of the FLO StyleTatva exhibition on Saturday, aimed at women's empowerment and MSME promotion.

Actress and TV show host Suma Kanakala inaugurated the event, with Vatsala Mishra as the guest of honour. The exhibition is currently underway at Hall No. 2, Hitex, Madhapur, and is open to the public from 10 am to 8 pm.

Speaking on the occasion, Suma praised the effort required to organize such a massive show and gather over 200 MSMEs from 15 states. She emphasized the importance of visiting the show to support social impact programs. Vatsala Mishra highlighted the Telangana government's strong commitment to developing the MSME sector, stating it as a thrust area. She discussed the Telangana Government's Global Linker platform, a dedicated initiative for helping MSMEs grow, with 5 lakh MSMEs already onboarded.

Despite incessant rains, many visitors came to check out the latest in lifestyle, fashion, and jewellery. StyleTatva, considered the city's Bahubali of fashion, lifestyle, and jewellery expos, features over 212 stalls and 200 brands, making it the biggest and most inclusive expo in Hyderabad.

The expo is supported by Tira by Tibarumal, Oro Jewels, and Mandir, and expects a footfall of 8,000 to 10,000 in two days. Seventy-five per cent of exhibitors are first-timers, providing a platform for fresh talent to showcase innovative products and ideas. Part of the proceeds will support social impact projects, such as training 100 women farmers in modern vegetable farming and upskilling women weavers in the Siddipet cluster.

CM launches 'Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched the 'Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam' scheme at the Praja Bhavan here on Saturday.

In his speech, he emphasised the government's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by the unemployed in Telangana.

He said the Telangana movement was driven by the hopes of youth seeking jobs and that the state attained statehood through sacrifices. He reiterated that the government's top priority is to solve unemployment and noted that appointment orders for filling 30,000 posts were issued after three months of assuming power. Acknowledging the struggles of the unemployed over the past decade, he mentioned the reforming of the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGpsc) on UPSC lines. The TGpsc has



He said that a job calendar would be introduced in the forthcoming budget session of the Assembly. The government plans to compile vacancies in every department before March each year, issue notifications by June 2 and complete recruitment by December 9.

already conducted Group 1 prelims and DSC exams are in progress.

Responding to the difficulties faced by the unemployed, the government has postponed the Group 2 exam and priori-

tized solving these issues by conducting examinations efficiently and systematically.

He said that a job calendar would be introduced in the forthcoming budget session of the Assembly. The government plans to compile vacancies in every department before March each year, issue notifications by June 2 and complete recruitment by December 9.

Revanth extended his compliments to SCCL for undertaking such a commendable programme.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Purnima: Jul 20 05:59 PM to Jul 21 03:47 PM
Krishna Paksha Pratipada: Jul 21 03:47 PM to Jul 22 01:11 PM

Nakshatram:
Uttara Ashadha: Jul 21 01:48 AM to Jul 22 12:14 AM
Shravana: Jul 22 12:14 AM to Jul 22 10:21 PM
Rahukalam: 5:12 PM to 6:49 PM
Yamagandam: 12:22 PM to 1:59 PM
Varjyam: 03:55 AM to 05:23 AM
Gulika: 3:35 PM to 5:12 PM
Amritakalam: 06:15 PM to 07:45 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:48 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Showers
Temp: 27°C
Humidity: 83%
Sunrise: 5:50 AM
Sunset: 6:53 PM
Updated: July 20 2024 5:00 PM

Show way...

Continued from page 1

He said the project which was built by spending Rs one lakh crore had "collapsed" during the previous BRS regime and that there was a lot of corruption in it. "There was gross corruption and we will take action against whoever is guilty," the minister said. The ruling Congress and BRS have been engaged in a war of words over the damage to some piers of the Meddigada barrage, part of the project. The NDSA had found in November last year that the Meddigada barrage had been severely compromised, rendering it useless unless fully rehabilitated.

'Govt failed on...

Continued from page 1

The Governor responded seriously to these issues and assured us that he would call the Home Secretary. The BRS stands firmly with the unemployed and will continue to fight until all promises made by the Congress are fulfilled," KTR added. He also raised concerns about constitutional violations in the state and informed the Governor about how BRS MLAs and MLCs were intimidated into joining the Congress. "We are pursuing legal action and have also complained to the Speaker," he said. The delegation brought up the case of Danam Nagender, who, despite winning as a BRS MLA, contested as a Congress candidate to the LS. "We appreciate the Governor's response regarding the unemployed," KTR added.

"We also informed the Governor about protocol violations and how the rights of MLAs are being infringed upon. He assured us that he would seek an explanation from the government and asked us to approach him with any future issues as an opposition party. The Governor promised to ensure justice," he said. KTR criticised Rahul Gandhi for his contradictory stance on protecting the Constitution while simultaneously allowing detentions. "We will not only report the unconstitutional acts of the Congress to the Governor but also to the President," he stated. Speaking on the Meddigada Barrage incident, KTR said, "The Congress must bow its head as it spread the lie that Meddigada was washed away and that Rs 1 lakh crore was wasted in Kaleshwaram."

Aadhaar hurdle...

Continued from page 1

He said that banks have submitted the list of eligible accounts of farmers to the government and the government has already paid the money to the RBI.

He added that the government will take action if any mistakes occur in banks.

The Minister said that depositing money in the accounts of farmers will be completed by September and that the loans of Income Tax payers and public representatives would not be waived. He said that there were doubts about the bank accounts of 2,000 farmers in six cooperative banks and a probe is going on about them. They can apply for loan waiver only after the enquiry, Tummala added.

Cabinet expansion, PCC...

Continued from page 1

Although a decision was reached on the selection of the TPCC chief during his last visit to Delhi, the selection of the TPCC chief was postponed due to lack of consensus. Rahul Gandhi will be invited to a huge meeting being organized in Warangal. Congress leaders in the state are of the opinion that it would be better if they had a meeting with Rahul as the farm loan waiver scheme was implemented as promised. Revanth will inform the high command about this.

Revanth will also meet Union Ministers during the visit. Along with implementing the six guarantees, Revanth will meet with ministers of various departments regarding the sanction of new loans and projects. There is a chance of the CM meeting Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and discussing infrastructure projects.

Revanth will inform the high command about this.

Revanth will also meet Union Ministers during the visit. Along with implementing the six guarantees, Revanth will meet with ministers of various departments regarding the sanction of new loans and projects.

There is a chance of the CM meeting Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and discussing infrastructure projects.

Govt planning to deprive...

Continued from page 1

He said the Congress government had once again deceived farmers and that the Congress government organised celebrations much before implementing the Farm Loan Waiver Scheme fully.

Maheshwar warned that the BJP will not remain silent if the government uses public money as it liked. Pointing out that the government is imposing several eligibility conditions for the Rs 2 lakh farm loan waiver scheme he said the government did not speak about these conditions before elections.

He said that the Congress government is waiving the loans of only some farmers like the KCR government which had waived the loans of only a few farmers.



Students and guests at GITAM Deemed to be University 15th Graduation Ceremony in Hyderabad on Saturday

1,490 honoured at GITAM 15th graduation ceremony

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GITAM, Deemed-to-be University Hyderabad celebrated its 15th graduation ceremony on Saturday. The event honoured the achievements of 1,490 graduating students from various academic programmes offered at the Hyderabad campus.

On this occasion, gold medals were awarded to 23 outstanding students for their exceptional academic performances. Additionally, 24 research scholars received their doctorates, marking significant contributions to their fields.

A global banking strategist and former chief executive officer of Barclays Bank India, Ram Gopal highlighted the evolving landscape of education. He remarked, "In this era of transformative technology and heightened sustainability

awareness, we must shift focus from mere profit to impact, creating value through collaboration rather than competition. Embrace new experiences, learn from failure, cultivate meaningful relationships, find joy in your journey, and give back to enrich our society."

Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Gouthama Rao Yetju emphasised GITAM's dedication to holistic education, stating, "At GITAM, we nurture a student-centric environment that fosters a 360-degree learning experience. Our mission is to provide a platform where students can discover their passion, engage in research, and emerge as skilled professionals created to make a significant impact."

Prof DS Rao, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Hyderabad, spoke about the university's vision and the role of its graduates in society.

City records incessant rains; IMD predicts heavy downpour

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city experienced incessant rain with a cool breeze and cloudy skies on Saturday. The temperature recorded was 24 degrees Celsius in the city. Rain intensified from drizzling to moderate showers in the evening till 8 pm. Many parts of Telangana also saw heavy rainfall, keeping temperatures below 26 degrees Celsius, according to the Telangana Weatherman.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers in most places in Telangana and warned of heavy to very heavy rains likely to occur at isolated places in

10 districts of the state.

Hyderabad city has been receiving light to moderate showers since Friday night and it continued on Saturday too.

According to the IMD, the southwest monsoon has been active over Telangana, and heavy rainfall occurred at isolated places in Bhadradi Kothagudem, Telangana, Rajanna Sircilla, Karimnagar, and Peddapalli districts. Eturnagaram received the highest rainfall of 9 cm, followed by Venkatapuram with 8 cm (both in Mulugu district).

An orange alert has been issued for Sunday with heavy to very heavy rain likely to occur at isolated places in Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Jagital, Jayashankar

Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Mahabubabad, Warangal, and Hanamkonda districts, along with a yellow alert till Monday for heavy rain likely to occur at isolated places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Rajanna Sircilla, Karimnagar, and Peddapalli districts. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph are very likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana.

According to the weatherman, downpours are picking up in North and East Telangana. Jagital, Nizamabad, Nirmal, Peddapalli, and Karimnagar are seeing non-stop rain.



Mothers taking their children from schools amid incessant rain in Hyderabad on Saturday



GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata visiting rain-hit areas in Hyderabad on Saturday

GHMC officials put on high alert

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The GHMC officials are on alert in the wake of heavy rains lashing the city and are taking all necessary measures to ensure that the people do not suffer. In view of the warning issued by the IMD, monsoon emergency teams and static teams have been deployed across the city to remove stagnant water from Friday night and Saturday morning.

Constant monitoring is being carried out by the officials. Meanwhile, GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata inspected area around Citra Dargah.

Officials from all departments are working in coordination to ensure smooth flow of traffic. The Meteorological Department has been issuing alerts to the city regularly. Tight security arrangements are being made to avoid any

untoward incidents. According to the GHMC Commissioner, a total of 238 static and 154 monsoon emergency teams were formed to clear stagnant water at the water logging points at regular intervals to avoid inconvenience to the people during the monsoon season. Additionally, 30 Hydra teams and 29 CRMP teams are continuously clearing stagnant water at the water logging points in the field.

Book Metro ticket via Rapido app

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rapido, a taxi service company, on Saturday announced collaboration with Larsen and Toubro Hyderabad Metro to introduce metro ticket booking through the Rapido app. With this strategic alliance, Rapido marks a significant milestone in the evolution of urban transportation, offering commuters a seamless end-to-end commute solution, with its bouquet of services including, bike, auto, cab and now metro tickets.

Commuters can now conveniently book a ride to the nearest metro station through the app and seamlessly purchase metro tickets for their desired destination, making their daily commute hassle-free.

This move will transform the commuting experience for thousands of passengers by integrating metro ticket bookings with the Rapido app. The Hyderabad Metro Rail, the World's Largest Public-Private Partnership Project (PPP) in the Metro Sector, has achieved a commendable daily ridership that is nearly touch-



ing the five-lakh mark, with an average of about 4.80 lakh people traveling daily.

With Rapido's extensive user base and user-friendly app interface, it is anticipated that at least 15 per cent of metro tickets will be purchased via the Rapido app, enhancing the overall efficiency and accessibility of metro services in Hyderabad.

Speaking of the agreement, Pavan Guntupalli, Co-Founder, Rapido, said, "By integrating metro ticket bookings on the Rapido app, we are offering our users more than just a ride; we're providing them with a comprehensive

solution for their entire commute. Hyderabad Metro Rail has been a pioneer in urban transportation, and we are honored to contribute to its success story. With nearly five-lakh daily riders, the metro has become an integral part of the city's transport ecosystem.

Now, through our partnership with L&TMRHL, we aim to seamlessly connect the first and last mile of our user's journey. We understand the evolution and excellence within Hyderabad's public transportation landscape," said KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL.

said, "At Hyderabad Metro Rail, we are dedicated to ensuring our valued commuters experience seamless journeys. This new collaboration with Rapido reinforces this commitment by providing an efficient last-mile connectivity solution. This initiative exemplifies our continued integration of advanced technologies, positioning Hyderabad Metro as a frontrunner in enhancing urban mobility across the city."

"It is a pleasure to embark on this collaborative venture with Rapido. This strategic partnership signifies our unwavering commitment to elevating the metro commuting experience for our users. By integrating cutting-edge technology like Rapido's services, we aim to optimize the user journey and enhance overall satisfaction.

We are confident that this collaborative approach will usher in a new era of innovation and excellence within Hyderabad's public transportation landscape," said KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL.

GHMC to develop 107 junctions at cost of Rs 78 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has taken the initiative to develop 107 junctions in city.

The project is estimated to cost of Rs 78 crore.

"Vehicular movement is being monitored closely to prevent accidents on the road. It is estimated that 40 to 60 per cent of road accidents occur at junctions in most countries. The main objective of the development is beautification of junctions, protecting pedestrians from accidents.

Major intersections are being developed in city. The Officials stressed the need to develop the existing junctions in line with increasing number of vehicles.. As a part of the development, construction of footpaths to prevent accidents and beautification works will

be undertaken to provide a pleasant environment for motorists.

"Although proposed to be undertaken on a larger scale, some have been canceled due to lack of feasibility. So far, as many as 31 junctions have been completed, while 13 more junctions are in various stages of development. 17 junctions are yet to be sanctioned by the administration. Work is to be initiated at 16 junctions. 8 are included in the tender process.

Another 8 land acquisitions should be done, 14 junctions are not feasible. Circle wise priority junctions have been identified and developed.

Due to the development of the junction, the motorists will be able to reach their destination without any hassle and on time without any delay," said the GHMC in a statement.

Helpline for complaints against stray dogs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has set up a helpline for complaints against stray dog menace. Citizens are advised to call toll-free at 040-2111111 or contact support at 040-23225397.

GHMC decided to conduct a survey of street dogs and implement the ABC-AR programme to ensure 100 per cent sterilisation. Sterilisation helps control the dog population, reducing aggressive behavior and the number of dog bites. Additionally, all street dogs will be vaccinated against rabies.

It advises that the information, education, communication (IEC) campaign will raise awareness about dog behavior and safety measures among Resident Welfare Associations, Slum Level Federations, the general public, and school children.

GHMC also decided to encourage street dog adoption and mandated pet dog registration to maintain a database for sterilisation and vaccination

reminders. They will also eliminate garbage vulnerable points (GVPs) to reduce food sources for street dogs and ensure proper waste disposal by establishments.

As per the GHMC, Feeding spots in less frequented areas will be established, and water bowls provided for street dogs, especially during summer. It advised the Construction sites to comply with the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017, to protect children from dog attacks. Aggressive street dogs will be rehabilitated in shelters.

A Rapid Response Team, led by the jurisdictional Veterinary Officer is placed to handle dog bite incidents. Advising victims on immediate care and ensure they receive necessary medical treatment. The team will also catch and observe the biting dog for rabies and vaccinate other street dogs in the area.

These measures will be implemented within GHMC limits and the 27 municipalities within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits.

Saroornagar Police nab two; seize 38 grams heroin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The LB Nagar Special operations Team (SOT) in coordination with Saroornagar and Medipally police on Saturday arrested two interstate drug peddlers and seized 38 grams of heroin from them.

Two other accused have been absconding. The arrested were identified as Ramesh Kumar (23) a rapido driver; Mahadev Ram (25), a rapido driver; Vikram Goel and Dinesh Kalyan all of them are natives of Rajasthan.

Ramesh and Mahadev came to Hyderabad in 2022 and joined Rapido service. The two brothers and their roommate Vikram were addicted to heroin. Since their income was insufficient, they decided to take to drug peddling.

They bought heroin from Rajasthan at Rs 6,000 per gram



and sold it to consumers in Hyderabad at Rs 12,000. Mahadev visited Rajasthan and bought 30 grams of heroin from Dinesh. On July 15 Vikram visited Rajasthan for some work and asked the brothers to sell the drug to consumers.

They packaged the heroin in two envelopes each containing 1 gram (total 2 grams) and one zip pouch containing 28 grams. Apart from heroin, the

police seized a weighing machine, a bike, two mobile phones and 10 empty envelopes from the accused.

In another case, Medipally police arrested the accused identified as Dinesh Kumar and seized 10 grams of heroin from him. Kumar is native of Jalore district of Rajasthan State, he came to Hyderabad in the year 2013, he worked as a welder. He came in contact with Kalyan and indulged in drug trade.

Later, Dinesh shifted his base to Rajasthan and operated from there. Kalyan motivated Dinesh to sell drugs and he offered to pay Rs. 500 per gram for every delivery. This continued for six months. On July 19, the police nabbed Dinesh and seized a two wheeler, one mobile and a weighing machine from Dinesh.

One kg heroin worth Rs 7 cr seized in Hyd; four peddlers held

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Four persons were apprehended here for allegedly trying to sell heroin and one kg of narcotic drug worth Rs 7 crore was seized from them, police said on Saturday.

Police teams in a joint operation with Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau nabbed the four drug peddlers under Madhapur Police station limits and recovered one kilogram of heroin, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty told reporters here.

One of the prime accused in this case from Rajasthan, who used to get heroin and MDMA from one main peddler, who is presently lodged

in Jodhpur jail in a NDPS case, came to Hyderabad recently and discussed with his relative and his friend (both belonging to Rajasthan) about selling the narcotic drugs here, and they agreed, police said.

As per their plan, the prime accused along with another peddler from Rajasthan came to Hyderabad with one kg of heroin (four packets each containing 250 grams), to sell the drug here and were assisted by two others, they said.

On credible information, police teams apprehended them along with one kg of heroin, police said, adding investigations were on to ascertain whom they were planning to sell the heroin.

Gang selling ganja busted in raids: three cases filed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Marijuana gang busted, four persons arrested

Excise raids were conducted in the limits of Medchal-Malkajgiri Excise Police Stations on Saturday and busted a gang selling marijuana and marijuana chocolates.

According to the Excise Enforcement and Excise Police, the raids were conducted based on information that marijuana was being sold at Malkajgiri Changichar area.

Superintendent of Excise K Naveen Kumar said that four persons who brought marijuana for sale from other places were detained, and 1.7 kg of contraband was seized from them. He said that 253 grams of marijuana and 390 grams of marijuana chocolates were found during the raids by excise enforcement personnel in the



Excise officials producing alleged drug peddlers at a press conference in Hyderabad on Saturday

surrounding areas of Ghatkesar.

Naveen Kumar added that Excise raids were also conducted at Keesara in the limits of Ghatkesar Excise Police Station, where people were consuming alcohol in a function hall without obtaining permission from the Excise Department. Sixteen beers (3.96 liters) and 2.60 liters of liquor were seized at La

Family Resort, and cases were registered against the management and the owner of the resort.

Later on, Director of Excise Enforcement VB Kamalasan Reddy, DS Dasharath, and AS Kishan congratulated the staff who registered cases on the illegal consumption of alcohol along with ganja.

Webster varsity holds pre-departure programme for TG, AP students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

US-based Webster University in collaboration with Education USA and InUni Global conducted pre-departure programme for students from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Ahead of the fall semester beginning in August, a total of 300 students were briefed about documents required at the time of entering the United States and the opportunities provided at the University.

Addressing the gathering, Samrat Ray Chaudhuri, Assistant Vice President for International Enrollment said, "The popu-



lar programmes among students from Telangana and AP are cybersecurity, data analytics and STEM. Webster University's curriculum focuses on real world learning. Students have the exposure to industry internships, CPT."

Chaudhuri further said, "For Under Graduate students, the tuition fee at the university is \$32,000. However, students can avail scholarship of up to \$20,000 (60%) based on their GPA or if the students have exceptional sports skills. In the post-COVID period, the Webster University did a rejig of its fee structure for students enrolling in the Masters programmes.

The students can now complete the full course in \$20,000-22,000. The total number of students from January and August intake is about 850 from this region."

Police officers told to deal with offences against women sternly

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu held a video review meeting on Saturday with court monitoring officers, court constables, and summons and warrant issuing staff under the Rachakonda Commissionerate on Saturday.

He directed all officers to work effectively to ensure that criminals do not escape. He emphasised the need completing investigations quickly and gathering strong

evidence to ensure maximum punishment for offenders. He also stated that strict action will be taken against those involved in crimes against women and children.

Sudheer Babu appreciated the efforts of ACP Laxmi Kantha Reddy from Pahadi Kantha Sharief police station, Inspector Mahender Reddy from Ghatkesar, and Public Prosecutor Sudheer Babu for their effective work in the Pahadi Sharief murder case and the Ghatkesar child abduction case.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
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e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
CRN No: 2425/KMM-01/DCI/ELC-RIDGE-3/ AEE/2024 Dt: 19-07-2024

1. Online tenders are invited for Road works (2 Nos), (01 No.) work (Est. amount Rs. 1.10 Crores) in Peddapally District and (01 No.) in Nalgonda District (Est. amount Rs. 10.0 Crores) under Non-Plan (MDR) under e-procurement platform in R&B Department.

2. Tenderers can download the Road works (2 Nos) tender schedules from e-market place i.e. <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 24-07-2024 at 4.00 PM onwards. Last date of is 01-08-2024 up to 3.30 PM.

DPR R.O. No.: 80-DPC/AG/MDV/1/2024-25 **Chief Engineer (R&B) SR & CRN**

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'e' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 07/ZCTO/CRZ/GHMC/2024-25 Date: 20.07.2024

Nature of the work: Dismantling of dilapidated building at: C-137, C138, C-139, C-140 at Govt. High School for visually Challenged Girls in Saidabad Div-24, Circle-6, GHMC. Estimate Cost: Rs. 3.65 Lakhs, Download Start Date: 21.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M., Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 22.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M., Name & Address of Officer, Cell No: Sri: G Hari Kishore, ZCTO, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad. Ph. No. 9849906768. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in.

Note: 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice.

R.O. No: 1071-PP/CLADVT/1/2024-25, Dt: 20.07.2024 **Sd/- ZCTO, CRZ, GHMC**



'Revanth implementing loan waiver in spite of financial constraints'

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Minister for Culture, Tourism and Excise Jupalli Krishna Rao has said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, in an effort to fulfil the promise made by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi at Warangal Declaration, has been implementing the Rs 2 lakh crop loan waiver. The government has already implemented six guarantees promised to the people within seven months of Congress coming to power in Telangana. The Chief Minister is implementing the loan waiver in spite of severe financial constraints.



Minister for Excise Jupalli Krishna Rao speaking at farmers' celebrations in Kamareddy on Saturday

He was taking part in the Rytu Runa Maafi celebrations held at Rytu Vedika in Bhikkanurumandal along with advisor to the government Shabbir Ali and Collector Ashish Sangwan. The state government has been implementing the people-centric welfare schemes despite hurdles, he said. Criticising the previous BRS regime, he said that the previous government policies had benefited contractors. The previous government had

destroyed the medical and health and education sectors. He asked the officials to devote more time to resolve the people's problems and advised them to be courteously towards people. Further, he asked the officials not to keep the representations received from people in pending and resolve them within a week or 10 days. The Minister said that he would take steps to complete the Kaleswaram project pending works in Kamareddy district.

Advisor to Government Shabbir Ali recalled how the irrigation projects constructed during Jawaharlal Nehru time helped overcome food crisis. The modern temples of Pochampadu and Nagarjuna Sagar project turned Andhra and Telangana regions into rice bowls. Because of Sonia Gandhi statehood to Telangana was achieved. The Rs 2 lakh crop loan waiver for farmers, as promised by Rahul Gandhi, is under way, he said giving full credit for this to CM Revanth Reddy.

He asked the farmers not to give credence to rumours on the loan waiver, which is certain to be implemented. In case of any difficulty, they should contact officials. Collector Ashish Sangwan said that the first phase of the loan waiver of Rs 1 lakh crop loan benefited 49,541 farmers to the tune of Rs 235.61 crore. He advised the farmers to contact the helpline on 7288894616 set up in the office of the district agriculture officer in case of any technical problem.

Collector warns doctors of action against laxity

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

District Collector Hanumanth K zandge has asked medical officers to be vigilant against seasonal diseases and pay special attention in providing healthcare to pregnant women. On Saturday, the Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Bibinagar Primary Health Centre. The attendance register of the staff was examined. He directed the District Medical Officer to take action against the senior assistant who was absent from duty. The doctors were told to ensure strict adherence to the timings. The drug store, details of medicines and registers of the hospital were checked. Be aware of seasonal diseases and be prepared with all the necessary medicines. ASHA and ANM staff should visit



District Collector Hanumanth K zandge inspecting Bibinagar Primary Health Centre on Saturday

frequently and provide their treatment, services of pregnant women should be increased, special attention should be paid to their health data and maternal and child health is important. He said that the surroundings of the hospital should be kept clean, water should not be stored, every Friday should be observed as a dry day and appropriate measures should be taken to prevent the spread of mosquitoes. Since 70% of the new building of the primary health centre has been completed, the remaining works should be completed immediately and made available to the public, he said. District Medical and Health Officer Dr Papa Rao and others were present.

PHC medical officer treks to remote villages to provide healthcare to tribals

PNS ■ VENKATAPURAM

Taking a cue from Mulugu District Medical and Health Officer Dr Appaiah, who recently trekked 16 km through forest area and treated patients in a remote tribal hamlet, medical officer working in Yedira PHC Dr Bhavyasri and Tippapuram Ayushman Arogya Mandir MLHP Manohar on Friday visited remote villages of

Sitarampuram and Kalipaka and treated patients there braving inclement weather and harsh conditions. They travelled a distance of 6 km in forest area by a tractor and crossed a stream near Kalipaka, which is in spate, and took measures to get pregnant women in the village admitted to the PHC. At a medical camp held at Sitarampuram, she treated 67 patients. Medical support

staff Y Lakshmi, ANMs Dhana Lakshmi and Venkata Ramana and ASHA worker took part in the event. It is pertinent to note here that Dr Appaiah, who was an Adivasi, trekked 16 km for over five hours and reached a remote village in Wajedu mandal to deliver medicines and mosquito nets. He slept in Penugolu Thanda for last Tuesday night

and returned to his home only on Wednesday. Out of 151 families living in the village, 140 shifted to plans over the years. He asked the remaining families to relocate to plans. Dr Appaiah said that it would be extremely difficult to provide emergency medical services in remote areas. In all, a group of 39 people, including children below two years of age, have been living there.

2 killed as car lands in ditch after hitting road divider

PNS ■ MEDAK

Two occupants of a car were killed on Saturday when the car landed in a road side ditch in an upside-down condition after hitting the road divider near KallakalBangaramma temple on National Highway-44 in Manoharabad Mandal of Medak district. The car was proceeding to Basara from Hyderabad when it met with the accident. While the lady occupant died on the spot, the male person who was travelling by the

ill-fated car later succumbed to his injuries undergoing treatment in a hospital. The deceased were identified as Ajaarao, 55, and Bhaskar Rao, 57. Along with them, their family members Manoj Kumar, Meena, Dhana Lakshmi were travelling by the ill-fated car. The injured were treated at Government Hospital in Toopran. A case was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by MangavelliSibukumar Rao, son of the deceased. SI Subash Goud is investigating the case.

Vaddiraju performs special puja at Saibaba temple, conveys Guru Purnima greetings to all

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

BRS Parliamentary Party Deputy leader and Rajya Sabha member Vaddiraju Ravichandra on Sunday performed special puja to Shirdi Saibaba at the temple in Gandhi Chowk here and conveyed his Guru Purnima greetings to the multitudes of the Saibaba devotees. He offered to develop the temple on behalf of his Gayatri Granites company or spending from his MPLADS funds. He prayed to the deity that

he and devotees of the deity prosper with health, wealth and happiness. Earlier, the Vedic scholars at the temple blessed the MP and presented him with the deity's prasadam. The temple committee chairman V Venkateswara rao and governing body members extended cordial welcome to the MP and presented him with a shawl and memento. BRS senior leader SeelamsettyVeerabhadram and others accompanied the MP.

Gang making counterfeit biodiesel busted at Shadnagar

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a major crackdown on counterfeit diesel manufacturing, vigilance officers conducted surprise raids in the Shadnagar constituency, leading to the arrest of a fake diesel gang. The authorities seized two diesel lorries carrying 12,000 liters of diesel each. The operation led uncovering of a oil mafia operating in the region. The operation took place in Nandigama Mandal, Rangareddy District, along the Hyderabad - Bengaluru National Highway. Acting on

reliable information, vigilance officers, under the supervision of senior officials, intercepted the illegal transport of diesel. Upon further investigation, the extent of the illegal activities became apparent, revealing a sophisticated network of counterfeit diesel production. The investigation led the officials to the Apex Bio Fuel Manufacturing Industry in Nandigama, where waste oil from Gujarat was being used to produce fake biodiesel. This biodiesel was then distributed to various banks and large industries in the vicinity. The officials

found that a closed company on the Nandigama bypass was involved in this illegal operation. Crude oil was being brought from Gujarat, mixed with other useless oils and diesel, and then transported illegally. The vigilance officers, in coordination with the police and health departments, conducted extensive inspections and discovered that a nearby petrol bunk was also involved. Samples were taken and sent to the forensic lab for analysis. The Apex Bio Fuel Manufacturing Industry, along with the petrol station, was seized. The two

diesel tankers containing 12,000 liters of illegal diesel were handed over to the Nandigama police. Officials are now investigating the duration and extent of the illegal diesel manufacturing operation. Vigilance SP, District Civil Supply Officer Manohar Kumar Rathore, Deputy Tahsildar Civil Supply Venkataprasad, and other officials took part in operation. The authorities are determined to dismantle the counterfeit diesel network and prevent further illegal activities in the region.

CISF jawan dies as weapon 'goes off' in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A CISF jawan died in Sangareddy district in Telangana after his service weapon went off accidentally, police said on Saturday. The incident happened when he was about to get down from a bus to deposit the weapon after completion of night duty on Friday at BDL-Bhanur unit in the district,

they said. Based on preliminary investigation, a senior police official said one bullet from the weapon pierced from the jawan's chin to the head and he died on the spot. The deceased, in his mid 30s, belonged to Andhra Pradesh. A case was registered, and further investigation is on, police added.



SP vows to make Nalgonda district 'marijuana free'

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Nalgonda Superintendent of Police Sarath Chandra Pawar said that the aim is to make Nalgonda district a marijuana-free district. The Munugodu police on Saturday arrested five persons on charge of selling marijuana and drugs in Munugodu mandal. He was speaking at a press conference held at the Munugodu police station. Alcohol and other drugs are manufactured. It is everyone's responsibility to eliminate cannabis and other intoxicants. He advised parents to keep an eye on their children to ensure that they would not fall prey to bad habits. He advised the police personnel to keep a strict vigil on the youths consuming marijuana and counsel them. The accused were subsequently arrested. Munugodu Sub Inspector Venkateswarlu, along with his team, kept a watch on the sale of marijuana



Nalgonda Superintendent of Police Sarath Chandra Pawar speaking to the media at Munugode on Saturday

and drugs in Munugodu mandal as per the instructions of the district SP. Based on the information that 5 persons were found with motorcycles in the shed located at Laxmidivigudem in Munugodu, the Munugodu SI conducted inquiries with Bolam Venkatesh, Koratikall village, Doti Ramaraju Kurampalli village, Armelli Vikas Munugodu Kammagudam, Veeramalla

Lingaswamy Kompalli and Puram Ganesh Bollaram Gurrampodu. As many as 35 youths are being counselled for consuming ganja. On this occasion, Nalgonda DSP Sivarami Reddy, Chandur CI Venkataiah, Munugodu, Kanagal, Gattuppal SSILs Venkateswarlu, Suresh Kumar, Venkat Reddy, SSILs Kalil, Anjaiah, staff, Veeranjanyulu, Mohan Babu, Swamy, Ramesh and others participated.

Godavari water level rising at Bhadrachalam

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Collector Jitesh V Patil said that water level in River Godavari at Bhadrachalam reached 34.90 feet at 4 pm on Saturday due to heavy rains the upper reaches. He said that 5.89 cusecs of water is being released from

Bhadrachalam. The people of the hinterland should be alert and people should not come out of their houses unless it is an emergency. People are advised to call the 24-hour control rooms for any emergency services. Keeping in view the heavy

rains and flood flow of Godavari, control rooms have been set up at Kottagudem IDOC office for emergency services, he said. The Collector advised people to give information through message or video to 08744-241950, WhatsApp number 9392919743.

Three-year-old boy 'kidnapped' from govt hospital

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

A three-year-old boy was allegedly abducted from a government hospital in Nizamabad district in Telangana, officials said on Saturday. A health official said the boy, who was sleeping along with his father in an area where

patients attendants take rest in the hospital, was allegedly taken away by two persons at midnight on Friday and the incident has been recorded in the CCTV camera. The boy's mother was admitted to the hospital for delivery, the official said. Further investigations are going on, police said.

Two women labourers 'raped' by shop owners in T'gana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two women labourers were allegedly raped by two men in a car in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana, police said on Saturday. The incident happened in Hajipur of the district on Thursday, they said, adding the two men, who run tiles shops in Achampet, were arrested. According to police, the two women, aged between 35-40, who work as labourers used to visit the shops of the accused for cleaning purpose and that they were known to

them and on Thursday also the shop owners called them for work. After completion of the work, the two accused and the women "consumed" liquor and later the women were taken in a car towards Hajipur by the accused where the accused allegedly sexually assaulted them inside their car, a police official said based on the complaint of the women. Based on the complaint lodged by the two women a case was registered against the two accused and they were arrested on Friday, police said adding further probe is on.

Heavy rains disrupt coal mining activity in SCCL open cast mines

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Heavy rains that have been lashing the state for the past 72 hours have disrupted coal mining activity in the opencast mines of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited as the rain water entered the mines. The machinery and equipment, worth several lakhs of rupees, used in coal mining operations in the mines were not in a position to operate since there is flood water around. All vehicles used in OCP mining operations remained stranded. Fourteen open cast mines of the SCCL produces 1.30 lakh tons of coal per day. But, the rain played the spoil sport

in the mining activity. Deploying heavy motors, the SCCL officials have been taking measures to pump the water out from the mines. However, the production of coal in the underground mines is going on as per the schedule without any hindrance. The Met office, in its weather bulletin, predicted heavy rains on Saturday and Sunday in Peddapalli and Mancherla districts of the coal belt region. On account of heavy rains in the upper reaches of Sri Pada Yellampalli project in the district, inflows into the project have increased. On Saturday alone, the project received inflows of 10,000 cusecs. Currently, the water

stored in the project is put at 5.7 tmc. However, there were no signs of Parvati barrage receiving any inflows. Tanks in Peddapalli area are full up to the brim due to the rains. The low-lying areas in the district have been facing the threat of inundation. Meanwhile, Collector KoyaSriharsha and Ramagundam police commissioner M Srinivas have been alerting the people living in the low-lying areas about the possible threat of inundation. They have been putting the authorities on high alert as and when they get updates on flood situation. They have been advising the people against venturing out unless it is absolutely necessary.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

CM NAIDU TO TDP MPs

Secure projects, funds

MPs urged to engage with Union Ministers on various issues

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister and TDP president Nara Chandrababu Naidu directed party MPs to prioritise securing projects, funds from the Centre, and new schemes for the State during the forthcoming Parliament session.



At the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party (TDPP) meeting, which included State Cabinet Ministers, Chandrababu Naidu assigned specific responsibilities to various MPs for engaging with Union Ministers on different issues. The TDPP has developed a strategy to coordinate closely with both State Cabinet Ministers and Union Ministers to secure Central funds for State development. Instructing Ministers to maintain regular contact with Union counterparts, the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of upholding law and order. He criticised former chief

minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for what he termed "fake politics" and accused him of politicizing personal attacks. Chandrababu Naidu warned that no one, regardless of their political guise, would escape justice if involved in criminal activities. He urged police officials to take strict action against those engaging in crime, expressing concern over the ongoing criminal culture and attributing it to systemic failures.

Chandrababu Naidu reiterated his commitment to maintaining law and order and vowed that measures would be implemented to ensure accountability for criminal acts. He highlighted that maintaining public trust and demonstrating both development and welfare were paramount. Despite financial challenges, the government has resolved to implement five key promises.

All communities must join hands to fight terrorism: Jitendra Singh

PNS ■ DODA/JAMMU

Asserting the government is focused on improving security situation, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said all communities must join hands to fight the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office, was in Doda, part of his Udhampur parliamentary constituency which was rocked by several terror incidents in over past three months, claiming the lives of 10 security personnel and a village defence guard (VDG).

Addressing a public rally before holding a general "public durbar" lasting over three hours, the union minister reaffirmed the revival of VDGs.

"The security agencies have a strategy in place to control

the security situation in Doda and its adjoining areas in view of the recent incidents of terror, but such strategies are not discussed in public", he said.

Singh said the VDGs are being revived in the militancy-infested areas with an objective to empower them to fight terrorists.

"The government has also decided that if and wherever needed, VDGs will be deployed as part of the multi-pronged strategy to confront the challenge posed by terrorists," he said.

Singh announced that weapons, including SLR rifles, may be provided to the VDGs so that they can negotiate the challenge effectively.

The minister made a fervent appeal to all communities to put up a united front against terrorism.

"Doda did not succumb to



terrorism even during the 1990s when it was at its peak. As inhabitants faced the menace tooth and nail, they were successful in preventing migration of the people from here," he said.

Talking about infrastructure development of Doda, Singh said in the last 10 years of the government, a network of highways has been created in order to improve connectivity

to remote areas, reduce travel time and enhance passengers' comfort.

"When completed, the strategically important Lakhampur-Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah-Doda National Highway will reduce distance on this route by more than 100 Kilometres," he said, adding "this will also create job opportunities for the local youth and boost tourism in the area."

In the same way, the all-weather under-construction Khellani Tunnel will cut travelling time for the inhabitants of the districts of Doda and Kishtwar both to Srinagar and Jammu, he said.

The minister said the government has been working tirelessly to ensure equitable development of all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Modi government overcome the shortcomings of the previous regime and completed the unfinished and delayed infrastructure projects in J&K," he underlined.

Singh emphasised that the government provided LPG connections and built houses under PM AWAS, without taking into consideration caste, creed or religion of beneficiaries, as it is driven by the motto of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'.

Will protect tribal lands, rights in Jharkhand, says Amit Shah

PNS ■ RANCHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said rampant infiltration has led to the shrinking of the tribal population in Jharkhand and added that if the BJP forms the next government in the state, it will release a 'White Paper' on demography to protect tribal lands and rights.

Shah expressed confidence in the BJP forming a government in Jharkhand, noting that the party won in 52 of 81 assembly segments in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing party workers at Prabhat Tara Ground during the BJP's extended executive committee meeting, he said, "After forming a government in Jharkhand, we will bring out a 'White Paper' on demography to protect tribal people, their lands, reservation, and rights."

Without naming Hemant Soren, he accused Jharkhand's tribal Chief Minister of being



involved in "Love Jihad" and "Land Jihad" due to his "vote bank and appeasement policy," which Shah claimed was causing demographic changes.

He alleged that thousands of infiltrators were entering Jharkhand, marrying tribal women, obtaining certificates, and buying land, thus usurping jobs meant for local people. Shah criticised Soren for focusing on increasing his vote bank and alleged that his welfare measures primarily benefited his family.

"Infiltrators are usurping jobs meant for local people and Hemant Soren is busy increasing his vote bank. His welfare measures means welfare of his family," he alleged.

Shah also targeted INDIA bloc and Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of "showing arrogance" despite losing the Lok Sabha polls and being involved in scams worth Rs 12 lakh-crore, appeasement, dynastic politics, and compromising national security.



AAP launches 'Kejriwal's guarantees' for Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal on Saturday launched five "Kejriwal's guarantees" for poll-bound Haryana, promising free electricity, free medical treatment, free education to people, Rs 1,000 per month to every woman in the state and employment for youngsters.

The Haryana Assembly polls are due later this year. Besides Sunita Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak were also present during the launch of "Kejriwal ki five guarantees" in Panchkula.

The Delhi chief minister, who is also the AAP national convener, is currently in judicial custody in an excise policy-related case.

While seeking people's support for the AAP during the Haryana Assembly elections, Kejriwal's wife Sunita hit out

at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of putting the Delhi chief minister behind bars as he was "jealous" of his works.

Calling her husband as "Haryana ka laal" (son of Haryana), she asked people that not even a single seat should go to the BJP and said "it is not about Kejriwal, it is about Haryana's honour".

Speaking about Kejriwal's "guarantees", she said there will be free electricity for domestic category and there will be round-the-clock electricity in the state if her party is voted to power.

"Like in Delhi and Punjab, there will be 'mohalla clinics' in cities and villages. The condition of government hospitals will be improved and there will be free and good treatment for everyone," she said.

The condition of government schools will also be improved where good and free education will be provided, she added.

"Each woman will get Rs 1,000 per month," she said. "It

Shed paternalistic approach towards junior lawyers: CJJ

PNS ■ MADURAI (TAMIL NADU)

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday asked the advocates to shed away paternalistic approach towards junior lawyers and said paying them pretty low amounts leads to "gatekeeping" of the profession.

After inaugurating celebrations here to mark the 20th anniversary of the setting up of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, the chief

justice hailed the contribution of the bench in serving as a repository of data and software backup for the Delhi High Court.

Raising the issue of entry-level juniors getting paid a "meagre" salary, Justice Chandrachud said "please shed away the paternalistic approach that they have come to learn and get exposure and experience, and that you are mentoring them."

He pointed out that there was



much to learn from the junior lawyers. Paying lower amounts such as Rs

5,000 per month to the juniors leads to "gatekeeping" of the profession, he said. Maintaining that the juniors were particularly more cognizant of the contemporary realities, he advocated that the junior lawyers should be provided a "dignified sum commensurate with their hard work."

"This over-romanticisation of hard work, especially work without sufficient pay, is not merely rhetorical, it leads to people being expected to work

for long hours with less sleep and for lesser monetary value," Justice Chandrachud said and stressed that the entire Bar should raise competent lawyers unfettered by their social or economic background.

Lauding the Bench for its latest "remarkable feat", the CJJ said the Delhi High Court had set up a Disaster Recovery Centre at Madurai Bench this year to ensure regular backup of its data and softwares.

BJP demands K'taka CM's resignation

PNS ■ BALLARI (KARNATAKA)

BJP Karnataka unit president B Y Vijayendra on Saturday demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the alleged Rs 187 crore scam in a government-owned corporation.

He said scams can take place only if there is an incompetent Chief Minister or if there was his verbal consent.

Referring to the embezzlement of Rs 187 crore in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, Vijayendra said not only the scammers enjoyed the hard earned money of the taxpayers and they also splurged it during the Lok Sabha election in Ballari.

When the ED said that the money was used in other states as well, should the officials alone be held accountable for that, he wondered.

"You should resign in connection with this scam as you hold the Finance portfolio. It

VALMIKI CORPORATION SCAM



is unlikely that the Finance Department did not know about the transfer of money from its accounts to various accounts of the individuals," Vijayendra told reporters here. He said, "You (Siddaramaiah) said that you will investigate the scams of the BJP government. Who is stopping you? But, you should answer our questions first."

The scam came to light after the Accounts Superintendent of the Corporation Chandrasekharan P took his own life on May 26.

In the suicide note, Chandrasekharan alleged that

there was an illegal transfer of Rs 187 crore belonging to the Corporation to various accounts.

The Congress government thereafter constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), which has so far arrested 11 people in connection with the case.

The CBI is also probing the case after the Union Bank of India lodged a complaint with it regarding the illegal transfer of money.

Nagendra, who resigned after the scam came to light, is presently in the Enforcement Directorate custody.

PM Modi, his New Zealand counterpart agree to advance bilateral ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a congratulatory call from his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon on his re-election as the two leaders agreed to advance their bilateral ties in sectors such as trade and economic cooperation, animal husbandry, pharmaceuticals, education and space among others. Modi's office said in a statement on Saturday that both leaders noted that India-New Zealand relationship is anchored in shared democratic values and close people-to-people ties, reiterating their firm commitment to take bilateral cooperation to new heights in the years to come.



Airline systems across airports working normally: Minister

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Airline systems across airports, which were impacted due to a global IT outage on Friday, have started working normally, and all issues are likely to be resolved by noon on Saturday, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said.

The ministry is constantly monitoring the operations at airports and airlines to ensure travel readjustments and refunds are taken care of, he added.

"Since 3 AM (Saturday), Airline systems across airports have started working normal-



ly. Flight operations are going smoothly now," Naidu said in a statement.

On Friday, in one of the biggest-ever IT outages, an update of a product offered by global cybersecurity firm

CrowdStrike triggered problems with Microsoft's Windows across the planet, hitting operations at financial sector companies and airlines while hospital operations got postponed and some television channels went off air.

Airports across the country witnessed chaotic scenes after the online passenger booking, reservation and boarding systems turned to manual mode due to the outage, resulting in higher passenger handling processing time and consequently hundreds of flights were delayed and many cancelled.

There is a backlog because of disruptions on Friday, and it is

getting cleared gradually, according to the statement.

"By noon today, we expect all issues to be resolved," the minister said.

The reservation and check-in systems of most of the airlines, including IndiGo, SpiceJet, Akasa and Air India Express, are now operational, according to a source.

"I am going to Ahmedabad. Online printing (Digi Yatra) is convenient, which wasn't happening yesterday. Everything's fine today. Flights are on time. What happened yesterday was a network issue. No one can do anything about that," said a passenger at Delhi Airport.

Four members of Indian family in Kuwait killed in fire in apartment

PNS ■ DUBAI/KUWAIT CITY

In a tragic incident, an Indian couple and their two children were killed in a fire that broke out in their flat in Kuwait City, local authorities said on Saturday. The tragedy happened on Friday night, the same day they returned from Kerala after vacation.

Mathews Mulackal, his wife Lini Abraham, and their two children, all hailing from Neerattupuram in Alappuzha, suffocated to death on Friday night due to the fire caused by a short circuit in the air conditioner at around 8 pm in their second-floor flat in Abbasiya area, The Arab Times newspaper reported. "The family had returned to

Kuwait from a vacation in Kerala, arriving around 4 pm local time on Friday. Mathews Mulackal worked at Reuters, while his wife Lini was a staff nurse at Adan Hospital in Al Ahmadi Governorate. Their children attended Bhavans School in Kuwait," the newspaper said.

"Mathew has been working there for the past 15 years. They left for Kuwait after their vacation on Thursday night from Nendubassery Airport," a relative told the media in Kerala on Saturday.

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait said it is in touch with the family in Kerala and will ensure the early repatriation of the mortal remains of the four Indians.

Study estimates 11.9 lakh excess deaths during pandemic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In India, 11.9 lakh excess deaths occurred in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 per cent higher compared to 2019, an international study has found.

The estimate is about eight times higher than the official COVID-19 deaths in India, and 1.5 times the World Health Organization's estimates, researchers, including those from the University of Oxford, UK, said.

Using data of over 7.65 lakh individuals, the study estimat-

ed changes in life expectancy at birth, by gender and social group between 2019 and 2020 in India, a country where one-third of global pandemic excess deaths are thought to have occurred, according to the authors.

The data was taken from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5).

The life expectancy in women fell by 3.1 years, while it fell by 2.1 years in men, the authors said. Gender inequalities in healthcare and resource distribution within households could be possible reasons, they



said. The patterns contrast with those seen in high-income countries, where excess deaths

were higher among men than women during the pandemic, the authors said in the study published in the journal

Science Advances.

Looking at social groups, the researchers found that high caste Hindu groups experienced a life expectancy decline of 1.3 years, whereas Muslims and Scheduled Tribes experienced a 5.4-year and 4.1-year drop in their life expectancies.

The pandemic exacerbated the disparities already faced by these marginalised caste and religious groups in terms of life expectancy, the authors said.

"Marginalised groups already had lower life expectancy, and the pandemic further increased the gap between the

most privileged Indian social groups, and the most marginalised social groups in India," said first author Aashish Gupta, a research fellow at the University of Oxford.

Further, the researchers found that deaths in India increased across age groups, most prominently among the youngest and the oldest, whereas drops in life expectancy in high-income countries were largely driven by increased deaths in those aged 60 years and above.

Excess deaths among the youngest could be explained by

Student stabs schoolmate in Delhi, sent to juvenile home



A class 11 student was allegedly stabbed by another here in a government school in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area, police said on Saturday. The victim was rushed to a hospital immediately where he is undergoing treatment. The incident happened over a minor dispute between the two students on Friday, they said. Police said the juvenile accused of the stabbing was taken into custody. During investigations, it was found that he stabbed the victim over something the latter had said the previous day. He carried the knife he used to attack the victim in his school bag, they said. Police said he was taken into the custody and sent to the juvenile home after the police produced him before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), an officer said.

Odisha: Padma Shri awardee Kamala Pujari dies at 74



Padma Shri awardee and noted organic farmer Kamala Pujari died on Saturday after suffering from kidney-related ailments, CMO sources said. She was 74, and is survived by two sons and two daughters. Pujari, who was admitted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack two days ago with kidney-related ailments, breathed her last on Saturday morning. She was being treated by a four-member medical team. She was brought to Cuttack from Jeypore District Headquarters Hospital after her condition deteriorated. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled her death. "I am saddened to hear of the passing away of Smt. Kamala Pujari, an eminent social worker and agriculturist of Odisha. She was honoured with the Padma Shri for her remarkable efforts towards conservation of rare and endangered seeds of various varieties of rice and other crops. She promoted organic farming among farmers, especially women farmers. Her contribution to organic farming and environmental protection will always be remembered. My deepest condolences to her bereaved family and friends," President Murmu said in a social media post. Taking to X, Prime Minister Modi said:

Student stabs schoolmate in Delhi, sent to juvenile home

A TALE OF TWO COUNTRIES INDIA AND CHINA BEYOND BINARIES

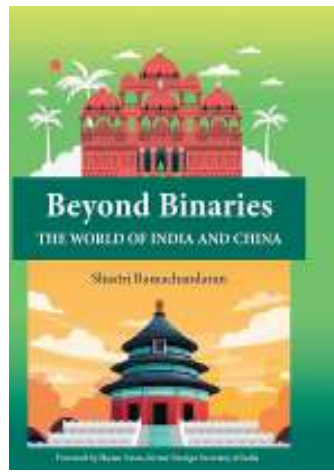
There is more to India and China relations that meets the eye and a lot goes behind the curtain in the people's republic of China writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

The book "Two Binaries: The World of India and China" by Shastri Ramachandran has generated significant interest. It explores several issues confronting the two countries and their bilateral relations. The author has ostensibly analysed why they behave as they do and what prevents the two countries from coming closer. Shastri Ramachandran is a journalist and well-versed in Chinese culture, having spent considerable time there, which makes him an authority on the subject. Indeed, he knows more about China than many so-called experts here. Although I haven't read the book, I recently participated in a discussion organised by the publishers to promote the book and initiate an informed debate. The discussion was chaired by Professor Madhu Bhalla, with veteran journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta and Professor Arvind Yelery as other panelists. The discussion certainly achieved its purpose and initiated a debate on Indo-China relations and our skewed understanding of China as a country beyond TV news and newspaper articles, often superficial in nature. China is always on the minds of most Indians. We have a love-hate relationship with it: we love it when we use its cheap products and buy them to profit in the domestic market. As Paranjay Guha Thakurta pointed out, most businesses would struggle without Chinese imports. Most pharmaceutical companies use raw materials from China, as do many car companies which import Chinese spares.



Indeed, India and China represent 40 percent of humanity and wield enormous power by sheer population size. However, coming together requires overcoming many obstacles. Shastri has the benign notion of making this the Asian century, which is not possible without India and China burying their hatchet. But that is easier said than done. They have historical and geographical factors that keep them apart. Shastri sees Western influence, amplified by our media, as a root cause of strained relations. He praises the Chinese people and believes it is possible to bridge the divide between the two peoples, as we are more than two countries – two

civilizations. However, there is a problem with perception. He sees China as a country painted by the West as evil, and we are expected to accept that view. We do so happily, gulping down Western propaganda as the gospel truth. There is some truth in that. The West has a powerful media with unparalleled reach, capable of making or breaking anyone's image. But that is only part of the truth. Giving China a clean chit is definitely oversimplifying the situation. Let's put it this way: China and the Chinese government are two separate entities often at cross purposes. When you interact with Chinese



people, you encounter individuals who are nice, like people anywhere else. However, when you deal with China as a nation, you deal with its government, which is reactionary and dictatorial. Shastri makes a distinction between Chinese and Arab dictatorships in their construct, but the end result is the same: an oppressive, intolerant, and regressive structure focused on self-preservation. Simply assuming a communist facade does not make one truly communist. Let's face it: Stalin was a dictator, Nicolae Ceaușescu was a dictator, Kim Jong Un is a dictator, and so is Xi Jinping. Having a party like Hitler's doesn't

qualify one to be called a Communist (a much-abused term, but I would think of Lenin as one). A fun fact here: Hitler's party was officially called the National Socialist German Workers' Party! On October 22, 2022, Hu Jintao, former General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, was escorted out of the hall at the closing ceremony of the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. He was pulled from his seat by two men while Xi maintained a stoic face. Was it a Western construct? When Shastri says, and I quote, "Nancy Pelosi leads a delegation to Dharamshala with business stakes in Taiwan, and the Dalai Lama

receives treatment in the US, making clear what is happening," he trivializes the Tibetan struggle and casts aspersions on the Dalai Lama's credentials. The human rights violations and systemic cleansing in Tibet are beyond the scope of this piece. It is not just about Tibet; the Uyghur province, dominated by Muslims, has seen enough misery. The Uyghur province of China has witnessed a series of human rights violations. It includes mass arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance, mass surveillance, cultural and religious persecution, separation of families, forced labour, sexual violence, and violations of reproductive rights. Many of the cases are well documented. And by the way, there is nothing capitalist about the students' protest in Hong Kong. I wish someone on the panel had spoken about these issues too. Most of them were fixated on Doklam and Galwan and relished Chinese cuisine and the great economic strides China made and how everyone wants to have a piece of the Chinese pie. Interestingly, after taking advantage of Chinese largesse, many African and Asian countries are now waiting their turn to go bankrupt. China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' is turning out to be a noose around hapless economies. China is doing in the 21st century what the West did in the 19th. Do we have a locus standi in criticising China's human rights violations when we have skeletons in our cupboard? Sure, we do. Martin Luther** King Jr. said, and I quote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!"

INSPIRATIONS BEHIND ZAIRA AND AUTHORSHIP JOURNEY

Professor **VINITA DHONDIYAL BHATNAGAR** shares the personal inspirations behind her novel **ZAIRA** and reflects on her journey from literature scholar to published author

What inspired you to write Zaira? Were there any personal experiences or specific events that sparked the idea for this novel?

Zaira was inspired by many events and incidents. I saw a terrible accident on a flyover near my office. The young man was hurled across the parapet and crashed onto the road below. The blood was trickling from his head like a rivulet. This scene has stayed with me and informs one of the most pivotal moments in the plot. The awareness as a mother and as a college teacher about the vulnerability of our young population also played a part. This is the age of experimentation and exploration, which is fantastic. But they should not fall prey to addictions or to habits that endanger their lives and their futures. This inspired me to write about the cynical, profiteering men who might make a fortune by luring people into consuming drugs.

Can you share your journey as a writer? What were some of the key moments or turning points that led you to become a published author?

I have been studying literature since 1985 and have a Phd in literary studies. So I have a long history of reading. It took guts to jump into writing especially because in my mind I kept comparing myself to the literary greats I had studied. I kept writing and kept getting rejected. Part of the problem was that my characters were not gripping enough. My father passed away in 2010 and his last words to me were not to give up. I am going to keep to that. The publishing industry has changed drastically in the last few years. Maybe my time was now. My editor friend, Kaneez, told me of Book Bakers, my literary agent and they helped place my book.

How do you balance your roles as a professor and a writer? Do you find that your



academic work and storytelling complement each other?

In my fantasies I would have been a full time writer, locked up in a room with my thoughts for company. In reality I am juggling a home, and a job in which I have seventy young people in a classroom and they come from far off places and with distinctive personalities and life stories of their own. I now recognise this as strength. It may give me less time to write but it gives me deeper compassion and understanding. I teach communication skills and my purpose in writing is primarily to communicate rather than impress. My book has been written primarily for the type of people I teach.

The characters in Zaira are richly detailed and complex. Can you share your process for developing characters like Zaira, Rajyawardhan and Jai? Did any of them change significantly from your initial concept?

Thank you! As you know characterization is what I have struggled with the most. So your words are a healing balm to my soul. Frankly, Zaira is based on a friend of mine who is like a daughter to me. The story is not hers. The

character is. I asked her at points "What would you wear to this?" or "What would you eat?" "Since I understood her well I could imagine what her responses might be in certain circumstances. Rajyawardhan is based partially on my favorite film star. I saw him on VIP road in Bhopal and I said to myself, "This man will be a legend." I think he is on his way to becoming one. I won't say more or I might be sued! With Jai I was thinking of the migration of the Sindhis to Bairagarh near Bhopal after partition. A character carries the history of his people and I hope some of that is reflected in Jai's story. What changed significantly throughout the course of the writing was the relationship outcome of Jai and Zaira's story. I was so keen to write a romance. Alas!

Zaira is filled with unexpected twists and suspenseful moments. How do you approach plotting a story to maintain tension and keep readers engaged?
My professor Malashri Lal suggested I start storytelling to live audiences. It's a very difficult art. Listeners get restless and children are bound to say "I am bored" when they are bored. That gives my writing urgency. I don't want to bore you. I don't want to waste your precious

time and attention.

The book touches on serious issues like drug trafficking and personal trauma. What kind of research did you conduct to ensure these aspects were portrayed accurately and sensitively?

I didn't do specific research on these topics but I have always stayed aware of these issues in society. I listened to ex-drug addicts speak about the fear of slipping back into the habit and of the humiliating lives they had led when they were in the grip of addiction. I knew a fantastic young man who just slipped away. It makes me sad. It makes me angry. We are letting our younger generations down if we don't do enough to protect and inform them. I was in the process of losing my mother as I wrote the book. I didn't know it then at a conscious level. But at a subconscious level, something inside me was preparing to let go. That rawness, that vulnerability and ache found itself on to the pages.

Fyodor Dostoevsky works often explore deep psychological and moral issues. How has Dostoevsky influenced your writing, particularly in Zaira? Are there specific aspects of his work that resonate with you?

During my MPhil days at Delhi University, I attended a seminar course of Russian Literature. (I must tell you the first four years of my life were spent in Russia. They believed then that the only privileged class should be children and I was treated accordingly.) I think I am obsessed with him because my uncle once dismissed somebody else's writing as "He is no Dostoevsky" Since then he has become my standard of good writing!

As a storyteller, are there any elements of Fyodor Dostoevsky's work that have influenced your writing, particularly in Zaira?
Ha Ha! I am arrogant enough

to really crave that comparison. Dostoevsky doesn't bother with facts as much as with states of mind. I find it difficult to add irrelevant details just to enhance the literariness of the language or story. He explores the two radically opposing sides of a character or situation. When I read his morally ambiguous characters I feel "This could be me, I could respond like this in this situation." I am hoping readers will feel the same way about my work.

You've mentioned that no change is possible unless the story touches the hearts of its readers. How do you ensure your stories have this emotional impact?

Even as a teacher I am aware miracles can happen and mountains can move if you can touch the hearts of your students. I do have a worldview, an urgent sense of how I think things should be. If I wrote them in a pamphlet it would be thrown away. So I weave a story. One of my favourite writers just revealed that he cried through the writing of his book. He knew the reader could feel the emotion because he felt it first. That is my greatest challenge. Years of struggling with literacy issues of theme, character, plot and conflict means I have a head first approach. I have to get in touch with my own heart to write. When we communicate heart to heart, we understand each other better. That's all I am going for.

What do you hope readers will feel or think about after finishing Zaira? Is there a particular message or feeling you want to leave them with?
I am hoping they will feel energised and empowered. Mistakes happen. So what? Why be afraid of heartbreak and betrayal to an extent where we forget to live? There are possibilities and opportunities all around us. We have a story to live. Let's make it grand!

BOOK REVIEW

A GRIPPING TALE OF AMBITION, THRILLER AND SELF-DISCOVERY

Zaira is a gripping thriller that blends suspense with societal critique, following a young woman's perilous journey through Bollywood and drug trafficking to uncover the truth behind her idol's death, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

ZAIRA by Prof. Vinita Dhondiyal Bhatnagar is a compelling young adult thriller that masterfully blends suspense with social commentary. Set against the glamorous backdrop of Bollywood and the dangerous world of drug trafficking, the novel follows the journey of Zaira, an ambitious college student from Bhopal, as she navigates the complex intersection between her dreams of fame and the traditional expectations of her family.

The book introduces key characters like Jai, who provides stability and support to Zaira and Rajyawardhan Singh, Layla's charismatic lover whom Zaira admires. Rajyawardhan's presence adds complexity to the story, intertwining with Zaira's ambitions and the dangers she faces. Bhatnagar skillfully portrays Zaira's internal conflict as she navigates her relationship with Jai, initially a source of joy and comfort, which becomes a lens for her own desires and aspirations. Jai plays pivotal roles in shaping Zaira's journey, enriching her character development. Rajyawardhan also influences Zaira's decisions, adding depth to the narrative dynamics.

One of the most striking aspects of the book is its exploration of societal pressures and their impact on individuals, especially women. Zaira, initially portrayed as a somewhat naive and idealistic young woman, faces judgment and ridicule from her peers for her choices. The dialogue between Shikma and Deepa, who mock Zaira for her slipping grades and newfound relationship, highlights the harsh scrutiny that women often face. This criticism is not merely about academic performance or personal relationships but is deeply rooted in societal expectations and the pressure to conform to traditional roles. The book grips you from the first page to the last, urging you to finish it in one sitting as you delve into every character and their stories. Author beautifully portrays Zaira's journey, creating a remarkable reading experience. The subplot involving

Rajyawardhan Singh adds suspense and danger. Zaira's involvement in a dangerous drug trafficking investigation and the subsequent threats to her life bring a sense of urgency and tension. Her time in isolation, grappling with fear and turmoil, showcases her inner strength, particularly in her struggle to maintain sanity and self-awareness.

Bhatnagar's writing is engaging and evocative, drawing readers into Zaira's world from the first page. The pacing is well-managed, balancing the thriller elements of the drug trafficking investigation with moments of introspection and character development. The author's ability to weave together personal growth, suspenseful plot twists and broader societal issues is commendable. The novel's exploration of the complexities of human relationships and emotions adds depth to the narrative. Zaira's evolving relationships with her family members, her romantic entanglements and her changing perception of Layla (whom she initially idolizes) all contribute to a human connection and growth.

ZAIRA is more than just a thrilling page-turner; it's a profound exploration of personal growth, societal pressure and the quest for justice. Bhatnagar's nuanced characters, engaging plot and evocative writing create a story that resonates long after the final page is turned. Once you start reading, you'll be eager to finish it in one go, drawn to explore every character and their stories. The book is highly recommended for readers who enjoy emotionally rich narratives combined with cultural authenticity and suspenseful elements. **ZAIRA** stands out as a remarkable contribution to contemporary Indian literature. It offers a thought-provoking experience that prompts readers to reflect on their own life choices and the societal forces that shape them. Vinita Dhondiyal Bhatnagar has crafted a novel that is both a gripping thriller and a sensitive portrayal of a young woman's journey to self-discovery, making it a must-read for fans of the genre and beyond.



LOBSTER LOVE

PAWAN SONI discovers how Delhi is experiencing a culinary renaissance with new venues offering world class ingredients



PAWAN SONI
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

Getting high-quality lobster in Delhi can be quite a challenge. This is why I make it a point to attend most crab and lobster festivals in the city, where the freshness and quality of these exquisite sea creatures are guaranteed. I have enjoyed several memorable meals at Shang Palace, Shangri-La Eros Delhi, and the ongoing 'Clawsome Chobster' meal was no exception. This special menu features dishes made with both chicken and lobster, likely to appeal even to those who don't typically enjoy shellfish. We began with a lobster and mango salad, a perfect summer dish. The sweetness of the lobster meat and fresh mangoes, combined with the coconut sauce, was perfectly complemented by the texture of lettuce and the acidity of lemon. For those who enjoy Chongqing chicken with its bullet chili heat, the lobster version is a must-try. The lobster, with its meat still clinging to the shell, is truly a palate pleaser. After tasting this, I wonder if I'll ever enjoy the chicken version as much. The only chicken dish we tried in starters was the bang bang chicken. Coated with panko/breadcrumbs for the extra crunch for this juicy chicken breast filling, it surely had the bang. Though for the sauce, I missed the mayonnaise in the dip which is normally



mixed with sweet chilly sauce. In the dim sum selection, we tried the kaffir lime lobster dumplings served with oscietra caviar. Though the kaffir lime flavor was somewhat subdued, these beautifully crafted dumplings were delightful. The lobster and chicken sui mai were expertly made with thin skins and juicy fillings. Feeling quite full after the starters, we decided to skip the carbohydrate dishes, which

included fried rice with lobster, chicken, and egg. Another intriguing option was the Chobster, a whole grilled chicken served with lobster rice. This dish, as our server mentioned, requires about 45 minutes to prepare, so we opted for the chili pepper lobster tail instead. During our meal, Mr. Abhishek Sadhoo, General Manager of the hotel, stopped by, and we exchanged pleasantries. When

asked about the sourcing of their lobsters, he proudly shared that they are flown in from Canada. I am eagerly anticipating their new festival offerings, which will feature an abundance of lobster, reflecting their commitment to bringing top-quality seafood to India. Shhh... keep this secret between us. Delhi is experiencing a culinary renaissance, with new venues offering world-class

ingredients. If you love seafood as much as I do, don't miss this special menu, available only until July 21, 2024.

(Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com)

Address: Shang Palace, Shangri-La Eros, 19 Ashoka Rd, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Delhi
Phone: 011-41191919



A CULINARY COACH

Introducing Capital Diner, a unique restaurant located in a refurbished railway coach, providing travelers and locals with a nostalgic and immersive dining experience at the New Delhi Railway Station

Nestled within the bustling confines of New Delhi Railway Station lies Capital Diner, an enchanting escape that seamlessly blends the nostalgia of old-world train journeys with the flair of contemporary dining. This innovative restaurant, housed within a meticulously refurbished railway coach, promises an unforgettable culinary experience for travelers and locals alike. Stepping into Capital Diner is equivalent to embarking on a journey through time.

Capital Diner offers a unique blend of history, ambiance and exquisite cuisine, making it an ideal spot for travelers and locals alike. Upon entering Capital Diner, guests are transported back in time, as the restaurant's design combines the charm of American diners with the luxury of old-world train journeys. The interior, fashioned from a retired Indian Railways coach, exudes an air of elegance and charm reminiscent of the bygone era of train travel. Rich brown vertical stripe wallpaper, evoking memories of the legendary Orient Express, complements plush mallard shade booth seating and tasteful mosaic tiling. Soft beige LED lighting strips cast a gentle, starlit glow, enhancing the ambiance with a touch of luxurious warmth. Beyond its captivating aesthetics, Capital Diner delights diners with a diverse menu that celebrates both traditional Indian flavors and international cuisines. From hearty kadhai paneer paired with freshly baked naan to creamy penne tomato pasta with succulent chicken, every dish is crafted with meticulous attention to detail and premium ingredients. Each bite is a witnessed to the culinary expertise of the restaurant's dedicated chefs, ensuring a gastronomic journey that satisfies even the most discerning palate. "We are delighted to introduce Capital Diner, where the romance of



railway travel meets the sophistication of modern dining," shares Mr. Harish Kumar Arora, Founder of Capital Diner. "Our aim is to create a dining experience that not only tantalises the taste buds but also evokes cherished memories of train journeys past."

Capital Diner stands as a testament to innovation in the culinary landscape of New Delhi, offering more than just a meal but an immersive experience that celebrates the cultural heritage of India's railway history. Whether seeking a quick bite before catching a train or a leisurely dining experience amidst the station's vibrant atmosphere, Capital Diner promises an unparalleled fusion of nostalgia and culinary excellence.

So, next time you find yourself at New Delhi Railway Station, don't just pass through - immerse yourself in the allure of Capital Diner. Indulge in the ambiance, savor the flavours and rediscover the magic of train travel through a dining experience like no other.

FAST FACTS

Circulating Area, New Delhi Railway Station, Near Ajmeri Gate, Connaught Place, New Delhi. Hours: 11 AM to 11 PM
Price for Two: INR 600 Instagram: @capital.diner

EMBRACING VEGANISM IN ZURICH

When considering a trip to Switzerland, famous for its chocolate and cheese, you may question if it suits vegans. Yet, surprisingly, Switzerland is an exciting destination for vegans, offering unexpected delights. In Zurich, there are chances to explore innovative sustainable dining options

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

Switzerland pleasantly surprised me with its vegan options. Local supermarkets carry a variety of vegan products such as plant milk, tofu, lentils, and Swiss vegan brands like New Roots Cheeses and Planted Vegan Meats. The cities like Zurich, Geneva, Lugano, Bern, and Lucerne offer many vegan-friendly restaurants listed on Happy Cow. Zurich and Geneva stand out in the vegan scene, but other cities also provide for vegans. Be sure to check food labels for hidden dairy ingredients. Swiss cities feature diverse vegan eateries like Tibits and Hiltl serving global cuisine. Do try the traditional Swiss dish Rösti. During my month-long stay in Zurich following a vegan diet, I discovered the city's vibrant vegan scene, surprising given its reputation for banking and luxury shopping. Haus Hiltl, the world's oldest vegetarian restaurant on Sihlstrasse 28, 8001 Zürich, offers classic dishes like house-made meatballs and rich Bolognese bowls. Guests can enjoy a la carte options or the vegetarian buffet, allowing them to savour various flavours. Hiltl Sihlpost near the main train station offers buffet options for breakfast and other meals. One remarkable aspect of Haus Hiltl is its carefully curated menu, making it a top choice for those with specific dietary needs like gluten-free, nut-free, or soy-free preferences. Discover and savour these top dining destinations in the city.

REDEFINING GASTRONOMY

Zizi Hatab, a Moroccan immigrant raised in a multicultural setting near the Mediterranean coast of Spain, is redefining gastronomy with plants. Despite starting with a background in Spanish fishing gastronomy, Zizi's journey led her to Barcelona for engineering studies, where she balanced hosting dinners in her student dorm with exploring tapas venues. Transitioning to a corporate engineering role in Switzerland, Zizi's passion for cooking persisted. Without professional culinary experience, she boldly approached top Swiss chef Andreas Caminada, securing an internship at his renowned restaurant, Schloss Schauenstein. Returning to Zurich in 2019 to prepare for the launch of her debut restaurant, KLE, Zizi made a bold decision to offer an exclusively plant-based menu and lifestyle. Despite scepticism from various quarters, Zizi remained steadfast in aligning her values with her culinary vision, believing in the transformative power of a plant-based diet and food's ability to connect people. Through KLE, Zizi aims to inspire a change in consumer habits by offering a culinary experience based on love, innovation in plant-based cuisine, and sustainability. Emphasizing locally sourced ingredients and sustainability, Zizi creates a welcoming atmosphere for both her teams and guests, fostering memorable dining encounters. Her pioneering work in plant-based



fine dining at KLE has garnered recognition both locally and internationally, solidifying her influence in the gastronomic realm. Her second establishment, DAR, swiftly became recognized and was highlighted as a top spot by The 50 Best. Particularly noteworthy is DAR being awarded a distinguished Green Michelin Star in 2022. This accolade marks Zizi as the first Swiss vegan chef to attain such an honour, affirming her status among the global culinary leaders. In the same year, Zizi was honoured as one of the 10 emerging chefs influencing the evolution of gastronomy in the 50 Next prestigious list.



ELEGANT YET APPROACHABLE FINE DINING AT KLE

Located in the vibrant District 3 of Zurich, KLE's diverse team brings a multicultural flair to Zurich's dining landscape, creating an intimate and welcoming atmosphere. An inviting outdoor terrace provides a charming setting for open-air dining when the weather is pleasant. Recently awarded both a green and red Michelin star, KLE stands out as Switzerland's first plant-based restaurant to receive such recognition, a testament to the chef's dedication to culinary excellence. Each dish emphasizes quality ingredients, such as the 'black pearl mushroom' with a

sauce crafted from 25 locally sourced elements like Weggis lemongrass. The house bread, reminiscent of Moroccan buns, served with egg-free aioli made from 'aqua-faba' and Moroccan hummus, along with unique pickled vegetables, showcases the chef's inventive twists on traditional flavours. Sauerklee, a cherished ingredient in various cuisines, highlights KLE's blend of local and global culinary influences, inviting diners to savour a sensory exploration of the chef's culinary heritage.

DAR & ITS COCKTAIL BAR

My visit was truly eye-opening. DAR, meaning 'to give' in Spanish, fuses Moroccan and Spanish influences to create a remarkable plant-based dining experience. The menu showcases fresh seasonal vegetables, artisanal bread, and delectable desserts, inviting diners to explore global flavours like salted lemon mustard buns and turmeric-infused roasted beets. Opting for the chef's selection treats guests to a well-curated array of snacks, entrees, and sweets that leave a lasting impression. Reserving ahead is essential for a table at DAR, especially for the popular weekend vegan brunch featuring delightful honeycomb-shaped pancakes. Adjacent, the Cocktail Bar offers sustainably crafted vegan drinks that embody the vibrant tastes of Spain and Morocco. This 'slow fast food' concept extends to enjoying homemade vegan burgers while respecting the environment.

DAR's atmosphere celebrates guilt-free pleasures that blend taste, tradition, and ethical dining, offering a truly gratifying experience.

PINTXOS AND WINE AT COR

Cor on Weststrasse is a hidden treasure in the heart of Zurich, offering a cosy atmosphere where wine and tapas are the stars. Zineb and Bernd Vogel's love for Catalan cuisine is evident in the carefully crafted plant-based tapas and pintxos. The wine selection, featuring mainly Spanish and French wines, adds elegance to the experience, promising a diverse culinary journey with each bottle. Savouring delights like stuffed peppers and 'pa amb tomaquet' reveals Cor's dedication to organic, local ingredients. What distinguishes Cor is its innovative wine menu, constantly evolving to complement the diverse menu offerings. Whether for an impromptu aperitif or a relaxed dinner, Cor's charming ambiance and delicious offerings make it a top choice in Zurich's dining scene. A visit to Cor promises a delightful blend of flavours, setting, and warmth that truly elevates the dining experience in Zurich.

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.

India a preferred investment destination for investors: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday appealed to the Indian diaspora of the US to help promote the country as a preferred investment destination, highlighting the vast opportunities available in various sectors.

He said that the government has taken a series of measures to attract investments and those steps include promoting ease of doing business, reducing compliance burden, opening sectors like space and eface for foreign direct investments.

Goyal also asked the diaspora to participate in making India a developed nation by 2047.

"Help promote brand India as a premium investment destination. Investing in India has tremendous growth potential and we saw NRI deposits (increasing to) US\$ 3 billion between April and May, and that is four times what it was last year. I am sure many of you



"I would invite all of you to invest in India. India's growth story will continue unfettered at a scorching pace. India would continue to lead the world economy and will continue to be the most favoured destination for investment, and manufacturing," Goyal said.

would be looking at investments in the Indian stock market, bond market, banking systems, fixed deposits, depending on your appetite for risks," he said while virtually interacting with the Indian diaspora of the US.

He added that though at present the US is attractive for investors because of high interest rates, going forward India provides huge opportunities for businesses.

"I would invite all of you to invest in India. India's growth story will continue unfettered at a scorching pace. India

would continue to lead the world economy and will continue to be the most favoured destination for investment, and manufacturing," Goyal said.

On clean energy, he said that India has the world's largest renewable energy programme of 500 GW.

"We already have 200 GW and we are ramping it up and may be on Tuesday's budget, let us wait and watch what further initiatives in these directions of sustainability are brought," he said.

Replying to a question about

social media confusion during the general election, the union minister said "we have" lessons to learn as every election teaches a lot of new things.

"I can assure you that we are all working to understand evolving dynamics, what changed, what we need to focus on. After an election, there is always a period of time when anybody who has performed better than expected does have a little more arrogance and somebody who has performed less than expected does take time to introspect and course correction.

Tea industry seeks higher RoDTEP rates to make exports competitive

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The tea industry has sought higher rates under the RoDTEP scheme to make exports more competitive in the overseas markets.

Leading industry body Indian Tea Association (ITA), in its pre-budget memorandum, said that the present RoDTEP rate for bulk tea is 1.7 per cent (free on board) subject to a cap of Rs 6.70 per kilogram. The association urged the government to increase the reward base rate under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) for black tea in bulk to remain competitive in the international markets.

The RoDTEP scheme ensures that exporters receive refunds on embedded taxes and duties that were previously non-recoverable. Another industry body Tea Association of India (TAI), in its pre-budget proposal submitted to the government, said the RoDTEP rate for tea should be

higher than the earlier MEIS (merchandise exports incentive scheme) of five per cent to enable Indian tea to retain its competitiveness in the global market.

Since its inception in January 2021, the RoDTEP scheme has already provided support amounting to Rs 42,000 crores to more than 10,500 export items, an official statement said in March. The association has also sought for imposition of an anti-dumping duty on imports of Nepal tea.

The TAI said that this measure would prevent the dumping of cheap and duty-free tea from Nepal and boost exports of genuine Darjeeling tea.

Such a measure would also thwart the passing off of Nepalese tea as a geographical indication (GI) tag product.

The ITA said that the government should exempt tea from levy on TDS on cash withdrawals due to a lack of banking infrastructure in the tea-growing areas in the country.

MONEY MATTERS

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q1 profit rises 2% to Rs 3,520 cr



Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a 2 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 3,520 crore on standalone basis for the first quarter ended June 2024. The private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 3,452 crore in the

same quarter of the previous fiscal year. Total income during the period grew to Rs 15,675 crore as against Rs 13,183 crore in the year-ago quarter, Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest income increased to Rs 12,746 crore from Rs 10,500 crore in Q1 FY24. On the asset quality front, the bank's gross non-performing assets (or bad loans) remained flat at 1.39 per cent of gross advances. Similarly, Net NPAs dropped to 0.35 per cent from 0.40 per cent in the same quarter a year ago. Capital Adequacy Ratio of the bank stood at 22.41 per cent at the end of June 30, 2024, against 21.12 per cent at the end of the same quarter a year ago.

Pearl Global Industries raises Rs 149.5 cr through QIP issue



Apparel manufacturer and exporter Pearl Global Industries has raised Rs 149.50 crore from qualified institutional investors for repayment of certain debt and inorganic growth, among others. The qualified

institutional placement (QIP) attracted notable investors such as HDFC Mutual Fund, HSBC Mutual Fund, ICICI as Prudential Mutual Fund and Goldman Sachs Fund," it said in a statement on Saturday. The company has "successfully completed the QIP by raising Rs 149.50 crore", it said. Pearl Global said it issued 20,45,143 equity shares of the face value of Rs 5 each at a price of Rs 731.00 per equity share. "Total shares outstanding post allotment are 45,642,367," the company said. PGIL plans to use these funds for funding working capital requirements, repayment of certain outstanding borrowings, inorganic growth initiatives and general corporate purposes. "By strategically allocating these funds, we aim to strengthen our market presence, innovate our product offerings, streamline our ESG initiatives, and invest more in sustainable products and business operations," Pearl Global Industries Ltd (PGIL) Managing Director Pallab Banerjee said.

Yes Bank Q1 net profit surges 46.7% on lower provisions



Private sector lender Yes Bank on Saturday reported a 46.7 per cent growth in net profit to Rs 502 crore for the June 2024 quarter, helped by a reduction in provisions. The city-headquartered bank's core net interest income rose 12.2 per cent to Rs 2,000 crore.

Its net interest margin stayed flat at 2.4 per cent. The deposits, on which a good part of the system is struggling, went up by over 20 per cent. The other income line grew 5.1 per cent to Rs 1,141 crore during the quarter. Its overall provisions declined 41.2 per cent to Rs 212 crore, and a senior officer credited the same to the recoveries on bad assets, which were transferred to JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company. There was a writeback of Rs 318 crore on provisions on investments against an outgo of Rs 144 crore in the year-ago period, while provisions for taxation increased to Rs 171 crore from Rs 116 crore, and the same on non-performing assets jumped to Rs 513 crore from Rs 314 crore as the provision coverage ratio increased. On the asset quality front, the bank acknowledged some stress in the problematic unsecured advances portfolio and added that it has led to a cautious approach in the segment.

Credai wants tax sops for homebuyers, incentives for builders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realtors' body Credai on Saturday urged the government to provide more tax benefits to homebuyers, offer incentives to builders to develop low-cost homes and streamline the approval process to undertake real estate projects in the upcoming Budget.

Credai, in a statement, said it has given various recommendations to the government for further growth of the real estate sector.

These recommendations emphasise the importance of measures like streamlined approval processes and subsidies for developers investing in affordable housing

projects, the association said.

"With its significant contribution to the GDP, employment generation and infrastructure development, the Indian Real Estate sector looks forward to a supportive budget that addresses certain long-standing challenges and sets the platform for sustainable and sustained growth.

"Our recommendations are aimed at sustaining demand through a slew of measures, including increasing in interest exemption for home buyers, reintroduction of CLSS (credit linked subsidy scheme), and steps required to boost Affordable housing," Credai President Boman Irani said.

Imported items sourced locally excluded from local content calculation

CHANGES IN PROCUREMENT NORMS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Imported items sourced from local suppliers and royalties, technical charges paid out of India as well as supply of repackaged or refurbished goods will be excluded from the calculation of local content, an official said.

These changes are included in the modified public procurement norms with an objective of giving maximum preference to companies that use higher levels of local content in their products. The government prefers made in India goods in their purchases, which run into lakhs of crores of rupees every year.

Major preference in government purchases is given to companies whose goods and services



have 50 per cent or more local content, a move aimed at promoting 'Make in India' and making the country self-reliant.

The Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017, has introduced a concept of Class-I, II and non-local suppliers, based on which they will get preference in government purchases of goods and services. Making modifica-

tion of local content," the order said. It also said that the procuring entities will have to obtain from bidders, the cost of such locally-sourced imported items (inclusive of taxes) along with break-up on license/royalties paid/technical expertise cost sourced from outside India.

OEM (original equipment manufacturer) certificates for country of origin have to be provided for the items sold by the bidder as resellers, it said. It added that this will also address the concerns of the stakeholders regarding import of refurbished/rebranded/repackaged goods and services being shown as Make in India and also being included in the local content calculation for becoming Class-I local supplier.

AiDash opens AI centre of excellence in Bengaluru

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

AiDash, an enterprise SaaS company focused on making critical infrastructure industries climate-resilient and sustainable with satellites and AI, has announced the launch of its new AI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

The facility seeks to become a hub of innovation and advanced research, dedicated to driving significant advance-

ments in artificial intelligence (AI), remote sensing, and geospatial analytics.

The launch of Bengaluru AI Centre of Excellence - spread over 8,000 square feet - follows a funding round of USD 58.5 million in April this year, bringing the company's total funding to USD 91.5 million.

In addition to teams in the US and the UK, AiDash has over 300 employees in its Gurugram and Bengaluru offices.

"While most of AiDash's revenue comes from the U.S. and UK markets, India holds particular significance to AiDash's operations due to its outstanding technological capabilities and the extensive talent pool available. With the launch of the AI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, the company plans to double the size of its team in the next two years," according to a company release.

EPFO officers raise concern over inadequate IT infra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Employees' Provident Fund Officers' Association has sought the Union Labour Minister's intervention to improve the information technology infrastructure of the retirement fund body.

In a letter to the minister

earlier this week, the EPFO Officers' Association (EPFOA) said it has been regularly submitting requests for urgent interventions to upgrade the EPFO IT systems - software, hardware, IT manpower - which are causing acute strain on EPFO manpower and adversely affecting EPFO ser-

vices. The situation has now turned serious with officers and offices reporting significant system deficiencies on a daily basis, the association said.

Severely inadequate EPFO IT systems and resultant service bottlenecks are adversely

affected EPFO services, it added. The EPFO application software serves as the foundational component of its service delivery infrastructure.

The body said it is the primary platform through which our regional offices process and adjudicate member claims. In recent times, the software

has exhibited significant instability, characterised by frequent outages, it stated.

Over the past several weeks, the application's performance has deteriorated, manifesting in frequent system slowdowns, involuntary user logout and complete system failures, it pointed out.

ONGC acquires Equior stake in Azerbaijan oilfields

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has acquired Norwegian firm Equior's stake in an Azerbaijan oilfield and an associated pipeline for US\$ 60 million, the firm said in a statement.

OVL "has signed a definitive sale purchase agreement (SPA) for directly acquiring 0.615 per cent participating interest (PI) in offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field in Azerbaijan from Equior. The agreement also includes acquiring 0.737 per cent shares of the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline company through its wholly-owned subsidiary ONGC BTC Limited," it added.



OVL "has signed a definitive sale purchase agreement (SPA) for directly acquiring 0.615 per cent participating interest (PI) in offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field in Azerbaijan from Equior. The agreement also includes acquiring 0.737 per cent shares of the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline company through its wholly-owned subsidiary ONGC BTC Limited," it added.

The buyout of Equior will help raise its stake. Equior, in December last year, announced an agreement to sell all its remaining assets in Azerbaijan to SOCAR (State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic).

The assets comprised a 7.27

per cent non-operated interest in the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil fields in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea, 8.71 per cent interest in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline and 50 per cent in the Karabakh field.

IndusInd Bank plans to raise Rs 30,000 cr

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Private sector lender IndusInd Bank on Friday said it plans to raise Rs 30,000 crore through debt securities and share sales. In a stock exchange filing, the lender said its Board of Directors approved the fund raise at a meeting held on Friday.

The Board has approved "raising of funds through debt securities in any permitted mode on a private placement basis as may be decided, for an aggregate amount of Rs 20,000 crores or its equivalent amount in permitted foreign currencies". This is subject to the approval of shareholders and regulatory/statutory approvals.

Govt to address challenges faced by chemical industry, boost growth: Union Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Saturday said the government will make necessary interventions in its policies and programmes to address challenges faced by the chemicals and petrochemicals industry and boost the sector's growth.

The minister was speaking after launching the 13th edition of the India Chem 2024 event to be held in October this year in Mumbai.

"The Prime Minister desires that we have to

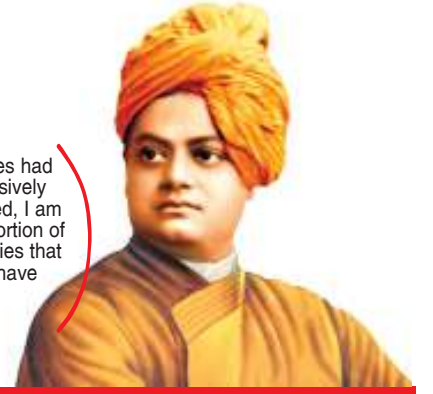
become a US\$ 5 trillion economy. If we have to become a 5 trillion economy, we have to align our programmes or policies accordingly, to see to it that this petrochemical industry also goes in the same way and aligns itself, so that we all together contribute to that US\$ 5 trillion economy," Nadda said.

The minister mentioned that industry representatives have talked about the challenges faced by the chemicals and petrochemicals industry and also offered various suggestions to

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE
Name of the work: Maintenance Works-1 Nos. Estimate Cost: Rs. 1.20 Lakhs.
Start Date & Time: 22.07.2024 @ 03:00 P.M., Last Date & Time Receipt of Bids: 25.07.2024 @ 03:00 P.M., Name & Address Officer Call No: Sri V. Karthik, Executive Engineer, L.B. Nagar, Circle-4, GHMC, (M): 9701365519. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer L.B.Nagar Circle-4, GHMC
R.O.No: 1066-PP/CLADVT/1024-25, Dt: 20.07.2024

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice for Tender Specification No: T-31/23-24 (Converted to Open) and T-48/23-24, T-50/23-24 & T-04/24-25 (Extended) and T-07/24-25 to T-14/24-25 (New) of SE/Op/Siddipet for various electrical & civil works in Siddipet Circle. For open tenders, sale of Bids starts from 22.07.2024 at 14:00 Hrs and ends on 27.07.2024 at 17:00Hrs. Last date for submission of bids is 30.07.2024 at 14:00 Hrs and opened on 30.07.2024 at 16:00 Hrs. Tender details can be viewed in www.tssouthernpower.com.
Phone: 7382343946. Sd/- Superintending Engineer
R.O.No: 1066-PP/CLADVT/1024-25, Dt: 20.07.2024 Operation Circle: Siddipet, TGSPDC

"If faith in ourselves had been more extensively taught and practiced, I am sure a very large portion of the evils and miseries that we have would have vanished"
— Buddha



A MODEL FOR INDIA'S SMART CITY ASPIRATIONS

From integrating advanced technologies to fostering community engagement, New Taipei City offers a wealth of lessons that can guide Indian cities towards a smarter and more sustainable future, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

New Taipei City, Taiwan's most populous city, has emerged as a leading example of smart city development, integrating advanced technology, sustainable practices, and citizen-centric services. As India embarks on its ambitious Smart Cities Mission, there are valuable lessons to be learned from New Taipei City's approach to urban planning and management.

One of the biggest achievements of New Taipei City is its involvement of citizens in various facets of planning and execution and participation. New Taipei City actively involves its citizens in the planning and decision-making process. "Through public consultations, digital platforms, and community programs, residents are encouraged to participate in shaping the city's future. This collaborative approach has fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens," says Dr Tih-Ju Chu, deputy mayor of New Taipei City, Government of Taiwan.

As far as the Indian smart city concept is concerned, it has been a bureaucratic exercise where citizens have had hardly any role to play. Engaging citizens in the smart city development process is crucial for ensuring that the initiatives meet the needs and aspirations of the people. Indian cities should leverage digital tools and community engagement strategies to involve residents in planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects. We embarked upon making Varanasi into Kyoto but have reached nowhere. Perhaps the biggest reason for this has been the government's top-down approach where people come last. Local people know their city better than any bureaucrat or politician and their input can go a long way in preserving the cultural heritage of the city and modernising it at the same time.

New Taipei City fosters a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, providing support for startups and encouraging technological advancements. The city has established innovation hubs, incubators, and co-working spaces

“ONE OF THE BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEW TAIPEI CITY IS ITS INVOLVEMENT OF CITIZENS IN VARIOUS FACETS OF PLANNING AND EXECUTION AND PARTICIPATION. NEW TAIPEI CITY ACTIVELY INVOLVES ITS CITIZENS IN THE PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. “THROUGH PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, DIGITAL PLATFORMS, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING THE CITY'S FUTURE”



that nurture talent and drive economic growth. Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship should be a priority for Indian smart cities too. By creating supportive ecosystems for startups, providing access to funding, and facilitating collaboration between academia, industry, and government, Indian cities can become hubs of innovation and economic development. After all, no city can thrive without a robust locally sustained economy. People must find jobs and reasons to settle in a smart city, else it may end up like several ghost cities of China. Yet another initiative that makes New Taipei City a model is sustainability. "The city mayor places a strong emphasis on sustainability, incorporating green building practices, renewable energy, and

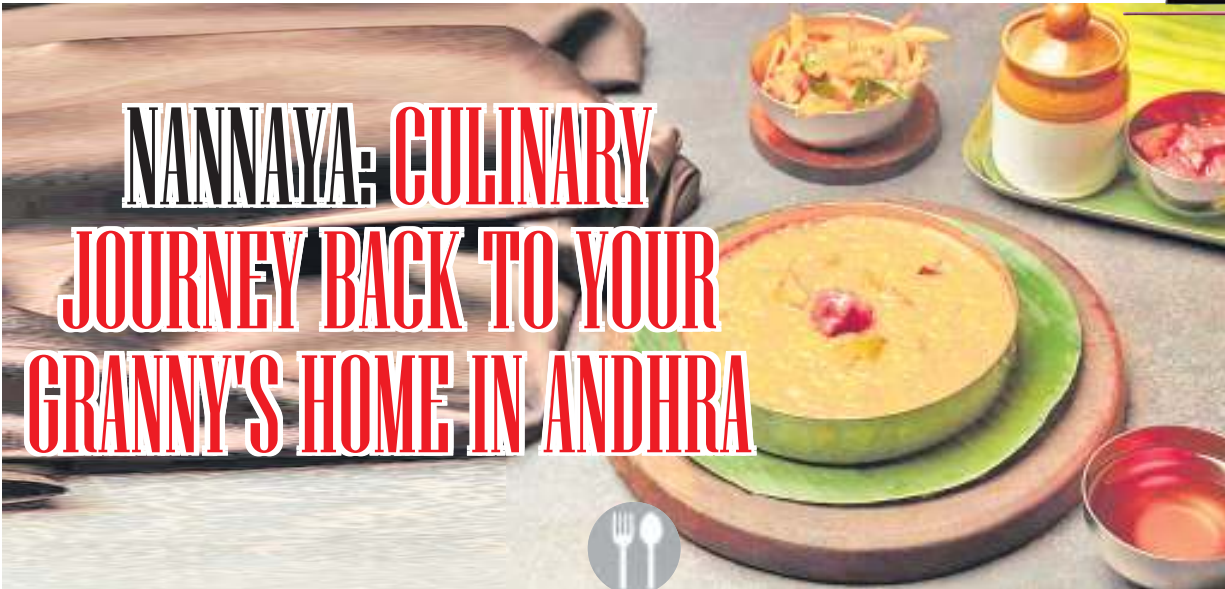
efficient waste management systems. The city has extensive green spaces, promotes the use of public transportation, and encourages eco-friendly practices among residents," says Dr Tih-Ju Chu. Indeed, sustainable urban development should be at the core of India's smart cities initiative. By prioritising green infrastructure, renewable energy projects, and comprehensive waste management systems, Indian cities can reduce their environmental footprint and enhance the quality of life for their residents. New Taipei City has implemented intelligent transportation systems (ITS) to enhance mobility and reduce traffic congestion. These systems include smart traffic signals, real-time traffic monitoring, and integrated public transportation

networks. The city's focus on multimodal transportation options has made commuting more efficient and accessible. Unfortunately, traffic and commuting are one of the biggest challenges. In a city like Bengaluru, India's IT hub, commuting is a nightmare. To address urban mobility challenges, Indian smart cities should invest in ITS, including smart traffic management, real-time public transport information, and infrastructure for non-motorized transport. Developing a comprehensive and efficient transportation network can alleviate congestion and improve the overall commuting experience. One of the cornerstones of New Taipei City's success is its adoption of cutting-edge technology to

streamline governance. The city has implemented an integrated digital platform that connects various departments, enabling real-time data sharing and decision-making. This has resulted in efficient public service delivery, reduced administrative costs, and improved transparency. Indian smart cities can benefit from creating unified digital platforms that foster inter-departmental collaboration, enhance service delivery, and promote transparency. Investing in robust ICT infrastructure and data analytics can drive more informed policy decisions and optimize resource allocation. Sited in a region prone to natural disasters, New Taipei City has prioritised building resilient infrastructure and robust disaster management systems. The city employs advanced monitoring and early warning systems, conducts regular drills, and has developed comprehensive emergency response plans. Implementing early warning systems, conducting regular drills, and involving communities in disaster management plans can significantly reduce the impact of disasters.

Let us face it, India's smart city project faces several significant challenges that hinder its progress. Foremost among these is the bureaucratic approach that often sidelines citizen participation and local insights, resulting in top-down planning that lacks community buy-in. Additionally, there is a persistent lack of robust infrastructure and technological integration, impeding the development of effective digital platforms and smart solutions. Moreover, coordination between various government departments and private stakeholders is often fragmented, leading to inefficiencies and delays. Without addressing these fundamental issues, the ambitious vision of India's smart cities may remain unfulfilled. We must be open to such initiatives outside of India and there would be no harm in trying the best practices from around the world. The lessons from New Taipei City serve as a blueprint for India's smart cities to follow, ensuring that they meet the needs of their residents while addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

'FORK'LORE



AARTI SREENATH

NANNAYA: CULINARY JOURNEY BACK TO YOUR GRANNY'S HOME IN ANDHRA

FOOD
Food- Must try - Avakaya, Muddha Pappu Rice, Mango Pappu rice and Ghee Pongal.

DECOR
Rustic charm with traditional Telugu aesthetic, earthy tones, wooden furniture, vibrant culture wall art.

PRICE
Reasonable prices, delightful yet affordable experience.

VERDICT

★★★★★

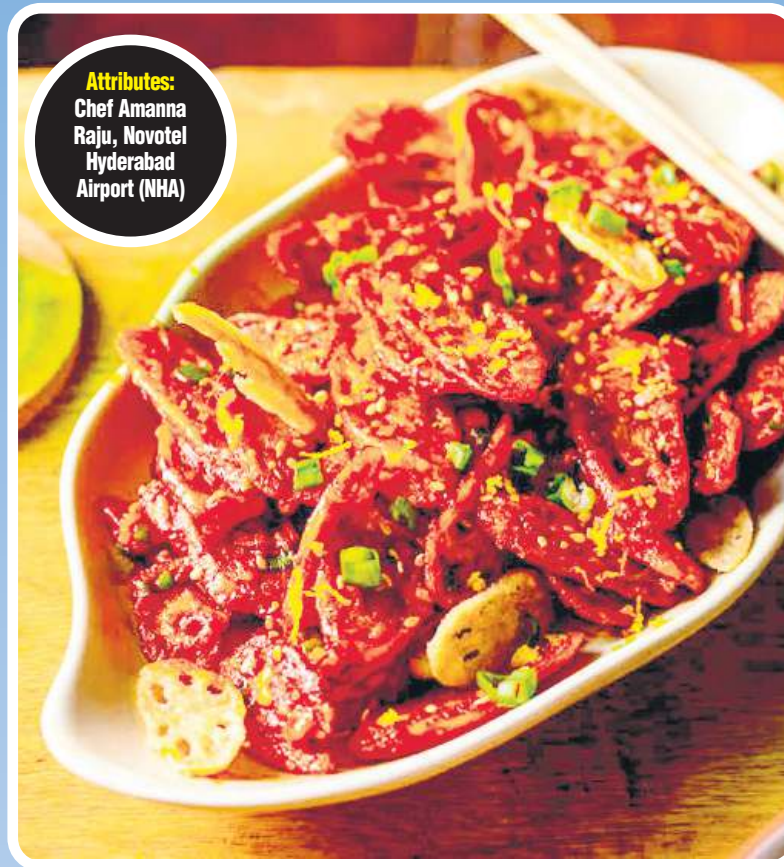
all served in classic combinations that highlight their authentic flavours. Seasonal delights like *puri* with *aamras* and *kesari poori* add an extra touch of nostalgia and delight.

The *bhojanam* combos were a highlight, featuring beloved traditional dishes such as *ghee avakaya mud-dapappu rice*, *ghee sambar rice*, *ghee pachipulusu mud-dapappu rice*, *ghee mango pappu rice*, *ghee gongura rice* and *veg pulao*. The Nannaya special platter offers a curated feast of these delicacies, making it a perfect choice for those who want to experience the full spectrum of Telugu flavours. On weekends, the menu expands with additional specials, ensuring there's always something new and exciting to try.

If you yearn for vegetarian fare that transports you back to your grandmother's kitchen in Andhra Pradesh, Nannaya is the place to be. For a refreshing summer treat, their thick and tasty *badam milk* is a must. The *puri* with mango pulp is another stand-out that shouldn't be missed!

The combo of three types of rice with aloo fry offers great value for money. And last but certainly not least, their frothy filter coffee, perfect for the monsoon season, is an absolute must-try.

Dining at Nannaya is more than just a meal; it's a nostalgic journey that rekindles memories of familial warmth and the rich culinary heritage of Andhra Pradesh.



Attributes:
Chef Amanna Raju, Novotel Hyderabad Airport (NHA)

LOTUS STEM AND WATER CHESTNUT, BUTTER GARLIC SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

- Lotus stem – 100 grams
- Water chestnuts – 100 grams
- Corn flour for dusting – 50 grams
- Oil sunflower – for deep frying
- Butter yellow salted - 50 grams
- Garlic chopped – 15 grams
- Fresh Cream – 30 ml
- Salt – to taste
- White pepper powder – 5 grams
- Veg aromatic seasoning powder – 5 grams
- Chopped spring onion – 10 grams
- Bell pepper juliennes – 15 grams

- Step 1.** Wash and slice lotus stem and keep it in water.
- Step 2.** Dice water chestnut and dust both water chestnut and lotus stem with corn flour.
- Step 3.** Deep fry them in sunflower oil until crispy. Keep it a side
- Step 4.** Now take Chinese wok, make a sauce with butter, garlic, fresh cream on medium flame.
- Step 5.** Add crispy fried water chestnut and lotus stem tossed them in sauce.
- Step 6.** Season with salt, pepper and aromatic powder.
- Step 7.** Sprinkle with chopped spring onion and serve hot.



AUSTRALIAN LAMB CHOPS

INGREDIENTS

- Australian Lamb chops – 3 no's (1/2 thick 140 grams approx.)
- Chopped garlic – 20grams
- Red wine – 10ml
- Rosemary pricks – 5grams
- Olive's oil – 20ml
- French mustard – 20grams
- Chopped parsley – 10ml
- Crushed black pepper corn – 5grams
- Salt – 5 grams
- Potatoes – 70grams
- Assorted bell peppers-10 grams
- Zucchini –10grams
- Baby corn- 10grams
- Mushroom – 10grams

METHOD

- Step 1.** Take a clean plate and place the lamb chops in it. Pat them with dry paper towels before marinating.
- Step 2.** Make a marinade with mustard paste, chopped garlic, red wine, rosemary, crush peppercorn, salt
- Step 3.** Marinate lamb chops in it.
- Step 4.** Dice exotic vegetables and blanch and sautee them in garlic and olive oil on high flame for 2 minutes. Season with chopped parsley, salt and pepper.
- Step 5.** Peel potatoes and dice them in square shape and par boil. Season them with salt and pepper. Then roast in oven for 10 mins in 170 c degrees.
- Step 6.** Sear lamb chops on hot plate and roast them in oven for 8 mins 200c degrees.
- Step 7.** Serve them hot along with diced potatoes and sauteed vegetables and demi glaze.

TEEJ KI MEETHI REET

Haldiram's recently unveiled its Teej campaign, "Teej ki Meethi Reet," which aims to highlight the focus on celebrating the timeless traditions of *Teej*, which underline the onset of the monsoon season and the perennial bonds of love and togetherness. *Teej* aligns seamlessly with the age-old cultural celebration with a selection of *Ghewar* in flavours to suit diverse palates. During the special occasion of celebrating *Teej*, it has introduced a special range of *Ghewar* and *Feni* gifting hampers, including the Teej Ghewar Box, Teej Ki Mithaas Tray and Teej Ki Mithaas Hamper. Each hamper contains a sumptuous assortment of *Ghewar* and *Feni*, including *Malai Ghewar*, *Kaju Cream Ghewar*, *Kesar Ghewar*, *Plain Ghewar*, *Rose Ghewar*, *White Feni*, *Kesar Feni*, etc., among others.



RAUNAK-e-SEEKH

INGREDIENTS

- 150 Gram mutton (keema, minced)
- 2 tsp ginger-garlic paste
- 1 tsp onion paste
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- 3/4 tsp pepper, powdered
- 1 tsp dried mango powder
- 1/4 tsp saunth (dry ginger powder)
- 2 tsp oil
- 1 1/2 tbsp cashew paste
- 1 1/2 tbsp cream
- 2 tsp besan
- 1 Egg yolk
- to taste salt
- for garnishing coriander leaves

METHOD

- Step 1.** In a bowl take the mutton mince.
- Step 2.** Add ginger-garlic paste to it along with onion paste, red chilli powder, coriander powder, cumin powder, powdered pepper, dried mango powder, saunth, oil, cashew paste and cream. Mix nicely.
- Step 3.** Add Besan (chickpea flour) and egg yolk to bind. Mix well.
- Step 4.** Add salt to taste. Mix. Cover and keep in the fridge for 1 hour.
- Step 5.** Skewer the kebabs onto oiled skewers and grill or roast till the outside is nicely browned. Baste frequently with oil while grilling.
- Step 6.** Once the kebabs are cooked, remove to a serving platter and garnish with onion rings, fresh coriander leaves and lemon wedges.



EMBRACE MONSOON GLOW WITH OLD SCHOOL RITUALS

Cinnamon & mango toner mist is perfect for sensitive skin that's prone to moisture loss and damage from exposure. Infused with cinnamon's antibacterial goodness and mango's cleansing benefits, it gently clears impurities and keeps your skin beautifully hydrated.

Price: INR 950/-

WHAT'S NEW

NEW LIP BARRIER OIL

The Skin Diet Company has launched an innovative formula that combines the power of tri-peptides, acai berry, avocado oil, jojoba oil and hyaluronic acid in a new lip barrier oil. The newly launched lip barrier oil is infused with power peptides and builds collagen. It can be used alone for a natural glossy look or as a hydrating base under lipstick, or you can top it with your favourite lip colour.



TADAA'S SWEET CORN KERNELS

Tadaa's sweet corn kernels are packed within hours of harvesting to preserve their fresh flavour, texture and colour. These hand-podded, steamed whole kernels are high in fibre and antioxidants, making them an energy-boosting snack. They have four spice options in the tray pack: Peri-Peri for extra heat, Salt & Pepper for zing for all age groups, Pani Puri for a tangy flavour, and Masala Masti for a traditional Indian flavour.



SPIRIT OF TODAY'S FASHION

Priya Parikh Clothing, founded with a vision to blend elegance and modernity, the new collection encapsulate the spirit of today's fashion while staying rooted in timeless traditions. It embodies the essence of elegance, energy and enigma through its thoughtfully curated designs.

PATTERN LAUNCHES HAIR CARE RANGE

Pattern's Advance Care range is a luxurious treat that your hair deserves. This range is a haircare gem that brings life back to damaged, overprocessed hair and encourages a healthy scalp. The conditioner hydrates and softens hair while creating a protective layer that guards against damage. It leaves hair feeling soft, shiny and fresh, just like it would after an indulgent spa.



CRYSTAL-HEALED ESSENTIAL OILS

The tapegaasi, crystal-healed essential oils embody sublime healing, offering natural remedies that provide immediate relief and support long-term well-being. Their essential oils, meticulously crafted from ingredients sourced from their indigenous regions, ensure the highest quality and potency.



AREOVEDA STRETCH MARK CREAM

Introducing AreoVeda stretch mark cream is specially formulated to support pregnant women by reducing the appearance of stretch marks and enhancing skin health. Crafted with natural ingredients like stirover, sodium hyaluronate, ghee and cryo coffee, this cream offers visible results in 28 days, long-lasting moisturisation and soothes itchy skin while reducing redness. It also improves skin texture, elasticity and firmness. Price: 299/-



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE JULY 21 - 27

ARIES

Feeling dull can make you averse to harmony. Your tenacity, creativity and charisma will be rewarded. Balance work with the family to enjoy good health.

TAURUS

Proceed with your plans. Consult a counsellor for guidance. Enjoy moments of love. Take a vacation to recharge. Consult your family before making decisions.

GEMINI

Your generous qualities bring joy, but unreliability may harm your career. Enthusiastic energy attracts people. Overcome illusions and use your stamina purposefully.

CANCER

You'll find a stimulating partner. Harmony will prevail. Novel ideas will require coworker support. Avoid hallucinations from poor health. Maintain marital love.

LEO

Relax and enjoy the benefits of your efforts. Consult a counsellor for work-related issues. Postpone project changes. Propose to a close friend. Take a vacation.



VIRGO

Siblings will support your dreams. You're strong and energetic. Start a new venture. Invest stamina in the right places. Avoid depression from missing pastimes.

SCORPIO

Your experimental nature will gain notice. Seek therapy for relationship difficulties. Be gentle under pressure. Protect and support loved ones. Maintain innovation.

SAGITTARIUS

New project ideas will arise; experiment to choose the best. Stay confident and manage emotions. Avoid depression about delays. Seek advice for security.

CAPRICORN

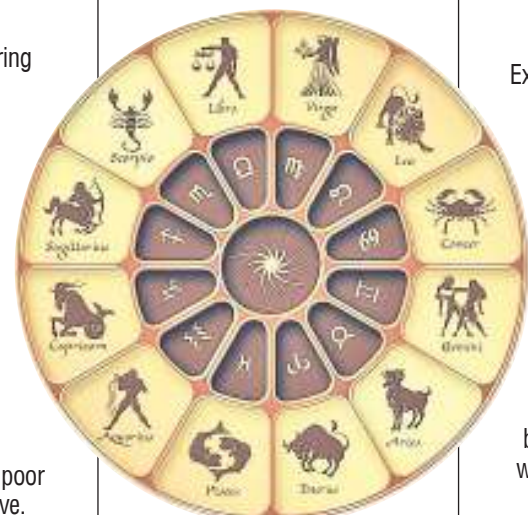
Experimenting will help sort the budget and win the praise of superiors. Stay calm in emotional situations. Continue dream project despite delays. Avoid self-pity.

AQUARIUS

Depend on reliable support due to nervousness. Hard work yields deserved benefits. Manage expectations with siblings. Expand with new project approval.

PISCES

Reflect calmly amidst the chaos. Hard work pays off; stay alert. Improve your health and work. Transform negatives into positives. Clarify doubts in relationships.



CHAT-O-CINO

'FOR ME, *KILL* HAS OPENED UNFORESEEN DOORS IN INDUSTRY'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Actor Raghav Juyal has finally made it to the media and critics after working hard every day! To put it another way, as we all say, he has arrived. His most recent project, *Kill*, has opened up to glowing reviews about Raghav, something he had no idea would become a global success. The revelation for the entire *Kill* cast and crew on the Hollywood remake of the action movie was even more significant and widely reported. Our interviewee went crazy, along with the rest of them. The dancer-turned-actor couldn't contain his joy and spilled it all in an exclusive phone interview with us. Sincerity be damned, we could sense the energy of achievement during a phone call.

An even more modest actor now says, "I am enjoying these interviews with the media because my film is doing really well internationally." However, what drew the audience members in? Let's hear it straight from the trending actor now, who declares, "I read the script for *Kill* more than seven times to tell the truth. Folks, I'm not lying. I was in repeat mode, as you can see! You'd never believe... I became aware of a change in my behaviour. You know what? It has to do with reading! You will undoubtedly make new discoveries thanks to them."

He goes on to provide us with more detailed information, saying things like, "I read about this Indian gang named 'Kachecha Baniyan.' The act of applying oil to their bodies prior to committing a crime drew me in and inspired me to create my own persona in *Kill*. I had the impression that they were some sort of professional

killers as I continued to read about them. They seemed so "emotionless" in the wake of a murder, which is why I connected with them." We were forced to pay even closer attention to him as he shared some additional insights with us. For instance, as soon as he said to us, "My dad practices criminal law, therefore I began questioning him to find out what really happened to these offenders? After talking with my father extensively, I made the decision to look as regular as possible because I would be seen on large displays, so why not add some flair as well? I worked with my director for over three months, primarily concentrating on psychological preparations to really inhabit my role in *Kill*."

Even when the movie is doing well at the box office, it's still fascinating to think back on remarkable incidents that happened while making a hit movie. Former TV host remembers, "I was asking my director all kinds of random questions to really understand my character. The action scene we shot on the train was my favourite. Consider how skillfully the action director orchestrated the scene in such a tiny area despite the space constraints! My heavens, he's a technical genius. Unbelievable, I had to go through nine months of action training. Yes, I was also hurt and covered in bruises. Ouch!" He also thought it was great because "our action scenes were never overly clichéd, thanks to my action choreographer. No, forty men weren't flying with a single blow of mine. I acted in a raw manner! Both the item number and the *chaiya chaiya* are absent. The fact that word-of-



Actor Raghav Juyal talks about how the global hit *Kill* helped him become famous. He shares the rigorous training, behind-the-scenes tales and close relationship with co-star Lakshya Kapoor that contributed to this movie becoming a turning point in his career. In this exclusive conversation, see how Raghav went from being a dancer to becoming a worldwide celebrity.

mouth spread about my film and led to its premiere has truly touched me." We can understand his emotions over the overwhelming success, since it is true that *Kill* continues to be popular even with the simultaneous release of Kamal Haasan's *Indian 2* and Akshay Kumar's *Sarfira*. "It's the triumph of Indian cinema, not mine personally. At first, we were up against *Kalki*'s superstars! In contrast to *Kalki*, which was produced for over 300 crores, my movie was the small-scale production that gained significant international acclaim," adds Raghav.

He also recalled an occasion when he had to temporarily stop the shooting. An additional intriguing tale directly from the set of *Kill*: "Yes, I was meant to stab a fellow actor. I requested the crew wait for a moment because I found that scenario to be so horrible. I was experiencing strange feelings. I promise you that when I was on the sets of *Kill* for that particular time, I was completely off." Overall, Raghav, went above and beyond in this regard. He revealed further details about the incident, saying, "Every day, Lakshya and I got bruises on the sets of *Kill*. I am able to tell you this since I used to experience unbearable discomfort as soon as I took a shower. I can tell you that *Kill* brought back a lot of memories for me. In the vanity van, I detest sitting! I never did that; instead, I asked the crew to put up a tent for me so that I

could get to know the actors who played my clan in the film. As we became closer, those forty goons began to feel like brothers. In that tent, there was a vibe! Basically, I wanted to give it a *Bihari* flavour. We desired a "kabila" atmosphere."

Having heard so much about Lakshya, Raghav at last shares everything there is to know about his co-star with such love and assurance that he mentions, "He has become my best friend in Mumbai. Every day, we hang around. We have an extremely good relationship off-camera! We laugh and drink together and that's how we bond. That "beer" *wala* connection. Or playing tricks on one another! You'll see us collaborating soon. This is a special byte meant only for your newspaper."

Going on in this fascinating discussion, the *ABCD* star states, "I could remember a lot of *Sholay* scenes while I was doing *Kill*. I had the vibe of an old-school action movie. Another fantastic example of a reference is *The Burning Train*. Then I was just astounded to learn that a movie was being remade in Hollywood. I am receiving calls from all over the world, which is crazy. Can my life be any better after being featured in the New York Times? Anurag Kashyap has been praising me back in India and the Indian business as a whole has also acknowledged me greatly. For me, this movie has opened doors and transformed my life."

Finally, he recalled how low-key everything had been at the TIFF, which is when all of this madness started. "No expectations were held. There are some very passionate movie enthusiasts out there. After the first scene, Lakshya and I just looked at each other while the reviewers screamed and laughed. What just took place? The following day, *Kill* was all the rage on Toronto's streets. It's been a long time since I've seen a commercial that is as passionate but lacks superstars."

HEALTH

Weighing health and harm from water fasting!

TEJAL SINHA

While fasting has been considered most beneficial technique for weight loss, there have been other variants, one of which is water fasting. Water fasting has been all over the 'gram', but is it genuinely beneficial? *The Pioneer* brings to you a detailed analysis of it this week for Health Talk.

It seems so easy: no cooking, no calorie counting. Simply refuse food and begin fasting to lose weight quickly. Despite its popularity, fasting is a centuries-old practice that is essential to many cultures and religions.

While there have been diverse types of fasting, are you aware that there's also a type of fasting that only involves consuming water?

Basically, when one fasts on water, they just consume water. It is also known as prolonged fasting. Most water fasts last between 24 and 72 hours. Although this method has been used for thousands of years, it has just recently gained popularity. Many give it a shot in an effort to lose weight and enhance their health.

Craze of water fasting

Dr. Sharad Malhotra, Senior Consultant & HOD, Gastroenterology Hepatology & Therapeutic Endoscopy, Aakash Healthcare, says, "The craze for water fasting appears to be driven by promises of rapid weight loss, detoxification and health benefits, despite limited scientific evidence and potential risks without medical supervision."

That said, medically supervised water fasting may offer benefits like lowering blood pressure in people suffering from hypertension. Additionally, it could aid in

reducing inflammation and LDL (bad) cholesterol levels. It could lead to increased sensitivity to leptin and insulin in certain people. These hormones work better when they are more sensitive, may reduce the risk of diabetes, heart disease and cancer, among other chronic conditions. Additionally, it could encourage autophagy, a mechanism that recycles and breaks down unused cell components. To encourage autophagy, further study is necessary before making this recommendation.

What does research have to say?

To date, very few studies have explored the health effects of water fasting.

Twelve middle-aged men participated in a brief study conducted to determine the safety of water fasting. The researchers noticed notable alterations in the subjects' blood and urine indicators following an 8-day fast. They also observed changes in reported stress levels and body composition, including weight loss. The researchers came to the conclusion that although an 8-day water fast was safe, continuing the fast could have had a negative impact on the participants' health.

It's crucial to remember that none of the individuals had a history of chronic illnesses and were nonsmokers. At the beginning, they were all in good health, had attempted water fasting previously and had normal blood pressure and weight.

How does water fasting work?

"There are no rules when it comes to water fasting. Some people ought to give fasting serious thought or limit their fasting to times when a doctor is present. This group includes children and adolescents, adults 65 years of age and older, expecting or nursing moms, and individuals with eating problems," enunciates dietician Dr. Deepa Shetty.

Who should not fast?

Water fasting is not safe for everyone. People for whom fasting may not be safe or appropriate include:

- Those underweight
- Those having issues with their heart
- Those with type 1 diabetes
- Those having uncontrolled migraine
- Those undergoing a blood transfusion
- Those who are taking medications

Post-fast phase

Experts suggest restoring food gradually after a fast. "It is also recommended that one prepare their body for a fast by doing this before beginning one. Breaking up your daily food intake into five smaller meals—breakfast, lunch, dinner, and two snacks—is one method to achieve this. One has to avoid processed foods both before and after fasting. Red meat is typically not chosen over lean proteins like fish," explains Dr. Jyoti Chadda, a dietician and pediatrician. This may lead to refeeding syndrome, which can be prevented by reintroducing food to the body gradually after fasting, especially if the fasting period is longer. Elevations of electrolytes and fluids fluctuating quickly might cause medical problems. Seek advice from a medical practitioner before considering a water fast.

PEOPLE SHOULD THINK ABOUT PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR FASTING BY:

- Eating well before the fast, preferably with high-energy foods
- Choosing a time that will allow for rest, such as a day when they are not at work
- Avoiding fasting if they are sick or extremely tired
- Thinking about gradually building up to fast
- It's crucial to spread out your water intake throughout the day and during the fast



ARABICA VS ROBUSTA:

Find out what makes your coffee beans different

Coffee enthusiasts around the world enjoy their daily brew, but many may not be aware of the key differences between the two most popular coffee bean varieties: Arabica and Robusta. As demand for premium coffee continues to soar, understanding these differences can greatly enhance the coffee-drinking experience for aficionados and casual drinkers alike.

Origin and growing conditions

Arabica and Robusta beans come from distinct regions and thrive in different growing conditions. Arabica beans, which constitute about 60-70% of the world's coffee production, are primarily grown in Latin America, Eastern Africa, Asia and Arabia. These beans flourish at higher altitudes, typically between 2,000 and 6,000 feet, in cooler climates. The specific terroir where Arabica beans are cultivated significantly influences their delicate flavours and acidity. Conversely, Robusta beans are mainly grown in Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam, the latter being the largest producer of Robusta coffee. It plants thrive at lower altitudes, from sea level to around 2,000 feet and are more resistant to pests and harsh weather conditions. This resilience makes these beans easier and cheaper to cultivate.

Flavour and aroma

One of the most notable differences between Arabica and Robusta beans is their flavour profile. Arabica beans are renowned for their smooth, complex flavour, often exhibiting hints of fruits, berries, nuts and even floral notes. They also tend to have higher acidity, which contributes to their bright and vibrant taste. This makes Arabica beans a favourite for specialty coffee and high-quality blends.

In contrast, Robusta beans have a stronger, more robust flavour with a distinct earthiness and bitterness. They contain higher levels of caffeine, which contributes to their more intense and less nuanced taste. The higher caffeine content also gives Robusta coffee a heavier body and a thicker crema, making it a popular choice for espresso blends.

Caffeine content and health benefits

Robusta beans generally contain about twice the caffeine content of Arabica beans. This higher caffeine level not only influences the flavour but also impacts the health benefits associated with each variety. Caffeine is known for its stimulating effects and the higher caffeine content in Robusta can provide a more potent energy boost. Additionally, caffeine has been linked to various health benefits, such as improved cognitive function and increased metabolic rate. However, Arabica beans, with their lower caffeine content, are often preferred by those who seek a milder cup of coffee with less bitterness and acidity.

Economic and environmental impact

Arabica beans, being more delicate and requiring specific growing conditions, are generally more expensive to produce. This often results in higher prices for Arabica coffee on the market. Robusta beans, on the other hand, are hardier and more resistant to diseases and pests, making them cheaper and more sustainable to cultivate. This makes Robusta a more viable option for mass production and commercial blends.

(The author, Rajat Agrawal, is the CEO of Barista Coffee.)



TRENDING

KARDASHIAN SISTERS

Person



Excitement was in the air in B-town when the Kardashian sisters arrived. Kim and Khloe, who are well-known for their influence, brought even more glitz to the already extravagant event.

DASHAVATAR

Video



At the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Nita Ambani presented *Dashavatar*, a cultural event that features the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu.

STREE 2

The residents of Chanderi are once again yelling at the top of their lungs. A new ghost is watching their village after they bested upon the previous ghost, "stree," a position as divine as if she were a goddess. It's headless this time, though and it's chasing women instead of men. The trailer for *Stree 2*, is now available.

Movie



MERE MEHBOOB MERE SANAM

Song



A new song featuring Vicky Kaushal, Ammy Virk and Tripti Dimri has been released by the makers of *Bad Newz*. The famous song *Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam* from Shah Rukh Khan's movie *Duplicate* is being remixed again.

WRAPPED IN LOYALTY

Picture



Following Trump assassination attempt, since then, his fans have shown their support for him by donning white ear wraps on their right ears.



BACKBENCHER AT SCHOOL

Born and brought up in Nalgonda, I have one sister Manjula Rani. I was a backbencher during my school days in Nalgonda. My mother Aruna is a homemaker and my father Vasudeva Reddy is a farmer. My parents were not with me throughout the period of my education. It was my grandmother who raised me in a remote village in Nalgonda. My grandmother Ranganayakamma had four children and she took care of us—eight grandchildren in all—while our parents were busy with farming and other jobs. She ensured we studied in a good English medium school. Most of us succeeded in our careers, with one cousin becoming a paediatrician. My sister is a doctor in the US, while other cousins are into software development. As a kid, I was quite mischievous and did not excel academically. I stayed with my grandmother until the 10th standard, after which I went to Narayana Residential Junior College in Nellore for my Intermediate studies. I failed in Intermediate in one subject.

TAXI DRIVER IN AUSTRALIA

Although my parents pushed me to pursue medicine or engineering, which were common ambitious courses back then, I was not interested. In 1993, influenced by a cousin, I decided to go to Cyprus for doing hotel management. Later, I moved to the UK for further studies in hotel management, then to Germany, and eventually to Australia in 1995. In Australia, I did various jobs, including as taxi driver. I later ran a restaurant, saving money before returning to Hyderabad in 2002. I managed to cover my expenses abroad by doing part-time jobs after my father paid the fees for my first semester. During my stint as taxi driver in Australia, one day a passenger whom I had picked up from the airport gave me some life-changing advice. As we were travelling, he asked me about my work and aspirations. I told him that I was a young student working hard and aiming to become rich. He then shared a profound piece of wisdom with me: "Nobody in this world will become rich by just working hard. People become rich when the money they make starts working for them." This advice struck a chord with me and changed my perspective on wealth and investments. I realised that merely earning a salary or business income was not enough. To truly grow my wealth, I needed to save diligently and invest wisely. Every rupee saved should be put to work so that it multiplies itself over time. This approach led me to explore various investment opportunities, particularly in real estate.

CONSULTANCY TO SEND STUDENTS ABROAD

After returning to India in 2002, I was determined to leverage my international experience and network. Recognising the growing demand for higher education abroad, I founded ANZAC Consultancy in 2003 with the aim of assisting students in navigating the complex process of studying overseas. Starting with a small office in Hyderabad, my initial investment was modest, but my vision was clear: to provide personalised, comprehensive guidance to students aspiring to study in countries like Australia, the UK, the USA and Canada. My time abroad had allowed me to build a robust network of contacts in the education sector. I utilised these connections to establish partnerships with numerous universities and colleges across these countries. These relationships were instrumental in enabling me to gain credibility and win trust in the industry. The consultancy quickly gained a reputation for its thorough and reliable services. Word-of-mouth referrals from satisfied students and parents played a crucial role in this growth. To meet the increasing demand, I expanded ANZAC Consultancy, opening branches in multiple cities.

WORKING IN YOUTH CONGRESS

Despite not getting the opportunity to contest, I decided to start working for the party. I began my journey with the Youth Congress, where I initially took on the role of a district secretary. This position was not highly sought after, but I saw it as a stepping stone. My active involvement caught the attention of party leaders, and I was soon recommended for the state committee as a secretary. As I continued to work hard, my dedication led me to Delhi several times. During one of these visits, I presented my resume to Ashok Tarwar, then national president of the Youth Congress and he saw potential in me. With his support, I began taking on more significant responsibilities. One pivotal moment was when Rahul Gandhi, who became the General Secretary of the party in 2006, launched the *Discovery India* program. This initiative aimed to understand the diverse issues across the country by visiting different states and interacting with various groups, including professionals and students. I was selected to be part of the advance team for this program, tasked with preparing the groundwork for Rahul Gandhi's visits. My ability to manage logistics and my self-sufficiency impressed the party leaders. My role in the Youth Congress grew as I became in charge of states like Orissa and Karnataka, organising events and membership drives. One notable program was *Aam aadmi ka sipahi*, which aimed to empower Youth Congress workers to act as watchdogs for the common man, ensuring the effective implementation of government schemes and spreading awareness about rights and information. I played significant role and from 2006 to 2010, my involvement with the Youth Congress continued to expand. I became the coordinator for multiple states and, in 2008, I was appointed as a IYC General Secretary. My dedication and hard work did not go unnoticed; Rajiv Satav, my president at the time, supported me and I played a crucial role in various party activities. Satav's rise to becoming an MLA in 2009 and later the national president of Youth Congress was partly due to our collaborative efforts. He picked me as his general secretary. This elevation brought new challenges into my life. Rajiv was relatively new to the national party position and some party members believed that I was running everything behind the scenes, due to which many in the organisation became my enemies, both in Delhi and in other states.



SUSPENDED FROM PARTY

When I was in charge of the Tamil Nadu unit, there were significant internal conflicts, particularly with influential members who had their own agendas. This resulted in my being suspended from my position. I faced controversy when there were allegations of making statements against Rahul Gandhi and accusations of forging signatures. The accusations were baseless, with the slanderers merely repeating what opposition parties had said without understanding the context. In the past, I made a statement criticising the approach of hiring people in the Youth Congress, highlighting that political systems do not operate like corporate entities with firing mechanisms. This statement was taken out of context, leading to a misinterpretation of my intentions and eventually, I was expelled from the party. The expulsion was a tough blow. I had always been a genuine person without any hidden agendas, and Rajiv Satav, could not defend me adequately. This situation left me feeling betrayed and disheartened, and I decided to step back from politics for a few years.

SOUGHT TICKET TO CONTEST FOR ZPTC

My connection with the Congress party runs deep, going back to my childhood. My family, including my parents and sister, have been long-time supporters of the Congress. We grew up watching my grandfather's cousin contesting elections under the Congress symbol and my grandmother even had a photograph taken with Gandhi during a tour to Delhi. Her admiration for Gandhi and her deep connection to the Congress profoundly influenced me. In 2005, encouraged by friends, I contested in the local ZPTC elections. My friends in the village encouraged me to run, thinking it would be a great chance to become the chairman should I win. I was not particularly ambitious about politics at that point, but the idea intrigued me. However, when I went to file my nomination on the last day, I discovered that the Congress party had already chosen another candidate; so, I wasn't given the opportunity to contest.

BHONGIR BACKBENCHER

Member of Parliament from Bhongir Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, first time parliamentarian, made it to the august House after a challenging academic journey, serial entrepreneurial endeavours, and challenging navigation in the rough and tumble of politics. In an interview with Naveena Ghanate of *The Pioneer*, he speaks about his childhood, treasured moments with grandmother who raised him primarily, and more.



REVANTH CALLED ME 'UNMARRIED WIDOW'

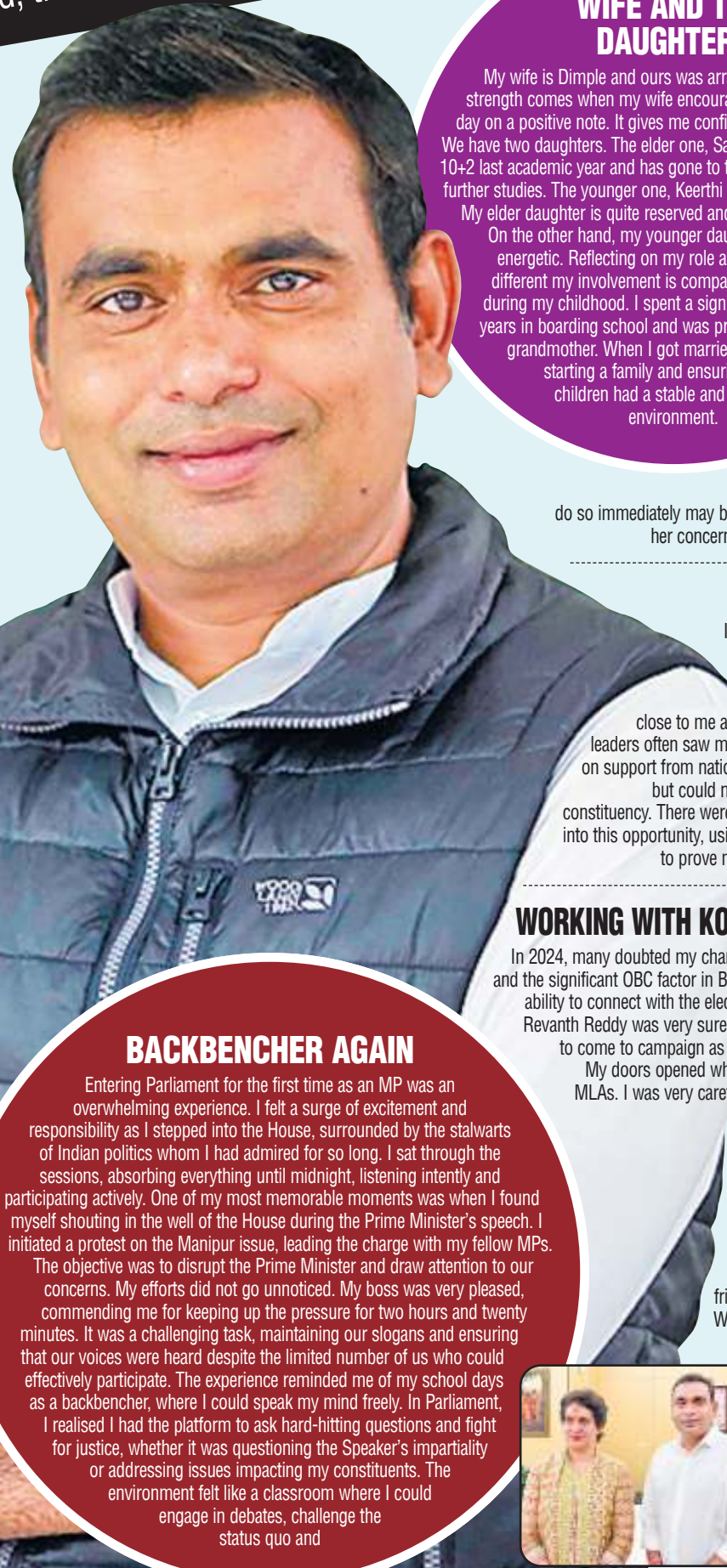
In 2017, Revanth Reddy joined the Congress party. I met Revanth through a mutual friend, Palatolla Karthik Reddy. We immediately connected over our shared experiences in politics. Revanth knew about my history with the Youth Congress and had a lot of data and jokes about my political journey. He termed me as an unmarried widow. Our initial conversation was light-hearted and humorous, establishing a comfortable rapport. Revanth often joked about his political aspirations, confidently stating that he would become the chief minister someday. I would retort saying you have not had the chance to become a minister, how will you even become Chief Minister. But his unwavering confidence and self-belief were infectious. Even though I teased him about his ambition, but deep down, I admired his determination and vision. I told him that he had moved from a smaller political pond to the vast ocean of Congress. Although I initially had my doubts, his confidence and vision were compelling. We began meeting regularly, spending hours discussing politics, strategies, and our vision for the future. When Revanth Reddy became the TPCC president, my political career saw significant elevation as I was appointed to oversee media relations, a role that allowed me to utilize my skills and experience effectively. Over the next two to three years, I took on numerous tasks, contributing to the party's strategies and operations, and our partnership flourished.

EMOTIONAL TURMOIL & RETURN

During this period, my family went through a lot of emotional strain for almost two years. I had reached a point in national politics where I was close to significant leaders and handling important states like Kerala. But suddenly I found myself sidelined. For the next four to five years, I stayed away from active politics, reflecting deeply on my situation. In 2014, Rajiv Satav became an MP and during one of my visits to Parliament to meet him, Girish Chodankar, the then PCC president of Goa, encouraged me to return to politics. He believed that the organisation needed people like me. Although I was initially reluctant, Rahul Gandhi called Uttam Kumar Reddy to bring me back to the party. I rejoined but remained inactive for about a year without any position.

GOOD AT ELECTION MANAGEMENT

After some time, I decided to become a spokesperson for the party. Despite the large number of spokespersons, I managed to secure a position but still found it challenging to get media space. I continued to help friends in every election, leveraging my skills in election management. Over time, I developed a reputation for understanding people and effectively managing election campaigns. My ability to identify and utilise the strengths of individuals, whether they were donkeys or horses, became a key asset. I used these skills repeatedly in many states. Election management is about understanding people, connecting with them, and keeping things organised. I realised that knowing who could perform which tasks and training them accordingly was crucial. This approach allowed me to contribute significantly to many successful campaigns, reinforcing my belief in the importance of strategic thinking and interpersonal skills in politics.



BACKBENCHER AGAIN

Entering Parliament for the first time as an MP was an overwhelming experience. I felt a surge of excitement and responsibility as I stepped into the House, surrounded by the stalwarts of Indian politics whom I had admired for so long. I sat through the sessions, absorbing everything until midnight, listening intently and participating actively. One of my most memorable moments was when I found myself shouting in the well of the House during the Prime Minister's speech. I initiated a protest on the Manipur issue, leading the charge with my fellow MPs. The objective was to disrupt the Prime Minister and draw attention to our concerns. My efforts did not go unnoticed. My boss was very pleased, commending me for keeping up the pressure for two hours and twenty minutes. It was a challenging task, maintaining our slogans and ensuring that our voices were heard despite the limited number of us who could effectively participate. The experience reminded me of my school days as a backbencher, where I could speak my mind freely. In Parliament, I realised I had the platform to ask hard-hitting questions and fight for justice, whether it was questioning the Speaker's impartiality or addressing issues impacting my constituents. The environment felt like a classroom where I could engage in debates, challenge the status quo and

WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS

My wife is Dimple and ours was arranged marriage. My strength comes when my wife encourages me and starts my day on a positive note. It gives me confidence to face the world. We have two daughters. The elder one, Saahiti Kiran, completed her 10+2 last academic year and has gone to the United States to pursue further studies. The younger one, Keerthi Kiran, is in eighth standard. My elder daughter is quite reserved and takes good care of herself. On the other hand, my younger daughter is more like me—energetic. Reflecting on my role as a father, I realise how different my involvement is compared to my own father's during my childhood. I spent a significant part of my early years in boarding school and was primarily raised by my grandmother. When I got married, I was keen on starting a family and ensuring that my children had a stable and nurturing environment.



WIFE'S CONCERN, CONDITIONS

When I returned to active politics after suspension, my wife Dimple was concerned. She noticed that I was becoming a 24/7 politician again, much like in the past. This worried her because she remembered how, after my exit from politics in 2010, it took me two years to reintegrate into regular family life. She was concerned about the toll that this lifestyle could take on our family. My wife made me promise that I would maintain a balance and not let politics consume me entirely. She insisted that if I ever decided to quit politics again, I should do so immediately and never bring political discussions into our home. Understanding her concerns and the importance of maintaining a healthy balance, I agreed to her terms.

ALWAYS ASKED BHONGIR TICKET

I would have become MLA in 2009 but my constituency became reserved due to delimitation. Since I was powerful general secretary in the country, I would have got another seat. I did not want to be a parachute leader and go to another constituency in last moment. Y S Rajashekar Reddy was not close to me as I was surviving in Delhi. Despite my strong connections and influence, state leaders often saw me as bypassing them, which created tensions. As a result, I had to rely heavily on support from national leaders like Rahul Gandhi. In 2009 and 2019, I asked for the Bhongir seat but could not get it. By the 2024 elections, I was determined to contest from the Bhongir constituency. There were 28 applicants and many of them influential. I decided to put everything I had into this opportunity, using my resources without asking for financial support from the party. I wanted to prove myself as a self-made individual accountable only to my vision and the people.

WORKING WITH KOMATIREDDY BROTHERS

In 2024, many doubted my chances due to the strong factional politics and the significant OBC factor in Bhongir. However, I was confident in my ability to connect with the electorate and address their critical issues. Revanth Reddy was very sure that I would win. In fact, I told him not to come to campaign as I might lose two days for preparations. My doors opened when both Komatireddy brothers became MLAs. I was very careful about managing the influence of the Komatireddy brothers. One significant factor in my campaign was pacifying Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy by proposing that he become the parliamentary coordinator. This move aligned our interests and consolidated our efforts, ensuring his support for my campaign. He is very friendly man, I realised during campaign. When I got my seat, I felt everything was falling in place. Despite working hard, I was not getting anywhere. But I could feel a driving power and everything was happening it was designed to. I expected 2.5 lakh majority and victory was not just a personal achievement but a collective success for everyone who believed in the vision of a better future for Bhongir.

RAPID FIRE

- Happiest moment:** When my family is happy about my achievements
- Sad moments:** Always failing in initial days. I failed one subject in Intermediate.
- Movies:** I enjoy watching on Netflix. I liked watching *Marcos*
- Favourite colour:** green.
- Fav food:** I enjoy eating chicken
- Fav song:** I listen to music specifically those which were released during my younger days as it makes me nostalgic
- Favourite actor:** I admire Krishna for his roles as an advocate in movies
- Strength:** My confidence and my family
- Weakness:** I lose control and confidence when I am stressed
- Favourite politician:** Abraham Lincoln for his perseverance and resilience despite numerous failures