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"Ramoji Rao Garu was extremely passionate about India's development. I am fortunate to have got several opportunities to interact with him and benefit from his wisdom"



Ramoji Rao is a visionary who ran Eenadu as a number one news daily for more than 5 decades even during the challenging times and also laid a strong foundation for TV industry by establishing Etv,



We are unable to digest that Ramoii Rao, who has reached the pinnacle in the media world, is no more. He is a classic example and an inspiration in fighting for rights



# Telugus'newsman

## End of an era in Telugu media

PNS HYDERABAD

chairman Ch Ramoji Rao, who

dence in the famous i Film City near here. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, chief including West Bengal Chief

Minister Mamata Baneriee and film personalities mourned the death of Former Vice President M Venkaiah India N V Ramana, TDP chief N Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Jana personalities paid homage to Rac Ramoji Rao, who created a sensation in the media industry in

of channels, was a recipient of Ramoji Rao's rise to become the founder of Eenadu, the largest thousands and continue to impact the lives of millions in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and



#### The journey of Ramoji Rao in the world of media, abiding by the ideologies he believed in, was unparalleled. His demise is a great loss to the media sector. I pray to God for his soul to rest in peace.

RAMOJI BUILT HIS TOMB IN RFC

relationship with Ramoji Rao. Whenever we met, he

used to ask me to see his Samidhi where he would be

buried. I used to say I came

to visit you, not your tomb. He would say, I thought you

Why are you so scared? But

were brave, aren't you?

I never went there.

PNS HYDERABAD

The head of the Eenadu

Ramoji Rao, had finalised

his final resting place in

The videos about 'Smriti

Vanam' took everyone by

surprise. Film actor Mohan

Babu who paid condolences

The demise of Ramoji Rao is shocking. He had rendered immeasurable services to the Telugu media for decades. I pray to God that his soul rests in peace and convey my sympathies to the bereaved family.

## LAST RITES WITH STATE HONOURS

herukuri Ramoji Rao, Chairman of the Ramoji Group of companies and Padma Vibhushan awardee, passed away this morning. The Telangana government has decided to conduct his last rites with State honours. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who is currently in Delhi for the CWC meeting, issued orders to the Chief

Secretary of the government from there. Following these orders, the Ranga Reddy District Collector and the Cyberabad Commissioner have been directed by the Chief Secretary to oversee the arrangements. Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh government has declared June 9 and 10 as

media baron. During this period, the national flag will be flown at half-mast on all official buildings across the state, and no official entertainment events will be held. Three senior government officials, RP Sisodia, Saiprasad, and Rajat Bhargava, will represent the Andhra Pradesh government mourning days to honour the at Ramoji Rao's last rites.

## Winning laurels even from detractors

**B KRISHNA PRASAD** 

That is success in life? I had my moment of epiphany when I saw the tweets in 'X' of AICC leader Rahul Gandhi and former AP Chief Minister and YSRCP president YS Jaganmohan Reddy condoling the death of media baron Ramoji Rao. I gained a deeper insight into the normally ignored shade of the meaning of success: winning laurels from even one's bitter rivals. Ramoji Rao achieved that and how!

Ramoji Rao had declared publicly that he was an 'anti-Congressman'; yet Rahul Gandhi condoled his death on Saturday and hailed his contribution to Indian journalism. Jagan has aired his displeasure at Ramoji Rao umpteen times and even prevented Eenadu group's media arms from reporting on YSRCP's affairs and one may agree with him or differ with

activities. Still, Jagan issued a statement hailing Ramoji's services to journalism. This is success in all its

splendour! Hats off to Ramoji Rao! Ramoji Rao -- with his business interests spread across media, film industry and FMCG sectors -- has pervaded almost all spheres of Telugu people's lives. At an individual level,

him, but none can resist standing in awe of him for his achievements.

I started my journalism career as a trainee reporter in Eenadu. Chairman Ramoji Rao interviewed me and took me into state bureau directly -- a rare opportunity to a fresh graduate. During my interview, then executive director of Newstoday (the news agency of Eenadu) said some good words about me to Ramoji Rao, like "He is intelligent". Ramoji Rao immediately sized me up, retorting: "What is intelligence here? He has to work hard, sincerely; that's all". To confess, I was a bit taken back at that comment then. But later in my days of managing a newspaper and a satellite television channel I realized out how brilliant and prescient he was to have commented like that.

#### Sonia Gandhi re-elected **CPP** chairperson

PNS NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was unanimously re-elected as the chairperson of the Congress parliamentary party on Saturday, its leaders said.

At a meeting of party MPs, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge proposed Sonia Gandhi's name as the chairperson of the parliamentary party. The proposal was seconded by Gaurav Gogoi, K Sudhakaran and Tariq Anwar. Gandhi, 77, was elected to the

Rajya Sabha in February. Earlier, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) unanimously urged Rahul Gandhi to take on the mantle of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and he told the party's top brass that he will take

## Modi set to take oath as PM today

PNS NEW DELHI

Minister-designate Narendra Modi is set to take oath on Sunday for a third straight term, equalling the feat of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, as the head of a coalition government after two full tenures in which the

BJP enjoyed a majority on its own. Hectic parleys involving BJP leadership and allies were on over the share of berths of different constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the new government.

Senior BJP leaders such as Amit weight portfolios like home, Shah and Rajnath Singh besides finance, defence and external party president J P Nadda have been consulting the allies, including Telugu Desam Party's N Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s BJP, while its allies can get any-Nitish Kumar and Shiv Sena's

#### Union Minister posts for Kishan, Sanjay? Sanjay Kumar will also get a

PNS HYDERABAD

Speculations are rife that Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy will retain his Union on Sunday evening. All BJP MPs Minister post. BJP General Secretary Karimnagar MP Bandi

Union Minister post. Modi is going to take oath as the Prime Minister for the third time from Telangana will attend the oath taking ceremony of Modi.

Eknath Shinde, to finalise their net berths. share of representation in the government.

There is a view that heavyweight portfolios like home, affairs besides education and culture, two ministries with strong ideological hues, will be kept by the where between five to eight cabi-

While leaders like Shah and Singh are seen within the party as a certainty in the new Cabinet, former chief ministers who have won the Lok Sabha polls like Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Basavaraj Bommai, Manohar Lal Khattar and Sarbananda Sonowal are strong contenders for joining the government.



## Time for brevity in KCR's lectures

Recounting historically significant events or interesting anecdotes is one thing and going round in circles is quite another. Of late Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief K Chandrashekar Rao's speeches are sounding like 'history classes', aver vocal members of audience. These days, whenever he opens his mouth amid the public, he tends to deliver a lecture. At a time when people expect netas' speeches to be short and sweet with loads of goodies among promises, his lectures leave a lot to be desired. We are in 2024 and getting audience attention for even one minute is a big deal. The average attention span has shrunk to a mere 8 seconds, say experts. KCR is sounding like a specimen from the old guard by gloating over his greatness. His lectures, bereft of his characteristic wit and humour, fail to appeal to audience, be they captive or otherwise.

Interestingly, some of his archival videos are gaining traction on the internet, drawing comparisons and sparking

memes. Clips of his lectures these days are not shared even by followers in his home turf. This silence is deafening.

#### Time for Revanth to prove he is nobody's chela

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has time and again faced taunts from his political detractors that he is the chela of his political guru and Telugu Desam Party chief and Andhra Pradesh CM-designate N Chandrababu Naidu. At times, he has put his foot down, saying he likes to be treated for the person he is now. A confidente of Reventh pointed out that the Guru-chela ties were a fact 15 years ago. Revanth has since regarded himself as a self-made man who longer requires mentoring. Now, with Chandrababu Naidu at the helm of affairs in Andhra Pradesh and holding control levers at the Centre, all eyes are on how Revanth Reddy will stand out as a leader in his own Congress government is very keen on

right. For newbies, even before the recent elections, peeved Revanth had remarked: "If anybody calls me a 'disciple' of Naidu, I will beat him with chappals". If not BRS, media is watching both 'Guru' and 'chela'. It all depends on if and when Revanth plays to the tunes of Naidu.

#### Kalvakuntla family not ready to face media

After scoring a duck in the recent Lok Sabha elections despite having painted a roof picture of the pink party, none from the Kalvakuntla family have faced media. Normally, post results, parties hold a press conference, regardless of defeat or victory. However, BRS working president KT Rama Rao and Harish Rao chose to tweet instead. None of the brass --

KCR, KTR, Harish Rao or Santosh

Rao has since made statements on

BRS' downfall. In contrast, AP's out-

going CM Jagan, despite facing a

crushing defeat, gave a statement. Is

this imperial arrogance or unspeakable

shame? Whatever it be, Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy made up for the lack

of BRS' viewpoint by expressing his

view on BRS' show, call it mileage or

smear campaign. BRS' friendly party MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi too

Media under close watch

Sometime press conferences can be

delayed by hours. However, if media

houses delay the broadcast or don't

give enough coverage, then there is a new-found worry. The tracking is

such that even if a few minutes of

presser are not covered, reporters

may be informed. This has kept TV

channels on tenterhooks. The new

Generally politicians tend to be late.

blamed the pink party.

what is published and how it is published in the media. In a recent interview, the Chief Minister himself said that a person has been appointed exclusively to deal with the news being published in newspapers, especially on public issues or in cases where the government's stand needs to be clarified. The officer will send the piece to the department concerned and get a report. Scribes have acknowledged that rejoinders or clarifications have increased in the new

#### Winning reflects the stuff the candidate has

The Congress candidate for Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduates constituency by-poll Theenmar Mallanna won against odds, beating his near-

est BRS candidate A Rakesh Reddy. For, hardly any Congress leader campaigned for him. Even the party

leaders who count met him rather grudgingly after the results were announced. The reason is that many Congress leaders did not relish Theenmar Mallanna's victory. Most of them had questioned the wisdom of giving him the party ticket in the first place. The cadre, however, had a gut feeling that only Mallanna had the caliber and stuff to win the bypolls. Their gut feeling proved right.

#### **Setting records of** both high and low

Setting a record is fine. But few end up setting records for both high and low in the same arena. For Telugu people at least, outgoing AP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has proved this. In 2019, Jagan wong 151 out of total 175 seat. After five years, the same Jagan has won 11 seats out of 175.

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

## Rs 497 cr for Rajiv Aarogyasri

- 65 new treatments added to Aarogyasri
- Cash package increased for 1,375 existing procedures

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme will now cover medical problems and procedures like angiogram, Parkinson's disease and spinal conditions. The decision also increases the package prices of treatments currently available under the Aarogyasri scheme. A total of Rs 497.29 crore is

required for the increase in coverage. Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka issued orders for the release of funds

on Saturday.

A meeting was convened by Bhatti at the Secretariat to discuss the inclusion of new treatment procedures and to revise

schemes under the Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme.

The scheme helps 2.84 crore people and offers financial assistance up to Rs 10 lakh. This facility is provided through 1,402 hospitals across the state. Currently, the scheme includes 1.672 treatment procedures.

Based on the recommendation of medical experts, Bhatti decided to increase package prices for 1,375 treatment procedures. Additionally, 65 advanced treatment procedures including angiogram,

the outlay of the current Parkinson's disease and spinal conditions which were not covered under Aarogyasri will now be covered.

Incorporating 98 treatment procedures of the Ayushman Bharat scheme into Rajiv Aarogyasri will cost the government approximately Rs 189.83 crore. The inclusion of 65 new treatment procedures will add an expense of Rs 158.20 crore.

Bhatti approved an additional allotment of Rs 497.29 crore during the meeting to fund these revisions and new medical procedures.

## Govt taking steps to help handloom workers: Tummala

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS government did not care about handloom workers, but after the Congress government took over measures are being taken to provide longterm benefits to handloom workers and to provide full-time work to them, Agriculture, Cooperation and Textiles Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rai said.

He said that after the Congress came to power all government departments have been given asked to buy clothes through TESCO via GO Ms. No: 1, dated 11.03.2024.

As per this order even if a government department gets a non-availability certificate from TESCO it cannot purchase garments from the open

Already orders worth Rs 255 crore have been given by government departments for to produce quality to per market demand.

cloth supply to TESCO and due to this handloom workers will get plenty of work, he said.

He said that arrears created by the BRS government will be brought to the attention of the Chief Minister and steps will be taken to release them.

The BRS government introduced the 10% yarn subsidy scheme without Cabinet approval, so funds were not released. However, a 10% yarn subsidy amounting to Rs 33.23 crore has been released by TESCO, he said.

He said that elections would be held soon for functioning primary handloom cooperative societies and that steps would be taken to meet market demand for different kinds of textile products produced by primary handloom cooperative societies. He said that handloom societies were told to produce quality textiles as

## Big loss to Telugu press: CM



PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock and saddened by the demise of Media mogul and head of Eenadu Group Padma Vibhushan Cherukuri Ramoji Rao. The Chief Minister said that the passing away of Ramoji Rao is a big loss to Telugu press, media and business sectors. The CM said Ramoji Rao is credited with enriched Integrity to Telugu journalism and showed a new direction to media sector. CM Revanth Reddy hailed Ramoji Rao for spreading Telugu glory at the national level. The media baron Ramoji Rao is a great

person who gave utmost importance to values ??and credibility in any sector. Ramoji Rao is a visionary who ran Eenadu as a number one news daily for more than 5 decades even during the challenging times and also laid a strong foundation for TV industry by establishing Etv, the Chief Minister said. The CM recalled his meeting with Ramoji Rao at Ramoji Film City recently. Passing away of Eenadu group Chairman is a big loss to Media and business sectors. He prayed God the departed soul may rest in peace and conveyed his deep sympathies to the bereaved

**CWC ASKS RAHUL** 

## Take on LOP mantle in LS

#### RAHUL SAYS WILL DECIDE 'VERY SOON'

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Saturday unanimously urged Rahul Gandhi to take on the mantle of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and he told the party's top brass that he will take a deci-

At a meeting of the CWC, the party's highest decisionmaking body, chaired by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others, the party's Lok Sabha polls showing was hailed but it was also decided that separate committees would be set up in states where the performance was not good or below expectations, to take corrective measures.

Kharge said the Lok Sabha poll mandate is a "decisive rejection" of the politics of divisiveness and hate, and stressed that the INDIA bloc must continue functioning cohesively both inside and outside Parliament.

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 



#### Rahul fighting for farmers, women & youth: CM

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that Rahul Gandhi has been fighting for farmers, women and youth. Speaking to the media after attending the CWC meeting in New Delhi, Revanth said

that Rahul will now fight against Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha. "I want to congratulate will change," he said.

Rahul Gandhi will take charge as the Lok Sabha Floor Leader. For the last 20 years, Rahul has been fighting for farmers, women and youth. Once Rahul takes charge (as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha), the entire atmosphere in the country

Sonia Gandhi. We hope

Two resolutions were CWC, including one unanimously passed by the requesting.

## Telugus' newsman no more

Continued on Page 1

He also made several films some of which got awards at the national level.

According to reports, Ramoji Rao's net worth is estimated at over USD four billion (over Rs 32,000 crore). He is survived by his wife

and a son. Another son passed away a few years ago due to ill

President Murmu said Ramoji Rao's contributions to the industry will be long remembered. "With the demise of Shri Ramoji Rao, India has lost a titan of the media and entertainment sector," President Murmu said in a post

Expressing grief at the death of Ramoji Rao, PM Modi described him as a 'visionary' who revolutionised Indian

Rao's rich contributions have left an indelible mark on journalism and the world of films, Modi said on X, adding that through his noteworthy efforts, he set new standards in innovation and excellence in the media and entertainment

"Ramoji Rao Garu was extremely passionate about India's development. I am fortunate to have got several opportunities to interact with him and benefit from his wisdom. Condolences to his family, friends and countless admirers during this difficult time. Om Shanti," he said.

Rahul Gandhi said Ramoii Rao's contributions to journalcinema and ment have left a lasting impact and transformed the media landscape. Sitharaman said PM Modi

sent her as his emissary to pay his respects, the Union Government's respects to Ramoji Rao and also to place a wreath of homage. She said she met the family

members of Ramoji Rao and expressed Modi's condolences and also placed a wreath to pay homage. Chandrababu Naidu

described Ramoji Rao as a "Yug Purush" and recalled the departed media mogul's stellar contributions to society and the high standards he maintained.

Telangana Governor C P Radhakrishnan called Ramoji Rao a 'true legend', who revolutionised Indian media and cinema with his profound and extensive contributions. Telangana CM Revanth

Reddy termed Ramoji Rao's death as a "great loss" to the Telugu newspaper and media The CM, who is in Delhi to

attend the CWC meeting, directed state Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari to conduc Ramoji Rao's funeral with state honours, a CMO release said.

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to observe state mourning on June 9 and June 10. During the state mourning, the National Flag will be flown at half mast from June 9 to 10 throughout the state and there will be no official entertainment, an official communication said.

Noted producer D Suresh Babu said film shootings will not be held on Sunday as a mark of respect to Ramoji Rao. Mourning the passing of Rao, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin hailed the media mogul's contributions to journalism and film industry. Kerala Chief Minister

Pinarayi Vijayan, in a post on

his X handle, said Rao's curiosity, foresight and determination left an indelible mark on every field he ventured into, serving as an example and inspiration

The Editors Guild of India said Ramoji Rao, who headed the Guild in the past, would be best remembered as being a media owner who on several occasions took the establishment and fearlessly spoke truth to

Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan and Jr NTR, ace director SS Rajamouli and several other prominent cinema personalties also expressed grief over the demise of Ramoji Rao.

Rajamouli said the only way tributes can be paid to Ramoji Rao is by conferring Bharat Ratna on him.

"ONE man with his 50 years of resilience, hardwork and innovation provided employment, livelihood and hope for millions. The only way we can pay tribute to Ramoji Rao garu is conferring him with "BHARAT RATNA"," Rajamouli said

## for Modi's guarantee: CM PNS HYDERABAD Declaring that warranty is over for Modi's guarantee,

Warranty over

family members.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the people of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra endorsed INDIA even though the states had BJP governments.

Modi's comments that the people of Telangana and Karnataka have lost confidence in the Congress governments in their states. He said the people didn't endorse the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections in UP and Maharashtra although the BJP is in power in those

The CM said that earlier the Congress had only three LS seats in Telangana, however, the number has now increased to 8. The CM added that the Congress had secured 64 seats in the TG Assembly elections and it increased to 65 with the victory of Sri Ganesh in the Secunderabad Cantonment

## Winning laurels even from...

Continued on Page 1

Month & Paksham Sukla Paksha Tithi: Tritiya: Jun 08 03:55 PM to Jun 09 03:44 PM Jun 09 03:44 PM to Jun 10 04:15 PM Nakshatram: Jun 08 07:42 PM Punarvasu: to Jun 09 08:20 PM Pushya: Jun 09 08:20 PM to Jun 10 09:39 PM 5:08 PM to 6:46 PM Rahukalam Yamagandam: 12:15 PM to 1:53 PM Varjyam: 04:47 AM to 06:28 AM 3:30 PM to 5:08 PM Gulika: 05:52 PM to 07:31 PM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:49 AM to 12:41 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms Temp: 31°° Humidity: 74%

Sunset: 6:50 PM

**Updated:** June 8 2024 5:00 PM

For any management, intelli-

gence is not much of use, compared to sincere work. He was a past master in management and an inspiring leader. He always believed in full delegation of powers rather than centralized power. He was a true democrat though the spirit of his writ runs through all his businesses. As they say, "an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.'

Let me explain a little. He started Newstime, an English daily, and appointed SR Ramanujam as its head. During its long journey, the English newspaper incurred huge losses but not even once Ramoji Rao interfered in the affairs of Newstime. He gave full freedom to Ramanujam with regard to its operations. Similarly, he handed over

Margadarsi Chit Funds and Financiers to his daughter-inlaw. Thereafter, he almost stopped involving in its day-today operations, while attending reviews without fail.

Eenadu opened several printing units in combined Andhra Pradesh with the respective edition in-charge functioning as its boss. Even if somebody complained in writing against such in-charges, Ramoji Rao used to pass on those complaints to the incharge concerned, with a subtle warning, if required, to mend their ways. He used to believe a lot in the people picked by him or his trusted lieutenants. He had immense confidence in his team. At the same time, he used to have a Plan B for everything that could go wrong. This is what I observed and learned during

my stint in his organization.

He lived his life king size. Till the last minute, he never bowed down to anyone. Not even to great NTR. He did what he believed in even if it was too dangerous and risky. He loved challenges and never accepted defeat. Whatever be his business venture, he believed in delivering the highest quality, knowing it will yield results unfailingly. For that, he worked hard sincerely. He maintained highest quality in news, layout, printing, and delivery of Eenadu that made the newspaper unbeatable for almost 50 years! "I get relaxation in work" was his inspiring refrain, which says all about his personality. He left an indelible mark on entrepreneurship, journalism, filmmaking and several other fields. He continues to inspire many young minds. May his soul rest in peace.

## Modi set to take oath...

Continued on Page 1

Ram Mohan Naidu of the TDP, Lalan Singh, Sanjay Jha and Ram Nath Thakur of the JD(U), and Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) are among the allies who may be a part of the new government, sources said, adding that either Singh or Jha will be accommodated from the JD(U) quota.

Maharashtra, where the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP alliance has fared poorly, and Bihar, where the opposition has shown signs of revival, may be in the focus during the government-formation exercise.

Assembly polls are due in the western state in October, while polls will be held in Bihar next year.

Impending changes within the BJP's organisation will also be on the mind of its brain trust in finalising the names of ministers from the party.

Nadda's term was extended due to the Lok Sabha polls, and organisational imperatives will be an important consideration for the party as the poll results have sent sig-

#### KCR invited to attend PM's swearing-in

PNS HYDERABAD

President Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) has been invited to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled for Sunday. The invitation was extended personally by senior BJP leader Prahlad

Joshi who contacted KCR

on the phone and request-

ed his presence at the event.

## to fight for the rights of Punjab'

PNS HYDERABAD

Sangrur/Ludhiana, Jun 8 (PTI) Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday started his tour of Punjab to meet his party's workers in all parliamentary constituencies in the state. Of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab, the party won just one in the recently concluded general elections. While thanking SAD workers for the effort put in by them during the polls, he urged them to be ready to give a strong showing in the forthcoming byelections. Asserting that the SAD alone could safeguard the rights of Punjab and Punjabis, Badal said.

## 'We will continue Telangana BJP MPs meet

## Chandrababu PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP MPs met TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu in New Delhi. Adilabad MP Godem Nagesh and Medak MP M. Raghunandan Rao visited Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday.

Chandrababu hugged Godem Nagesh and said that Nagesh had created history in United Andhra Pradesh by winning the Assembly elections. When the TDP gave an Assembly election ticket to Nagesh local TDP leaders opposed it. However, Nagesh created history by winning the election, he said.

It may be recalled that Nagesh created history by entering the United AP Assembly in 1994.

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#### AISF seeks probe into **NEET** paper leakage

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The All India Students Federation (AISF) sought an inquiry into the NEET exam paper leakage, raising concerns about the results conducted by the national testing agency for admission to gov-ernment medical colleges across the country.

AISF State president Manikanta Reddy stated that the Central government should conduct a detailed investigation into the exam process and results, as nearly 24 lakh students took the exam nation-wide.

He mentioned that many students and parents suspect irregularities in the results, showing evidence that six students scored 720 out of 720 marks and all had the same examination centre, which also strengthens their

Manikanta Reddy urged the Central government to respond immediately to the results released by the national testing agency and ensure justice for the medical students who took the exam.

## Thousands take *fish prasadam* for lungs-related problems

Thousands of people, along with their families, travelled from across the country to take part in the annual fish prasadam distribution administered by the Bathini family on Saturday.

The fish prasadam distribution was held at the Nampally Exhibition ground, with all arrangements for food, water, toilets and accommodation provided for the people who queued up on the occasion. Hundreds of police personnel were on duty in the queue sections and throughout the grounds, with bomb detector checks at the entrance.

According to the State fisheries department, each fish seed costs Rs 40. The counters will operate in shifts from 8 am to 12 noon, from 12 noon to 6 pm, from 6 pm to midnight and from midnight until the end of the event. Officials from the fisheries department, along with NGOs, participated in the arrangements and distribution

When asked, Chandrajeet Roy and his family, who came all the way from West Bengal, shared that their families have been dealing with severe asthma as a generation curse. He men-



Hundreds of police personnel were on duty in the queue sections and throughout the grounds, with bomb detector checks at the entrance

tioned that he also suffers from asthma with breathlessness dur-

We heard about this fish medicine administered by the Bathini family but didn't believe in superstitions. However, over the years, our family decided to give it a try, so we came," he

Surekha Roy said, "We came to administer the medicine to

our children as a precaution, hoping to prevent asthma and breathlessness that my husband suffers from. Many in our family suffer from asthma and severe bronchitis." According to the police, a man collapsed while waiting in line for fish prasadam. He was believed to be a resident of Nizamabad district. He died after being rushed to a

#### TGSRTC arranges special buses for Group-I exam today

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Corporation Transport (TGSRTC) has arranged adequate buses from various places to examination centres and return journey of the candidates, to attend the Group- 1

The corporation already gave instructions to the RTC officials at the field level to run buses to 897 examination centres in the State. While 4.03 lakh students are appearing for Group-1 preliminary across the State, among them about 1.70 lakh students are appearing in Greater Hyderabad

On Saturday, the TGSRTC mentioned that the candidates have already started from Hyderabad to districts from Saturday evening. The TGSRTC made arrangements at MGBS, JBS, Uppal, LB Nagar and Arangar points. Special officers have been appointed at the respective traffic generating points. They kept special buses available according to the rush.

The TGSRTC set up 'May I Help You' counters at major bus stations in the State.

## TGPGCET 2024 to be held from June 10 to 13

The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University on Satuday announced that it wIll conduct the Telangana PGCET on behalf of the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE).

The exam will be conducted for 19 subjects from June 10 to 13. This Computer-Based Test (CBT) is conducted for admission into ME, MTech, MPharm, MArch and Graduation-level Pharm D, full time courses in the university and affiliated engineering, pharmacy and architecture colleges in Telangana for the academic year 2024-

The examination will be conducted in Hyderabad and Warangal. Candidates must visit the centre in advance to be familiar with the location of the test centre. The candidates will be permitted into the examination hall at 8:30 am for forenoon (FN) session and 12:30 pm for the afternoon (AN) session. The check-in procedure inside the examination hall includes capturing of biometric data (right hand thumb impression and photo-

The examination will be conducted in Hyderabad and Warangal. Candidates must visit the centre in advance to be familiar with the location of the test centre. The candidates will be permitted into the examination hall at 8:30 am for forenoon (FN) session and 12:30 pm for the afternoon (AN) session

graph).
The candidates are advised to avoid applying any external designs/ patterns like mehan-di, tattoos and ink on their hands and keep their hands clean and neat for biometric purpose; Candidates must carry (i) Black/Blue ball-point pen (ii) Hall ticket and at least one valid original photo identification (not photocopied / not scanned copy).

Acceptable forms of photo identification types are limited to College ID Card / Aadhaar Card / Driving Licence / Passport / PAN Card / Voter ID; candidates must not carry items including calculators, Mathematical / log tables, pagers, cellphones, wrist watches or any other electronic gadgets and personal

belongings into the examina-tion hall; The candidate will not be allowed into the examination hall once the test commences and will not be allowed even if he/she is late by a minute and also will not be allowed to leave the examination hall till the eND of the examination; No clarifications or doubts related to the questions of examination will be entertained during the examination.

If the candidate faces any software problems, they have to inform the problem immediately. In case the problem is not rectified within a reasonable time, they will be provided with another computer system. The time lost for changing the system (if any) will be compensated.

## TG DPH issues advisory for monsoon season

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Director of Public Health and Family Welfare (DPH) on Saturday issued an advisory for the monsoon season in Hyderabad.

Light to moderate rainfall is expected in Telangana. "However, the moderate temperatures and humidity are also a breeding ground for various viral infections as well as mosquito, food and water-borne diseases," the advisory states.

The advisory listed steps to prevent monsoon-related infections: Doors and windows should be secured with mosquito nets/screens during the breeding time of mosquitoes (early morning and evening); Beds and cribs should be covered with mosquito nets, preferably insecticide-treated; wear light coloured clothes that cover arms and legs; Apply mosquito repellents such as sues; Feel free to call 108 creams/lotions/roll-on ambulance in case of a health sticks/body sprays before going emergency.

out, especially during dawn and dusk. Do not consume repellents orally; Maintain drains to prevent water stagnation; Septic tanks should be covered with a mesh to prevent mosquito breeding; Always carry filtered/boiled water from home; Wash hands frequently, especially before and after meals and after visiting the washroom; Prefer freshly made home-cooked food over outside food; Discard leftovers

as far as possible The advisory further cautioned against air-borne infections and said, Avoid shaking hands, sharing food, water and clothes with someone who is sick or when you are sick; Wash hands and use hand sanitizers often; Avoid touching door handles, table tops, lift buttons, stair banisters and railings in public places; Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough; Use disposable tis-

#### **IMD** forecasts rainfall till June 10

Telangana witnessed a huge amount of rainfall in Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Yadadri, Nalgonda and Khammam, along with scattered moderate rains in Hyderabad during the afternoon on Saturday. The city experienced cloudy and sultry weather with cool breezes throughout the day. According to the IMD, a yellow alert is in effect until June 10, with heavy rain likely to occur in isolated places in Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Wanaparthy and Narayanpet districts. Thunderstorms with rain, lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph are expected in isolated places in Nirmal. Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Yadadri\Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal\Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy and other are

#### Excise Police seize drugs worth Rs 1.25 lakh

PNS HYDERABAD

The State Task Force (STF) of the Excise department nabbed a seller and seized 0.01 grams of 25 pads of Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) in the Medchal area on Saturday. The police have seized a total of 0.028 grams of LSD.

The Excise officials said that following a tip-off from the sources that some people are trying to sell drugs which are brought to Hyderabad from abroad via Bengaluru, the STF teams and police arrested MD Abdul Mobin as he possessed the LSD drug at a petrol station in Medchal area.

ES Pradeep Rao, Malkajigiri CI, Chandrasekhar, SFT SI, Balaraju Maheshwar, Santosh and Yadagiri took

## Food safety teams continue raids on restaurants in city

The Task Force team of Food Safety conducted raids at Concu, Hotel Asian Pavillion and Sri Kaling Raacharika Ruchulu restaurants on Saturday and found some irregularities. In the inspections at Concu,

the teams found that the FSSAI true licence copy was not displayed in a prominent place at the unit. Dustbins were kept open in the kitchen area. FOS-TAC trainee was not available at the store.

All the food handlers were not found to be wearing headgear, gloves and aprons and Medical Fitness Certificates are not available with the Food Business Operators (FBO). All the food articles stored in the refrigerators were not labelled in a proper manner. The food articles like vanilla sponge, chocolate dessert, begets bread and blueberry compound were They were worth of Rs 3,760.



found that semi-prepared foods like maida roti, chicken sambal, beetroot sambol, chicken karoge, veg shawarma and crispy chicken, vegetables like carrot and cauliflower stored in the refrigerator were found infested with fungus then discarded on the spot. FSSAI true licence copy was not displayed on the premises. The food articles kept in the refrigerator were not covered with lids and not properly labelled Water stagnated in the drains in the kitchen. Medical and didn't have lids.

food handlers were not available with the FBO. Pest control records were not available and cockroaches found in the kitchen. The food articles like synthetic food colours, button mushroom and mayonnaise were expired, hence discarded.

The officials in the Sri Kaling Raacharika Ruchulu found drains, which were stag-nated with water and food wastage in the kitchen. Veg and non-veg raw materials were stored in the same refrigerator

#### Lok Adalat settles 10.35.520 cases in a day

PNS HYDERABAD

The National Lok Adalat has setted 10,35,520 cases on Saturday, among them 5,81,611 were pre-litigation cases, and a total of 4,53,909 cases pending at courts were settled in all the districts across the State and Rs 743 crore was awarded as compensation to the beneficiaries for the settled cases.

Throughout the State, National Lok Adalat was set up for settlement of pending cases of various categories, pre-litigation cases, including consumer disputes.

Under the guidance of Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice of High Court for the State of Telangana and Patron-in-Chief of Telangana State Legal Services Authority, Justice Sujoy Paul, Executive Chairman, Telangana State Legal Services Authority, and Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili, Chairman of High Legal Servi Committee had coordinated.

## Trumpet rally raises awareness on Rapture of the Church

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

A rally to raise awareness of the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was held in the city. Organised by the Trumpet Festival Fellowship, the rally took place on Saturday, starting from CSI Wesley Church and moving to Secunderabad railway station and back.

Former Hyderabad director general of police Swaranjit Sen flagged off the rally at 7 am. He encouraged Christians to prepare for the Rapture of the Church.

The Free Methodist Church of India, Bishop John suffer, he added.

Gollapalli, was the chief guest. The rally saw participation from around 300 people from various Christian denominations in Secunderabad and Hyderabad, including several bishops and Christian leaders.

Bishop John Gollapalli said that according to end-time Biblical prophecies, the Rapture of the Church will happen soon. Christ will resurrect and lift those who died in Him and transform those who live in Him to Heaven, saving them from destruction during doomsday.

Only sinless believers will be raptured, while others will

He also said, the Bible mentions the eruption of a third world war and the rise of the Antichrist, which are now at

He explained that once the third world war begins, the Rapture of the Church will take

Reverend James Cesil Victor of CSI Wesley Church said that the next big world event will be the Rapture of the Church. Later, Selvin Raj (President), Dr S Sampath Kumar (General Secretary) and Charles Sampath (Treasurer) of the Trumpet Festival Fellowship, Hyderabad, also spoke at the event before the rally.

## **Buddhavanam to be made a** tourist and spiritual resort

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister for Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao said that under the leadership of Chief MInister A Revanth Redy Buddhavanam in Nalgonda will be developed as a tourist and spiritual destination centre.

On Saturday, as part of the promotion of tourism, Krishna Rao, along with Nagarjunasgar MLA Jayaveer visited the Buddhavanam in Nagarjuna Sagar. The Minister said that the famous Buddhist resort at Nagarjuna Sagar was built to tell the complete life history of Buddha at one place. "We will develop this area as an international Buddhist site where

Acharya Nagarjuna walked. This is one of the must-visit places of Buddha in the world," the Minister mentioned.

Later, the Minister reviewed the progress of Buddhavanam development works and creation of better facilities in Vijay Vihar with the officials of Buddhavanam and the Tourism department. He ordered the officials to provide basic facilities to the tourists so that they do not face any difficulties.

Miryalaguda MLA Bathula Lakshmareddy, Nalgonda ZP former vice-chairman Karnati Lingareddy, Tourism Development Corporation GM (Projects) Upender Reddy and other leaders visited the tourist

## Bharat Gaurav Punya Kshetra Yatra begins

PNS HYDERABAD

The Bharat Gaurav train designated for Punya Khetra Yatra began its journey from the Secunderabad railway station on Saturday.

The Punya Kshetra Yatra is a 10-day and nine nights tour which will be conducted from June 8 to18 which covers Secuderabad, Puri, Gaya, Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj.

Passengers from Telangana may board the train at the stations including Secunderabad, Kazipet (Warangal), Vijayawada, Khammam,

Rajahmundry, Samalkot, Vizag (Pendurthi) and Vizianagaram.

The Ayodhya - Kashi: Punya Kshetra Yatra, Bharat Gaurav train which commenced its ourney is running with 100% full occupancy. The train offers an opportunity for all rail passengers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to have darshan of newly constructed Ram Janmabhoomi (Ayodhya) and one of the Jyotirlingas (Kashi Vishwanath temple) for spiritual enlightenment.

The train facilitates both AC and Non-AC coaches to passengers with a mixed composition - 2 AC, 3AC and sleeper coaches. Reflecting the patronage of all segments, rail passengers from both Secunderabad station as well as en route stations have availed both AC as well as Non-AC

train services. Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR, stated that Bharat Gaurav trains are giving major fillip to the growth of spiritual tourism in the country. He appealed to rail users to utilise the opportunity to visit culturally prominent and historical places without the hassle of planning individual itinerary.

#### Three held for murder over affair

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Begumpet Police on Saturday arrested three persons for killing a man over an

The primary accused was identified as Kommala Sathosh and two others were identified as Syed Raza and Golla Harshavardhan. In 2011, Santosh married Saikanya. The couple have two children Rohit (11) and Dikshita (9).

Santhosh became friends with the victim named Annamalai Ayyappa. Gradually Ayyappa and Saikanya grew close. Santhosh also overheard his wife secretly talking to someone on the phone.

The accused later checked his wife's phone and found out that she was in contact with Ayyappa. Earlier in June, Santhosh met Ayyappa at bus stand and convinced the latter to come with him.

The primary accused took Ayyappa to his house where the accused's father Narsigh Rao and brother Nagaraju beat up the victim and suggested he be taken to the

Santhosh coerced the victim into confessing the affair. Ayyappa revealed that he offered Saikanya a housekeeping job and both them got into a physical relationship.

Upon hearing the confession, Santhosh lost his cool and roped in his friends to kill Ayyappa. On June 7, Santhosh and his

accomplices invited the victim for drinks. However, Ayyappa did not consume alcohol. After having a few drinks Santhosh and his accomplices argued with the victim and assaulted him physically.

Ayyappa was pushed on burning pile and attacked with a rod after which the accused fled the place.

## TG AITUC leader scoffs at staff being outsourced ees who have been working in the National

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) Deputy General Secretary M Narasimha on Saturday expressed dismay over the State and district-level staff being outsourced in the National Health Mission (NHM).

Narasimha urged the government to unconditionally regularise the employees of NHM State Programme Management Unit (SPMU) and the District Programme Management Unit (DPMU) in Telangana State. A meeting of the SPM and DPM units was held at Satyanarayana Reddy Bhawan on Saturday under

the chairmanship of Karimnagar DPO T Ravinder. Ravinder, who was the chief guest at the meeting said, "The services of all the employ-

Health Mission for the last 16 years should be made regular on a separate basis. In fact, 80 per cent of the work in the family health department is done by the people working in this health mission, but the government does not recognise them."

"Apart from the employees working in SPM unit at the State level, DPO, DAO, DDM, DCM, District Quality Manager and other employees working in DPM unit are not fixed cadres and they are appointed on out-sourcing method," he added.

Ravinder further asked the government to provide life insurance, along with

health insurance of Rs 10 lakh to the NHM employees, a gratuity of Rs 10 lakh to retired NHM workers and Rs 20 lakh to the family of employees who die on duty.

# Ranjith bags scholarship for US varsity meet

PNS HYDERABAD

Huzur Nagar in Suryapet district in Telangana, has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the prestigious Acton University Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, USA from June 24 to 27. Ranjith is the cofounder and director of the Swatantrata Centre of Human Flourishing Foundation, a classical liberal-based public policy think tank. The Acton University Conference is a four-day event that delves into the relationship between theology, philosophy, entrepreneurship, international development and market-based economics, with the goal of reconciling moral and religious



values with economic and personal freedoms

"I am honoured to have been selected for this incredible opportunity," said Ranjith. "The Acton University Conference is a renowned event that brings together the brightest minds from around the world to explore the foundations of a free society. I look forward to engaging in thought-provoking discussions and learning from the esteemed speakers," he added. The conference will feature

a diverse array of speakers and topics, covering the philosophical and practical underpinnings of a free society. Attendees will have the chance to network with professionals from various industries and academic backgrounds, as well as students of all ages.

## **BRS** demands removal of **Adityanath Das from Post**

Former Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy has called for the immediate removal of Adityanath Das from his position as an advisor to the Telangana Irrigation Department. He criticised Das's appointment, labelling it as detrimental to the interests of Telangana.

Niranjan Reddy alleged that the

appointment signified the influence of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over Telangana even before the new government was sworn in. He questioned whether Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would act in the state's best interest or succumb to Naidu's directives out of fear of losing his position.

Highlighting Das's controversial role in the past, Niranjan Reddy pointed out that Das played a key role in halting the Palamuru-Rangareddy project during the Jalayagnam era through legal interventions. He questioned the rationale behind appointing someone who served



Former ministr S Niranjan Reddy speaking at a media conference in Hyderabad on

Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Department as an advisor to Telangana's irrigation sector.

He emphasised that Das has been known for his opposition to Telangana's water projects and was instrumental in diverting water from the Krishna projects to Andhra Pradesh.

He expressed doubt over whether Das, who has been fighting for Andhra's interests for the past decade, could now do justice to Telangana. The former

in high-ranking positions in the minister also questioned the Congress party's decision to appoint Das, suggesting that it could lead to significant setbacks for Telangana's irrigation projects. He cited Das's involvement in controversial projects such as Pothireddypadu, Dummugudem, and the Rayalaseema Lift Scheme, which have historically diverted water

away from Telangana. He argued that Telangana has many water experts with extensive experience and knowledge of

Niranjan Reddy alleged that the alleged that the appointment signified the influence of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over Telangana even before the new government is sworn in

its projects and resources. He expressed dismay over the decision to overlook these experts in favour of Das, who has a track record of working against Telangana.

In his concluding remarks,

Niranjan Reddy warned that under the current Congress administration, regions like Palamuru might once again face severe water shortages and turn into arid zones. He urged the government to reconsider Das's appointment and remove him from the advisory position to protect Telangana's water interests.

**DEFICIENCY IN SERVICE** 

## BharatPe orderd to pay Rs 22k to consumer in Nalgonda

PNS HYDERABAD

The Nalgonda District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, consisting of Mamidi Christopher, S Sandhya Rani, K Venkateshwarlu ordered BharatPe to pay Rs 22,080 to a consumer, Kommuri Mahesh Babu, before July 6.

Mahesh Babu purchased swipe machine from BharatPe of Rs 7,080 through online payment in 2023. He submit-ted to the court that the swipe machine failed to work properly within one week of its purchase. The sales person did not guide properly and gave wrong information regarding the product. The BharatPe paid no heed to the problem.

The Complainant communicated the problem to the BharatPe by telephone and by way of electronic mail conversation, but the problem was not solved. He went to court to get damages for deficiency of service from the



The Counsel for the respondent said that as per the policy, when anyone takes the BharatPe swipe machine, there is a free look up period policy according to which within seven days of the date of delivery of the machine, the merchant is entitled to get full refund of the payment upon its

After hearing the case, the court ordered that the BharatPe is liable to refund the cost of the swipe machine from BharatPe of Rs 7,080 and compensation of Rs 10,000, For mental agony Rs 3,000 and costs for costs of the case is Rs 2,000 to consume.

#### **People taught** bitter lesson to KCR, Jagan: Vivek

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress MLA from Chennuru Venkataswamy on Saturday said that the people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh had taught a fitting lesson to former chief Ministers K Chandrasekhar Rao and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The people would give this sort of answer if the politicians behaved with arrogance.

Speaking to the media after having darshan of Lord Sri Venkatesgwars Swamy on Saturday along with his MP son Vamshi Krishna, Vivek said that even Narendra Modi too lost support of people and the seats won the NDA is proving it.

Vivek said that NDA gov-

ernment tried to win the elections threatening opponents through ED and CBI. However, the people observed everything and gave good majority to the Congress in Telangana. He said that he is happy that the people ensured the victory of his son Vamshi Krishna.

## GNEI hosts national-level online project competitions

**PNS** RANGAREDDY

Guru Nanak Educational Institutions recently held "Virtual Vista 1.0," a nationallevel online project competition aimed at bringing students from across the country together to showcase their innovative ideas and creativity. The event saw participation from 400 students forming 146 teams, representing various states of India.

Under the guidance of experienced faculty, the projects submitted by students were meticulously evaluated, and the best were recognised with cash awards and certificates of appreciation. The first prize of Rs 21,100 was awarded to a team from Anurag University, Telangana, consisting of P Karthik Rao, B Venu Gopal, P Sahithi Reddy, and V Charita Reddy. The second prize of Rs. 11,100 went to the team of Shawn Orlando M Shivani SR, and Sarathi from Rajyalakshmi Engineering College, Tamil Nadu. The third prize of Rs. 5,500 was won by Sakshi Raut,



Participants in national-level project competition hosted by Guru Nanak Educational Institutions recent in Ranga Reddy district on Saturday

Vihan Vijayvargiya, Aditi Jingre, and Ira Joshi from Acropolis Institute of Technology and Research, Madhya Pradesh.

Dr Kritika Sutrave, Assistant Professor at Grand Valley State University, South Dakota University, USA, served as the chief guest. She emphasied the importance of current technologies and provided guidance to the participating youth. The event also featured Dr Mousmi Ajay Chaurasia, IEEE Hyderabad, and IEEE Hyderabad Secretary Dr. MA Jabbar as guests of honour.

Guru Nanak Educational Institutions Vice Chairman Gagandeep Singh Kohli, and Managing Director HS Saini praised the organisers for successfully conducting such a significant event and expressed their gratitude to the esteemed

The competition also saw active involvement from G Kapil Kumar, TCS Delivery Manager; U Arjun, Capgemini Cyber Security Manager; Director K Venkatarao; Principal S Srinatha Reddy; Joint Director P Parthasarathi; Associate Director Rishi Sayal; Harish Kundra, Dean of Students and Faculty Welfare, Geetha Tripathi, SÝ Ranganayakulu, Dean of R&D and other department heads and

## Telangana Medical Council busts unauthorised hospital

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Medical Council (TGMC) on Saturday conducted raids at Kodrupaka and Bahupeta in Karimnagar and busted an unauthorised hospital and an unauthorised

The inspection team was led by Dr Rajkumar. The staff at these hospitals is 10th and intermediate pass and they were practising allopathic

During the inspection it was revealed that a person identified as Jakkani Lakshminarayana has been practicing allopathic medicine for 25 years without minimum education Kodurupaka Nilojipalli village under the name of Karuna Clinic. Many allopathic injections (antibiotic, steroids) are available in this

As part of the inspection the TGMC also found that clinics including Risa Clinic, Vandana Clinic, City Clinic and Sri Vishika Lab are also operating without registra-tion in Babu Peta Asif Nagar. A few quacks came to know of the inspection via social media and fled; the TGMC also inspected a fake clinic operated by K. Bhaskar Ananad in Chintakunta vil-

lage of Karimnagar. According to section 34 and 54 of the National Medical Commission Act, practicing allopathic medicine without qualification is punishable with imprisonment and fine.

Dr Kumar warned that the TGMC team is conducting surprise inspections across the state and if patient's life is put at risk by the medicine, the punishments will be

#### Ramoji's death is due to harassment by Jagan govt: VH

PNS HYDERABAD

Commenting that the Eenadu Groups chairman Ramoji Rao's death is not normal death, Telangana Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao alleged that Ramoji died due to the harassment by the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's government in Margadarsi Chit Funds case

VH paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Ramojirao. Later he said that Ramoji served the Telugu journálism a lot.



## **BJP** has the richest and poorest MPs of Telangana

PNS HYDERABAD

BJP has the richest and poorest MP elects in Telangana. In terms of wealth, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy from the Chevella constituency is identified as the richest MP, with declared assets worth Rs 1,969 crores. Conversely, Bandi Sanjay Kumar from the Karimnagar constituency is the least wealthy, with

assets totaling Rs. 1.12 crores. The Forum for Good Governance released

detailed information about the newly elected members of Parliament (MPs)

from Telangana. An overwhelming 82% of the MPs from Telangana have criminal records, with 14 out of the 17 MPs facing various charges. Among them Etala Rajender, the MP from Malkajgiri, stands out with the maximum number of cases, totaling 54. Gender representation remains a significant issue, as out of the 71 MPs,

only 2 are women. This highlights the ongoing challenge of achieving gender balance in political representation. The report also noted the voting trends in different constituencies. The Malkajgiri constituency recorded the highest number of NOTA (None of the Above) votes, with 13,366 voters opting for this choice,

reflecting a signifi-cant level of voter dissatisfaction. R. Raghuram Reddy from Khammam received the highest number of votes among all MPs,

securing 7,66,929 votes, which accounts for 61.31% of the votes in his constituency. He is closely followed by Asaduddin Ówaisi from Hyderabad, who received 6,61,981 votes, or 61.30% of the votes. The Forum for Good Governance has compiled this data based on the affidavits submitted by the MPs, providing a comprehensive overview of the current parliamentary landscape

## **Primary Health Sub-Centre** in Shadnagar flooded due to heavy rain

**PNS** ■ RANGAREDDY

At Nehru Colony in Shadnagar town, the Anganwadi Centre, which also houses a Primary Health Sub-Centre, was inundated following heavy rains. The flooding caused significant disruption, with medicines floating in the water, including those intended for children, babies, and pregnant women. Additionally, pulses and other supplies were submerged.

The Primary Health Sub-Centre is to vaccinate children every Wednesday and Saturday. However, due to the flooding, Asha workers were seen using buckets to remove the rainwater to salvage the medicines and maintain some semblance of



normal operations. This flooding issue is not new. The health sub-centre has been attached to Anganwadi centre and despite repeated complaints from officials and public representatives, no permanent solution has been found.

## Will Shadnagar constituency see development under Congress rule at least?

**PNS** ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar constituency, situated near the Hyderabad metropolis, is grappling with multiple issues. Decade-old problems, including non-execution of vital irrigation projects by successive governments, persist. The constituency's shift from Palamuru district to Rangareddy district, along with the relocation of the district centre to Shamshabad,

has been widely criticised.

The district Collectorate complex, located 50 kilometers from Shadnagar, has further complicated the problems being faced by the people. People are finding difficult in going all the way to meet the district officials in Shadnagar.

The proposed reservoir at

Lakshmidevipalli Chowdhariguda mandal, part of the Palamuru-Rangareddy lift scheme, has remained unfulfilled, causing frustration among locals. Many believe that KCR's decision to merge Shadnagar with Rangareddy district was driven by the interests of previous BRS government leaders, who encouraged real estate development in the constituency. The placement of the Ranga Reddy District Collectorate in Kongarakalan, far from

Shadnagar, is seen as benefiting a select few rather than the broader community. The misalignment between the Mahabub Nagar constituency's Parliamentary jurisdiction and its combination with the Rangareddy district is



Veerlapalli Shankar

also a point of contention. Despite demands to designate Mogiligudda village as the Mandal centre, Nandigama was chosen instead, adding to the grievances. Additionally, the government's approval of polluting industries in agricultural areas has raised concerns about environmental degradation in Shadnagar.

Farmers awaiting the completion of the Lakshmidevipalli Reservoir face ongoing disappointment. The reservoir has been a recurrent campaign promise during elections, yet no substantial progress has been made. Despite protests and agitations by opposition parties, the previous government only offered promises without action. The project has remained in the survey phase, causing frustration among farmers. Currently, there is hope that the Congress government will take concrete steps toward constructing the reser-

Shadnagar constituency has been under the rule of the ruling party for three consecutive terms since the formation of Telangana state.

### KTR asks NDA govt to address **NEET 2024 results issue**

in Telangana.

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao has voiced serious concerns about the recently announced NEET 2024 results, urging the newly formed NDA government to address the issue immediately. He highlighted several irregularities in the examination results that could significantly impact the future of millions of students. KTR noted that this year, an unprecedented 67 students achieved a perfect score of 720/720, securing All India Rank (AIR) 1. This unusual occurrence raises questions about the examination process's integrity. Additionally, many students scored 718 and 719 marks, which seems highly improbable given the exam's marking

scheme of (+4, -1). The National Testing Agency (NTA) later admitted to awarding 'grace marks' to some students, with reports suggesting that some received corrective measures promptly.

as many as +100 grace marks. The results were also declared hastily on the same day as the election results, further fueling

suspicions. For the first time in five years, no student from Telangana is in the top 5 ranks, which KTR attributes to irregularities in the results. He demands an explanation and transparency in the process used for allocating grace marks. KTR insists on a standardised methodology that benefits all students equally, not just a select group of 1,500 students. To ensure justice and fairness, KTR calls for the formation of a high-level expert committee to thoroughly investigate the issues surrounding the NEET 2024 results. He emphasises the urgency of addressing these concerns to secure the future of the affected students and their families. KTR urges the NDA government to prioritize this sensitive issue and take

## All set for Group1 exams today

**PNS** ■ NALGONDA

District Superintendent of Police Chandana Deepti, , said in a statement that all security arrangements have been put in place for the Group-I preliminary examination to be held on Sunday.

A total of 16,899 candidates registered for examinations. Photocopying shops in the vicinity of the examination centres

will remain shut. Attendance will be taken through the biometric system and candidates are advised to cooperate with the biometric and verification

Candidates will be allowed

to enter the examination centres from 9 am and the gates of the centres will be closed at 10 am and no one will be allowed to enter after 10 pm. Candidates must follow the instructions on the hall tick-

Along with the admit card, the candidates are required to carry a valid photo identity proof such as Aadhaar Card /
Driving License /
Voter ID Card / Passport / Driving License.

If the photograph does not appear correctly on the hall ticket, 3-colour photographs should be taken and the hall ticket should be signed by a gazetted officer.

ing the elections. Tension mounts as attacks by TDP supporters on YSRCP leaders and activists continue unabated in Andhra Pradesh. Despite

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Krishna district YSRCP lead-

ers have accused TDP and JSP

leaders and activists of resorting

to attacks against YSRCP mem-

Speaking to the media on

Saturday, former ministers Kodali

Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani),

Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani),

and others alleged that YSRCP

the Governor, the situation by TDP activists statewide. Nani and preventing YSRCP leaders remains unresolved while the police act as mute spectators.

The houses of two YSRCP leaders, Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) and former MLA Dr. Vallabhaneni Vamsi were attacked by TDP supporters in Krishna district on Friday. The assailants pelted stones at Vamsi's house in Vijayawada, damaging two cars parked in front and

leaders and activists have been deliberately targeted by TDP and Perni Nani alleged that TDP Jana Sena Party members follow-MLAs who won the election are creating havoc across the state. On Saturday, he, along with Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) and other leaders from Krishna district, spoke to the complaints to the President and media about the ongoing anarchy

made some pointed comments against TDP chief Chandrababu

TDP, JSP ATTACKS

YSRCP to file complaints, move courts

He stated that YSRCP leaders have been under attack since the day of vote counting, and accused TDP and Jana Sena Party rowdy groups of behaving like hooligans following their election victory. Nani alleged that TDP MLAs are orchestrating these attacks with Chandrababu Naidu's support, influencing the state DGP and police to neglect their duties. He claimed that the violence in the state, instigated by Chandrababu and his son Lokesh, has surpassed that in Bihar and UP. Nani further accused TDP

rowdies of threatening the police

from attending meetings. He criticized the police for not taking action against TDP goons and for failing to register complaints after the attacks. He claimed that Chandrababu has completely undermined the police system, and TDP rowdy sheeters are mistreating women. Nani questioned the SP's role during this anarchy and continuous attacks.

"We too will counter their attacks and go to the court of law against the authorities for not taking action against the atrocities being committed by Chandrababu. All our leaders will meet the district SP in two days," said Perni Nani.

Condemning the TDP attacks, the party activists.

Kodali Nani said, "YSRCP leaders and activists are being deliberately targeted after the elections. TDP and Jana Sena Party are attacking us to scare YSRCP leaders and activists. The police are not responding to the

Expressing concern over the deteriorating law and order situation, Nani said the party will approach the High Court regarding the attacks on YSRCP. He stated that they would file cases against the attackers and the 'mute spectator' police officials. Nani also mentioned that party leaders will visit Krishna district in the next two days to meet the injured cadre. "We will protect

## 'Ties with China must be based on mutual respect'

India on Saturday thanked China for congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his election victory and said it would continue to make efforts for normalisation of the bilateral ties based on "mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity"

The comments by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came as relations between India and China remained frosty in view of the lingering border row along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

Jaiswal was replying to a congratulatory message to Modi posted by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on X.

Thank you @MFA\_China for congratulating PM @narendramodi on his election victory. Will continue to pursue



of the Chinese foreign ministry efforts towards normalisation of India-China ties based on said: "Congratulations to Prime mutual respect, mutual inter-Minister @narendramodi, BJP est and mutual sensitivity," Jaiswal said on X. India has and the National Democratic Alliance on the election victobeen consistently maintaining ry. We look forward to a that peace and tranquillity healthy & stable China-India along the LAC were key for relationship. normalisation of overall ties.

Leaders of four out of five P-5 countries have congratulated

PNS BHOPAL

The comments by **External Affairs** Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came as relations between India and China remained frosty in view of the lingering border row along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh

Modi on winning a third term. However, there is no congratulatory message yet from Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, China and France are known as P5

#### Akhilesh Yadav to be SP's leader in Lok Sabha

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav will be the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, the formalities for which will be completed in Delhi.

Yadav will resign from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, where he is the Leader of Opposition, a senior party leader said on Saturday.

Rajendra Chaudhary, the Samajwadi Party's chief spokesperson, told PTI, "It is understood that Yadav will be the leader of the party in the Lok Sabha but there is a formality of choosing the leader of the parliamentary party and this will be completed in

"The formality of electing the leader of the parliamentary party will be completed after the swearing-in of the prime minister and the selection of the Lok Sabha's protem speaker," he added.

## INDIA not claim to form govt does not mean it won't tomorrow'

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Saturday that her party would adopt a "wait and watch" approach on the political situation at the Centre and asserted that the opposition INDIA bloc may not have staked claim to form the government today, but that does not mean it will not do it tomorrow.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of TMC MPs and senior leaders, Banerjee said she would be pleased if the "weak and unstable" NDA government was removed from ernment was removed from

power.
"The BJP is forming the government undemocratically and illegally. Today, the INDIÁ bloc may not have staked a claim to form the government, but that doesn't mean they won't tomorrow. Let's wait for some time," she said.

Ultimately, the INDIA bloc will form the government in



the coming days, the Trinamool Congress supremo asserted.

The TMC had exited the INDIA bloc in West Bengal in January but stated that she would continue to be part of the opposition bloc at the national level.

According to sources, during the closed-door meeting, Banerjee told party leaders and MPs that the "NDA government will not complete its

While talking to reporters after the meeting also, Banerjee expressed confidence that the ernment at the Centre" won't

last long.
"The NDA government to be formed will be unstable. BJP has not secured majority; they are dependent on allies. Let's see how long they can get along with their allies," she

Banerjee remarked that as the mandate was against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "he should have stepped down this time and allowed someone else to take over.

The country needs change; the country wants change. This mandate was for change. We are waiting and keeping a watch on the situation," she said. She also announced that the TMC would not attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new government.

Banerjee stated that the MPs in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha would seek the repeal of the Citizenship Amendment Act

## 2 police outposts, 70 houses torched in Manipur's Jiribam, SP transferred

Tensions heightened in Manipur's Jiribam district on Saturday after suspected militants torched two police outposts, a forest office and at least 70 houses, prompting the authorities to transfer the superintendent of police, officials said.

A contingent of more than 70 state police commandos was airlifted from

Imphal to Jiribam to assist security personnel in their operations against militants, they said. Meanwhile,

around 239 Meitei people, mostly women and children, were evacuated from peripheral areas of

Jiribam on Friday, and moved to a newly set up relief camp at a multi-sports complex in the district, the officials said.

According to a senior offi-cer, suspected militants torched more than 70 houses in Lamtai Khunou, Dibong Khunou, Nunkhal and Begra villages. their residences and took shel-

ter in a relief camp. The SP's transfer order was issued hours after police outposts of Jiri Mukh and Choto Bekra and the Goakhal forest beat office were set on fire this morning, the officer said.

The state government transferred Jiribam SP A

Ghanashyam Sharma to the post of additional director of the Manipur Police Training College, according to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative

On June 5, the spokesperson

M Pradip Singh, who was serving as the additional director of the police training college, will take charge as the senior superintendent of police of Jiribam district.

Reacting to the incidents of fresh violence, newly elected Congress MP from the Inner Manipur Lok Angomcha Bimol Akoijam urged the

state government to protect the lives

and properties of the people of Jiribam district. "I have talked to district officials of Jiribam. Those in the town are being provided security, while those in peripheral areas are not being provided

security," Akoijam told reporters here. Violence broke out in state on Thursday evening after suspected militants killed

a 59-year-old man. The man, identified as Soibam Saratkumar Singh, went missing after he had gone to his farm on June 6 and later, his body was found, with wounds made by a sharp object, one officer said.

#### Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Saturday expressed confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership abilities affirming the

slogan "Modi hai to mumkin hai", and said development work won't hamper due to the formation of a coalition gov-

"Coalition governments are a part of democracy. This is the speciality of

democracy. 'Modi hai to mumkin hai' (with Modi, everything is possible)," the chief minister told reporters when asked about potential impacts on development work due to the formation of a coalition government at the

The BJP, which failed to secure a majority on its own in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, has enlisted the support of Chandrababu Naiduled TDP and the JD (U) of Nitish



Yadav highlighted the democratic nature of coalition governments led in the past by the then prime ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee, P V Narasimha Rao, and Manmohan Singh.

He recalled that Congress had won 145 and 206 seats in the 2004 and 2009 general elections, respectively, suggesting that the Grand Old Party had failed to achieve a majority on its own. "The BJP won 240 seats in the tions, which are more than the tally of constituencies won by the Congress in the general elections of 2014, 2019, and 2024," he said and emphasised Modi's ability to create records and history.

recently-concluded Lok Sabha elec-

Yadav cited Modi's record of accomplishments, both as Gujarat Chief Minister and as Prime Minister, stressing that development activities would not be hampered despite the coalition government formation.

## LDF govt's progress report a 'joke', says UDF

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The opposition Congress-led UDF on Saturday termed as a "joke" the progress report released by the LDF government in Kerala regarding the work it has done in the past one year, saying it was full of "untruths, exaggerations and falsehoods"

The BJP too criticised the progress report saying that the state government was claiming to have made great progress when people were not getting social security and wel-

ment was high in Kerala. BJP leader V Muraleedharan said that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's situation was that of a student who has scored zero in all subjects and is embarrassed to face his or her parents.

"However, for the CM to release the progress report of



the government without any embarrassment and blaming the Centre for all the problems, skinned.

"He is one of the most thickskinned CMs Kerala has ever seen -- that is what he showed yesterday," the BJP leader said at a press meet here.

Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly V D Satheesan said that anyone looking at the report would be

amazed by the claims made in

Citing the example of the agriculture sector, Satheesan contended that the Left government, when it came to power for a second consecutive term, had promised to increase farmers' revenue by 50 per cent and raise the price of rubber to Rs 250 per kilogram.

"However, what they (state government) did was to write to the Centre to increase the rubber price to Rs 250. The coconut and rice grain collection has failed. The minimum support price of rice grain

"The entire agriculture sector is in crisis and on top of that there is the problem of human-animal conflict which the government is unable to

control," he contended. Satheesan alleged that all other government departments, including health, were not functioning properly.

#### Three in running for opposition leader's post in Delhi Assembly

PNS NEW DELHI

With Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri elected to the Lok Sabha, the BJP will have to pick a replacement from among its seven remaining MLAs in the House.

Bidhuri, who won the Lok Sabha elections from the South Delhi constituency, will have to vacate his seat in the assembly, bringing the BJP's tally down to seven in the 70-member House.

A senior party leader in elhi said Mohan Singh Bisht, Ajay Mahawar and Vijender Gupta are doing the rounds as probables to replace Bidhuri."

Mahawar, the MLA from Ghinda in northeast Delhi, was convener of the Delhi BJP's poll management committee for the parliamentary

## INDIA CORNER

## **Five recruited by banned** outfits rescued from Manipur



rescued five youths from Manipur's Tengnoupal district bordering Myanmar, who were recruited by the banned militant outfits -People's Liberation Army and Prepak (PRO), according to a statement issued by the security force on Saturday.

The five youths have been handed over to their respective families during an event held at Inspector General Assam Rifles (S) headquarters in Mantripukhri in Imphal. "The five youths were misguided and recruited for joining PLA and PREPAK (PRO)...the ongoing conflict between the Myanmar army and rebel forces ened the neril they faced incompting them to run away fr their camps in search of safety," the statement said. Assam Rifles demonstrated steadfast commitment by facilitating their extrication from danger, it said. The operation carried out in Tengnoupal district underscores the pledge of Assam Riffles to uphold peace and security in Manipur, the statement added.

#### **Una hottest at 40.2 deg C in** Himachal, scattered rain likely



here was no significant change in the minimum temperatures across Himachal Pradesh and Una recorded the hottest place with 40.2 degrees Celsius, the local weather office said on Saturday. The Meteorological Centre here also predicted rain in isolated areas in middle and high hills

on Sunday and heatwave in low hills from Monday to Wednesday. The centre predicted rain and issued a yellow warning of thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds at the speed of 30-40 km per hour at isolated places in Chamba, Mandi, Kullu, Shimla and Kangra in Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti districts on Sunday. It also issued a warning of heatwave in the low hills of Solan Sirmaur, Mandi, Una, Bilaspur and Hamirpur from Monday to Wednesday. According to the local MeT office, Keylong in tribal Lahaul and Spiti district was coldest at night, recording a minimum temperature at 5.7 degrees Celsius. So far, the rain deficit in the ongoing summer season from June 1 to 8 was four per cent as the state received 15.3 mm rain against average rainfall of 15.9 mm, the

#### **Woman beats up baby, sends** video to husband; arrested



allegedly beating up her Anicycul, Standard Child brutally and sending the video of the act to her estranged husband in Kerala's Alappuzha district, police said on Saturday. In the purported video, the woman could be seen hitting

the child repeatedly and saying "watch this and enjoy". Police said a case was registered against the woman who hailed from Kuttamperoor in Mannar here based on a complaint by her husband, who comes from Thiruvananthapuram. "As per her statement, her husband married another woman recently and she was frustrated over this. She claimed that this made her beat the child and send the visuals to the man," a police officer said. The woman was arrested today under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Juvenile Justice Act, he added. Further action against her would be decided after consulting with the local child welfare committee as she was the guardian of two children including the victim toddler,

## AAP demands SC-monitored SIT probe into NEET 'irregularities'

The AAP on Saturday demanded a Supreme Courtmonitored SIT probe into the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG, saying it is a serious matter concerning the future of the country's youths.

The BJP, however, called out AAP for its "double standards" on the exam results.

During a press conference, AAP leader Jasmine Shah slammed the BJP, saying most of the allegations that point to a "big scam" in the exam have come from states ruled by the saffron party. He said the first reports of paper leaks came



from Bihar and Gujarat. Then it was found that out of the 67 toppers, six were from one cen-

tre in Haryana's Jhajjar. The results for the medical entrance exam the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday.

The National Testing Agency is silent over questions on the paper leak and its scope, which could be extensive. Again, grace marks given to some students is also inexplicable and there is no transparency in it," Shah charged.

AAP resolutely stands with the country's youth in this matter as it concerns the future of lakhs of students, he said.

'We demand a Supreme Court-monitored SIT probe into all the irregularities so that the truth comes out," he said. The NTA announced on

Saturday that the Union education ministry has set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates in the exam.

The move comes amid allegations of inflation of marks leading to 67 candidates sharing the first rank in the exam. The NTA denied any irreg-

ularities and said the changes made in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks.

## **Pakistan's ex-minister calls for** friendship with India

**PNS** ■ LAHORE

Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry on Saturday said the time is ripe for friend-ship between archrivals India and Pakistan on an equal basis as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to take oath for a historic third term on Sunday in New Delhi.

Chaudhry, who was once close to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, said "Khan and ex-army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa were in favour of making friends with

The 48-year-old, who left Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in 2023, was speaking at a seminar titled 'Indian Election and its Effects on

South Asia' organised by the National Institute of Political Education here.

Pointing out that Indian Punjab is just a few kilometres away from here but Pakistanis have to take a flight via Dubai to go there, Chadhry said: There should be no visa between the two countries. Now, the time has come that both the archrivals need to talk of friendship on an equal basis."

Chaudhry warned that India and Pakistan will encounter substantial water challenges in the Indus Basin over the next 15 years, therefore, they will have to talk to each other and said, "Failure to accomplish cooperation over the matter of water could result in the region becoming unstable."

## Alcohol could worsen mood swings leading to bipolar disorder

PNS NEW DELHI

Drinking alcohol could worsen one's symptoms of bipolar disorder by destabilising mood and affecting efficiency at work, and it is not the other way round that is consuming alcohol because of mood swings, a new research

has found. The mental condition is marked by unusual shifts in emotions, energy and activity levels, and can sometimes be accompanied by hallucina-

tions and delusions. The researchers, including

those from the University of Michigan, US, wanted to understand the long-term effects of consuming alcohol on the mood and functioning of adults having bipolar disorder. The findings are published in The Journal of the Medical American Association (JAMA) Network

For the study, the researchers included 584 adults diagnosed with the mood disorder, who had been part of the larger ongoing US-based Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar



five years. Data for analysis was collected over a follow-up period of 5-16 years.

The participants' alcohol habits were assessed using

Identification Test, a WHOapproved questionnaire to screen patients for problematic and harmful alcohol consumption. Other well-known,

standardised questionnaires were used for gauging the patients' depression, mania or hypomania, anxiety, and functioning. The researchers found that

consuming alcohol more than one's typical levels led to worse depressive and manic or hypomanic moods, along with an affected performance at work. 'A person reporting alcohol use above their own mean amount tended to experience more depressive symptoms at

the next time point, but

increased depressive symptoms were not associated with

use," the authors wrote. "Regarding mania or hypomania, alcohol use exceeding one's own mean amount was associated with an increase in manic or hypomanic symptoms at the next time point,

greater subsequent alcohol

but not vice versa," they wrote. Medication was also a factor, as the researchers found that harmful levels of alcohol consumption impacted the patients not taking antipsychotic and antidepressant medications to a greater extent, compared to those taking these medications.

## Looking forward to doing 'exciting work' in India, says Elon Musk

PNS NEW YORK

American tech billionaire Elon Musk has said he is looking forward to his companies doing "exciting work" in India, as he congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his historic election victory.

Modi will be administered the oath of office on June 9, his third consecutive term as Prime Minister.

"Congratulations @narendramodi on your victory in the world's largest democratic elections! Looking forward to my companies doing exciting work in India," Musk, 52, said in a post on X on Friday.

Responding to Musk's post, Prime Minister Modi said: Appreciate your greetings @elonmusk." Modi said the talented Indian youth, the country's demography, predictable policies and stable democratic polity would continue to provide the business environment for all its partners.

The congratulatory message came two months after the CEO of the electric carmaker Tesla and microblogging plat-

PNS ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's macroeconomic

policy reforms have started to

bear fruit" and the country is

expected to reach agreements

with external commercial

creditors soon, the IMF has

said ahead of the second

review of it's US\$ 2.9 billion

bailout programme to the

Addressing a press conference on Friday, International

Monetary Fund (IMF)

Communication Department

mance is "strong", with most

quantitative and structural

conditionality for the second

review met or implemented

with delay, adding that

reforms are still ongoing in

The second review of the

cash-strapped country.

Director

Julie Kozack

asserted that

Sri Lanka

has made

"sufficiently

strong

progress on

restructuring

Sri Lanka has made

'strong progress' on debt

set for June 12.

Consultation.

She said that the island Lanka, we do see macroeco-

restructuring front: IMF



Responding to Musk's post, Prime Minister Modi said: "Appreciate your greetings @elonmusk." Modi said the talented Indian youth, the country's demography, predictable policies and stable democratic polity would continue to provide the business environment for all its partners

form X in April postponed his proposed visit to India due to

very heavy Tesla obligations". Musk -- who was expected to be in India on April 21 and 22 and scheduled to meet Prime Minister Modi -- later wrote on X that he is looking forward to coming to India

In June last year, Musk met with Modi during the latter's US visit and stated that he planned to visit India in 2024 while expressing confidence that Tesla would enter the Indian market soon.

His proposed visit had raised

announce plans for electric car maker Tesla to set up shop in the country, along with his satcom venture Starlink.

It was also expected that Musk would announce plans for Tesla to set up its manufacturing unit in India and investments could be to the tune of billions of dollars and the way forward for selling Tesla electric cars in India at the earliest. Not just electric cars, he is

also eyeing the Indian market for his satellite internet business Starlink, for which regulatory approvals are awaited.

Musk had in the past sought import duty reduction in India for it to be able to sell Tesla cars in the country. Musk's plan to visit India in

April came on the heels of the government announcing a new electric vehicle policy, under which import duty concessions will be given to companies setting up manufacturing units in the country with a minimum investment of US\$ 500 million, a move aimed at attracting major global players



## GSTN rolls out form for tobacco manufacturers to report inputs, outputs to tax authorities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Network (GSTN) has rolled out a special form for manufacturers of pan masala and tobacco products to report inputs and outputs procured with tax authorities to check evasion.

This new form GST SRM-II came within a month of GSTN rolling out form GST SRM-I for registering machines of such manufacturers.

"The second form namely Form GST SRM-II is also available on the portal. Taxpayers dealing in the manufacture of Pan Masala and Tobacco products can now report the details of inputs and outputs procured and consumed for the relevant month," GSTN said in an update to its taxpayers on June 7.

Moore Singhi Executive Director Rajat Mohan said the newly available Form GST SRM-II requires detailed monthly reporting of inputs and outputs.

"This form aims to enhance transparency and accountability in the manufacturing process of Pan Masala and Tobacco products. Taxpayers must meticulously document their procurement and consumption of inputs to avoid any discrepancies and ensure accurate tax filings," Mohan said.

Taxpayers are advised to familiarise themselves with the details and instructions provided in these forms to ensure seamless compliance and avoid any potential penal-

In addition, one major change under the new draft

is the procedure for imposing

penalties. The amendments

stipulate that no penalty

order or direction under the

norms will be made unless

the affected party has

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

## **Bajaj Housing Finance files** papers for Rs 7,000-cr IPO



Brinance has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 7,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares of up to Rs 4.000 crore and an

offer for sale (OFS) of equity shares worth Rs 3,000 crore by parent Baiai Finance, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The share sale is being conducted to comply with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) regulations, which require upper-layer non-banking finance companies to be listed on stock exchanges by September 2025. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used to augment the company's capital base to meet future capital requirements. Bajaj Housing Finance is a non-deposit-taking housing finance company registered with the National Housing Bank since September 2015. It offers financial solutions for purchasing and renovating residential and

#### **Excise case: Delhi court grants** interim bail to businessman Arora



Delhi court has granted two-week interim bail to the director of Gurugrambased Buddy Retail Pvt Limited, in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam. Special judge for ED and CBI matters, Kaveri Baweja, noted in an order passed on June 6 that the

accused's wife had to undergo a surgical procedure and he needed to take care of her. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and BRS leader K Kavitha, among others, are currently in judicial custody in the case. The judge noted the submissions made by senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for the accused, that father of the accused's wife had already expired and her mother was stated to be aged around 72 years and a resident of Mohali, Punjab, and her two brothers were residents of Bangalore and London, UK. The judge further noted that no other family member, cousin etc. stays in the house or even in the proximity and hardly visit the applicant's house in order to take care of the wife and children.

## **SECI invites bids for 5.39 L** MT/annum green ammonia



Corporation of India has Dinvited bids for the selection of ammonia producers for the annual supply of 5.39 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of green ammonia. The bids are invited under SIGHT Programme of

the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), According to the statement, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has issued a Request for Selection (RfS) of green ammonia producers for the production of green ammonia in India through cost-based competitive bidding under Mode 2A of SIGHT programme of the NGHM being implemented by the Ministry of New & newable Energy (MNRE). The bidding for a to 5.39 lakh Metric Tonnes (MT)/annum of Green Ammonia intended for production and supply will be carried out through e-bidding followed by e-Reverse Auction process. Green Ammonia produced will be supplied to the fertilizer companies, it stated. The MNRE had earlier issued the Scheme Guidelines for implementation of SIGHT Programme – Component II: Incentive for Procurement of Green Ammonia Production (under Mode2A) of the NGHM. SECI has been

## CCI proposes amendments to general rules, seeks stakeholder feedback

trade regulator Fair IMF's Extended Fund Facility Competition Commission of under the US\$ 2.9 billion India (CCI) has sought stakeholder comments on the probailout of Sri Lanka has been posed amendments to the CCI Kozack confirmed that the (General) Regulations, 2009, IMF's Executive Board will following recent changes to the meet to discuss the second Competition Act.

review and the Article IV The amendments came from the Competition Under Article IV of the (Amendment) Act, 2023, IMF's Articles of Agreement, which introduced new provithe global lender holds bilatsions and updating the existeral discussions with meming ones in the Competition bers, typically every year, with Act, 2002. The CCI has proa staff team visiting the counposed updates to align the general regulations with the try, collecting economic and financial latest framework. information,

As part of the proposed changes, the competition watchdog has detailed a process for implementing and monitoring its orders under various sections of the Act.

This includes the appointment of independent agencies to oversee the implementation of the orders.

These agencies, which firms, management consultancies, or professional organisations, will ensure compliance and reporting to any non-implementation to

Further, it will also maintain the confidentiality and



Further, payment to the agencies will be made by individuals or entities involved in proceedings, who have filed applications under the CCI (Settlement) Regulations, 2024, or the **Competition Commission of India** (Commitment) Regulations, 2024

avoid conflicts of interest. holds the authority to suspend or terminate the as necessary.

Such decisions, including revocations, will be recorded in writing and are not subject to judicial review.

Further, payment to the agencies will be made by individuals or entities

involved in proceedings, who Additionally, CCI also have filed applications under the CCI (Settlement) Regulations, 2024, or the (Commitment)

Regulations, 2024. The payments are to be deposited with the regulator or as directed, contingent on the satisfactory performance of the agencies' responsibili-

received a show cause notice or has been given a reasonable opportunity to present The competition watchdog has invited stakeholders to submit comments on the draft amendments by July 8. In April 2023, "the Competition (Amendment)

Act, 2023 was passed by the government incorporating certain new provisions in the Act and amending certain previously existing ones. "This created a need for amendment/ repeal/ overhauling of the various regu-

certain new ones," CCI said in a consultation note. The draft amendments are esigned to incorpora changes from Competition Amendment

lations framed by the CCI as

well as for introduction of

Act of 2023. CCI has emphasised these changes will strengthen the regulatory framework and effective enforcement of the competition norms in India.

## UP RERA sets format for possession letters to flat buyers

to bear fruit," Kozack said,

adding that "commendable

outcomes" include rapid disin-

flation, robust reserve accu-

mulation, and initial signs of

economic growth while pre-

serving the financial system's

and dis-

cussing with

officials the

country's

economic

develop.

ments and

policies.

PNS NOIDA

To prevent arbitrariness being done by promoters through the offer of possession letters sent to flat buyers and to eliminate the disputes arising between them due to this, the UP RERA on Saturday said it has made available a model format of the letter on its website.

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) recalled its order issued on May 29 in which it had clarified that the promot- fusion among the allottees,

ers will issue an offer of possession to the allottees in the same format as available on the

It had also directed project promoters to make no binding conditions on the allottees in any way through the offer of possession letter, the UP RERA said in a statement.

"The promoters send 'final demand letter and 'final demand notice' using the name and language of 'Offer of Possession', which creates con-

"...Modi is not only

and it carries some binding 'Offer of conditions. Possession' should be meant only for the purpose of taking possession," UP RERA Chairman Sanjay Bhoosreddy

"Hence, we have made available a model 'Offer of Possession' on the portal and any other format of letter will not be valid. This will remove confusion among the stakeholders and help in disposal of disputes related to it," Bhoosreddy added.

## **'Expedite revenue collection'**

PNS RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has directed the Commercial Tax department to expedite revenue collection in order to achieve the Rs 26,000 crore collection target in the ongoing fiscal, officials said on Saturday.

So far Rs 3,500 crore tax collection has been made against a target of Rs 6,000 crore for the first quarter.

The officials said that the directions were given in the course of a review of the Commercial Tax department. Soren also directed the department to prepare a comparative report by obtaining

GST-related assessments in this context from states like Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

According to the Commercial Tax Department, an amount of Rs 165 crore sanctioned by the Centre as GST compensation in 2021-22 was still pending.

The officials informed the CM that the department is making efforts to increase the revenue through schemes like one-time tax settlement. They also advocate for the need to fill up the vacant posts of Additional Commissioner and Joint Commissioner in the Commercial Tax Department.

politically motivated," he said

adding that the relationship

with Pakistan would improve

and there would be an increase

in trade between the two South

political instability and is in the

Today, Pakistan is facing

## 'Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi top UK's investment flows from India'



appointed as implementing agency for this Scheme.

PNS ■ LONDON

Maharashtra followed by Karnataka and Delhi are the top three states of India bringing in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the UK, according to a new joint report produced by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the High Commission of India in the

"Indian Assets: Charting the Journeys of Indian Companies in the UK", launched in London earlier this week, revealed that companies headquartered in Maharashtra brought in the highest amount of FDI into the UK at 20 per cent in 2023, followed by Karnataka (12 per cent) and Delhi (8.6 per cent).

Completing the top 10 tal-lies are the states of Gujarat (7.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu (6.7 per cent), Telangana (6.5 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (5.9 per cent), Haryana (4.5 per cent), West Bengal (3.14 per cent) and Kerala (3.05 per cent) -making up 78 per cent of the total FDI from India into the

"As India and the UK continue to evolve and navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing global landscape, I believe that our businesses reimagining the India-UK corridor will realise our shared vision and aspiration for a secure and sustainable future prosperity," said Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, who launched the report in

London. The analysis finds the leading sector bringing in FDI from India in terms of the number of companies and employees is IT and software, highlighting the achievements of Indian companies in the UK across sectors such as automotive, electric car batteries, diagnostics and healthcare, and

technology. It also spotlights the positive impact Indian companies can have on heritage British brands and how the value of these legacy brands is retained and rotected when acquired by

Indian companies. "Today, Indian companies

with operations in the UK have integrated themselves into the British economy, making their mark in industries in almost all leading sectors. Their ability to adapt, innovate, and forge meaningful partnerships has not only propelled their growth but has also enriched the economy of the UK and its regions, promoting job creation, driving investment, and fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion," said CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee.

Among some of the other findings of the report, new Indian students cumulatively contributed an estimated GBP 4.3 billion to UK universities against the backdrop of a 5 per cent increase in UK student visas last vear.

It also showcases the robust relationship that Indian companies have across different UK regions, with the West Midlands, London and the north-west being the top recipients of Indian FDI in the UK across the fields of automotive, software and IT services and

## 'Modi good not just for India but for entire South Asia'

PNS WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi guarantees stability not only in India but in the entire South Asia region, a prominent Pakistani American businessman said Friday as he congratulated the people of India on the peaceful and successful conduct of the world's largest

democratic exercise. "I have always said that Modi's leadership is necessary for India's future stability, preventing multiple parties from coming and destabilizing the constitution. Modi's leadership is a guarantee of India's stability and future of India," Pakistani-American businessman Sajid Tarar said in an

good for India, but he is also good for Pakistan as well. The allegations against him that he is anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan is politically motivated," he said adding that the relationship with Pakistan would improve and there would be an increase in trade between the two South Asian nations



With Modi coming to power for a third term, people in Pakistan hope that this will result in an improvement in its relationship with India, he

Responding to a question, Tarar said he was expecting that Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would participate in the swearing-in ceremony of Modi and added that it was "disappointing" that so far there has been no congratulatory message from him.

...Modi is not only good for India, but he is also good for Pakistan as well. The allegations against him that he is anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan is

midst of an economic crisis. Observing that Pakistan has been China's proxy against India, he hoped that Islamabad would try to move away from that and improve its ties with New Delhi," Tarar said.

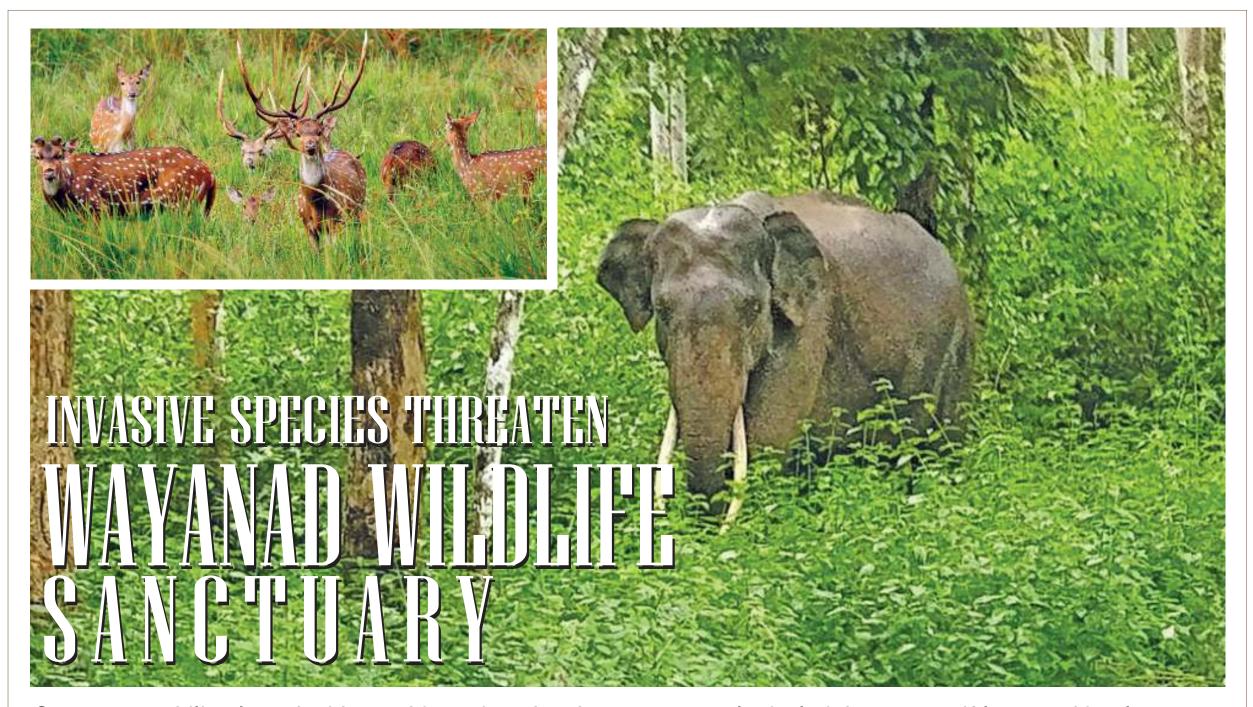
Asian nations.

He said like India, Pakistan also needs strong leadership to handle political instability and economic issues. No Prime Minister has completed a full term, contributing to the country's problems, Tarar

# the pioneer

If you can reach out and touch and love and be with wildlife, you will forever be changed, and world a better place.





Senna spectabilis planted with good intentions has become an ecological nightmare, swiftly overtaking large areas of the sanctuary. Its unchecked growth not only threatens biodiversity but also triggers a chain of ecological and economic repercussions, affecting both wildlife and local communities

pproximately one-fifth of the Earth's surface is threatened by invasive species. These from rapid reproduction and a lack of natural predators, outcompete native species for vital resources like food, water, and habitat, posing a significant threat to biodiversity and

ecosystem stability. The Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS), nestled in the heart of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR), is a biodiversity hotspot, brimming with a rich variety of flora and fauna. The sanctuary serves as a habitat for a substantial population of Asian elephants, along with over 3,700 documented species of plants and animals. Spanning an area of 344.44 km<sup>2</sup>, the sanctuary is comprised of four distinct ranges: Sulthan Bathery, Muthanga, Kurichiat, and Tholpetty. Each range, with its distinct characteristics, adds to the rich tapestry of the WWS, making it a vital and vibrant hub of ecological diversity. However, this ecological paradise is under severe threat from several invasive species, including Senna spectabilis, Lantana camara, and Acacia species. This is particularly noticeable in the case of Senna spectabilis, which has proliferated aggressively throughout the WWS and beyond, affecting the NBR and the corresponding ecological continuum of three southern Indian states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. A decision made in good faith by the forest department in 1986 to plant Senna spectabilis, an ornamental tree with

striking yellow flowers, has morphed into an ecological disaster. Little did one know, that this tropical American tree had a notorious history of invading continents, including parts of Asia, Africa, and Australia. By the time the mistake was realized, Senna had stealthily spread into many parts of the sanctuary. It expanded from covering less than 16 km² in 2013-2014 to 89 km² in 2019 and now stands at a staggering 123.86 km². Considering the total area of the sanctuary is 344.44 km², Senna has already engulfed 35% of it. If this trend is not curbed, the entire sanctuary could be swamped within a decade, turning it into a dense Senna forest.

A 2021 study has revealed that the Asian elephant, a significant inhabitant of the sanctuary, is aiding the spread of the invasive Senna spectabilis. The elephant's dung provides a fertile environment for the Senna seeds to sprout, with a single pile of dung found to contain





ARVIND K JHA

approximately 2000 seeds. The study also found other mammals, such as the chital and the Indian crested porcupine, ontributing to the spread of S researchers observed that the fruiting period of Senna trees in the summer coincides with a high concentration of elephants in Wayanad due to their seasonal migration. This synchronicity could potentially expedite the plant's dispersal across the landscape, particularly in micro-habitats commonly inhabited by elephants. A single Senna pod harbours over a

hundred seeds, and a medium-sized tree can yield at least one lakh seeds. The invasive nature of the Senna species has had a significant impact on the local ecosystem. It has displaced native vegetation by monopolizing the area and inhibiting the growth of species like grass, bamboo and several other minor forest produce.

The Senna tree employs a unique method of colonizing its surroundings. It releases specific substances, known as allelochemicals, either directly onto the target plants or indirectly into the surrounding soil. These allelochemicals interfere with the normal growth processes of other plants, providing the Senna tree with a competitive advantage. The dominance of the Senna tree has significant implications for the livelihoods of rural and tribal people who rely on non-timber forest produce, like amla or gooseberry, for sustenance. Many edible items like berries, mushrooms, and wild tubers, which were once a significant part of the tribal diet, are gradually disappearing from the

The bitter leaves and irritating bark of Senna do not find favour with herbivores resulting in a decline in their numbers in the area. This has had a cascading effect on the region's tiger population, which has decreased from 120 in 2018 to 84 in 2023. The scarcity of prey in the Sennadominated areas is believed to be driving tigers to migrate in search of richer hunting grounds. Similarly, elephants are moving into areas outside the forests in their quest for food and water. Unfortunately, this has led to increased human-elephant conflicts, resulting in a backlash against the preservation efforts of elephants. The ecological disruption has had an unexpected benefit for local communities. With fewer wildlife incursions, settlements near the jungle

have seen a significant drop in crop damage and cattle lifting incidents. The

data from the past three years shows a

downward trend in compensation claims



by farmers for crop raids. In the fiscal year 2021-22, there were 734 cases of crop damage reported in the border agrarian hamlets of WWS. This figure fell to 475 in 2022-23, and in 2023-24, the number has further decreased to just 93 cases. Similarly, cattle lifting cases have also seen a decline, from 83 cases in 2021-22 to a mere 19 in 2023-24. While the decrease in human-wildlife conflict might be viewed as a positive development by those seeking to address this issue, the underlying causes warrant serious concern. Locals like Mr. Stanley Augustine, a member of the Biodiversity Management Committee of Poothadi village, find these changes deeply troubling, particularly from the standpoint of the rural economy. The area is witnessing a worrying decline in agricultural productivity and an increasing trend of farmers abandoning their paddy fields. The forests too are under mounting pressure. The real challenge, therefore, lies in reestablishing equilibrium in the WWS while simultaneously securing the future of the human communities in the area. In response to these challenges, the Forest Department has launched an initiative known as the 'Senna Eradication and Forest Regeneration

Project'. The project, supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, has a budget of Rs 5.31 crore. The initiative is currently being implemented in the Kurichiat and Muthanga forest ranges, to eradicate Senna from 1,672 hectares. To further support this initiative, the sanctuary authorities are exploring partnerships with the newsprint industry, taking inspiration from Tamil Nadu. The state government there has allowed the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd (TNPL) to extract invasive trees like Wattles and Senna for paper production. In return, TNPL compensates the Forest Department and employs various extraction techniques, attempting to turn an ecological challenge into an opportunity for resource utilization. In some areas, invasive plants, including Senna, are being repurposed to manufacture furniture. Senna, in particular, is valued as a timber source for making lightweight furniture and other wooden products. There is hope that policy changes could permit the extraction of Senna from forest areas and its subsequent sale outside. Such changes could potentially motivate the local community to actively participate in clearing the forest of this invasive plant.

The process of removing the Senna tree, however, is fraught with challenges. Traditional methods such as uprooting, girdling and herbicide app eliminating Senna from the area are labour-intensive, costly, and environmentally damaging. Uprooting large Senna trees could disturb the soil, leading to erosion, especially in hilly areas that receive high rainfall. Techniques like girdling and felling can inadvertently harm non-target species. Moreover, the use of herbicides may contaminate water sources and negatively impact the area's biodiversity. Additionally, the resilience of the Senna tree is evident in its ability to regenerate from lateral roots, which complicates its eradication. Given these challenges, it is clear that innovative and sustainable strategies are needed to manage and ultimately remove the Senna species while simultaneously assisting the reestablishment of local species. As we forge ahead, conservation measures must be holistic, encompassing not only the immediate environs of the sanctuary but also the larger watersheds and catchment areas that feed into the rivers. This holistic approach is particularly significant for Wayanad, the source of the Kabini River. The health of this river is essential for sustaining the lives and livelihoods of communities across Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Notably, initiatives are in progress to increase the flow of the Kabini Rivera major tributary of the Kaveri River—to address the issue of water scarcity in Bengaluru.

The situation in Wayanad is a stark reminder of the domino effect triggered by the introduction of invasive species. The ecological and economic ramifications are far-reaching, impacting not just the wildlife within the sanctuary but also the lives and livelihoods of communities dwelling in its vicinity and beyond. The fight to save Wayanad is a race against time. If immediate and decisive action is not taken, the future of this biodiversity hotspot and the wellbeing of the millions who depend on it hang in the balance. Wayanad's plight serves as a cautionary tale, urging us to prioritize rigorous scientific evaluation before introducing any new species in an area and to act swiftly and collaboratively in the face of ecological threats posed by invasive species.

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



AND A MEDIUM-SIZED TREE CAN YIELD AT LEAST ONE LAKH SEEDS. THE INVASIVE NATURE OF THE SENNA SPECIES HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM. IT HAS DISPLACED NATIVE **VEGETATION BY** MONOPOLIZING THE AREA AND INHIBITING THE **GROWTH OF SPECIES** LIKE GRASS, BAMBOO AND SEVERAL OTHER MINOR FOREST













## DISCOVER THE DESERT SERENGETI AND ENCHANTING ISLAND OF BUTTERFLIES

Sharjah creates a 'la African Safari' in the Desert and its commitment to nature shines at Al Noor Island, writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

harjah, a jewel in the crown of the United Arab Emirates, boasts a Captivating terrain that marries the charm of golden deserts with the allure of pristine coastlines along the Arabian Gulf. The landscape is punctuated by rolling sand dunes, tranquil oases, and rugged mountains that rise in the eastern region, creating a picturesque backdrop to its vibrant cityscape. Sharjah's climate is characterized by its arid nature, with hot summers that see temperatures soar, and mild, pleasant winters that offer a refreshing respite. winters that offer a refreshing respite. The gentle coastal breeze, coupled with the serene desert air, weaves a unique atmospheric tapestry, making Sharjah a place of both stark beauty and subtle elegance. However, it lacks the lush green vegetation and abundance found in tropical climates. Yet, this absence is masterfully compensated by human ingenuity, as nature is carefully crafted and enhanced through thoughtful intervention. intervention.

Sharjah has been a beacon of cultural heritage in the region. However, not many people know its commitment towards nature. In fact, it has one of the rarest treats around the world to showcase which has never tried elsewhere on the large scale. Sharjah's commitment to preserving nature and promoting biodiversity is exemplified through its innovative projects, notably creating Serengeti and Sawana in the heart of the desert and organising the African Safari in the desert. As if that was not enough it also has a full-on nature conservation project at in Al Noor Island which hosts thousands of species of plants and birds and has a unique Butterfly House. These initiatives reflect Sharjah's dedication to balancing development with sustainability and fostering a deep respect for the natural world.

#### 'LA AFRICAN SAFARI' IN THE DESERT

Sharjah's African Safari, set against the backdrop of the Arabian Desert, is a testament to the emirate's vision of creating unique and sustainable tourism experiences. This ambitious project recreates the diverse ecosystems of Africa, providing a sanctuary for a wide range of species in an environment that mirrors their natural habitats.

The African Safari in Sharjah is not just a tourist attraction; it is a conservation effort aimed at protecting endangered

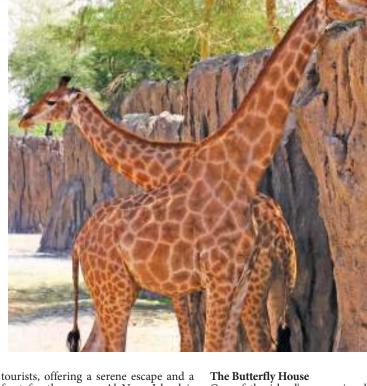


species and educating the public about wildlife and ecosystems. The park hosts animals such as giraffes, zebras, antelope, living in conditions that closely resemble their native habitats. This approach ensures that the animals can exhibit natural behaviours, contributing to their well-being and offering visitors an authentic experience. Sharjah's African Safari employs sustainable practices to minimise its environmental footprint. This includes the use of renewable energy sources, water conservation techniques, and ecofriendly infrastructure. The park also engages in breeding programs for

endangered species, playing a crucial role in global conservation efforts. By fostering a connection between visitors fe the safari park encourages a greater appreciation for the natural world and the importance of its preservation.

## AL NOOR ISLAND: WHERE SERENITY AND ART COME TOGETHER

Nestled in the heart of Khalid Lagoon, Al Noor Island is a testament to Sharjah's vision of blending nature, art, and culture. Since its opening in 2015, this picturesque island has become a beloved destination for both locals and



tourists, offering a serene escape and a feast for the senses. Al Noor Island is more than just a park; it is an embodiment of Sharjah's commitment to enhancing the quality of life through innovative public spaces that foster a connection with nature and the arts. Al Noor Island spans 45,470 square

meters and is adorned with a

rich variety of flora, creating a verdant oasis in the middle of the city. The island's landscaping features over 70,000 plants and trees from around the world, carefully curated to thrive in the local climate. This lush greenery provides a habitat for diverse wildlife, including numerous bird species that find sanctuary on the island. The meticulously maintained gardens offer visitors a tranquil

environment to unwind and connect

One of the island's crown jewels is the Butterfly House, an architectural marvel that houses over 500 exotic butterflies. The structure itself, designed with intricate latticework inspired by Islamic art, is a sight to behold. Inside, the climate-controlled environment mimics allowing tropical

pical conditions, allowing butterflies to flourish year-round. Visitors can walk among the butterflies witnessing delicate beauty up close and learning about their life cycles and ecological importance.

Butterfly House is not only a visual delight but also an educational experience, emphasizing the significance of conservation.

#### **Art Installations and Sculptures**

Al Noor Island is dotted with stunning art installations and sculptures, seamlessly integrating art with nature. These pieces, created by renowned artists from around the world, add a layer of cultural richness to the island. Notable installations include the "OVO" art sculpture, a glowing egg-shaped structure that symbolizes rebirth and renewal, and the "Torus" sculpture by David Harber, which captures the interplay of light and shadow.

The island caters to visitors of all ages with its well-designed children's playground and exercise facilities. The playground is equipped with safe, modern equipment that encourages imaginative play, while the exercise stations offer adults a chance to stay active in a scenic setting.

#### Night Illumination

Night Illumination
As the sun sets, Al Noor Island transforms into a magical landscape illuminated by artistic lighting. The island's pathways and installations glow with soft, colourful lights, creating an enchanting atmosphere. This nighttime transformation offers a unique experience, making evening visits to the island particularly memorable.
Al Noor Island exemplifies Shariah's

Al Noor Island exemplifies Sharjah's dedication to sustainability and environmental preservation. The island employs eco-friendly practices, such as using solar energy for lighting and maintaining a commitment to water conservation. These efforts ensure that the island remains a green and sustainable haven for future generations.

Al Noor Island also plays a vital role in community engagement and education. It regularly hosts workshops, guided tours, and cultural events that promote environmental awareness appreciation for the arts. These programs aim to foster a sense of responsibility and connection to the natural world among visitors.

Al Noor Island as its African safari is a shining example of Sharjah's innovative approach to nature conservation with cultural enrichment. This serene oasis offers a retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life, inviting visitors to explore its lush landscapes, admire its art installations, and engage with its diverse flora and fauna. Through Al Noor Island, Sharjah demonstrates its commitment to creating spaces that nurture the soul, inspire the mind, and promote a sustainable future. Whether you're a nature lover, art enthusiast, or simply seeking peace and tranquillity, Al Noor Island is a destination that promises to captivate and inspire.

## Bookmark these boutique destinations for a summer getaway

#### **BY RUPALI DEAN**

#### STERLING PARK, **KALIMPONG**

Where? Ringkingpong Rd, Kalimpong Khasmahal, Kalimpong, West Bengal. Nestled in the scenic mid-range of the Himalayas, at a lofty 4,100 feet above sea level lies Kalimpong-a perfect fusion of serene mountain vistas and vibrant cultural encounters, offering enchanting getaway for those in search of an unforgettable holiday experience. This cultural hub, blending influences from Indian, Chinese, Nepalese, and Tibetan traditions, provides a captivating and immersive retreat.

Perched atop a hill with a panoramic view of the snowcapped Himalayan peaks, Sterling Park Kalimpong resides in a historic edifice once owned by the Maharaja of Dinajpur, allowing guests a peek into a majestic bygone era. The vistas of Mt Kanchenjunga and other majestic peaks like Pandim and Narsingh, alongside the historic Jelep-la and Nathu-la Passes, resonate with old tales of the Silk Trade Route winding through Lhasa to Tibet. This mountain retreat, situated away from the urban hustle of downtown Kalimpong, exudes an aura of old-world charm with its colonial-era architecture adorned with intricate woodwork, vintage furnishings, and spacious verandahs, transporting guests



back to a nostalgic age. The lavishly appointed rooms and suites boast breath-taking views of

the majestic Himalayas, creating a perfect sanctuary for relaxation. Guests can unwind on the cosy patio, indulge in the finest Darjeeling tea, or revel in the tranquillity of the lush courtyard surroundings. The signature restaurant, Kokomendo, beckons visitors with a diverse array of Indian, Continental, Chinese, Nepalese, and Tibetan delicacies. Together with Sterling Park Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and Gangtok Orange Village, they form a delightful mountain circuit Eastern Himalayan foothills, promising

unforgettable journey for nature and culture enthusiasts alike.

#### **BAREFOOT BUNGALOW, CHAMBA**

Where? Buranskhanda, Chamba-Mussoorie Road, Buranskhnda, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Set amidst the enchanting Himalayan landscape, Barefoot Bungalow, a luxurious 3-bedroom homestay in Buranskhanda, offers a sublime escape from the routine of daily life. Located just 25 kilometres from the renowned hill station of Mussoorie, this serene refuge captures the essence of tranquillity and natural beauty in the Garhwal Himalayas.

At the heart of Barefoot Bungalow lies a deep commitment to hospitality, where a dedicated team of professionals ensures that guests are pampered and well looked after. This pet-friendly haven features a personal butler and a talented in-house chef named Arjun, who delights guests with delicious home-cooked meals. The cosy wooden interiors create a warm hill station ambiance, perfect for creating memorable evenings by the bonfire, accompanied by live music performances or the inviting glow of an indoor fireplace.

Guests at Barefoot Bungalow can indulge in a culinary delight at the glasshouse restaurant, where they

can watch their meals being freshly prepared in a live kitchen setting. The expansive 14,000-square-foot private garden, embellished with ponds and meticulously landscaped, provides a lush sanctuary for relaxation and reflection. And to top it all off, sweeping views of the majestic snow-capped Himalayan range serve as a breath-taking backdrop to this picturesque retreat.

#### **ONENESS, RISHIKESH**

Where? Rishikesh, Badrinath Highway, Byasi, Uttarakhand. Cocooned within a Lower Shivalik mountain valley, 30 kilometres away from Rishikesh, this resort is

a harmonious blend of river, flora, and fauna, inviting guests to embark on a mesmerizing journey where nature's wild beauty takes centre stage and showcases a diverse array of Sal, Haldu, Figs, and Mulberry trees, forming a biodiverse sanctuary.

This lively mountain retreat encourages visitors to immerse themselves in the wilderness, surrounded by monkeys, langurs, wild cats, the elusive Black Bear, and the captivating Scarlet Minivet. It's commitment to ecology shines through in the careful planting of 30,000 saplings of over 50 medicinal plants, fostering a flourishing ecosystem that flourishing ecosystem the embodies the ethos of the resort.

As the Ganges flows below, resonating with the sacred energy of Devprayag, spirituality becomes intricately woven into the fabric of Oneness. Guests can luxuriate in unparalleled comfort within the Luxury Cottages, each intricately designed to provide a unique and immersive stay. From the spacious and finely appointed rooms to the breath-taking views of the gardens and mountains, every aspect has been thoughtfully curated to offer an unforgettable escape. Beyond being just a resort, on offer is an immersive journey.

Engage in a variety of inclusive activities, ranging from leisurely beach moments to captivating stargazing sessions. For our younger guests, an array of kid's activities awaits. Furthermore, optional activities such as Fun Family Float and Memory Plantation present distinctive and

memorable experiences. Go for an adventure intertwined with the allure of unspoiled with the allure of unspoiled wilderness. Your expedition commences with experienced guides guiding you through a brief hike, unveiling the untouched beauty of the Lower Shivalik mountains. The path then seamlessly transitions to a unique river crossing experience via a raft river crossing experience via a raft, adding a touch of thrill to your sojourn.

(Awarded the 'Best food writer in the country' by the Indian culinary forum, WACS and the Ministry of Tourism, Rupali Dean writes on *food and travel)* 

GAJRAJ RAO, the Newgen method actor, redefines the cinematic experience by performing even non-descript roles with élan. This journey explores the nuances of his method acting, writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

ajraj Rao, a name that resonates with authenticity and a deep understanding of character portrayal, has carved a niche for himself in the Indian film industry through a blend of meticulous method acting and a rich repertoire of roles. Rao's journey from the sidelines to the spotlight is a testament to his dedication, perseverance, and exceptional talent. Gajraj Rao's foray into acting was marked by a series of small but significant roles that gradually built his reputation as a reliable character actor. Born in Dungarpur, Rajasthan, Rao's initial years in the industry were filled with struggles and uncredited roles. His career began in the late 1990s, with minor roles in films and television. However, his ability to imbue even the smallest roles with depth and realism did not go unnoticed.Rao's breakthrough came with the 2018 film *Badhaai Ho*, where he played Jeetender Kaushik, a middle-aged man who discovers his wife's unexpected pregnancy. The film's success catapulted Rao into the limelight, earning him critical acclaim and several awards. His portrayal of Jeetender Kaushik was lauded for its warmth, subtlety, and humor, marking a significant shift in the perception of middle-aged characters in Indian cinema. What sets Gajraj Rao apart is his approach to method acting. Rao's dedication to his craft involves deep immersion into his characters. He often spends extensive time understanding the background, motivations, and nuances of the roles he portrays. This approach allows him to deliver performances that are both authentic and relatable. Method acting, a technique pioneered by Konstantin Stanislavski and later popularized by Lee Strasberg, emphasizes the psychological and emotional aspects

of this technique involves drawing from his own experiences and emotions to bring a character to life. His preparation often includes detailed research, observing people with similar backgrounds to his characters, and even adopting their mannerisms and speech patterns. Rao's impact on modern Indian cinema extends beyond his performances. He represents a shift towards more realistic and nuanced storytelling in Bollywood. Films like Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan and Lootcase further showcase his versatility, moving away from stereotypical depictions to more layered and authentic characters. In contemporary cinema, method actors like Gajraj Rao are redefining the narrative. They are moving away from the star-centric approach to one that values story and character depth. This trend is visible in the rise of content-driven films and web series that focus on everyday stories and real-life issues. And the time is ripe for such experiments. "Twenty years back I, Pankaj Tripathi, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and many others could not imagine of getting a significant role. Hindi cinema is

more democratic and character

driven and gives chance to everyone," says Rao. Method actors today are increasingly collaborating with directors and writers to develop well-rounded characters. They are involved in the creative process from the early stages, contributing to script development and character arcs. This collaborative approach results in performances that are not just believable but also deeply

engaging.
While method acting is rewarding, it is also challenging. The emotional toll of deeply immersing oneself in a character can be significant. For Rao, balancing the intense reparation required for his roles with his personal life is a constant challenge. However, his passion for acting and his commitment to his craft continue to drive him forward. "I have theatre background where script is very important which all of us cherish. Then we prepare for the role meticulously. What viewers see on the screen is culmination of that reparation,"

Looking ahead, Gajraj Rao's journey seems poised for further success. With the increasing popularity of OTT platforms and a growing

WHAT SETS GAJRAJ RAO APART IS HIS APPROACH TO METHOD ACTING. RAO'S DEDICATION TO HIS CRAFT INVOLVES DEEP IMMERSION INTO HIS CHARACTERS. HE OFTEN SPENDS EXTENSIVE TIME UNDERSTANDING THE BACKGROUND. MOTIVATIONS. AND NUANCES OF THE ROLES HE PORTRAYS. THIS APPROACH ALLOWS HIM TO DELIVER PERFORMANCES THAT ARE BOTH AUTHENTIC AND RELATABLE

audience for nuanced storytelling, actors like Rao are likely to find even more opportunities to showcase their talent. His upcoming projects are eagerly awaited by fans and critics alike, who expect nothing short of brilliance from this seasoned actor. Gajraj Rao's journey as an actor is an inspiring tale of perseverance, talent, and the power of method acting. His contributions to Indian cinema have paved the way for more realistic and relatable storytelling. As he continues to explore new horizons, Rao remains a beacon of authenticity and excellence in the world of acting, embodying the transformative power of method acting in modern cinema

In the film Maidaan, Gajraj Rao excels in his role by bringing a nuanced depth and authenticity that enhances the movie's historical and emotional landscape. The film, directed by Amit Ravindernath Sharma, chronicles the golden era of Indian football from 1952 to 1962, focusing on the life of Syed Abdul Rahim, the coach who led the Indian team to remarkable victories. Rao portrays a pivotal character whose support and conflict with the protagonist add layers to the narrative, showcasing his ability to seamlessly blend into the historical setting while delivering a performance that is both compelling and resonant. His meticulous approach to embodying his character contributes significantly to the film's overall impact, making



## Reflections on Acting, Challenges and Audience Influence

Indian sports history.

MAHESH THAKUR shares insights into his illustrious acting career, spanning television and cinema. From memorable roles to industry evolution, he reflects on the challenges and successes that have shaped him as an artist. In a conversation with SAKSHI PRIYA, he also opens up about his recent show Aangan Aapno Kaa, shedding light on his experience playing a father's role in this heartwarming project

What motivates you to continue acting and how do you view the role of the audience in your

of character development. Rao's use

I get the audience's love and reaction. Being an actor means experiencing the audience's reactions, which keep me going. They encourage me to do better. I would say it is the audience that inspires me to act.

Among numerous the characters you've portrayed, which role has been the most memorable for you and why?

I think a role that is very different from my personality would be Tej Singh Oberoi from Ishqbaaz. That character is nothing like me and I had to create a persona that was really nasty, cunning and thought differently. It's a really interesting character that I played, so I would definitely give credit to that role. Generally, the roles I play are similar to my personality and I feel that's not very challenging but the role in Ishqbaaz was challenging. Playing the honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also challenging because it is difficult to embody a character who is very much in the public eve. Another challenging role was playing Sadhu Vaswani. All these characters are memorable because they are different from

You've often played positive characters. Did you relish the opportunity to portray a villain in Ishqbaaz, and how did you approach that transformation? First of all, in television, we have very different ways of working. The episodes and scripts come on set, so we don't have time to

who I am.

approach in the initial days when worked on any television character, which is very different from the rest, is to do a lot of reading. I read one to six episodes, and once I am done with reading, I try to get into the character and experiment with different voice modulations in my own space. I try taking when delivering dialogues and ensure that I don't repeat certain expressions. In Ishqbaaz, my character was so negative that I didn't want my kids to watch it, as they were very young at that time.

What have been some of the biggest challenges and successes in your acting career and how have they shaped you as an artist?

One of the biggest challenges in acting career was transitioning to television. When I started doing daily soaps, I realised that you put in just as much hard work as you do in films but it's for one telecast. After that, it's gone and often forgotten. As actors, we used to be very particular about giving a fantastic shot, striving for perfection. However, in television, you don't have much time. You get only a few minutes and maybe 4 to 5 takes to get the shot right. No matter how perfect a shot I gave, there was always room for improvement, but in television, it often goes unnoticed because it airs only once and then it's long gone. This was a learning experience for me, helping me understand that, at the end of the day, actors are a product of the writing and direction. It's not just about the actor. Many actors in the

industry think it's all about them, believing that their performance alone makes a movie or show a hit. But that's not true. It's teamwork that makes a project successful. TV has taught me humility as an actor. It made me realise that while an actor might attract the audience for the initial viewing, it's the combined effort of the entire team that makes a lasting impact.

You've seen the television industry evolve over the years. How do you think it has changed, and what are your thoughts on the current trends

in TV shows and content? Yes, definitely. The sensibility has changed. Audiences are now more open to rich subjects and they have a say in what they want to see. You can't disregard the audience today. You have to be very careful. People always try to bifurcate between whether a film is for villagers, town people or two-tier towns. I think that divide is disappearing. We have to ensure that the content generated is not just to cater to one segment, as the divide is reducing between these three categories, thanks to the internet. Everyone now has access to all sorts of content. So, as a content creator, you have to keep everyone in mind, not just a single type of audience.

Looking back on your time working with Sridevi, is there a specific scene or moment from filming Malini Iyer that stands out in your memory?

Sridevi Ma'am was and will always be a legend because she was one of the first heroines where movies were made if she said yes to a project, like



Chandni, Lamhe, and all these beautiful films she was a part of. No matter how much I say about her or praise her, it will always be

Recently, you are working on a project, Aangan Aapno Kaa. How has your experience been playing the father's role in this project?

am playing the character of a dad, and it's great. As I said, you need a good team of actors, and we have a very good team here,

especially my daughter, with whom I am very close and interact with often. There are always lots of hugging scenes, giving love, and treating them like babies, so we have to get into a very comfortable zone. Even on the set, they call me Papa instead of Mahesh Ji, and I am good with that. They are very sweet co-

What was your experience like working on Dil, Dosti Dilemma, especially considering the

involved, from the director to

the producer? Dil, Dosti Dilemma was great fun because we had a fantastic team filled with women, from the director to the producer. It was nice seeing all the women coming into action and working so brilliantly as a team. I enjoyed my time in Dil, Dosti Dilemma, and it was shot beautifully. The story was one of the simplest out there on the streaming platform. You can watch it and have a great time with your loved ones. It was an extremely sweet story, and I just loved working on the

How do you approach acting in different mediums like films, television and web series? Do you have a preference among these mediums?

An actor is always an actor; they should not choose any medium. The only difference between TV and film is not that much. The major difference between working in front of the camera and on stage is significant. When you go on stage, there is a difference in working in front of the camera. In front of the camera, you have to take care of lights, know which dialogue to say and when and work with the cameraman, co-actors and director, so there are lots of things happening in one shot. It's pretty complicated for a person who starts straight in TV and film because lots are happening on sets. When you do a stage, it's all about you. You forget your line, you're supposed to carry on; you are not supposed to stand blank on the stage because you have a live audience watching

you. So, that's more challenging,

I feel, for actors working on stage because it's all about dialogue delivery, trying to work on body language, so much is happening on stage that it's more of a challenge rather than working in the medium of TV and film. Acting on TV and film is also challenging but not as challenging as the stage. Also, if you're good on stage, it doesn't mean you can be good in front of the TV and camera because you have to control your expression and not go too loud because TV is a subtle medium. One thing I learned about the theatre is that in theatre, you have to pronounce your words; you cannot speak loudly. The last person sitting on the back bench in the auditorium should be able to listen to you. It's not about raising your voice; it's literally pronunciation which goes right up to the end.

Many actors look up to your career. What piece of advice would you give to someone just starting out in television acting?

To all the new actors, hang in there. Hanging in doesn't mean losing your patience, balance or giving up. This is one of the most difficult professions you could choose. If you have multiple choices, I would say let acting be the last one you go for. But if you are going for it, then be resilient. You have to be there because you never know when the right break will happen for you and when things will start working in your favor. Don't give up. If you are an actor, you should think about it as always being an actor; otherwise, you will never get anywhere. So, choose your profession wisely.







# Reminiscences of an aspiring journalist

ournalism has a charm of its own. Back in the late Eighties; while I was eagerpursuing PG Diploma in Journalism from Rajendra Prasad Institute

Communication Management, Mumbai (Course offered by Bharatiya Mumbai Vidya Bhavan-Hyderabad branch), my dad drew my attention to an advertisement put out by the Eenadu Group. The advertisement was issued on behalf of 'Newstime', on behalf of 'Newstime', English daily of the group which was then looking for trainee sub-editors/reporters. I applied, though at that point of time I had not completed my journalism course. They held a written test and later I had one round of interview with the editorial head. SR with the editorial head, SR Ramanujan, who was also the daily's Executive Editor. Along with me, three others had cleared the written test and the first round of interview to reach the next level: interview with Ramoji Rao in his cubicle on the fifth floor of the Eenadu building in Somajiguda. With great trepidation I entered what I perceived would be a torture chamber for an 'interview with the man, who, my friends had forewarned me, was "a very strict man", "stickler for punctuality", "tough taskmaster", this and that. But Ramoji Rao asked me what sounded like straightforward questions drawn from current affairs; nothing else about me, my qualifications, experience or whatever. To be honest, I was not abreast of current affairs then. So, I could give mostly wrong answers or unconvinces, often fumbling and bumbling. He listened to all of them poker-faced. Then he took what I perceived was his parting shot: "You don't know



Sr. Journalist Hoping against hope, I replied: "No Sir, I would be a flexible peg in any hole" Ramoji Rao laughed heartily, with the cheeks on his face aglow like that of a child. My 'interview' with the Eenadu group's legendary chief ended thus, rather hopelessly.

ist. If we hire you, don't you think you would be a square peg in a round hole?"

Hoping against hope, I replied: "No Sir, I would be a flexible peg in any hole" Ramoji Rao laughed heartily, with the cheeks on his face aglow like that of a child. My 'interview' with the Eenadu group's legendary chief ended thus, rather hopelessly. Subsequently, I got my appointment letter! Frankly speaking, I am still not sure whether it was due to the interview or *in spite of* it.

As a trainee subwhat is happening around you editor/reporter, I learned the other from Eenadu Group is and you want to be a journal-ropes the hard way under a there or going to be there!).

Pawan Kalyan condoles

death of Ramoji Rao

tough taskmaster, Ramanujan, who reflected in toto Ramoji Rao's philosophy of giving nothing but the best for readers of Newstime, which unconventionally was never after government or private ads as a matter of policy then.

Luckily for me, I never had to go to Ramoji Rao for anything significant after my first and traumatic interaction with him. In my entire 14-year long service or vanvaas in Newstime, I met him may be three or four times along with others—that is *naluguritho* others—that is natiguritho Narayana, usually to get mementoes or just greet the great personality on special occasions like Newstime anniversary. Since such meetings were few and far between, we had to introduce ourselves. we had to introduce ourselves every time. Given my 'encounter' with him before I was hired, I always introduced myself rather sheepishly. I did secure All-India Chandrakant Vora Gold Medal and Kulapati Silver Medal as well as cash prize in PG Diploma Journalism course. But, I never had the courage to update him on my academic attainments during such fleeting moments. After all, he was hands-on and practical always.

What I appreciated most during my stint in Newstime was the congenial learning atmosphere under a perfectionist boss (Ramanujan) who doubled up as a benevolent dictator. Thanks to him, and his boss who always trusted his lieutenants whole-heartedly, there was little left for me to learn in any other organization thereafter. Learning his never complete, but few organizaing. Hats off to Eenadu group, whose products hold key positions in media houses (you name it, somebody or the

after taking the oath. But unfor-

tunately, he passed away. Ramoji

Rao has produced hundreds of

journalists and most of the pre-

sent journalists are from Eenadu

Journalism School," Pawan

Kalyan told the media. He also

recalled that Ramoji Rao had

strived a lot for the development

of Telugu cinema.

## Maker of moving movies We know Ramoji Rao as the one who enriched Telugu media by his singular contribution. His contribution



BUDDHAVARAPU **RAJESWARA PRASAD** 

chieving remarkable heights in every field one chooses is not everyone's cup of tea. Rarest of the rare are those who reach Himalayan heights with perseverance and penchant for perfection. Media baron Ramoji Rao is one among those stalwarts, whose legacy

towards enriching Telugu cinema, with diverse and socially relevant themes, also stands on a high pedestal. stands tall and whose motiva-

We know Ramoji Rao as the one who enriched Telugu media by his singular contribution. His contribution towards enriching Telugu cinema, with diverse and socially relevant themes, also stands on a high pedestal. The movies that Ramoii Rao made were not run-of-the-mill type. They had subjects that were contemporary and socially relevant. Making movies is something and making them with a clearly defined

tional spirit is everlasting.

purpose is wholly different. As a movie maker, Ramoji Rao's contribution is great and laudable. He chose objective-ori-

ented subjects, thereby making movies that left deep imprints on society. Bearing the stamp of a man who strongly believed that cinema could be used as a medium to depict ideals worthy of emulation in society, most of Ramoji Raos movies went on to become masterpieces, ranking on par with industry classics. For, their subjects are so relevant that even today and they never lose their appeal and contemporariness. From women empowerment to wholesome entertainment, we have every genre from Ramoji Rao, who believed that through cinema one could reform



Almost all of the movies have had something that stirred and stimulated thought in society. He entertained, enthralled, and engaged people with themes that not only got awards, accolades, but wide public appreciation. From Anandam to Mayuri, Ramoji Rao's society and purge it of all its ills as movies stand out for their social-

ly relevant subjects. With Prathighatana, he stirred society by elucidating and pronouncing so strongly that oppression and suppression had to face its ugly end. Not only this, in the movie Mayuri, the penetrating message conveyed is that nothing can stop a woman if she is determined and committed to her task, physical frailties notwithstanding. Mounaporatam is also a movie made to establish the rights of women, who are deceived and oppressed. From establishing the rights of the downtrodden to elevating the concept of self-sustenance and women empowerment, the movies made by the media mogul are very moving and conceptually marvelous. His Sitara cine magazine brought richness to cinema journalism and added value to reviews. Concerning cinema Ramoji Rao's contribution is holistic

#### **EDITORS GUILD** HAILS RAMOJI RAO **AS TRAILBLAZER**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI The Editors Guild of India on Saturday condoled the death of its former president Ramoji Rao, the founder of Eenadu daily and the ETV net-

Rao breathed his last in Hyderabad early on Saturday.

The Guild said Rao would be best remembered as being a media owner who on several occasions took on the establishment and

to power.
"He was a trailblazer in many ways. Besides launching the multi-edition Eenadu daily, he was the head of the Telugu news and entertainment network, ETV, and also set up the Ramoji Film City," it said in a statement.The Guild said icon and continue to inspire journalists of recipient of the Padma

## AP CS PAYS TRIBUTES TO

Kumar Prasad on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh State government paid tributes to media baron Ramoji Group at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Rao would remain an this country. Rao was a Vibĥushan.

## RAMOJI RAO

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State Government Chief Secretary Neerabh Ramoji Rao chairman at

# Pedaparupudi mourns its greatest son Ramoji Rao

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A pall of gloom descended over Pedaparupudi village in the Pamarru constituency of Krishna district, the birthplace of Ch Ramoji Rao, following the news of his sudden demise on Saturday morning. Villagers and close associates gathered to pay floral tributes to his portrait and praised his numerous contributions to the village.

tent in the village square, where they displayed a portrait of Ramoji Rao and chanted 'Johar Ramoji Rao' in his honour. Members of the Ramoji Foundation, along with several villagers, travelled to Hyderabad to pay their final respects.

Village Sarpanch Ch Sameera, along with friends and villagers, including Paladugu Chandrasekhar, Garapati Baburao, Ratna Prasad (Nani), Kanagala

Village Sarpanch Ch Sameera, along with friends and villagers, including Paladugu Chandrasekhar, Garapati Baburao, Ratna Prasad (Nani), Kanagala Parvathi, Nagaboina Srinivasa Rao, Paladugu Sandhyarani, Lavanya, and Nagaboina Ramana, were among those who gathered to honour Rao's memory Parvathi, Nagaboina Srinivasa Rao's philanthropic efforts in

gu Sandhvarani Lavanya, and Nagaboina Ramana, were among those who gathered to honour Rao's Paladugu Chandrasekhar

remarked that Ramoji Rao, who hailed from a humble agricultural background, achieved extraordinary success and his passing has deeply affected the villagers. Chandrasekhar highlighted Rao's significant contributions to both Telugu states and the nation, noting that he was a valuable asset to the Telugu people.

viding employment opportunities for the youth, were particularly lauded.

Ramoji Rao was born on November 16, 1936, in Pedaparupudi, Krishna district, to Venkatasubbamma and Venkata Subbarao. His ancestors were originally from Perisepalli village in the district. After the death of his grandfather Ramayya, his family moved to Pedaparupudi. Born just 13 days after his grandfather's demise, Rao was named

Ramaiah in his memory. However, he later changed his name to Ramoji Rao upon joining primary school, a name he carried throughout his life. He was raised with great care as the only son among three children, alongside his elder sisters Rajyalakshmi Ranganayakamma.

Rao's education began in Gudiwada High School in 1947, where he completed his schooling before pursuing intermediate and B.Sc. degrees at Gudivada College. On August 19, 1961, Ramoji Rao married Ramadevi, originally named Ramanamma, the second daughter of Tatineni Venkata Subbaiah and Vanidevi of Penamalur.Pamarru MLA Kumar Raja expressed his grief over Ramoji Rao's sudden passing and extended his deepest condolences to Rao's family.

Ramoji Rao's legacy of service and impact on the community and beyond will be remembered and cherished by all who know him.

## Scribes pay rich tributes

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indian media community is reeling from the devastating news of the passing of Cherukuri Ramoji Rao, media stalwart and head of the ETV Group of Companies. Rao, whose visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to journalistic integrity have left an indelible mark on the industry, passed away earlier this morning, leaving behind a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.

As the news of Rao's demise

sions of deepest condolences pour in from across the nation. Colleagues, peers, and admirers alike are united in grief, reflecting on the profound impact Rao had on the media landscape and beyond. Adapaka Satya Rao, chairman of the joint Andhra Pradesh Press Academy, led the chorus of condolences, expressing deep sorrow at the loss of Cherukuri Ramoji Rao. "Rao's contributions to the media sector were unparalleled, and his passing leaves a void that

spreads, tributes and expres-

will be difficult to fill," remarked Satya Rao, speaking

on behalf of the industry. Rao's leadership of the ETV Group of Companies was characterized by innovation, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to delivering quality journalism to the masses. Under his guidance, the ETV network became synonymous with excellence, setting new standards for news reporting and media ethics.

Expressions of grief and remembrance flood social media platforms, with col-

sharing heartfelt anecdotes and memories of their interactions with Rao. His mentorship, generosity, and unwavering dedication to the principles of journalism have left an enduring impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him. As the Indian media community comes to terms with the loss of one of its most respected figures, there is a collective sense of gratitude for Rao's contributions and a commitment to upholding his legacy of excellence.

#### **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Kalyan stated.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena chief and MLA K Pawan Kalyan has condoled

the death of Eenadu group

Saturday, Pawan Kalyan said that the sudden demise of

The journey of Ramoji Rao in

the world of media, abiding to

the ideologies, which he

believed, was unparalleled. "His

demise is a great loss to the

media sector. I pray to god for

his soul to rest in peace," Pawan

Ramoji Rao strongly empha-

sized that the media has a social

responsibility and created aware-

ness on various issues including

the Right to Information Act

chairman Ch Ramoji Rao. In a message here on

Ramoji Rao shocked him.

Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan and Jr NTR were among the prominent cinema personalities who expressed grief over the demise of media baron Ramoji Rao, the founder of Eenadu Group and Ramoji Film City.

Rao, who revolutionised the news and entertainment industry, died at a hospital in Hyderabad early on Saturday. He was 88.

In a post on X, Rajinikanth remembered Rao as his mentor and well wisher and said he is "deeply saddened" by his death.

"The man who created history in Journalism, Cinema and a great kingmaker in Politics. He was my guide and inspiration in my life. May his soul rest in peace. @Ramoji\_FilmCity," the

and water conservation, The JSP

chief added. Pawan Kalyan con-

veyed his sympathies to the

paid homage to the mortal

remains of Ramoji Rao in

Hyderabad. He consoled the

bereaved family members. "I

thought of meeting Ramoji Rao

Meanwhile, Pawan Kalyan

bereaved family.

Chiranjeevi posted an emotional message on X, saying that Ramoji Rao, who was like a mountain that never bowed down to any-

one, has reached the heavenly abode. Allu Arjun said Ramoji Rao was a "pioneer and an inspiring visionary" and he has a deep respect for the media baron.

"I feel his aura every time I shoot at #RFC. His unparalleled contributions to the media, cinema, and many other industries will never be forgotten. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his great soul rest in peace," he wrote on X.

The Ramoji Film City (RFC) has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's largest film city.

## Rajinikanth, Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun and Ram Charan pay tribute to Ramoji Rao

Thousands of films, including SS Rajamouli's two-part blockbuster "Baahubali", in almost all Indian languages and some in Hindi, have been shot at the Ramoji Film City on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

"RRR" stars Ram Ćharan credited Ramoji Rao for transforming the landscape of regional media with Eenadu.

"The establishment of Ramoji Film City, the world's largest film studio, has become a landmark destination for filmmakers worldwide. Shri Ramoji Rao Garu will be

remembered forever for his warm personality and remarkable contribution to the Telugu people. My deepest condolences to his family and his admirers," he added. Charan's "RRR" co-star Jr NTR

said visionaries like Ramoji Rao are "one in a million". He recalled working on his debut movie "Ninnu Choodalani" (2000), which was produced by Rao.

"A media tycoon and a giant of Indian cinema, his absence is irreparable. The news that he is no longer with us is very sad. I will never forget the memories when I was introduced to the Telugu film industry with the film 'Ninnu Choodalani'. May his soul rest in peace and convey my deepest condolences to his family," he wrote on X.

Filmmaker SS Rajamouli, the director of "Baahubali" and "RRR", said Rao should be honoured with Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour.

"ONE man with his 50 years of resilience, hardwork and innovation provided employment, livelihood and hope for millions. The only way we can pay tribute to Ramoji Rao garu is conferring him with BHARAT RATNA'," he wrote on X.

Allu Arjun commented on Rajamouli's post, saying, "I had the same feeling in my heart sir . You spoke my heart. Thank you for voic-

Venkatesh Daggubati said Ramoji Rao garu was a "true visionary whose revolutionary work in Indian media has left an unforgettable

legacy".
"His contributions to journalism and cinema have inspired so many. He will be missed dearly. Heartfelt condolences to his loved ones. May

his soul rest in peace," he added. Actor Kajal Aggarwal said she is deeply saddened by Rao's death. "My heartfelt condolences to his family during this difficult time. His legacy will continue to inspire many. May his soul rest in peace. Om

Shanti," read her post on X. Actor-politician Khushbu Sundar wrote, "Deepest condolences at the demise of a legend, a pioneer in the world of cinema, founder of

#RamojiRaoStudios, #RamojiRao gaaru. May his soul rest in peace. Om Shanti.

Actor Varun Tej said the demise of Ramoji Rao has left a significant void in the world of journalism and the film industry. "May his soul rest in peace," he posted.

Music composer Thaman S recalled the support Ramoji Rao provided him during his journey in cinema.

"I am deeply Saddened by the loss of Shri Ramoji Rao Gaaru. He gave us the best recording & technical support in the year 2012 to 2016 when we did all our musical works at Symphony Recording Studios (Ramoji Film City). His support towards our musical journey would always be UNFORGETTABLE," he posted on X