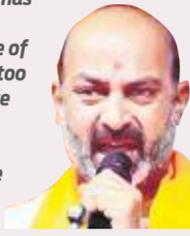


The students in Telangana Government schools are still eating poison from their plates. Whether it is the BRS or the Congress, food poisoning remains a bitter reality. The Congress has inherited the incompetence of the BRS. Is it too much when we demand that governments should ensure safe meals for our kids?



- Bandi Sanjay, Minister of State for Home Affairs

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

Speculations gain momentum in K'taka

'INDIA NEEDS QUANTUM LEAP IN SCALE, SIZE OF FISCAL BODIES

Gold medalist-turned-director, Suku Purvaj taking Telugu cinema BY STORM

DON'T MISS... HYDRAA chief inspects lakes

In response to complaints from locals regarding encroachments on lakes, HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath conducted an on-site inspection on Wednesday. He visited several lakes, including Nizam Talab Lake (Turak Cheruvu) in Nizampet, Medi Kunta Lake in Madhapur, Yee Dulakunta, Nekkampur Lake in Narsingi, Vanam Cheruvu in Tellapur, Chellikunta and Mella Cheruvu. During ...

-PAGE: 3

Replace Rahul, not EVM: BJP

The BJP on Wednesday said the Congress suffered a crushing defeat in Maharashtra assembly polls not because of the EVMs but poor management by its leadership, and asked the opposition party's president Mallikarjun Kharge to consider "replacing" Rahul Gandhi instead of the voting machines. Taking a swipe at the Congress president over his latest remarks on the EVMs, BJP Lok Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra also said Kharge ...

-PAGE: 5

Debt on major telcos hits Rs 4.09 lakh cr

The total debt on four major telecom operators in the country stood at Rs 4,09,905 crore in the financial year 2024, with state-owned BSNL recording the lowest debt among competitors at Rs 23,297 cr, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. According to data shared by Minister of State for Communications Pemmasani Chandrababu Naidu in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Vodafone Idea registered a debt of Rs 2.07 lakh crore, Bharti Airtel ...

-PAGE: 8

Gavaskar credits Kohli's adjustment

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar feels a subtle adjustment to his batting stance in the second innings of the Perth Test helped Virat Kohli neutralise the Australian attack and rediscover his vintage form. Kohli arrived in Australia after a lean run of form across formats in recent months. His struggles against spin on turning tracks raised doubts about his spot in the team. However, he silenced his detractors by scoring his 30th Test ton in the first Test at Perth. It was his first hundred ...

-SPORTS

Bulgaria keen on increasing trade with TG: Sridhar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bulgaria has expressed interest in enhancing bilateral ties with Telangana, focusing on trade and cultural collaboration.

The Bulgarian Ambassador to India, Dr Nikolay Yankov, met IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the Secretariat on Wednesday to discuss partnerships. Dr Yankov was accompanied by Dr Kiran Kumar, the CEO of Suchir India Infra and the Honorary Consul of Bulgaria.

During the meeting, Sridhar welcomed the Ambassador's proposal for a shared platform to boost trade and industrial investments between Bulgaria and Telangana.

Highlighting Telangana's strengths in innovation, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, Sridhar invited Bulgarian firms to explore opportunities in these sectors.

Continued on Page 2

KALESHWARAM PROJECT State's failure to submit data delays NDSA report

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The submission of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) expert committee report on Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages has been delayed due to incomplete tests and missing data from the state government, said Vedire Sriram, the Advisor to the Union Jal Shakti Department.

Sriram gave these details through an affidavit submitted before the Justice PC Ghose Commission.

The affidavit outlined issues connected to the Kaleshwaram Project, including aspects of planning and the collapse of the Medigadda Dam's piers. The document also mentioned recent developments and clarified action taken by the authorities.

The NDSA gave its initial report on November 3, 2023, after the piers of the Medigadda Barrage sank.

Sriram said that the TG government has not completed the geotechnical tests recommended by the NDSA, leading to delays. He disclosed that state engineers had filled potholes under the barrage without the NDSA's approval through grouting. Critical geotechnical data under the barrages has been lost complicating the assessment process, he said.



The NDSA committee suggested conducting geophysical tests at specific locations and submitting the results for analysis. However, Sriram pointed out that the NDSA has not received any

Continued on Page 2

'People already fed up with TG Congress govt'



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the people of Telangana are fed up with the Congress Government and have horrible memories of BRS misrule.

The Prime Minister met BJP legislators and MPs from Telangana in New Delhi on Wednesday. The meeting expressed satisfaction with the party's growing presence in the state and discussed its future course of action.

Modi expressed confidence in the BJP's prospects, emphasising the public's disillusionment with the Congress Government and the lingering discontent over the earlier

BRS rule. Later, in a statement posted on social media, Modi highlighted the BJP's increasing support in Telangana.

"The people of Telangana are fed up with the Congress and have horrible memories of BRS misrule. They are looking towards the BJP with great hope," he said.

The Prime Minister assured the Telangana BJP leaders of the party's commitment to addressing all the issues plaguing the state and pledged to be a strong voice against "the anti-people policies of the Congress and the BRS."

Modi said that while the Congress had promised change, the only visible transformation was the change in the individuals wielding power and not the condition of commoners.

He also directed BJP cadres to continue explaining the party's development agenda, urging them to reach out to the people of Telangana with a strong focus on grassroots issues. The meeting aimed to align the state leaders' moves with

Continued on Page 2



Godavari water to meet Hyd's needs, irrigation: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, announced a comprehensive plan to divert Godavari waters to Singur, Manjeera and Nizamsagar reservoirs to meet Hyderabad's drinking water requirements and to expand irrigated area.

The announcement came during a review at the Jalasoudha on irrigation and lift irrigation projects in the erstwhile Medak district.

During the meeting, attended by

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, former MLA T. Jayaprakash Reddy, the Special Secretary for Irrigation, Prashant Jeevan Patil, and senior officials including Engineers-in-Chief Anil Kumar and Nagender Rao, Uttam outlined the key initiatives aimed at improving the water infrastructure in the region.

He directed officials to finalise plans for desilting the Singur reservoir to enhance its storage capacity, emphasising adherence to Central

Continued on Page 2

Ponnam seeks Central help for TG's road safety, transport initiatives

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Telangana Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, sought the Centre's support for transport and road safety measures in the state.



Telangana Minister for Transport Ponnam Prabhakar met Central Minister Nitin Gadkari in Delhi on Wednesday

Ponnam met the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Ponnam highlighted the state's initiatives in road safety. He emphasised

Telangana's steps to streamline vehicle registrations and the issuing of driving licenses by integrating them into the Vahan and Sarathi portals.

He also discussed the establishment of vehicle scrapping facilities and awareness campaigns on road safety through children's traffic awareness parks in schools.

Two Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) centres have already been approved in Telangana, and administrative sanction has been granted for establishing 37 Automated Vehicle Fitness Testing Stations.

The Telangana Government has also waived 100% road tax and registration fees for electric vehicles purchased and registered in the state.

Ponnam sought approval for several projects, including setting up an Institute of

Continued on Page 2



'Action plan to enforce HC orders on Musi'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior officials of the Telangana Government met on Tuesday to deliberate on the High Court's directives endorsing the Musi River Revitalisation Project.

The meeting focussed on formulating an action plan to comply with the court's orders, including the removal of encroachments and restoration of water resources.

During the meeting, officials discussed strategies for enforcing the judgement, including surveys to identify encroachments, alternative housing arrangements for displaced individuals and ensuring compliance with the 1,317 Fasli Act and the Hyderabad Irrigation Act.

The High Court, in its judgement, dismissed 46 petitions challenging eviction notices issued under the project. The court backed the state's efforts to reclaim the Musi River's buffer zones, full tank level (FTL), and riverbed areas from unauthorised buildings, emphasising the historical and legal framework protecting water resources in the region.

The court referred to the catastrophic Musi floods of 1908, which prompted the Nizam administration to build Osman Sagar and

Continued on Page 2

FOOD SAFETY IN TELANGANA Congress govt continuing BRS' negligence: Sanjay



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, has strongly criticised the Congress Government in Telangana for its handling of food safety in govern-

ment schools, alleging that the negligence of the BRS admin continues unabated.

Posting on X, Sanjay pointed out that food poisoning incidents remain a recurring issue under the Congress government, betraying the trust of students and their families.

"Telangana government school students are still eating poison," he stated and accused both the BRS and Congress governments of incompetence.

Sanjay argued that while the Congress claimed to bring change, the only change witnessed was the change in power, with the plight of schoolchildren remaining unchanged. He emphasised the repeated failures of governments in ensuring the safety of mid-day meals for children, stating, "This is not just a failure but a betrayal of trust."

Sanjay also raised questions about the Congress government's ability to govern effectively,

Exclusive Ground Report Day 1

UPSTREAM MUSI: WHERE DOOM AND DREAM CONVERGE

The 250-km-long Musi River, which originates in the Anantagiri Hills, near Vikarabad, and flows through the Deccan Plateau, is no longer the historically bountiful river that once flowed unpolluted east and then turned south at Chitaloor, before joining the Krishna River at Wadapally, enriching communities along its course. A tributary of the Krishna River, the Musi River vir-

ually divides Hyderabad into the old and new city. Today only some pockets around the Himayat Sagar and the Osman Sagar -- dams constructed over the river - retain a semblance of its pristine splendor. The 20-km stretch of the river within Hyderabad is highly polluted with domestic and industrial waste as local communities brazenly use the riverbed for bathing, washing clothes, cultivation, and grazing.



NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The Pioneer embarked on a 55-kilometer-long journey along the Musi River on 22nd October for exploration, accompanied by hydrologist K Srinivas, a water resources engineering expert from IIT Bombay. This ground report, with tell-tale pieces of incontrovertible evidence, is aimed at putting the state of this

river in perspective today as it flows through Hyderabad, from Gandipet to its exit at Gowrelli. This is the first part of a series of reports, focusing on the upstream stretches of the Musi, particularly from Gandipet to Babu Ghat, where the river's natural beauty is scarred by pollution, garbage, and encroachments.

Gandipet and Himayath Sagar to Babu Ghat, reveals a tale of striking contrasts. This portion of the historic river retains glimpses of its natural charm, yet faces growing challenges from pollution, garbage, and encroachments that threaten its ecological balance.

In Hyderabad, the Musi begins its journey at Gandipet, where its natural riverbed remains largely intact. Clear banks, gentle slopes, and a

defined channel offer a rare view of the river's original form. However, even this pristine environment is tainted by piles of garbage, including discarded furniture including beds, clothes, and household items. To the extent of its untouched beauty, Gandipet serves as

Continued on Page 3



Adani scam: How political nexus lets the guilty evade justice

The United States' legal action against the Adani Group has sent shockwaves through global financial and political circles, unveiling allegations of financial and ethical misconduct. At the heart of this unfolding controversy lies a contentious solar power agreement between the erstwhile YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led Andhra Pradesh government and the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). This deal is now mired in suspicion, with explosive claims that Adani either paid or pledged a staggering Rs 1,750 crore as an 'incentive' to the then Andhra Pradesh regime. These allegations spotlight larger issues of corruption, accountability, and the opaque nexus between politics and big business.

The alleged kickbacks and the solar power deal
The Andhra Pradesh gov-

ernment signed a 7-megawatt solar power agreement with SECI, involving the Adani Group as a key stakeholder. Allegations suggest that this deal came with a hefty price: Rs 1,750 crore, purportedly offered as a 'kickback' to facilitate the agreement. Such a figure is unprecedented and mind-boggling, shedding light on how large-scale corruption may have influenced a vital public sector project.

For a state like Andhra Pradesh, already grappling with financial constraints, entering into such a costly agreement without due diligence has profound implications. The real burden, however, will ultimately fall on the people of Andhra Pradesh, who are likely to face steep power tariffs in the years to come as a result of this questionable deal. The very purpose of solar energy as a cost-effective and sustainable solu-

The Andhra Pradesh government signed a 7-megawatt solar power agreement with SECI, involving the Adani Group as a key stakeholder. Allegations suggest that this deal came with a hefty price: Rs 1,750 crore, purportedly offered as a 'kickback' to facilitate the agreement

tion is undermined when such allegations of corruption surface.

While national and international media have zeroed in on Adani, portraying the company as the bribe giver, the question of accountability for the bribe takers remains conspicuously unanswered. Among them, the spotlight inevitably falls on the Andhra Pradesh government and key officials who may have facilitated this deal. The identity of 'AP

Official #1'—a term used to hint at the highest echelons of the state administration—is yet to be disclosed, but suspicions naturally circle around YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration.

The lack of inquiry into the state government's role is perplexing. It highlights a troubling asymmetry in the focus of investigations, with the bribe givers facing scrutiny while the bribe takers remain largely unscathed.



RAMESH KANDULA
Chief Editor Swatantra TV and author

The Modi government's ambivalence

A striking element of this saga is the apparent reluctance of the Modi government to push Indian investigative agencies into action. Adani's alleged proximity to Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a subject of considerable debate. Critics

argue that this relationship is the primary reason why central agencies have not been instructed to probe the allegations thoroughly.

The inaction speaks volumes about the selective application of justice in cases involving influential individuals or entities. The Modi government's silence, despite the gravity of the allegations, raises questions about its commitment to transparency and anti-corruption.

Andhra Pradesh's peculiar political silence

Interestingly, the alliance government in Andhra Pradesh, comprising the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), Telugu Desam Party (TDP), and Jana Sena, appears equally uninterested in addressing the issue. Neither the TDP nor the Jana Sena has shown any inclination to initiate an inquiry, fearing repercussions

from the central government. Their reluctance stems from a desire not to ruffle feathers in Delhi, especially given Adani's perceived clout with the Modi administration.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is viewed as the most likely recipient of the alleged Adani kickbacks, remains nonchalant. His confidence seemingly stems from the belief that he will not be held accountable, given Adani's role as a 'shield' against legal consequences. Such a scenario creates a dangerous precedent where political leaders feel emboldened to act without fear of retribution.

The people pay the price

The most disheartening aspect of this issue is its impact on the people of Andhra Pradesh. The state's residents are set to bear the financial brunt of this flawed agreement through inflated power tariffs. Solar energy, touted as a solu-

tion to reduce costs and dependency on fossil fuels, has become an economic burden due to alleged corruption.

Ideally, the state government should take immediate action to investigate the matter and ensure that public interest is safeguarded. However, the peculiar political situation, where no party wants to antagonize the central government or the Adani Group, has left the issue in limbo. This abdication of responsibility by both the ruling and opposition parties is a betrayal of public trust.

The Adani case and its ramifications on Andhra Pradesh's solar power agreement reveal a troubling nexus of politics, business, and corruption. The silence of both state and central governments on this issue is a stark reminder of the challenges India faces in ensuring accountability in public life.

Rs 54,280 crore spent on farmers' welfare: Govt

Three-day farmers' fest begins in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government will celebrate the three-day Rythu Panduga (Farmers' Festival) from Wednesday to November 30, with Mahabubnagar as the main venue.

The Telangana Government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has prioritised farmer welfare in its first year, spending Rs 54,280 crore on various schemes, CMO sources said. The event aims to create awareness among farmers about modern agriculture, profitable farming and cropping strategies.

The Agriculture Department, along with allied departments, has made extensive arrangements to ensure the active participation of farmers from all districts. The festival will have programmes to educate farmers and to display best agricultural practices.

As part of the event, a Rythu Sadassu (farmers' conference) will be held featuring 150 stalls set up under the supervision of 25 different departments. Agricultural scientists, model farmers from various districts and representatives from universities and agriculture-related departments will attend these sessions.

The state has become a model for

Scheme/Expense	Amount (Rs. Cr)
Farmer Loan Waiver	17,869
Rythu Bandhu	7,625
Rythu Bima	1,455
Crop Insurance	1,300
Free Electricity	10,444
2023-24 Paddy Procurement	10,547
Current Season Paddy Procurement	5,040
Total	54,280

farmer-friendly initiatives, registering a record by cultivating paddy on 66.77 lakh acres and harvesting 153 lakh tons of paddy. The government waived crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh taken by farmers having ration cards and deposited Rs 17,870 crore into the bank accounts of 22.22 lakh farmers.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently said in Vemulawada that all eligible farmers would benefit from the loan waivers including those without ration cards. The government has continued the free electricity supply scheme for farmers introduced by former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy by allocating Rs 10,444 crore this year as subsidies.

Congress gets ready for Mahabubnagar Farmers' Fest

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TPCC held a Zoom meeting under the leadership of TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud to discuss preparations for the farmers' festival scheduled in Mahabubnagar on November 30.

The meeting, attended by Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao,

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, and Mahesh Kumar Goud focused on the key initiatives to make the event a grand success.

Mahesh praised the Congress government's achievements over the past year, highlighting that no other state government has undertaken such 'monumental' programmes.

BRS plans 'Gurukula Bata' Ponnam seeks ...

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao announced the launch of the 'Gurukula Bata' programme, aimed at investigating the alarming state of government residential schools, KGBVs and model schools across Telangana.

The programme, which will run from November 30 to December 7, seeks to assess the conditions of these institutions, following reports of gross negligence, student deaths and recurring food poisoning incidents under Congress rule. KTR expressed anguish over the tragic deaths of 48 students in 38 incidents of food poisoning in a year. "This government has

pushed education into a crisis. The Chief Minister, preoccupied with his 28 trips to New Delhi, has no time for students. The absence of a dedicated education minister has made the situation worse," KTR said, holding the Congress admin accountable for "criminal negligence."

He criticised the Congress Government for its failure to act on repeated incidents of student distress. He pointed out that last year 23 students committed suicide, eight died under suspicious circumstances and many others due to food poisoning and illness.

"Despite these heart-breaking incidents, the government has done nothing to address these issues," KTR said.

Continued from page 1

Driving Training and Research (IDTR) in the Hyderabad Metropolitan Area as per the 15th Finance Commission recommendations.

He also sought help for establishing a multi-lane automated vehicle fitness testing station and establishing an integrated command control centre to monitor public transport vehicles to ensure road safety. He also requested help to deploy electronic enforcement measures in the Hyderabad region for automatic e-challan generation on national and state highways.

The Minister requested the transfer of vehicle data to the national register maintained by the NIC, with special teams assigned to speed up the

process without data loss.

He also requested funds for providing advanced training for MVI and AMVI officers and help for automating the 21 driving testing tracks in the state to improve efficiency.

Pointing out the growing demand for EV charging stations, Ponnam sought the Centre's help to establish such facilities and expand technical infrastructure. He also urged Gadkari to allocate funds for converting single-lane roads to double-lane in his constituency Husnabad.

The meeting was attended by MPs Mallu Ravi, Balram Naik, Raghuram Reddy, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna and Suresh Shetkar, who supported the Minister's proposals and stressed their importance in enhancing transport infrastructure and road safety in Telangana.

Congress govt ...

Continued from page 1

citing its inability to address even basic responsibilities like providing safe food for children. "Are our children destined to suffer because both the BRS and Congress governments lack the basic competence to provide safe food? Power changed hands, but negligence stayed the same," he remarked.

The BJP leader also called on the Congress government to take immediate action to address the issue of food poisoning in schools. He urged them to prioritize the safety and well-being of children, stating that the negligence reflects poorly on the administration's capability to lead the state. Sanjay's comments come in the context of the recent food poisoning incidents in government schools, which have sparked outrage among parents and opposition parties alike.

The BJP has demanded stricter measures to ensure food safety in schools and prevent harm to students.

'Action plan to ...

Continued from page 1

Himayat Sagar reservoirs for flood control and water supply. These measures were complemented by the enactment of the 1317 Faslai Act 8, which categorized all water bodies and related structures as government property.

Despite these laws, the court noted widespread encroachments on water bodies and riverbeds, including unauthorized religious and private buildings. It highlighted the subsequent Hyderabad Irrigation Act of 1357 Faslai, introduced in 1948, which strengthened protection for water resources and vested enforcement powers with government irrigation officers. The High Court issued several key directives like to serve notices and to remove encroachments in the Musi River's buffer zones, FTL and riverbed. The HC also asked the admin to survey affected residents and provide alternative housing form them as per state regulations.

The HC also asked the admin to compensate individuals with valid title deeds for acquired land and to strictly adhere to timelines for clearing encroachments. The HC also directed municipal authorities to consider its guidelines from previous judgments while addressing stay or injunction requests. Petitioners and encroachers were instructed not to block government surveys.

HC sets deadline for determining FTLs of Hyd water bodies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has asserted its jurisdiction over all lakes in Hyderabad, mandating the determination of Full Tank Levels (FTLs) and buffer zones for all water bodies coming under the jurisdiction of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

The decision came during a hearing on a petition seeking to prevent construction in the

buffer zone of the Ramamma Pond. In July, the TG government had informed the court that there are 3,532 ponds under the HMDA's purview. The court has now ordered that the FTLs and buffer zones should be determined for all water bodies. During the latest hearing, the HMDA Commissioner informed the court that preliminary notifications have been issued for 2,793 ponds, while final notifications have been

completed for 530 ponds.

The court directed the HMDA to complete issuing final notifications for all ponds in Hyderabad, specifying their FTLs and buffer zones, within three months. The High Court adjourned the matter to December 30, reiterating the importance of safeguarding the city's water bodies from encroachments and ensuring adherence to environmental regulations.

Caste survey 95% over, nearing completion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The comprehensive socio-economic, educational, employment, political and caste census survey in Telangana is 95% over as of Tuesday. Of the total 1,18,02,726 identified households, data collection has been completed for 1,10,98,360 households, leaving only 7,04,366 households to be surveyed.

The authorities have been

closely monitoring the process to ensure accurate computerisation of the data, says a press release from the Special Commissioner of Information and Public Relations.

Officials have already computerised information for 29,82,034 households, with strict measures in place to ensure accuracy. Mulugu district has taken the lead in data computerisation, completing 70.3% of

the process, followed by Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district with 59.8%. In GHMC limits, significant progress has been made. Out of 25,05,517 households to be surveyed, 20,15,965 have been covered, achieving 80.5% completion. Efforts are underway to speed up the process and meet the deadline. State and district-level authorities are supervising the computerisation process meticulously.

Opposition protests rock Parliament on 2nd day of winter session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament failed to transact any significant business on the second day of the winter session as protests by opposition members who were pressing for discussions on allegations of irregularities against the Adani Group, Sambhal violence and other issues rocked both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. The two Houses were adjourned once in the morning and later for the day amid continuing uproar by opposition members.



Soon after the Lok Sabha met, Speaker Om Birla took up the Question Hour, but adjourned the House proceedings following sloganeering by the opposition members.

They wanted to discuss the allegations of irregularities against the Adani group and the recent violence in Sambhal

during a court-ordered survey of a mosque. They trooped into the Well of the House raising slogans as soon as the House met again at 12 noon.

BJP member Dilip Saikia, who was in the chair, adjourned the proceedings for the day after official papers were laid on the table.

State's failure ...

Continued from page 1

data from the state government. "Once the required data is submitted, the NDSA will deliver its report within two months," Sriram said.

The affidavit highlighted the urgency of cooperation between the state government and the NDSA to speed up the report and address structural issues in the barrages.

The matter gained attention due to its implications on dam safety and the potential risks posed to downstream areas.

Bulgaria keen on ...

Continued from page 1

Dr Nikolay Yankov expressed appreciation for Telangana's initiatives and proposed a follow-up meeting with representatives from both sides. He emphasised Bulgaria's commitment to fostering growth through cooperation in trade and cultural exchange.

The meeting also saw the participation of Industries Commissioner Dr Malsoor and TSIC CEO V. Madhusudan, underlining the state's focus on building robust ties.

'People already ... Pay Rs 40,800 crore ...

Continued from page 1

the national vision for progress. The delegation of the Telangana BJP, including eight Lok Sabha MPs, eight MLAs, one Rajya Sabha MP and one MLC, met Prime Minister Modi under the leadership of Telangana BJP President Union Minister Kishan Reddy.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed key state issues, development challenges and the party's prospects in Telangana. The meeting stressed the BJP's commitment to strengthening the state's development trajectory and addressing regional concerns.

or even purchase crops at minimum support prices forcing farmers into distress.

He highlighted the tragic deaths of 563 farmers over the past year and held the Congress responsible for their plight. He accused the government of reneging on its commitments, such as crop bonuses, support for tenant farmers, and aid for agricultural labourers.

Citing the government's claims of spending Rs 54,280 crore on farmer welfare, he dismissed the figure as inflated.

"Of this amount, Rs 27,486 crore was allocated for pro-

grammes like Rythu Bima, free electricity and paddy procurement which were initiated by the BRS government. Any government would have had to continue these schemes," he stated.

Harish demanded that the Congress government address its actual financial obligations to farmers, which he estimated at Rs 40,800 crore. This includes Rs 14,000 crore for pending loan waiver, Rs 7,500 crore for Kharif Rythu Bandhu, Rs 3,000 crore for tenant farmers, Rs 16,000 crore for agricultural labourers, Rs 3,000 crore for crop bonuses and Rs 11,700

crore for crop losses due to unseasonal rains.

"If you truly care about farmers, release the pending Rs 40,800 crore along with Rabi season's Rythu Bharosa immediately. Then celebrate your festival," he said. He accused the Congress of using farmers for electoral gains and criticised its failure to ensure fair crop prices, provide adequate procurement centres or proper compensation for losses.

He concluded by calling the Farmers' Festival an insult to the farmers who have been let down by the Congress government.

City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 28, 2024

03



CITY EVENTS

Annual Day Celebrations

Slate The School

Venue

Ravindra Bharathi
Near State Assembly,
Lakdikapul Road,
November 28

Cultural Programmes

By Arshi Dance Academy

Venue

Ravindra Bharathi,
Near State Assembly,
Lakdikapul Road,
November 28, at 6.10 pm

Live Performance

By Samarth Band

Venue

Amnesia - Lounge Bar
1102, 5th Floor 36, Jaya
Chambers,
Rd number 41, CBI
Colony, Jubilee Hills
November 28

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends

Venue

Culinary Guru Institute,
Hyderabad.
Till January 11, 2025.

Arijit Singh Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for now. General sale on October 23, 1 pm. Get tickets only on insider.in and paytm.

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Texture art workshop

This workshop is suitable for artists of all levels, from beginners looking to explore new artistic horizons to seasoned artists seeking to enhance their skills and repertoire.

Venue

Multiple venues in Hyderabad till December 8

HC flays authorities over midday meal incidents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has expressed strong disapproval of repeated incidents of students falling ill after consuming midday meals at a government school in Maganoor in Narayanpet district.

"How can school officials be so negligent while children are repeatedly falling sick? This is a serious issue," the court remarked during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

The PIL raised concerns about the lack of hygiene and quality in midday meals served in government schools. The court noted that three such incidents were reported within a week and questioned, "Are officials waiting for children to die before taking action?"

The court also criticised the Advocate General (AG) for taking a week to verify information from district officials, remarking, "Do officials only work when the court intervenes?"

The AG confirmed that the students' illness was caused by consuming 'kurkure' snacks. The court has directed authorities to submit a detailed report on the actions taken and ordered investigations into similar incidents in Maganoor, Karimnagar and Burugupally.

The next hearing has been scheduled for Monday.

Woman dies after falling from ninth floor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman died under suspicious circumstances after falling from the ninth floor of My Home Bhooja Apartments in Raidurgam.

Raidurgam inspector Venkanna explained to The Pioneer that Rajesh Babu (54), a resident in the ninth floor of My Home Bhooja Apartments, was connected with Ashvita Singh from Odisha for surrogacy purposes. In the process, Ashvita was not allowed to go outside. She resisted to help the person for surrogacy and planned to leave. While on her escape from the floor she slipped to death, said the Raidurgam Police. A case has been registered.



HYDRAA Commissioner inspects lakes amidst land-grab complaints

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In response to complaints from locals regarding encroachments on lakes, HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath conducted an on-site inspection on Wednesday.

He visited several lakes, including Nizam Talab Lake (Turak Cheruvu) in Nizampet, Medi Kunta Lake in Madhapur, Yee Dulakunta, Nekkampur Lake in Narsingi, Vanam Cheruvu in Tellapur, Chellikunta and Mella Cheruvu. During the visit, several local residents lodged complaints about encroachments on the lakes.

The locals submitted petitions requesting the restoration of the lakes and provided details about their history. They also raised concerns that the beautification of the lakes, such as constructing fences around them, is being used as an excuse to encroach on the buffer zones.

Further complaints were made about sewage from gated communities flowing into the lakes, causing



pollution.

In response, Commissioner Ranganath assured the locals that steps would be taken to prevent further encroachments on the lakes. He instructed officials to gather full details on the lakes and ensure that no encroachments occur.

He also assured the public that after a comprehensive review, necessary action would be taken to preserve the lakes and prevent encroachment.

7 booked for illegal water connections in Shamshabad

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has filed criminal cases against seven individuals for illegally obtaining water connections without proper authorisation. The accused, residents of Kumari Basti, Yadav Basti and Kappugadda areas under the Shamshabad section of O&M Division No. 18, were found to have two water connections each, one of which lacked necessary documentation. The individuals identified as B Ravi, B Krishna, B Kumar, B Anjaiah, Mahboobi, K Balaraj and T Bhaskar failed to provide valid certificates for one of their connections during a field inspection conducted by HMWSSB officials. HMWSSB has issued a stern warning to residents, stating that any unauthorised water or sewerage connections will result in criminal prosecution. Citizens are urged to report such illegal activities to the HMWSSB vigilance team at 9898998100 or 9898998135.

GHMC STANDING COMMITTEE APPROVALS

NOC issued for 31.39-acre land in Nampally for OGH construction

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Standing Committee has approved nine items on Wednesday chaired by Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi.

During the meeting, the committee approved most of the urgent items such as issuance of an NOC for the 31.39-acre land in Nampally Ward 45 for the construction of the Osmania General Hospital including police quarters, stadiums, basketball and badminton courts.

The committee approved the construction of a box drain for the extension of the Nagamaiah Kunta Nala, with an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore using the left-over funds from the Rs 19.34 crore earlier project.

The committee approved the acquisition of 174 properties for the road development from Habib Nagar to Chandrayangutta Main Road and from Riyasath



Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi and Commissioner K Ilambarathi at the Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday

Nagar to Papa Lal temple.

The committee granted permission for the Lighthouse Community Foundation to conduct a Skill Development Programme for unemployed youth and backward women in the slum areas near Malleshwaram Model Market building for one year. An approval for the revised proposal for the widening of the road from 24 meters to 30 meters, including the acquisition of 6 properties which will be recom-

mended by the GHMC Commissioner to the State government.

The committee approved Rs 2 lakh worth of sports materials for organising sports events in each of the 150 GHMC wards. The other three approvals were regarding GHMC finances, a computer operator working at the GHMC Mayor's camp office and the approval of an additional post in the Secunderabad Zone.

Task Force seizes 9 kgs of ganja from delivery boy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a joint operation, the Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone team, and Banjara Hills Police apprehended one individual for possession of 9 kilograms of dry ganja and arrested seven consumers who had purchased the narcotic substance. The accused, identified as Santhosh Kumar Rout, a 25-year-old Swiggy delivery agent and a native of Odisha, was caught based on credible information.

Santhosh Kumar Rout, originally from Kendjhar district in Odisha, came to Hyderabad in 2021. Initially working as a security guard and delivery agent, his income proved insufficient for his needs. Seeking an easier source of income, he came in contact with Govind, a known ganja peddler from Odisha. Santhosh purchased the narcotics from Govind and transported approximately 9 kilograms of ganja to Hyderabad by train.

Cyber Crime unit refunds Rs 8.46 L to victims in two online fraud cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Cyber Crime unit successfully refunded Rs 8,46,227 to victims of two separate online fraud cases. The victims, both housewives from Hyderabad, had been cheated in scams involving fake job offers and investment schemes.

In the first case (Cr. No. 2039/2024), a 52-year-old woman was defrauded by scammers posing as representatives of IBU Consulting Pvt. Ltd., UK. The fraudsters convinced her to transfer Rs 4,22,560 for a fake job and work visa. The Cyber Crime unit, led by Inspector K Prasad Rao and Sub-Inspectors Yadagiri D Shekar and R Murali froze the fraudulent amount, guided the victim to file a petition in court and ensured the entire amount was refunded to her bank account.

In the second case (Cr. No. 2958/2024), a 49-year-old woman lost Rs 7,65,110 in a



schemes. Scammers often use platforms like Telegram, WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook to promote fraudulent apps and websites. These schemes promise high returns, use fake profit screenshots and sometimes transfer small amounts to victims' accounts to gain their trust.

Citizens are advised to be cautious of offers like "Work from Home," "Click & Rate," and "Earn Easily."

Avoid sharing financial or personal details without verification.

Check for SEBI endorsements when dealing with investment platforms.

The Cyber Crime unit emphasised the importance of reporting such incidents immediately. Victims can reach out to the helpline number 1930 or report through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cyber-crime.gov.in). Prompt reporting increases the chances of recovering funds put on hold by scammers.

UPSTREAM MUSI: WHERE DOOM AND DREAM CONVERGE

Continued from Page 1

a grim reminder of what happens when people start disregarding natural resources.

The hydrologist Srinivas said, "What we see is a natural river bed and is not disturbed heavily. The banks are clearly distinguished and a proper channel of river. The flow channel is also clear. The slopes contain the flood during higher flows which is the natural condition of river."

At Himayath Sagar, where another branch of the Musi originates, the river retains its natural conditions with visible slopes and depressions. Yet, the air here is thick with the stench of decomposing waste, with miscellaneous objects such as helmets, wedding trash, and other refuse lining the banks. The growing pollution overshadows the serene beauty of this upstream stretch, underscoring the urgent need for intervention.

A foundation stone laid in 2012 by the then home minister Sabita Indira Reddy for BT road stands next to Musi at Kismatpur, Rajendranagar. Let alone the BT road, there is a graveyard and right next to it a huge luxury

apartment is being constructed. Visible, graveyard and the Giridhar Propera - a luxury apartment are in the buffer zone, right next to each other. The gated community is next to Musi and graveyard. In Rajendra Nagar, the river faces a different challenge-an invasion of water hyacinth. This stretch of the Musi is choked with the plant, reducing its flow to a near standstill. While this section is free from encroachments, looming luxury apartments near the buffer zone threaten its stability.

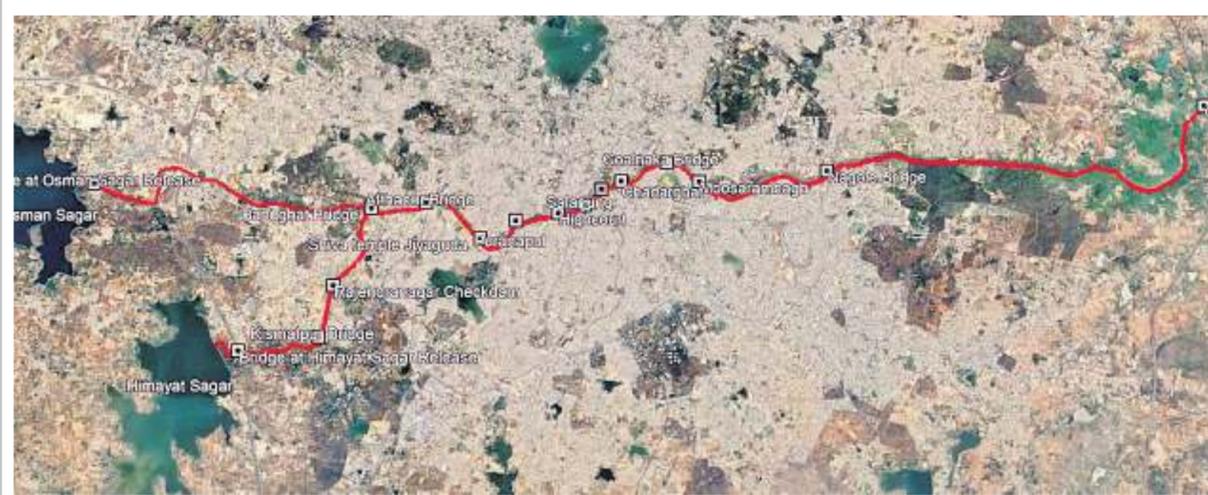
Srinivas observed, "Musi River is coming from Himayath Sagar at Kismatpur. Inside the river, there are no encroachments but the river doesn't have any flows and filled with algae and water hyacinth."

Unchecked urban development here could tip the balance irreversibly. The check dam at Upparpally offers a peaceful retreat, a stark contrast to the polluted stretches downstream. The dam retains water from Himayath Sagar, creating a small waterfall and deep pools. This spot, still untouched by urban chaos, attracts children from nearby areas. People from the vicinity spend time here enjoying the peace surrounding the stretch for the river. However, experts fear that the lack of maintenance and

growing urban pressures could soon rob Upparpally of its serene charm.

The hydrologist said, "Water is deep here. It is a check dam constructed on Musi, which is stopping the water coming from Himayath Sagar. There is a spill way, the excess water is going into Musi River".

As the Musi reaches Babu Ghat, its problems intensify. The site, which marks the confluence of water from Himayath Sagar and Osman Sagar, is overwhelmed by encroachments. Towering apartments and commercial establishments stand openly in the river's buffer zone. The air is filled with a pungent stench, a mix of decaying waste and untreated sewage, making it difficult to appreciate the location's historical significance. Plans for the tallest Gandhi statue here are underway, but the river's deteriorating state casts a shadow over the project. From Babu Ghat, apartments and gated communities built years ago including the likes of Rajapushpa, are visible. A proper life has been established along the banks at Attapur area abutting Musi with several residential apartments, including Pearl Heights and Rajapushpa's Silicon Ridge. For the upstream, the hydrologist recommend-



ed, the need for immediate actions to protect and restore the upstream stretches of the Musi River: Regular cleanup drives are essential at Gandipet and Himayath Sagar to preserve their natural flow. Removing water hyacinth from Rajendra Nagar can improve water flow and ecological health. Strict action against encroachments, especially near Babu Ghat, is critical to restore the river's width and flow. Awareness campaigns and public participation can foster a sense of responsibility for the river.

Despite its challenges, the upstream Musi holds the potential for revival. With timely interventions, this historically significant river can once again flow as a source of pride for Hyderabad and its people.

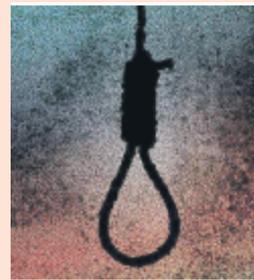
(to be continued)

Class 7 student ends life at hostel

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

In a tragic incident, Praveen, a Class 7 student from the Scheduled Castes Residential School in Madanapur mandal, was found dead in his dormitory on Wednesday. The 13-year-old, hailed from Ponnuru village in Madanapur, was discovered hanging in his room. The cause of his death is currently under investigation.

Praveen's parents live in Hyderabad to eke out a living. On Tuesday, Praveen reportedly suffered an injury while playing kabaddi. The school staff informed his relatives of the injury on Wednesday. Upon arriving at the hostel, they were directed to dormitory. Upon



arriving at the dormitory, the boy's relatives were shocked to find Praveen hanging from ceiling fan. The police registered a case and investigation is underway.

'Demand for TG rice grows in global markets'

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao expressed confidence that agriculture will continue to flourish in the State

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has said that the government implemented an unprecedented loan waiver scheme benefiting 22 lakh farmers across Telangana. Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the Shadnagar Agricultural Market Committee, the Minister emphasised the government's commitment to supporting farmers. He also revealed plans to distribute an additional Rs. 3,000 crore to farmers who have not yet received loan waivers. This distribution is set to take place during the upcoming Farmers' Festival in Palamuru district.

The swearing-in ceremony was held on Wednesday under the leadership of Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar. Sulochana Krishna Reddy was sworn in as the Chairperson of the Market Committee, with Mohammed Ali Khan Babar as the Vice Chairman. Other directors also took oath in the presence of Minister Tummala



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao speaking at a meeting in Shadnagar on Wednesday

Nageswara Rao and State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Nageswara Rao. Addressing the gathering, Minister Nageswara Rao criticised the previous government for accruing huge debts. He lauded the current Congress government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for prioritising agriculture by allo-

ating Rs. 47,000 crore to the sector in the state budget. Highlighting the government's achievements, the Minister announced plans for a Rs. 1,000 crore model market in Koheda, Rangareddy district, which will cater to both farmers and traders. He also stated that Telangana rice has gained significant demand in interna-

tional markets, including Malaysia and the Philippines, and that efforts are underway to boost its exports. He further detailed the state's agricultural progress, noting that 66 lakh acres of land were cultivated this year, yielding 153 crore metric tonnes of paddy. The government, he said, would procure the produce

and provide a bonus to farmers.

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao praised Shadnagar's potential, emphasising that the establishment of the Regional Ring Road would transform land value in the constituency. "The lands in Shadnagar will become as valuable as gold, and this area, being close to Hyderabad, will see unparalleled development," he remarked.

During the ceremony, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar requested the minister to establish a new agricultural market committee in Kondurgu mandal and set up a cold storage facility for the benefit of local farmers. The Minister immediately approved both initiatives, highlighting his commitment to the constituency's progress.

Concluding his speech, Minister Tummala expressed confidence that Telangana's agricultural sector would continue to flourish with the state government working tirelessly to support farmers and promote growth across all sectors.

CELEBRATIONS ERUPT IN DILAWARPUR VILLAGE

Govt halts ethanol factory in Nirmal district

PNS ■ NIRMAL

After two months of protest, people erupted in joy on Wednesday at Dilawarpur village in the district with the State government issuing orders halting the construction of an ethanol factory.

Farmers announced the withdrawal of the two-year-old agitation after District Collector Abhilasha Abhinav assured the people that the construction of the factory was stopped.

Following the announcement, celebrations erupted in the village. The farmers urged the government to cancel the permission granted to the ethanol factory.

On Wednesday morning, farmers in the village expressed that the mistakes made by the previous government had posed a major problem for the Congress government. Several villagers pointed out that the actions of the ruling party had caused unrest in four villages. Villagers strongly criticised former minister Indrakaran Reddy and current MLA Maheshwar Reddy, blaming them for causing sleepless nights in otherwise peaceful villages.

In the green crop fields, factory, if established, would have wreaked havoc, the farmers said. The people in three



District Collector Abhilasha Abhinav

villages spent sleepless nights, worrying about their fate. The peaceful life of the villagers in their serene surroundings had been disrupted. The villagers had been protesting for over a year, opposing the establishment of the factory because of the fear that the ethanol factory would release toxic air pollutants and it would lead to soil degradation.

The Collector reported the situation to the Chief Minister's Office. Upon learning of the situation, the government immediately issued orders halting the factory's operations.

SP urges people to maintain peace

Nirmal District Superintendent of Police G Janaki Sharmila has emphasised that no matter how big the problem is, it can be resolved through negotiations and that acting out of anger only leads to complications of the problem. She pointed out that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's response to the Dilawarpur incident and his directive to the officials to ensure that farmers' concerns are addressed led to the resolution of the problem. She also said Minister Seethakka's proactive role contributed to the resolution of the issue, stating that her initiative was crucial in finding a solution. The villagers resorted to road blockade on the national highway in protest against the setting of ethanol factory. She advised the affected farmers, youth, women, and villagers to avoid giving room to disruptive elements and to focus on resolving their issues peacefully. She



Janaki Sharmila

stressed the importance of staying calm and constructively addressing problems. On the Dilawarpur incident, the SP clarified that the police department exercised restraint. She explained that the District Revenue Officer (RDO) Ratna Kalyani fell ill after being detained by protesters in her vehicle on Tuesday night and that the police had to intervene by sending a rescue party to take her to the hospital. Some people had tried to damage the RDO's vehicle, but their efforts were thwarted by the police, she added. The police department remained alert since Tuesday morning. Traffic diversions were made in places like Sirapur, Narsapur, and Kalluru on National Highway 61 to prevent any disruptions in the movement of vehicles. The police also acted peacefully on Wednesday. To ensure that the situation did not spiral out of control, some individuals were taken into custody, she said.



Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy inaugurating the newly constructed school building complex at Surveyal village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Wednesday

Govt will improve educational infrastructure: Rajgopal Reddy

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

In Surveyal village under Samsthan Narayanapur mandal, the newly constructed school building complex was inaugurated with a traditional Purnakumbham welcome. The event was attended by the Gurukula School management and local dignitaries.

Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy paid floral tribute at the statue of Maddi Narayan Reddy, who donated land for the school. He also praised Maddi Narayan Reddy for his generous contribution of 44 acres of land for the school, calling it an act of great generosity. He also praised Maddi Narayan Reddy for his efforts to improve the educational infrastructure in Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

school activities. During the event, the MLA expressed his views on education and its importance for social progress. He stated that the Telangana government is striving to build world-class education system in the state. Referring to the Surveyal Gurukula School, he highlighted its significant history and reputation, noting that the school has a distinguished place in the country, setting high educational standards.

He also praised Maddi Narayan Reddy for his generous contribution of 44 acres of land for the school, calling it an act of great generosity. He also praised Maddi Narayan Reddy for his efforts to improve the educational infrastructure in Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Constable saves youth's life by conducting CPR

PNS ■ SIDDIPT

Life of a 32-year-old man who attempted suicide by hanging himself at his house at Jagdevpur in Siddipet district has been saved by police constable Lingam. Thanks to timely response from the constable who conducted cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the youth's life was saved.

The youth was identified as Vanteru Sandeep Reddy (32) has been facing financial problems. On Tuesday night he attempted suicide.

On a tip off, Blue Colts constable Lingam rushed to the spot and broke open the doors and lowered the body from the noose.

The constable who found Sandeep Reddy's pulse faint conducted the CPR on the latter helping him regain consciousness.

The youth was rushed to the Government Hospital at Gajwel and later taken to a private Hospital in Hyderabad. The doctors at the private hospital describe the patient's condition now as stable.

His family members and villagers praised the constable Lingam in helping Sandeep regain consciousness.

TRIBAL WELFARE SCHOOL STUDENT'S DEATH Students' JAC protests demanding punishment to guilty

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

Students, under the banner of the Student Joint Action Committee (JAC), staged a protest on Wednesday in front of the Collectorate, demanding justice for the family of student Ch Shailaja, who died due to food poisoning. Various student organisations had called for a shutdown of educational institutions.

When student leaders and activists attempted to lay siege to the Collectorate, the police intervened and stopped them.

As a result, the protesting students sat in front of the Collectorate gate, chanting slogans against the government, demanding justice for Shailaja's family.

During the protest, district

leaders of the All India Students Federation (AISF) and KVP Students Union, Chiranjevi and Durgam Dinkar, alleged that due to the lack of proper supervision by relevant officials, students in Gurukula Schools and Ashram schools have been suffering from food poisoning.

They accused the wardens and headmasters of providing substandard food items to students.

They further demanded that the government provide a job to a family member of Shailaja, a compensation of Rs 50 lakh, and five acres of land.

They also called for a comprehensive investigation into the food poisoning incidents in the hostels and strict action against those responsible.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE - 1ST CALL
NIT No.: 2027/T4NIT/EPH/KNR/Dharmapur/1 TUFDC/1st call/2024-25 Dt: 27-11-2024
1) Name of works: Development of Children part and Erection of Entrance arches in Dharmapur Municipality under TUFDC. 2) No. of Works: (2) works, 3) Total Estimated Cost: Rs.37,16,777-00. 4) Start Date for Receipt of Bids: 29-11-2024 upto 10:30 A.M., 5) Last Date for Receipt of Bids: 17-12-2024 upto 4:00 P.M., 6) Price Bid Opening Date: 17-12-2024, 04:01 P.M. onwards, 7) Name & Address of the tender inviting officer: The Executive Engineer, PH Division, Karimnagar, further details can be seen at www.eprocurement.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (FAC), Public Health Division, Karimnagar.
R.O.No: 1156/PP/CLAD/VT/1/2024-25, Date: 27-11-2024

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION						22/93	
(Under Section 11(F) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Central Act 30/2013) and sub-rule (1) of the Collector, File No. GO/2945/2024 Date: 22/11/2024 RDO, Husnabad, File No. D/1448/2024 Date: 13/11/2024 Gazette No.: 154/2024 Date: 22/11/2024)						Dry/ Patta	
As per the Government of Telangana (District Collector, Siddipet directions an extent of Ac 13.08 Gts situated in Potlapally village of Husnabad mandal is required for public purpose i.e. for formation of minors and sub-minors on Distributary-4 of Gouravally Right Side Main Canal of Gouravally reservoir and hence the notification has been issued under the Section 11 (F) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013.						Extent 10.22 - 422	
As per 10-A of the GO Ms No 41 (LA, R&RA) dated 22-07-2017 of the Irrigation and Command Area Development department, social impact assessment and food security have been exempted while acquiring the land.						Village: Potlapalli Mandal: Husnabad District: Siddipet	
Therefore, a preliminary notification has been issued to acquire Ac13.08 Gts in Potlapally village of Husnabad mandal of Siddipet district as mentioned in the following schedule.						Sub-Minor 8L on Minor 13L of D4 on Gouravally Right Side Main Canal from KM 6.295 to KM 6.340	
SCHEDULE						1/158	
Sl. No.	Sp. No.	Nature of the land.	Extent of land in acres and cents	Name of the Pattadar & Enjoyer	Other details	Dry/ Patta	
1	2	3	4	5	6	Extent 0.15	
Village: Potlapalli Mandal: Husnabad District: Siddipet						Sub-Minor 12R on Minor 13L of D4 on Gouravally Right Side Main Canal from KM 6.000 to KM 6.165	
Minor 121 of D4 on Gouravally Right Side Main Canal from KM 3.725 to KM 4.061 & KM 4.152 to KM 5.227 & KM 5.373 to KM 5.529						1/158	
1	161/09	Dry/Barotha	0.06	Barla Gangwaru W/o Rajesh		0.21	
2	161/10	Dry/Barotha	0.07	Barla Gangwaru W/o Rajesh		0.15	
3	161/11	Dry/Barotha	0.06	Barla Laxmi W/o Ravinder		0.15	
4	161/12	Dry/Barotha	0.08	Barla Laxmi W/o Ravinder		0.15	
5	161/13	Dry/Barotha	0.06	Barla Laxmi W/o Ravinder		0.15	
6	164	Dry/Patta	0.28	Marika Veeraswamy S/o Venkatesh Kalluri Odish S/o Mallesh Gokpelli Durgamma W/o Yellish		0.01	
7	159	Dry/Patta	0.30	Gajula Venkatesh S/o Venkatesh Bergu Jagannadham S/o Chandrabhai		0.15	
8	158	Dry/Patta	1.31	Potlaveri Komuriah S/o Isiah Charita Chinnu Buchaiah S/o Rajiah Ganta Rajamma W/o Venkai Ganta Komuriah S/o Lachiah Mahammad Hussain S/o Noor Mahammad Bingsi Ganesh S/o Gangaiah Bingsi Rajendra Prasad S/o Gangaiah Shaik Ameena Bhee W/o Kaseem Shaik Chand Pasha S/o Shaik Himam Shaik Kareem Bhee W/o Shaik Noor Mahammad Shaik Hassan S/o Shaik Himam Sab Mahammad Babeli S/o Mahammad Hussain		0.13	
9	159	Dry/Patta	0.14	Bathula Komuriah S/o Durgaiha Ganta Sarajah S/o Durgaiha Bathula Lachiah S/o Komuriah		0.12	
10	155	Dry/Paran toke	0.07	Govt. Land		0.12	
11	153	Dry/Patta	1.15	Potlaveri Bhagyamma W/o Komuriah Konkata Sadanandam W/o Masiah Neelam Anjali W/o Ashok Reddy		0.38	
12	154	Dry/Patta	1.10	Potlaveri Komuriah S/o Isiah Neelam Ramreddy S/o Sainreddy Neelam Manamma W/o Ramreddy Neelam Anantha Reddy W/o Ramreddy Konkata Yellamma W/o Masiah Konkata Sadanandam W/o Masiah Bathula Rakesh S/o Rayamulu Bathula Komuriah S/o Rayamulu Bathula Kumar S/o Laasreddy		0.02	
13	149	Dry/Patta	0.16	Neelam Bhurreddy S/o Mallareddy Jeslu Muthaiah S/o Rayamalliah Jeslu Kanakiah S/o Mallesh Jeslu Rajiah S/o Mallesh Poreddy Lachamma W/o Ramreddy Jeslu Isiah S/o Mallesh Rondla Raghava Reddy S/o Narsimha Reddy Jeslu Kumar S/o Isiah Kantala Rajni W/o Rajender Reddy		0.01	
14	148	Dry/Patta	1.03	Neelam Laasreddy S/o Sainreddy Ragula Venkata Reddy W/o Rajreddy Neelam Ramreddy S/o Sainreddy Poreddy Lachamma S/o Ramreddy Neelam Sampath Reddy S/o Laasreddy Neelam Tirupati Reddy S/o Laasreddy Ravula Rajreddy S/o Mallareddy Ravula Ravinder Reddy S/o Venkata reddy Poreddy Manamma D/o Chandra reddy Neelam Sandhyarani D/o Tirupati reddy Neelam Sidhartha S/o Sampath Reddy		0.12	
15	95	Dry/Patta	0.05	Chukka Pedda Venkiah S/o Mallesh Chukka Venkiah S/o Narsiah Babubala Sallu S/o Veeriah Bunu Venkiah S/o Mallesh Dufam Ramaswamy S/o Elliah Kande Shankaraih S/o Shankaraih Chukka Malamma W/o Venkiah Govt. Lands		13.85	
16	94/1	Dry/Barotha	0.09	Barchara Govt. Land		0.12	
17	94/2	Dry/Barotha	0.01	Suddala Lachiah S/o Mallesh Enjoyer Chukka Chinnu Venkatesh Narsiah		0.01	
18	94/3	Dry/Barotha	0.16	Anthadipudi Durgawa W/o Durgaiha Enjoyer Chukka Lachava W/o Sallu		0.01	
19	94/7	Dry/Barotha	0.17	Markali Sampath S/o Maliah Markali Kanakiah S/o Bayiah		0.03	
20	94/8	Dry/Barotha	0.05	Kande Sankaramma W/o Sankaraih		0.03	
21	94/9	Dry/Barotha	0.01	Kola Rajamma W/o Komuriah		0.01	
The notification is made under Section 11 (F) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 for payment of the national compensation to the land owners as per the law. The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the offices of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad by concerned personnel during working hours on any working day. The Government of Telangana is pleased to authorise District Collector, Siddipet and Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad and their personnel to enter and survey land, to excavate land, to dig bore wells and do all acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act. Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet. Following the issue of the notification, objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the concerned persons within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 (1) of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.						Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer Sd/- Additional Sd/- Dist. Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer Collector, Siddipet Siddipet Husnabad DfPR No.385/LAPP-Pub/2024-25	

ACROSS THE STATES



Centre willing to support Mizoram to promote tourism

Union Minister Gajendra Singh said the Centre is always ready to assist Mizoram in promoting tourism, the BJP said in a statement on Wednesday. During a meeting with BJP Mizoram unit general secretary Lalthangmawii in New Delhi on Tuesday, Singh noted that the northeastern states, including Mizoram, are rich in tourist destinations and have the potential to boost tourism, the statement added. He added that the Centre is making efforts to promote tourism for sustainable growth and employment generation in the region. "The Centre is willing and is ever ready to assist the northeastern states, including Mizoram, if the state governments submit proposals for good tourism projects," Singh was quoted as saying in the statement. The Union Tourism Minister also said there is much to be done in Mizoram in terms of tourism promotion, even though many projects have been executed with the Centre's assistance.



Two EPFO officials held in Rs 10 lakh bribery case

The CBI has arrested two EPFO officers in Himachal Pradesh's Solan for allegedly taking a Rs 10 lakh bribe from a businessman to favourably settle a provident fund demand matter, officials said on Wednesday. Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Ravi Anand and Enforcement Officer Madan Lal Bhatti of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) were arrested after a consultant and middleman - Sanjay Kumar Yadav - was arrested while taking Rs 5 lakh in cash and a self-cheque for Rs 5 lakh on their behalf during a trap operation, the officials said. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had received a complaint from a businessman that Bhatti had allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 10 lakh through Yadav for himself and other senior EPFO officers to favourably settle the matter of provident fund demand of the complainant's firm that was pending with the EPFO office at Baddi in Solan, an agency spokesperson said.



UP: Three doctors among 5 killed in accident

A road accident on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway early Wednesday claimed the lives of three doctors and two hospital staff, all affiliated with the Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences in Saifai, police said. The incident took place around 3 am in Tirwa area of Kannauj district when a speeding SUV in which the victims were travelling lost control and ramed into a divider, and a truck then hit the vehicle, they said. Police said the doctors and the hospital staff were returning to Saifai after attending a wedding in Lucknow. "The SUV first crashed into the median divider. It subsequently crossed over to the oncoming lane, where it collided with a truck. As a result, the three doctors, one lab technician and a store manager died on the spot. Another person, a PG student, suffered serious injuries and was rushed to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Medical College in Tirwa," Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar Anand said.

SAMBHAL VIOLENCE Protesters to pay for damage to property

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will make protesters involved in the Sambhal violence pay for damage to public property while posters of "stone pelters" will be displayed at public places, an official said on Wednesday. Sambhal police has released several pictures of those involved in violence.

In these photographs, nine persons were identified and help is sought from people to identify those who have masks on their faces.

Four people died and several others, including police personnel, were injured in Sambhal on Sunday after a confrontation erupted over a court-ordered survey of the city's Shahi Jama Masjid in Kot Garvi area, following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple once stood at the site.

"The Uttar Pradesh government is adopting a firm stance against the individuals

Posters of 'stone pelters' to be put up



involved in the Sambhal violence. Posters of the stone pelters and miscreants will be displayed publicly, and recovery of damages will be sought. A reward may also be announced for information

"The Uttar Pradesh government is adopting a firm stance against the individuals involved in the Sambhal violence. Posters of the stone pelters and miscreants will be displayed publicly, and recovery of damages will be sought. A reward may also be announced for information leading to their arrest," an official spokesperson said.

58,929 waqf properties facing encroachment: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday said 58,929 waqf properties were facing encroachment, of which 869 were in Karnataka.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha by BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the ministry and the Central Waqf Council (CWC) received complaints regarding various issues relating to waqf properties from time to time and the same were forwarded to the state waqf boards and governments concerned for appropriate action.

"As per the details available on WAMSI (Waqf Assets Management System of India), 58,929 waqf properties are facing encroachment, out of which Karnataka has 869 such waqf properties," he said. According to sections 54 and 55 of the Waqf Act, the chief executive officer of state waqf boards has the power to take legal action against unauthorised occupation and encroachment of waqf properties, Rijiju pointed out.

Two Bangladeshi infiltrators arrested in Assam

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Two infiltrators from Bangladesh have been apprehended by Assam police and handed over to authorities of the neighbouring country, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Wednesday.

"Displaying alertness along the Indo-Bangladesh border, @assampolice apprehended two Bangladeshi nationals who were illegally entering Indian territory," he posted on X.

The apprehended have been identified as Nur Mohammad and Muhammad Khaleeda Begum, he said. The chief minister, however, did not mention from which area the duo were caught.

Around 152 people have been so far apprehended for illegally entering the country and pushed back to Bangladesh since the turmoil broke out in the neighbouring country in August this year.

The BSF has intensified its vigil along the 1,885-km-long Indo-Bangladesh border in the Northeast since the disturbances began in Bangladesh.

'Mahayuti' leaders to meet BJP brass

Two Dy CMs formula likely to continue



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra NDA leaders are likely to meet the top BJP brass here on Thursday, sources said, indicating that the formula of one chief minister and two deputy CMs representing the three major 'Mahayuti' constituents will be followed in the new government in the state.

While the BJP is tipped to get the chief ministerial post, its two allies -- Shiv Sena Nationalist Congress Party -- are expected to be given the post of two deputies.

Shiv Sena leader and outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had earlier in the day all but cleared the decks for a BJP leader to succeed him,

with outgoing Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis seen as the clear favourite for the top job. Shinde said he will "fully support" the BJP leadership's choice for the next CM, adding that he won't be a hurdle in the process.

"I called PM Modi yesterday and also Amit Shah and told them to decide (on who will be the CM post), and assured them that I will abide by whatever decision they take," Shinde told reporters at his residence in Thane.

Shinde may swap his position with Fadnavis while Pawar will continue as one of the two deputy chief ministers, sources said.

CABINET EXPANSION

Speculations gain momentum in K'taka

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Speculations regarding the expansion of the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet in the days ahead gained momentum in Karnataka with senior Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Wednesday stating that there are talks about such an exercise, but don't know when it will take place.

His statement came a day after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress president, indicated the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle, noting that



few ministers have been given a "message" about their term. "There are talks that it will be done. Don't know when it will be done, but there is news that some people will be changed,

to change some portfolios. Such discussions are on, but I don't know when...I have not asked for anything. It is left for the high command, whom they will give and how..." Jarkiholi, who is the PWD Minister said.

To a question about whether the reshuffle will be based on performance, he said, "Maybe... it may be (leadership) are not satisfied with some, or they may continue with the existing ministers and not do the Cabinet rejig. Can't say...there are also several seniors in our party."

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION					
(Under Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 [Central Act 30/2013] and sub-rule (1)]					
Collector's Office, File No. G3/2916/2024 Date: 18/11/2024					
RDO, Husnabad, File No. D/1241/2024 Date: 11/11/2024					
Gazette No.: 150/2024 Date: 18/11/2024					
As per the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet directions an extent of Ac 13.39 Gts situated in Madadha village of Husnabad Mandal in 14R of Gouravally Right Side Main Canal of Gouravally reservoir and hence the notification has been issued under the Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013.					
As per 10-A of the GO Ms No. 41 (LA, R&R&Z) dated 22-07-2017 of the Irrigation and Command Area Development department, social impact assessment and food security have been exempted while acquiring the land.					
Therefore, a preliminary notification has been issued to acquire Ac 13.39 Gts in Madadha village of Husnabad Mandal of Siddipet district as mentioned in the following schedule.					
SCHEDULE					
Sl. No.	Area of the land.	Ext of land acquisition.	Name of the Pottadar & Enjoyer	Dist.	Ext. in Hectares
Village: Madadha Mandal: Husnabad District: Siddipet					
Minor 14R of D4 on Gouravally Right Side Main Canal from KM 1.450 to 1.895, KM 2.363 to 2.340 & KM 2.930 to 4.512					
1	235	1.06	Yedaboina Rajireddy (Mallareddy) Yedaboina Mahender Reddy (Mallareddy)		
2	229	0.06	Radarapu Rajesh (Kanakaiah) Radarapu Janjeev (Kanakaiah) Kallera Srinivas (Kanakaiah) Kallera Shankar (Kanakaiah) Dasari Bhupalreddy (Laxmareddy) Yedaboina Rajitha (Rajireddy)		
3	231	1.00	Baddipadige Gairreddy (Rajireddy) Baddipadige Peppireddy (Rajireddy) Baddipadige Jyothirm (Baddipadige Gairreddy)		
4	230	0.08	Baddipadige Peppireddy (Rajireddy)		
5	225	0.16	Gangamma Srinivas Reddy (Venkata Reddy)		
6	228	0.02	Gangamma Srinivas Reddy (Venkata Reddy)		
7	224	1.05	Gangamma Srinivas Reddy (Venkata Reddy) Gangamma Sarojana (Venkata Reddy)		
8	223	0.23	Akku Prabhakar (Ramalah) Gangamma Kavitha Reddy (Venkata Reddy) Akku Venkataiah (Ramalah) Akku Rajalah (Ramalah) Katika Mahesh (Venkatesh) Katika Nagaraju (Venkatesh) Galaboina Priyanka (Srinivas)		
9	210	0.28	Gangamma Bhaskar Reddy (Kishoreddy) Dubbaka Tinupati (Venkatesamiah) Ganga Swaroop (Indrasenareddy) Gangamma Vamsikrishna (Bhaskar Reddy) Gangamma Vivek Reddy (Indrasenareddy)		
10	209	0.14	Kathula Kethamma (Venkatesiah) Kathula Ramesh (Venkatesiah) Kathula Sammaraju (Venkatesiah) Kathula Parsharamulu (Venkatesiah) Kashavani Ramesh (Pochiah) Kashavani Sambaraju (Kashavani Baliah)		
11	208	1.06	Uppala Lacharava (Venkateddy) Uppala Rajireddy (Venkateddy)		
12	205	1.01	Kavva Bagysava (Buchireddy) Kavva Venugopaleddy (Buchireddy)		
13	196	0.25	Kavva Buchireddy (Tinupatreddy) Kavva Venugopaleddy (Buchireddy)		
14	194	0.03	Kavva Buchireddy (Tinupatreddy)		
15	153	0.06	Komuriah (Lingiah) Katam Janninichada Malliah (Komuriah) Jenupothula Venkateswaray (Saku) Jenupothula Srinivas (Saku) Kavva Adinreddy (Chinna Rajireddy)		
16	102	1.07	Kathula Odiah (Ilaiah) Kathula Komuriah (Ilaiah) Kavva Chitra Rajireddy (Veerareddy) Boggula Satalah (Dasaradam) Boggula Srinivas (Dasaradam) Karagamti Shankarish (Ilaiah) Katam Malliah (Komuriah) Kanakaiah (Ilaiah) Kathula		
17	150	1.18	Mani Odiah (Malliah) Kasiraveni Malliah (Yelaiah) Kasiraboina Rajiah (Machaiah) Nayini Ravinder (Kanakaiah) Pulla Kanakamma (Malliah) Karagamti Shankarish (Ilaiah) Gangamma Narasava (Chinna Veerareddy) Kasiraveni Balava (Odiah) Katam Malliah (Komuriah) Balaganti Tinupati (Malliah) Karagamti Shankarish (Narsaiah) Manturi Ilaiah (Ramalah)		
18	149	0.26	Gangamma Venkata Reddy (Kishoreddy) Gangam Reddy (Gishoreddy) Ganga Swaroop (Indrasenareddy)		
19	145	0.15	Gangamma Srinivas Reddy (Venkata Reddy) Katam Venkatesh (Vollaiah) Katam srinivas (Rajalah) Bolli Swamy (Narsaiah) Uppala Venkata Ramens Reddy (Rajireddy) Gangamma Narasava (Chinna Veerareddy)		
Extent 13.39					
Village: Madadha Mandal: Husnabad District: Siddipet					
Sub-Minor 8R on Minor 14R of D4 on Gouravally Right Side Main Canal from KM 0.000 to KM 6.100					
1	208	0.02	Lacharava Sathis Sio Venkateddy Uppala Rajireddy Sio Venkateddy		
2	206	0.16	Gedi Kavitha W/o Ramreddy Gopi Bharghavi D/o Rakesh Reddy		
Extent 0.18					
Village: Madadha Mandal: Husnabad District: Siddipet					
Sub-Minor 6R on Minor 14R of D4 on Gouravally Right Side Main Canal from KM 0.000 to KM 0.025					
1	226	0.03	Yedaboina Rajireddy Sio Mallareddy Sio Mallareddy		
Extent 0.03					
Total Extent 13.39					
The notification is made under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 for payment of the national compensation to the land owners as per the law.					
The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the offices of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad by concerned personnel during working hours on any working day.					
The Government of Telangana is pleased to authorise District Collector, Siddipet and Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad and their personnel to enter and survey land, to excavate land, to dig bore wells and do all acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.					
Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet.					
Following the issue of the notification, objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the concerned persons within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15(1) of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.					
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer Sd/- Additional Sd/- Dist. Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer Collector, Siddipet Siddipet Husnabad					
DPR No.387/LAPP-Pub/2024-25					

DELHI POLLUTION

Massive protests near Parl for clean air



Children's Lungs", "My Right to Breathe", and "Act on Air Pollution Now" to emphasise the urgency of the situation. Atul Kumar, a member of the environment group Earth Warriors, wore an oxygen mask and carried an oxygen cylinder to symbolise the future he fears for future generations.

"The air we grew up breathing was clean. Will we be able to provide the same to our children?" he asked. Kumar also called for collective responsibility. "While the government must act, we also need to take initiatives to reduce pollution." Devalina Kohli, speaking on

behalf of the parents, said, "We gathered peacefully, as citizens and parents, to demand clean air -- our fundamental right. Yet, instead of support, we were forced to return home. It is heartbreaking that, even as our children struggle to breathe, meaningful action remains absent.

Bhavren Kandhari, an environmentalist present at the protest, stressed the severity of the issue. She said, "This is both a request and a reminder to the MPs that the city is choking. Every child is suffering. A recent survey showed that every third customer at chemist shops is a parent seeking medicines for their child." "Many children are dependent on nebulisers and antibiotics. The polluted air is robbing 12 years of their lives. We urge the government to bring clean air into the national conversation, take decisive action, and demonstrate the political will to protect us. After all, we elected our representatives to speak for us," she added. The protesters raised placards with messages of "Save Our



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A glimmer of hope

While the ceasefire offers a reprieve from conflict, its durability is not guaranteed, a lasting resolution still remains elusive

In a significant development for West Asia, Israel and Hezbollah, the Iran-backed militant group operating in Lebanon, have agreed to a ceasefire after months of intense conflict. The agreement, brokered with the intervention of the United States and France, comes into effect at midnight Israeli time on November 27. It is being hailed as a potential step toward de-escalation in the region, but its success and long-term implications remain uncertain. The ceasefire agreement aims to restore calm along the volatile Israel-Lebanon border. It mandates that Hezbollah and other armed groups in Lebanon halt all offensive operations against Israel. In return, Israel will refrain from military actions targeting Lebanon. A key aspect of the deal is the acknowledgement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for the disarmament of militias and the exclusive authority of Lebanese state forces in the southern region. Israel has also agreed to withdraw its forces from positions south of the Blue Line within 60 days, provided the terms are upheld.



This ceasefire does not mean that Israeli forces are back to barracks. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has emphasised the need to focus on Iran. Israel agreed to truce as there were logistical challenges, including delays in weapons and munitions deliveries, which necessitated a pause to replenish stocks and prepare for future operations. The ceasefire comes amid a broader context of regional instability. The war between Israel and Hamas, which erupted in October 2023 after a brutal terrorist attack on Israeli civilians, has already

claimed tens of thousands of lives. There is no let up in Israel's attacks on Gaza where the human crisis is getting worse. The fighting extended to Israel's northern border when Hezbollah escalated its attacks, prompting Israel to retaliate. While the ceasefire offers a glimmer of hope, challenges loom large. The success of the agreement depends on its strict implementation, particularly the disarmament of militias in Lebanon. The Lebanese government, already struggling with economic and political crises, will face immense pressure to assert its authority over Hezbollah, a deeply entrenched and well-armed organisation. Whatever the reasons for this truce but it definitely gives peace a chance. The agreement's implications for regional peace are profound. If upheld, it could reduce tensions along Israel's northern border, allowing displaced civilians to return home and facilitating humanitarian relief in affected areas. For Lebanon, the deal could bolster its sovereignty by curbing the influence of armed non-state actors, potentially paving the way for greater stability. However, unresolved issues, including the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict and tensions with Iran, continue to pose risks to lasting peace. The role of the US, France, and UNIFIL will be critical to ensuring compliance and rebuilding trust.

PICTALK



A flock of whistling ducks fly at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, in Morigaon

Why band-aid solutions fail to fix Delhi pollution

Despite court orders, government promises, and short-term measures like vehicle restrictions and artificial rain, Delhi's air quality remains perilously poor



KALYANI SHANKAR

Why do the residents of Delhi experience pollution every year while the ruling class blames it on stubble burning in the neighbouring states of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh? Can't they find a permanent solution instead of debating who will pay for the burning machines and other related expenses? The air pollution levels in Delhi are eight times higher than the WHO's prescribed limits. It has reached a level where the judiciary, executive, and parliament blame each other, and the severe pollution level continues. Returning from a month-long holiday in the US, I was immediately struck by the urgency of the pollution crisis as I landed in Delhi, past midnight this week.

The dark skies, sheets of dust, heat, and difficulty in breathing welcomed me as a stark reminder and a pressing call to action. The pollution levels in Delhi have soared to their highest this week. It has reached hazardous levels, causing state officials to limit movement and revive plans to stimulate artificial rain to clear toxins. This forced the schools and offices to close due to cloaking the city in thick brown smog and demanded immediate action. The number of respiratory diseases in children and older adults is rising, along with other health issues. In cold winters in the north, smog covers the area every year and traps harmful pollutants from fires, construction, and factories. This issue worsens when farmers burn their fields after harvesting rice to prepare for new crops. The same or even worse scenario unfolds yearly, reaching alarming levels over time. Citizens feel helpless while politicians engage in a blame game. As a result, the public endures poor air quality, which seriously threatens their health. Affluent individuals often escape to warmer destinations during winter, but children and older people suffer the most. Many schools have closed, and residents have been advised to



stay indoors. Construction work has been halted, and the government is considering implementing an odd-even vehicle use policy to control pollution. While this is a step in the right direction, the severity of the crisis requires effective solutions without further delays. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the World Health Organization, and other monitoring agencies, Delhi's air quality index (AQI) ranges between 1,200 and 1,500. India's AQI is classified as poor when it exceeds 200, very poor when it exceeds 300, and severe or hazardous when it exceeds 400. The recommended AQI limit is between 0 and 100. This alarming situation discourages international travellers and members of the Indian diaspora from planning their annual visits. The government and politicians are well aware of the root cause of the problem but play the blame game. The Supreme Court has ordered the government to address pollution. In the past, it has even led efforts to improve air quality in Delhi. It has set rules about which vehicles can operate in the city, ordered the relocation of many factories that pollute the air, and closed businesses to reduce emissions. The court also



IN COLD WINTERS IN THE NORTH, SMOG COVERS THE AREA EVERY YEAR AND TRAPS HARMFUL POLLUTANTS FROM FIRES, CONSTRUCTION, AND FACTORIES. THIS ISSUE WORSENS WHEN FARMERS BURN THEIR FIELDS AFTER HARVESTING RICE TO PREPARE FOR NEW CROPS

pushed the government to take action. The fault lies in the implementation. Last month, the Supreme Court ruled that clean air is a fundamental human right. It ordered both the central government and state authorities to take immediate action. However, most measures, such as vehicle restrictions, industrial regulations, and public awareness campaigns, must be more effective in preventing deteriorating air quality. Critics question how effective the court's decisions are and accuse the judiciary of interfering in executive matters. In its 2024 manifesto, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi did not include promises to reduce pollution, unlike previous ones. Instead, the manifesto focused on the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and ways to cut pollution. APP highlighted the need for citizen involvement and plans to use electric buses to control pollution. Now that it has reached an alarming stage, the Centre and the state governments must take a balanced approach concerning Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, which are the real culprits. Every winter, smoke from farm fires engulfs Delhi and covers the Delhi skies.

Farmers resort to burning as it is the cheapest method of clearing their fields. The state governments demand that the Centre provide funds to assist farmers in reducing smoke emissions, but the issue persists yearly. Meanwhile, politics also plays its role. The BJP governs the Centre, while AAP rules Delhi and Punjab. The Congress remains an onlooker. This attitude does not help implement an effective plan. The experts say it's high time half-measures were shunned, and comprehensive solutions are implemented. For instance, GRAP-III must be upgraded to GRAP-IV, facilitating the enforcement of the odd-even rule. The election to the Delhi Assembly is around the corner. People must make it an election issue. In the meantime, residents of Delhi should consider quick solutions to combat pollution, such as wearing masks, indoor air-purifying plants, and the affluent using air purifiers, taking steam baths, eating healthy foods, and ensuring proper ventilation in their homes. The citizens must also assist authorities in any efforts to help control pollution. (The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNITY OVER DIVISION

Madam — Some political parties that do not have any people oriented policies or programmes in their agenda are using the communal platform to whip the religious sentiments to gain votes and capture power. The campaign during the last general election has seen an open spread of communal hate, which was not the predominant issue in the minds of the people. Nowhere were the people's issues, like employment, livelihood plights, or healthcare concerns, discussed or debated. That is why the people also had reacted vehemently by not giving a brutal majority to any party.

The message that people are not interested in communal concerns is given repeatedly and still some forces are bent upon thriving in politics only with the help of programmes of spreading hate among communities and keeping the flame of communal hate alive. Leaving issues like employment, inflation, declining real wages, and growing costs of healthcare and education made the privilege of the affluent to be attended to with priority and more sincerity. Divisive agendas and programmes may shine in the initial stage and then lose their tempo, as witnessed all over. Such clashes help the rulers to divert the attention of the people from their mistakes and misdeeds. Even in countries ruled under theocratic principles, clashes among groups of the same religion are seen to be the perennial ones rather than giving peace to the people. In a country like India, even if one religion is allowed to dominate, the groups thriving on promoting the cause of their caste will gain further momentum to plunge the nation into a lasting socio-economic crisis. As available laws are not efficient enough to deal with such anti-people political parties and social outfits, it is the responsibility of the people to keep them at a distance.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

SAVE FORESTS

Madam—Planting a tree and protecting it till it grows has been considered a

EVM: Allegations are baseless



The Supreme Court decisively rejected a petition calling for the reintroduction of ballot papers in elections, highlighting the baseless nature of opposition allegations against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The court's remarks came after the petitioner argued that EVMs were vulnerable to manipulation, citing claims by various politicians, including Andhra Pradesh leaders Chandrababu Naidu and Jagan Mohan Reddy, as well as Elon Musk. The court pointed out that

these same politicians never raised concerns about EVMs when they won elections. "When you win, EVMs are fine; when you lose, EVMs are tampered."

Meanwhile, opposition parties, led by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, continued to push for the return of ballot papers, with Kharge criticising the use of EVMs and demanding a campaign similar to the Bharat Jodo Yatra for their abolition. Kharge's repeated attacks on EVMs reflect the ongoing narrative within opposition circles, where EVM tampering is blamed for electoral losses. The SC's firm stance serves as a rebuke to the opposition's recurring narrative of EVM tampering, emphasising that such claims are opportunistic and lack substantiation. The opposition's continued attack on EVMs seems more like an excuse for poor performance than a genuine concern for electoral fairness.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

OLI CHOOSES BEIJING

Madam — Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli broke the usual ritual of visiting New Delhi first by choosing Beijing. Like the Maldives' President, Nepal's Prime Minister appears to be a pro-Chinese supporter. We all know how notorious China is for pushing countries like Nepal into debt. After Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Maldives, seeing Nepal follow the same path makes India worried. If Nepal signs the BRI execution treaty, it would pose a significant threat to India. Though our relations with China are improving, we all know it is merely a diplomatic friendship that could turn into animosity at any time. In the diplomatic world, no one is a genuine friend or ally to any country—everyone prioritises their own benefit. India needs to remain cautious, especially as it is being surrounded by countries drowning in China's debts.

Priya Thakur | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Aruna Vasudev: A tribute to the mother figure of Asian cinema

She leaves behind a profound legacy, having nurtured and inspired many. Though she is no longer among us, her influence continues to guide and motivate

In 1999, I first discovered the Cinefan Asian Film Festival. Excited, I headed to the India Habitat Centre (IHC) to collect a pass, only to learn that the festival was open to all. I couldn't believe my ears. Being new to Delhi, I had assumed that everything came at a price, but this experience proved me wrong. During the festival, I came to know Aruna Vasudev, the Festival Director. I also met filmmakers and critics from around the world, making it an unforgettable experience. The following year, I eagerly awaited the festival and even took seven days of leave from work to immerse myself in films. My journalist friends noticed my dedication and shared it with Aruna Vasudev. They told her about a boy from West Delhi who traveled daily, spending mornings to midnight watching films out of sheer love for cinema. That year, I managed to watch 37 out of the 42 films screened, missing a few only because I attended seminars. Aruna di, as I later called her, was impressed but quizzed me about the films to ensure I had truly seen them. I passed her test.



At the closing ceremony, in the presence of luminaries like Sharmila Tagore, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Rituparno Ghosh, and Nandita Das, she mentioned my name on stage. She highlighted my passion and dedication, asking me to stand so the audience could see me. Afterward, she invited me to the closing dinner. During our conversation, she asked what I did for a living. When I replied, she told me, "Forget footwear; you are meant for film." I expressed my willingness to leave my job if she could offer me an opportunity. She laughed and said, "Stay in touch; I'll let you know."

I took her words to heart and kept reminding her of her promise whenever we met. Finally, in 2003, she asked me to join her team. Although she initially wanted me to start in January, I requested a

delay due to my sister's wedding. From February 1, 2003, until the end of her life, Aruna Vasudev became much more than a mentor. She was my friend, philosopher, guide, guru, and godmother.

When I joined her team, I initially addressed her as "Madam." One day, she suggested I call her "Aruna di," as others did. From then on, she was Aruna di not only to me but also to my family. My work involved assisting her with the prestigious Cinefan Quarterly and the Cinefan Film Festival. During this time, she taught me much more than cinema-etiquette, communication skills, and the importance of being a good human being. One memorable instance was when she was busy on a call, and another call came through. Indicating she wasn't available, I conveyed that she was out of the country. Later, she gently corrected me, teaching that honesty in such situations was essential. Transforming a shy, lower-middle-class boy from a Bengali-medium school into someone comfortable in

Delhi's elite circles wasn't easy. Yet, she patiently guided me every step of the way. Aruna di's support was unwavering. When I asked if I was meeting her expectations, she replied that being able to pursue one's dream and earn a living from it was a rare blessing. Once, after just three months on the job, I noticed an unexpected salary increase. The accountant revealed that Aruna di was so pleased with my work that she had decided to raise it. This generosity stood in stark contrast to my earlier job in a footwear company, where long hours of grueling work brought only meager raises.

Her faith in me was a source of strength. Despite occasional resentment from colleagues about the trust she placed in me, she always defended her decisions. She was my rock in both professional and personal challenges. When my mother met her, she said, "Though I gave birth to him, you have raised him." Touched by those words, Aruna di was moved to tears.

(The writer is a Delhi based Film Festival curator; views expressed are personal)



SANTANU GANGULY





FIRST COLUMN

A MINDFUL HEART FOR A MINDFUL LIFE

By integrating modern science with spiritual wisdom, it is essential for holistic healing

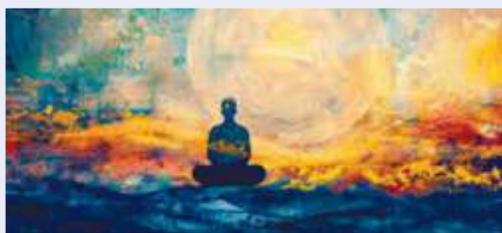


RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens... F. Scott Fitzgerald

We humans are blessed with only one heart which lasts us as long as we live. Alternatively, we live till the heart lasts. In that sense, the heart is the lifeline of the human body. Anatomically, it is a vital organ that supplies blood to the whole body. Symbolically, it is equated with the most powerful emotions of the human soul i.e. love as well as with instinct, interest and deep feelings. Hence it won't be wrong to say that the heart rules our life. But, today the same very heart has indeed become a matter of great concern as alarming statistics tell us how vulnerable it is to the onset of countless disorders, thanks to our modern lifestyle and polluted environment. Concerns over the health of the heart have led to an explosion of research to find ways to boost its longevity and smooth functionality. However, when all efforts to preserve the heart fail we even have an option to replace it. Isn't it great? But still, the figures in health reports don't seem to tell a happy story about the effectiveness of these developments because today we have an ever-growing number of people who are suffering or facing the risk of heart disease.

According to the eternal law of spirituality, everything in this material world grows old, decays and gets assimilated into its original elemental form. Similarly, everything in nature is getting recycled as energy is in constant flux. So, as souls, we all get a new body at every birth. However, the elements that constitute a body are the same old matter.



In that sense, everything in the world is old material packaged as new. Hence, with every consecutive birth, we as souls get a recycled body and hence a recycled heart. We get a new body only when we first come down from the soul world because we are pure and are entitled to get the best of the available resources at the time when we enter this world. Having said the above, we must not forget the fact that there was indeed a time when we all had a brand-new heart.

Yeah! Time was indeed called the 'Golden Age' when all the human souls and the elements of nature were pristine and pure. Everyone is perfect and purest there and so everything they had, including their body, was also perfect. There was no need for them to take care of their heart. The heart was so robust and healthy that it supported the body for a long and healthy life. However, today we all live in total contrast to the golden age i.e. Iron Age and there is hardly any human being in this world today who is free from any physical ailment, be it wealthy or poor, all are suffering from some or the other disease that is linked to unhealthy lifestyle and ecological degradation. In the present age, everyone's mind is beset with weak and negative thoughts which are the biggest hindrance to living a healthy & happy life. Throughout our lives, we never understand that the root cause of all diseases is our wrong actions. It's a proven fact that we get punished for our wrong deeds. Therefore it is very important to realize that all diseases have their origin in wrong thoughts and actions.

Today, medical science has accepted that along with a healthy lifestyle, meditation too can promote a healthy heart, as it helps regulate the heart's functioning by controlling negative thoughts that induce stress-related hormones in the body leading to harmful effects. By purifying the soul of bad 'sanskaras' (personality traits) like anger, fear, hatred and ego, it cures the root cause of disease and leads to holistic healing. Therefore to have a healthy heart, apart from a healthy lifestyle, it is essential to be a good-hearted person and to feed the mind with a healthy diet of pure thoughts and feelings.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Bridging the gender gap in skills and opportunities



DINESH SOOD

The beauty and wellness sector is emerging as a transformative force, equipping women with essential skills and providing financial sustainability



Despite various initiatives, a significant gender gap persists in learning and earning opportunities between men and women. Skill development can be a transformative force, enhancing women's professional growth and economic independence. By acquiring skills, women can access broader job opportunities, empowering them socially and economically.

A survey titled "Women's Economic Empowerment," conducted in 2023-24 by the Indian Statistical Institute Delhi, explores women's skill development and employment landscape. It reveals that 7 out of 10 women lack economic independence. India ranks 142nd out of 146 countries in the Global Women's Economic Participation and Opportunities Index. Women in India contribute only 17 per cent to the GDP, which is less than half the global average. Their economic participation is essential for sustainable development, gender equality, and poverty reduction. According to the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), integrating 68 million more women into the workforce by 2025 could potentially increase India's GDP by USD 0.7 trillion. The World Bank also reports that including 50 per cent of women in the workforce could boost India's GDP growth by 1.5 percentage points. The International Labor Organization (ILO) states that India's Women's Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) was about 32.8 per cent in 2023, while it was 67.2 per cent for men. Women are primarily found in specific sectors such as agriculture (73.2 per cent), education (44.1 per cent), and healthcare and beauty-wellness (31.4 per cent). An estimated 7.5 crore women are expected to join the workforce in the coming decade. To ensure that this vital human resource—nearly half of the country's workforce—is effectively utilised and contributes at least 25 per cent to national economic growth, the government must prioritise skill development for women's empowerment. In addition to these gaps, prevalent gender stereotypes affect skill acquisition. Women generally pursue skills in beauty and wellness, textiles, clerical work, and healthcare. The DP-WEE study indicates that 30.2 per cent of skilled women aged 18 to 35 primar-



TO ENSURE THAT THIS VITAL HUMAN RESOURCE—NEARLY HALF OF THE COUNTRY'S WORKFORCE—IS EFFECTIVELY UTILISED AND CONTRIBUTES AT LEAST 25 PER CENT TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE GOVERNMENT MUST PRIORITISE SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

ily acquire skills in the beauty and wellness sector, followed by 21.5 per cent in tailoring. The beauty and wellness sector is one of the most significant forces driving women's empowerment in India today. The industry's rapid growth, the accessibility of skill development, the increasing number of women entering the workforce and entrepreneurship, and the rise of women in leadership roles all contribute to fostering a more equitable society. In India, the beauty and wellness sector is rapidly advancing women's empowerment by providing substantial employment to approximately 12.3 million people, of whom 66 per cent are women. This workforce includes individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds and educated families. According to a 2023 report by Technavio, the beauty and personal care industry in India is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.5 per cent from 2021, reaching a market value of over \$20 billion and creating employment opportunities for around 20.3 million people. Promoting female entrepreneurship in India is crucial, as participation is low, with only one in five entrepreneurs being women. The beauty and wellness sector offers women significant employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Therefore, there is an urgent need to actively promote skill development, entrepreneurship, and self-employment in this sector through targeted training initiatives, entrepreneurship education, and financial support, enabling women to enhance their professional growth. India's beauty and wellness industry has low entry barriers for women looking to become entrepreneurs. Many women have capitalised on this sector to establish their businesses, empowering them to take control of their financial futures and

influence the industry's direction. Over 30 per cent of beauty and wellness businesses in India are now owned by women, ranging from small beauty parlours to large spa chains and wellness centres. By building businesses in this sector, women create financial independence and contribute to economic growth. Entrepreneurship fosters leadership skills, self-reliance, and resilience, making women more visible and influential economically. Government initiatives and private institutions have been instrumental in equipping women with the necessary tools for success in the industry. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has played a vital role in training women for careers in beauty and wellness. Initiatives like The Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Council (BWSSC) provide certifications and skill development courses to millions of women nationwide. According to the BWSSC, nearly 2 million women have been trained through skill development programs in beauty and wellness in India, significantly enhancing women's employability and career growth. Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), has spent over two decades empowering 250,000 women in tier 2 cities and suburban areas with valuable skills in beauty and wellness. This initiative has helped bridge geographical disparities and enhanced their career prospects, enabling them to pursue diverse roles in the industry. The hybrid mode of training also boosts their chances for professional advancement and reducing the gender employment gap. Beyond financial and professional empowerment, the beauty and well-

ness sector boosts women's self-esteem and confidence. In a society where women's appearances have often been scrutinised, the beauty industry allows women to express themselves, feel more self-assured, and engage actively in both social and professional spheres. Women are increasingly taking on leadership roles within this industry, driving trends and shaping its future. According to FICCI's 2021 report on the beauty and wellness sector, women hold significant leadership positions in major beauty brands and represent 50-60 per cent of senior management in several top companies. As women advance to leadership roles, they influence industry trends, promote diversity and inclusivity, and help break down gender norms. Their leadership inspires the next generation of women to pursue prominent roles, further advancing gender equality in the workforce. With a growing focus on sustainability in the beauty and wellness sector, women have opportunities to lead initiatives that promote environmental awareness and social responsibility. Many women in this field are focused on business growth and actively cultivating sustainable and ethical practices that positively impact society. By offering women financial independence, career advancement opportunities, and self-expression platforms, the beauty and wellness sector is reshaping the future for women in India. This sector's economic, social, and psychological benefits pave the way for a new generation of women contributing to India's growth trajectory. *(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; the views expressed are personal)*

Reviving the spirit of peace: A call to action for a divided world

As the voices of peacemakers grow faint and their initiatives struggle for survival, the urgency to reignite hope and unity has never been greater

This is my story. As a child, I often heard harrowing tales of emotional and physical trauma, turmoil, displacement, and violence from my family elders—stories of what they endured during Partition. They spoke of their flight from Rawalpindi and how, as refugees, they rebuilt their lives and made Delhi their home. Listening to these sagas of resilience, courage, and the indomitable human spirit, I was reminded of the philosopher George Santayana's warning: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Tragically, we have done just that—forgetting the lessons of the past and repeating the same mistakes,



APS MALHOTRA

over and over again. Thirty-seven years after Partition, another tragedy unfolded. A so-called "big tree" fell, and the reverberations shook Delhi to its core. What followed was a horrific bloodbath: gross attempts at ethnic cleansing, as thousands of innocent people were butchered in the nation's capital within hours. Law enforcement turned a

blind eye. Places of worship were desecrated. Homes were looted, ransacked, and burned. Women were violated, and men were hunted like wild animals. In those dark and desperate times, when it seemed as though humanity had been consumed by madness, there were still beacons of hope. Veterans like the late Kuldeep Nayar stood steadfast, risking their safety to uphold the ideals of peace. Stories of individuals and groups lighting candles, distributing sweets and roses at the Attari-Wagah border, and praying for harmony between two estranged nations filled me with admiration and hope. I longed to join them—to move from being a passive

observer to an active participant in this peace movement. But it remained a dream for decades. Finally, some years ago, the opportunity came during a visit to Amritsar for a seminar. By sheer luck, I was given a VIP pass to witness the Beating Retreat Ceremony at the Attari-Wagah border. I was thrilled beyond words. That day, under a gentle winter sun, I took my seat near the massive gate where the ceremony unfolds. It was a spectacle to behold—smartly dressed soldiers marching in perfect sync on both sides of the border. The crowd was electric, brimming with patriotic fervor, singing Bollywood songs, and soaking in the



festive 'pind da mela' atmosphere. But as dusk fell and the ceremony ended, a sense of disappointment crept in. The cold wind seemed to mirror

my mood. None of the scenes I had dreamed of since childhood were there. There were no doves soaring freely across the man-made divide, no warm embraces or

gestures of reconciliation—only the stark reality of a deeply entrenched divide. That day, I walked away with nothing but the wistful reveries of a peacenik. Now, as I approach the close of my 56th year, my concern for the future has grown. The peacemakers—the dreamers who championed harmony and understanding—are fading, their initiatives struggling to survive. A way forward must be found, and urgently. The solution lies within each of us, but it will take collective effort to revive the peace offensive. If we fail to act, we risk losing this fight entirely. And history, as well as future generations, will not forgive us.

The path to peace is fraught with challenges, but it is one we must tread with urgency and determination. The fading voices of peacemakers must be reignited, their efforts revitalised, for the sake of a shared future. If we fail to come together now—to heal divisions, foster understanding, and embrace humanity's collective strength—the dream of harmony will wither away. The responsibility lies with each of us to ensure this does not happen. Let us act before it is too late, for history will not absolve us, and future generations will inherit the consequences of our inaction. Peace cannot wait. *(The writer is an author and blogger; views are personal)*

IN BRIEF



Airfares have moderated in 2024, says Govt

The government has said airfares have moderated in 2024 compared to 2023 and notably, a decline in air ticket prices was observed in various routes during festival seasons. Amid concerns in certain quarters that air ticket prices are ruling high, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told Rajya Sabha that airfares are not subject to regulation by the government and airlines have the flexibility to determine their airfares based on their operational needs while adhering to existing rules. "...the government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it remains vigilant, and the government intervenes to shift capacity from one sector to another to prevent exorbitant pricing to ensure passenger comfort and welfare," he said in a written reply on November 25. Airfares are dynamic and is a function of demand and supply. With continuous engagement with airlines & Online Ticketing Agents (OTAs) and keeping a watch on the movement of airfares by the government, Mohol said airfares have moderated in 2024 relative to 2023.



Second phase of PM e-Drive notified

Buyers of cargo electric three-wheelers will continue to avail the subsidy benefit as the government has advanced the second phase of incentives for such vehicles under the Rs 10,900-crore PM e-Drive Scheme. The move comes as the subsidy allocation for the ongoing financial year on L5 category electric three-wheelers has already exhausted with the registration of over 80,000 such vehicles till November 7. Also, the subsidy amount has been capped at Rs 25,000 per vehicle, down to half from Rs 50,000 per vehicle for the 80,546 vehicles registered between April 1 and November 7, 2024. According to the latest notification published on November 26, up to 1,24,846 vehicles to be registered on the Vahan portal from November 8, 2024 to March 31, 2026 will be able to avail subsidies at reduced rate of Rs 2,500/kWh, down from Rs 5,000/kWh in phase I. When the scheme was announced in September this year, 80,546 electric three-wheeler cargo vehicles were targeted to be supported for FY25 and 1,24,846 units for FY26.



Godrej Properties launches QIP to raise Rs 6,000 cr

Godrej Properties on Wednesday launched its qualified institutional placement (QIP) to sell equity shares to investors for raising up to Rs 6,000 crore to fund its growth plan. Last month, the company's board approved raising of up to Rs 6,000 crore through the issue of securities. In a regulatory filing, Godrej Properties informed that the QIP Placement Committee authorized the opening of the issue on November 27, 2024. The panel also approved the floor price for the QIP issue, being Rs 2,727.44 per equity share. Godrej Properties' share price closed at Rs 2,833.05 apiece on Wednesday, down 2.35 per cent from Tuesday. The company is one of the leading developers in the country. It has a major presence in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Pune and Bengaluru. It has entered into Hyderabad market recently. In the last fiscal, the company's sales booking jumped 84 per cent to a record Rs 22,527 crore, the highest among listed realty firms in 2023-24. Godrej Properties has set a target of achieving Rs 27,000 crore worth of sale bookings.

'French aircraft, defence industries should look at India to set up base'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday urged the French aviation sector to explore opportunities to set up manufacturing facilities in India. He said that India is the world's largest aviation market with 1,500 planes ordered with the capability of taking the order up to 2,000. "Indian companies have 1,500 aircraft on order and have the option to take it to 2,000. It would also be in the best interest of French companies to look at Indian manufacturing possibilities, to look at expanding their own sales in India for both aircraft, spare parts for aircraft, maintenance, repair and overhaul and all other associated industries," he said while addressing the Asia-Pacific Forum of French Foreign Trade Advisors.

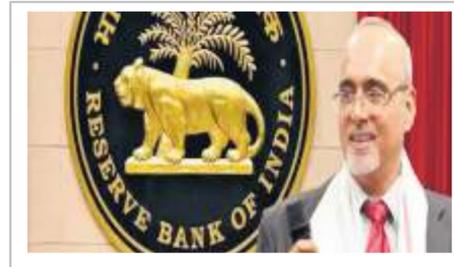


A large part of the order of aircraft by Indian companies has gone to French manufacturer Airbus. India has increased the number of airports to 125 from 75 in 2014 and by 2029, 75 more airports will become operational. "It gives huge opportunities for companies who wish to develop airports and other associated industries," Goyal said. The minister also suggested for joint production partnership between Indian and French companies in the defence sector for the world markets. "We are encouraging companies from across the world to manufacture in India. We allow 100 per cent ownership of defence manufacturing companies. "We don't even insist on technology transfer in most cases," he said. Goyal also invited French companies for partnerships with India in the area of agriculture and food processing, renewable energy, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies, and services sector.

'India needs quantum leap in scale, size of fiscal bodies'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India needs to take a quantum leap in the scale and size of the financial institutions to achieve the aspiration of becoming a developed nation by 2047, RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao has said. He was speaking 'High-Level Policy Conference of Central Banks in the Global South' organised by the Reserve Bank of India as a part of commemoration of its 90th year here last week. "As we retrospect, we observe that the regulatory developments and policy measures initiated in the past have led to development of a robust, resilient and strong financial system in India which has weathered several crises. "But the goals we have for our nation require us to take a quantum leap in the scale and size of the financial institutions," he said. This will also possibly expose the entities and their users to an increased amount of risk. In view of this, robust governance and effective risk man-



The regulatory developments and policy measures initiated in the past have led to development of a robust, resilient and strong financial system in India which has weathered several crises

agement are going to be the dual anchors that will keep our financial institutions afloat and help them grow sustainably, the Deputy Governor said. "From a macro-perspective, our national aspiration to become a developed economy by year 2047 still requires a stronger foundation of financial institutions in a complex and rapidly evolving financial landscape," he said. Besides banks, the existing entities would require easier access to robust capital markets to fund their growing asset books along with access to deep financial markets that would enable them to hedge the associated risks on their balance sheets, he said.

Total debt on major telcos hits Rs 4.09 lakh cr

BSNL debt lowest at Rs 23,297 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The total debt on four major telecom operators in the country stood at Rs 4,09,905 crore in the financial year 2024, with state-owned BSNL recording the lowest debt among competitors at Rs 23,297 crore, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.



According to data shared by Minister of State for Communications Pemasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Vodafone Idea registered a debt of Rs 2.07 lakh crore, Bharti Airtel Rs 1.25 lakh crore and Jio Infocomm Rs 52,740 crore as of March 31, 2024. BSNL had a debt of Rs 40,400 crore in FY22, which was reduced to Rs 28,092 crore with the help of a revival package and financial support from the govern-

ment. "In 2019, the first revival package amounting to around Rs 69 thousand crores was given that brought down the operating costs of BSNL/MTNL. In 2022, a revival package amounting to around Rs 1.64 Lakh crore was given. It focused on infusing fresh capital, restructuring debt, viability gap funding for rural telephony etc," Sekhar said. The minister also said that the government approved the allotment of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL with a total outlay of around Rs 89,000 crore. "As a result of these packages, BSNL has started earning operating profits from FY 2020-21," Sekhar said.

India to spend over Rs 9 lakh cr on power transmission infra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A total expenditure of Rs 9.12 lakh crore has been planned to augment power transmission infrastructure capacity in the country by 2032, according to Union Minister Shripad Yesso Naik.

The National Electricity Plan (Transmission) covers the transmission plan till 2031-32, said Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Monday. As per the Plan, 1,91,474 circuit kilometres (ckm) of transmission lines and 1274 Giga Volt Ampere (GVA) of transformation capacity would be added (at 220 kV and above voltage level) in the 10-year period from 2022-23 to 2031-32. In addition, he stated that 33.25 GW of High Voltage

Direct Current (HVDC) bipole links are also planned. The inter-regional transmission capacity is planned to increase to 143 GW by 2026-27 and further to 168 GW by 2031-32, from the present level of 119 GW. The Plan also highlights new technology options in transmission, cross-border interconnections and private sector participation in transmission. He informed the House that the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this plan is about Rs 9,16,142 crore. The Transmission Plan provides visibility to the Electricity Generators, Equipment Manufacturers, Transmission Service Providers (TSP) and investors for the growth opportunities in Transmission Sector.



NTPC Green Energy shares jump 13 pc in debut

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of NTPC Green Energy Ltd, the renewable energy arm of NTPC, ended with a premium of 13 per cent against the issue price of Rs 108 on Wednesday.

The stock made its debut at Rs 111.60, up 3.33 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it climbed 13.65 per cent to Rs 122.75. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 122.10 apiece, rallying 13.06 per cent.

On the NSE, it listed at Rs 111.50, up 3.24 per cent. The stock ended at Rs 121.25, a jump of 12.26 per cent.

The company's market valuation stood at Rs 1,02,885.49 crore. In terms of volume, 343.59 lakh shares of the firm were traded on the BSE and 3,009.61 lakh shares on the NSE during the day. Shares of NTPC climbed 2.09 per cent to settle at Rs 369.20 each on the BSE. The initial public offering of NTPC Green Energy Ltd got subscribed 2.40 times on the closing day of the share sale on Friday.

Air India Express to start flights to Bangkok

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air India Express will start flights to Bangkok from Surat and Patna from December 20, making Thailand's capital its 15th international destination. Besides, the Tata Group carrier will commence services to Dimapur (Nagaland) and Patna (Bihar). With these new cities, the airline will be connecting a total of 51 cities across India, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. "Operations to Bangkok will commence on 20th December 2024, with direct flights connecting Surat and Patna to the vibrant capital of Thailand. Additionally, the airline strengthens its domestic network with the launch of services to Dimapur and Patna, offering daily direct connectivity between Dimapur and Guwahati, and Patna and Bengaluru and Hyderabad."

Sensex rises by 230 pts on gains in Adani stocks, select blue-chips

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex climbed 230 points in a volatile session on Wednesday following gains in Adani group stocks and foreign fund inflows. The 30-share index rose by 230.02 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 80,234.08 as 18 of its shares closed in green and 12 in red. During the day, it surged 507.09 points or 0.63 per cent to 80,511.15.

Utilities, power, services and capital goods shares advanced while realty and healthcare stocks were the laggards. Adani group shares led the recovery rising up to nearly 20 per cent after the group clarified that chairman Gautam

In a see-saw trade, the NSE Nifty rose by 80.40 points or 0.33 per cent to 24,274.90. The index moved between a high of 24,354.55 and a low of 24,145.65.

Utilities, power, services and capital goods shares advanced while realty and healthcare stocks were the laggards.

Adani group shares led the recovery rising up to nearly 20 per cent after the group clarified that chairman Gautam

Adani and his aides have not been charged under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. They faced three other charges, including securities and wire fraud that are punishable with monetary fines, the group stated.

Adani Ports & SEZ was the biggest gainer among Sensex stocks, rising by 6 per cent. HDFC Bank rose by 1.43 per cent contributing over 167 points to total Sensex gains. NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and Axis Bank were among the other gainers.

In contrast, Titan, State Bank of India, Asian Paints, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in equity markets on Tuesday which also bought strengthened the sentiment.



Fiscal deficit likely to be at 4.75 pc of GDP: IndRa

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The government will be able to register the fiscal deficit at 4.75 per cent in FY25, 0.19 per cent lower than the budget aim, by reigning in expenditure, domestic rating agency India Ratings and Research said on Wednesday.

The revenue expenditure, excluding subsidies, will be 0.12 per cent of GDP, lower than the budget estimate, the rating agency added.

Its chief economist and head of public finance Devendra Kumar Pant said the govern-

ment capital expenditure will come out to be Rs 62,000 crore lower than the estimate of Rs 11.11 lakh crore.

Pant was quick to add that the government capex will still be 10.6 per cent higher than the year-ago period. The government was initially envisaging a 17.6 per cent growth in the key number.

Even as there is a dip in the government capital expenditure projected, the capex to GDP in FY25 at 3.21 per cent is estimated to be at a two-decade high, the agency said.

"The FY25 capex growth has



been impacted by the general elections in May 2024, and capex in 1H FY25 shrank 15.42 per cent year-on-year. To achieve the FY25 (BE) target, capex in 2H FY25 must grow

52.04 per cent, which appears to be a daunting task," it added. Among ministries, railways, and road, transport and highways will breach their FY25 capex allocations, the agency

said. There will be a slippage of 0.10 per cent of GDP on the subsidies front due to higher outgoes on food, fertiliser and petroleum subsidies, the agency said, pointing that the overall spending has been 54.55 per cent higher than the budgeted levels in the first half of the fiscal.

On the revenue expenditure, excluding subsidies, the rating agency's report said actual spending by 43 ministries other than civil aviation, railways, and road, transport and highways in the April-September

period was less than 40 per cent of their allocation.

The FY25 gross and net tax revenue will come at 12.02 per cent of GDP and 8.08 per cent of GDP, respectively, which will be a 17-year high, the report said, adding that income tax and corporate tax are estimated to contribute 80.94 per cent and 10.53 per cent, respectively, to the additional gross tax revenue.

Non-tax revenue and disinvestment receipts are to be lower than the budgeted amount of Rs 5.46 lakh crore and Rs 78,000 crore, respectively, in FY25, it said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE
NIT No.: 19/TU/FIDC/Unit-III/Kodad/Bund/8.09cr/2024 Dt: 28.11.2024
No of Works: 01 Work, Name of work: Kodad Municipality -Development of Mini Tank Bund at Pedda Cheruvu in Kodad Municipality Package-I under TU/FIDC Loan Assistance. Total Value of work: Rs.800.00 Lakhs. Download of tender document and submission of bid document: 28.11.2024 @ 10:30AM to 16.12.2024 @ 04:30 PM. Technical bid opening date: 16.12.2024 @ 04:31 PM. Further details can be seen in @ tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
Kodad Municipality

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE
NIT No. 22/EE-30/SOZGHMC/2024-25, Dt: 27-11-2024 published on 'e' procurement platform. The details can be seen by logging @ https://tender.aprcorpmc.gov.in. The date of events is arranged below: Name of the Work: Arrangements for providing stage, Chairs, Rodas and other arrangements in Venkateswara Prada Vajayastavala and International Day of Person with disabilities under Begumpet Circle-30, GHMC. Work: Estimate Amount: Rs. 4.80 lakhs, Bid Document Download Start Date & Time: 28-11-2024 @ 10:30 AM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 02-12-2024 @ 10:30 AM, Name & Address of office Cell. No.: E.E., Circle-30, GHMC, Sec.bud, Cell No.s: 733181426 / 964990750, Address of the office concerned Sri. Sudeshan, Executive Engineer, Circle-30, Begumpet, Sec.bud Zone, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Circle-30, Begumpet, GHMC.

Indian Bank
Secunderabad Branch, 201 Karan Centre, S D Road, SECUNDERABAD 500 003, Ph. No. 27810293 / 27844452
PUBLICATION DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.
Sent on 19.11.2024 by Regd. Post
To, 1. Mr. G Vijay Kumar Choudhary (Borrower/Mortgagor) S/o G Venkateswara Rao, Plot No.6, Padmarathi Residency, 403, Jayanagar, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad.
2. Mr. G Phaneendra (Guarantor) S/o G Venkateswara Rao, Plot No.6, Padmarathi Residency 403, Jayanagar, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad.
SUB: Your Home Loan Account No. 923517475 with Indian Bank, Secunderabad Branch-regarding.
You committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of Rs. 9,34,570/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety-Four Thousand Five Hundred and seventy only) together with interest, cost & charges from 19.11.2024 till date of payment. The Bank issued notice under the Act on 19.11.2024 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs. 9,34,570/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety-Four Thousand Five Hundred and seventy only) together with interest, cost & charges from 19.11.2024 till date of payment. You are called upon to pay Rs. 9,34,570/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety-Four Thousand Five Hundred and seventy only) together with interest, cost & charges from 19.11.2024 till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank.
SCHEDULE: The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: **Mortgaged assets:** All that the Residential Flat No E-305, third Floor, Swasthya Arcade, Sy no 87 and 93, together with undivided share of land measuring 20.00 Sq. Yds or 16.72 Sq. Mts, out of 1854 Sq. Yds along with built up area 1103 Sq. Ft (including common areas) situated at Hazratnagar, Bowenpally, Secunderabad Cantonment, Hyderabad, Telangana State. **Boundaries of Flat:** North: Open to Sky & Flat F-309 South: Open to Sky & Flat D-304 East: Corridor West: Road. **Boundaries of Land:** North: Neighbour Land, South: 30' Wide Road East: Neighbour Land, West: 30' Wide Road.
Date: 19.11.2024 Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER
Place: Secunderabad Indian Bank

TEJAL SINHA
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Spirituality is not just a practice – it's a way of life. In a world where chaos and uncertainty often reign, the pursuit of spirituality offers a beacon of hope and inner peace. As a revered spiritual leader from the Himalayan Yogi Institute and Swamrpan Foundation, Acharya Advait Yoghushan is on a mission to share the wisdom of Aum and promote holistic well-being. We had the privilege of sitting down with Acharya to discuss his teachings, the true essence of yoga and the path to enlightenment.

As we delve into the heart of his teachings, Yoghushan reveals the profound impact of yoga and Vedic wisdom on personal and societal transformation. "For me, yoga, meditation and the broader Vedic teachings are not just personal practices; they are the blueprint for a transformative way of living. These ancient tools offer us a direct path to uncover our true nature—beyond the layers of conditioning and ego. As we cultivate inner peace and clarity, we align ourselves with the universal rhythms and that alignment becomes the foundation for societal change."

When individuals awaken to their deeper selves, he says, they naturally embody compassion, integrity and harmony. A society made up of such individuals would be a society that values truth over materialism, interconnectedness over division and peace over conflict. This is the larger mission: to awaken the consciousness of the individual so that the collective consciousness evolves and people live in nonduality (Advait), bringing about true transformation on both a personal and societal level.

In an era where yoga has become a global phenomenon, he sheds light on the delicate balance between accessibility and authenticity, saying, "Yoga's essence lies in its spiritual depth, not just physical postures. While its global popularity has made it more accessible, I focus on guiding people beyond the surface—inviting them to explore yoga as a holistic practice that unites body, mind and soul. To balance accessibility with authenticity, I teach yoga as a living philosophy, emphasising meditation, self-awareness and mindfulness. *Yoga Abhyas* make changes in subtle body if practiced appropriately. This way, even in a world that often focuses on the external, the deeper transformative power of yoga remains intact and accessible to all."

As we explore the concept of enlightenment, Acharya Advait Yoghushan offers a profound insight. "Enlightenment is not a distant goal, but a way of being—an unfolding realisation that we are not separate from the divine, but intimately connected to it," he explains. According to Advait, enlightenment is about seeing life with clarity, free from the distortions of the ego. "In my daily practice, enlightenment is reflected in how I approach each moment—with nondualism, gratitude and a deep sense of awareness."

Acharya



ILLUMINATING LIVES BEYOND YOGA MAT



Advait Yoghushan emphasises that enlightenment is not about escaping the world, but fully embracing it with love and understanding. "Through yoga, meditation, and conscious living, I cultivate this awareness every day, allowing it to guide my actions, my interactions, and my inner peace." He views enlightenment as a shift in

perspective, seeing the divine in the ordinary and realising that every breath is a step closer to awakening.

In today's fast-paced world, Acharya Advait Yoghushan recommends timeless techniques for cultivating resilience and mental clarity. He notes that the practice of *pranayama* or breath control is incredibly powerful, as it calms the mind, centers the nervous system and restores balance. "Meditation, especially with *Aumkar Sadhana* repetition or simply observing the breath, creates a space of stillness amidst chaos, helping us reconnect with our true nature."

His work in yoga and spirituality extends to physical, mental, and emotional well-being. He believes that the practice of yoga, as he teaches it, offers a profound antidote to the mental and emotional challenges of our time. "Yoga, in its truest form, is a profound antidote to the mental and emotional challenges of our time," he explains. "In a world filled with stress and anxiety, the practice I teach focuses on cultivating inner stillness and awareness. Through *pranayama* (breathing exercises), we learn to regulate the breath, which directly impacts the nervous system, calming the mind and reducing anxiety." In a society oriented toward

external achievement, he guides people to reconcile their spiritual pursuits with their external goals. "In a society that values external achievement, the path of self-realisation might seem counterintuitive, but they are not opposing forces; they are complementary," he notes. "True success, as I teach, is not measured by external markers—titles, wealth, or recognition—but by the inner peace and fulfillment that come from knowing and aligning with your true self."

Acharya Advait Yoghushan also explores the intersection of Vedic sciences and modern science. "Yes, there is a profound alignment between Vedic sciences and modern

While yoga is often practiced individually today, he notes that its true power lies in community. "In the Vedic tradition, *Satsanga*—the gathering of like-minded individuals—was essential for spiritual growth. Community provides support, accountability, and shared wisdom, helping us stay grounded and inspired on our journey."

In making Vedic and yogic philosophies relevant and approachable for people with diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, he focuses on universal principles and practices. "My yatra, inspired by my own journey through adversity, focuses on awakening the sacred sound of (Aum), which symbolises the universal

vibration that connects all beings," he shares. "I believe that this sound transcends religious

boundaries and resonates with anyone seeking peace and harmony." His approach to mindfulness and yoga is rooted in making these practices accessible and practical for all. "When I conduct sessions, whether in schools, local communities, or temples, I integrate mindfulness and yoga in ways that are accessible and practical," he explains. Acharya Advait Yoghushan focuses on simple, universal practices that promote well-being, such as breathwork, meditation, and mindful movement, which are relevant across cultures. For children, he tailors his sessions to foster a sense of inner calm, self-awareness, and compassion – values that transcend specific religious teachings. In temples, he speaks on themes like forgiveness and letting go of negativity, which are universal human experiences that can resonate with anyone, regardless of their faith.

At the heart of his work is the concept of "spirituality in action." He emphasises that this is about living what we practice, no matter where we are. "I encourage people to bring mindfulness into their work and daily life by reminding them that everything we do can be done with presence and intention," he notes. Acharya Advait Yoghushan stresses that compassion plays a big part in this approach. "When we approach others with kindness and understanding, we're practicing spirituality in the real world."

Spirituality meets social impact in the remarkable journey of Acharya

Advait Yoghushan, a visionary

spiritual leader dedicated to spreading the universal message of peace, harmony and self-realisation.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer* for Community Wise, the Acharya delves into the transformative power of yoga, mindfulness and awareness, offering invaluable peace and more

science, especially when we look beyond the surface," he observes. "Vedic teachings, with their focus on consciousness, the interconnectedness of life and the subtle energies of the universe, echo many of the discoveries made in quantum physics and neuroscience."

In fact, in the Vedic tradition, he highlights that mindfulness and awareness go much deeper than simply being present in the moment or observing our thoughts, as is often emphasised in Western interpretations. "In the Vedic context, mindfulness is seen as the ability to maintain a steady, focused attention on the true nature of the self—beyond the fluctuations of the mind, emotions and the external world."

Unlocking potential of radiography in healthcare

We need to raise awareness of the value of radiography in healthcare. This has to come in the form of knowing the importance that radiography and X-ray technology play in the diagnostics and treatment of various conditions, which is not within the public's general knowledge. Radiography professionals exert their expertise in discovering injuries, diseases and illnesses. In so doing, there is recognition for their efforts in healthcare. The evolution of X-rays is a landmark contribution from professionals in radiography to the medical profession. It has revolutionized the science world because it allows physicians to look at structures without any need for invasive procedures. It is helpful that we let the public know the advancement in the technology and practical capacity of radiography. Radiography uses X-rays to visualise the mechanics of the body in medical domains including imaging and interventional medicine, such as catheter placements and biopsies that diagnose fractures and diseases such as tumors and infections. In oncology, therapeutic radiography also plays a part in planning and delivering targeted radiation therapy to combat cancer while ensuring the protection of healthy tissue. In dentistry, X-rays are used to assess health status, diagnose cavities, and monitor bone density alterations. Similarly in medicine, radiography is an essential tool for detecting and diagnosing a variety of health-related concerns in animals. Advances and Developments in Radiography Radiography has undergone a great evolution, advancing from both the diagnostic accuracy and patient safety standpoints.

With Digital Radiography, it is now possible to obtain high-resolution images and expose the patient to far less radiation than ever, and processing is also completed much faster. This decreases the waiting time for the patient. The advent of 3D Imaging, with Cone Beam CT, and 3D reconstruction gives a better view of the complex areas that is always proving invaluable in intricate surgeries and dental procedures. The integration of AI with Machine Learning into

radiography has improved the accuracy of diagnostics by enhancing the ability to detect subtle patterns or anomalies through radiologists, as early-stage tumors or fractures among others. Low-dose techniques are being positioned at the forefront of the debates on radiography, focusing on minimizing exposure to radiation while providing good quality images for patient safety. Portable radiography units, today, are able to acquire images at patient bedsides and have already proven to be invaluable in critical care as well as in emergency settings and with the current COVID-19 situation wherein mobility and containment was the issue. These technological advances show how radiography has become safer, more effective, and versatile in practice. Significance of Radiography in Health Care The importance of radiography lies in the medical field because it offers the earliest and most effective identification and diagnosis of grave conditions such as broken bones, infections, and cancers. Identifying those conditions at early stages gives the largest hope for successful treatment and survival. Treatment planning also relies heavily on adequate radiographic imaging, especially in fields like oncology and surgery. Good treatment plans often rely on clear images of the affected area. Radiography provides a least invasive form of diagnosis, which negates the risk of surgical exposure that would strain the patient's body, shortens procedures as short as possible, and reduces the painfulness and recovery time. Radiographic imaging also enables one to observe patients continuously, hence tracing the developing or resolving pathologies and evaluating the effects of treatment by monitoring a reduction in size, in the case of tumors, in cancer treatment. This makes radiography an essential element of good practice and patient-focused care, providing accurate, early, and continuous insight into health conditions.

(The author, Dr Ravindra B Kamble, is a Lead Consultant - Neuro-Intervention & Diagnostic Radiology, at Aster RV Hospital.)



Shaping Telugu literature with grace

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For some, a career in teaching is the culmination of years of dedication. For others, it's merely the first chapter of a much larger story. This is especially true for this celebrated Telugu poet and writer, who transitioned from the classroom to the literary world with grace, determination and an unwavering passion for storytelling.

DrKondapalli Neeharini, a relentless torchbearer of Telugu literature, seamlessly balances the roles of homemaker and literary trailblazer, inspiring countless women along the way. Hailing from Chinna Pendyala in Jangaon district, her journey was shaped by her parents' powerful legacy—her mother, a leader in women's empowerment and her father, a freedom fighter and the first Lok Sabha MP from Warangal.

Her notable works, from poetry collections like *Arra Talupulu* to her biographies and travelogues, reflect her deep social consciousness and feminist perspective. She has dedicated decades to preserving cultural legacies, notably through her biography of her father-in-law, DrKondapalli Seshagiri Rao and her exploration of Telangana's history through her PhD thesis on the Oddaraju brothers.

Her contribution to literature has earned her numerous accolades, including the prestigious Amruthalata Award, the She Award and international recognition, yet she remains grounded, known for her humility and deep empathy. Through her words, she continues to be an advocate for societal change, equality and the transformative power of storytelling, inspiring generations to come. Her literary journey began quietly, as many do. "I was always inclined toward writing," she says with a smile that suggests fond memories of simpler times. "Even as a student, I was drawn to Telugu literature. When I pursued my degree and later my MA in the same subject, I felt like I was uncovering the depths of my language and culture." What started as a hobby during her early teaching career quickly evolved into something more profound. "I had a habit of writing poetry and essays, but it was after I left my teaching job—out of family responsibilities—that I began taking my writing seriously. It was no longer just about expressing myself but about creating something meaningful for others."

The next step in her journey was penning articles for newspapers, an endeavor that brought her closer to her growing audience. "I felt a deep sense of responsibility with each piece I wrote. If ten people read my work, I knew it had the potential to shape their thoughts. A writer's words carry weight, and I never took that lightly." Her transition from teacher to writer wasn't without challenges. It required adapting to new forms of expression and finding her unique voice in a competitive literary landscape. But the results were worth the effort. Over the years, she became known for her ability to balance introspective poetry with engaging essays on social and cultural topics.

It wasn't just the creative aspect of writing that she loved; she also enjoyed the process of learning and observing. "When I write, I don't just focus on my thoughts—I actively seek out perspectives that challenge me. Whether it's analysing the good and the bad or diving deep into a subject, my work is about understanding and conveying the complexity of life." One of her most celebrated works is *Six Months in America*, a travelogue that offers both cultural reflections and personal anecdotes. "When I traveled to America, it was for a deeply personal reason—to

support my daughter during her pregnancy and celebrate her milestones," she explains. The experience was transformative. For someone deeply rooted in Indian traditions, America presented a world of contrasts. "It was my first time travelling abroad and I felt torn between the bonds I'd left behind and the responsibility that brought me there. I remember observing everything—the festivals, the family dynamics, the way of life—and constantly relating back to my own culture."

Six Months in America is more than a travelogue—it's a meditation on identity and belonging. By blending her personal journey with broader cultural commentary, she invites readers to reflect on their own experiences of home, heritage and adaptation. Beyond her literary success, her work has been a beacon for women's empowerment. "In our society, there are countless women—teachers, doctors, leaders—doing extraordinary work. But their stories often remain untold. Through my writing, I want to highlight their achievements and inspire others to recognise the greatness within themselves." "Women are the backbone of our society, and it's time we give them the recognition they deserve," she asserts. Despite her accomplishments, she remains grounded. "Awards and recognition are a double-edged sword," she admits. "On one hand, they validate your efforts. But on the other, they come with the pressure to keep achieving, to keep meeting expectations. It's a burden, but one I carry with pride."

Her journey—from a teacher with a penchant for poetry to a celebrated voice in Telugu literature—is a testament to the power of perseverance and passion. Her stories, essays, and reflections continue to inspire readers, offering a glimpse into the world through her eyes. As she puts it, "Writing is more than a profession—it's a way of understanding life. Through my words, I hope to leave behind not just stories, but a legacy of thought, compassion, and connection." In the quiet corners of her mind and the bustling world around her, she continues to create. A contemporary artist, a feminist voice and a relentless seeker of truth, she reflects on her evolving identity with fervour. "I don't want to stop here. I am constantly reading, writing, and creating. The world still holds so many untold stories and I feel compelled to bring them to light," she says. Her commitment to feminist ideals transcends literature, shaping her vision for aspiring writers in the Telugu literary space. "Feminism is not about opposing men but about steering them toward understanding. It's about standing on our own feet—achieving financial freedom and using it to navigate life's challenges," she asserts with conviction. These views are deeply rooted in her upbringing and personal history. Born into a politically charged family during the Razakur movement, she witnessed resilience and revolution firsthand. Her father, an underground revolutionary turned MP, instilled in her the belief that education is a transformative tool. "He always said, 'We don't have anything but education.' That stayed with me." Her life story reads like a movie script, a tale of determination, losses, and triumphs. Despite facing academic setbacks and societal hurdles, she emerged as a voice for change. "We have to embrace our identity as women and lead with intelligence, maturity and compassion," she says. As she works on completing her latest book and exploring new artistic endeavors, she remains a mentor to young writers. Her advice to them is simple yet profound: "Observe society, write with intention and never forget that true freedom lies in achieving your dreams."

From her humble beginnings as a teacher to her rise as a literary trailblazer, Dr Neeharini's story is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance and dedication to one's craft. In a heartwarming conversation with *The Pioneer*, we delve into the remarkable life and works of Neeharini, a celebrated Telugu poet, writer and feminist voice



what's brewing?

BAKE, CREATE, INDULGE

Indulge in the art of dessert-making with these three carefully crafted recipes. Each one is a masterclass in balancing flavors, textures, and presentation. Whether you're a seasoned baker or a beginner in the kitchen, these recipes will guide you through the process of creating truly show-stopping desserts



PEACH PIE WITH BALSAMIC VINEGAR

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 large, ripe peaches
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1 puff pastry
- 1 container ricotta

STEP BY STEP

- Step 1:** Preheat the oven to 180 °C. **Step 2:** Wash, peel and slice the peaches into 3 cm slices. Set them aside.
Step 3: Place the puff pastry in a tart pan, prick the bottom with a fork and bake until golden brown.
Step 4: Take it out of the oven and wait for it to cool a little. **Step 5:** Spread the ricotta over the bottom of the crust. Set it aside.
Step 6: Combine the oil, sugar and vanilla extract in a pan. Caramelize the sugar over low heat, and then add the peach slices. Take the mixture off the heat and pour it over the ricotta in the tart pan. Decorate with sliced almonds and a sprinkling of balsamic vinegar.

PARTY



INGREDIENTS:

- 120 g flour
- 120 g almond flour
- 150 g dark chocolate
- 5 eggs
- 210 g condensed milk
- 50 g Borges light extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- For the chocolate coating:
- 100 ml whipping cream
- 100 g dark chocolate
- 25 g butter
- Shredded coconut

Courtesy: Vishal Gupta, Managing Director at Borges India Pvt Ltd.

ALMOND AND BERRY TART

INGREDIENTS:

- 300 g mixed berries
- 60 ml olive oil
- 50 g granulated sugar
- 50 g ground almonds
- 1 egg
- 10 g vanilla sugar
- 1 pie crust

STEP BY STEP

- Step 1:** Preheat the oven to 180 °C.
Step 2: Set the pie crust in a tart pan and prick the bottom with a fork.
Step 3: In a large bowl, make the almond cream by mixing the olive oil, sugar, ground almonds and egg. Mix until smooth and creamy. Pour the almond cream over the crust and bake for 10 minutes at 180 °C.
Step 4: Meanwhile, wash and drain the berries.
Step 5: Once the tart base is done baking, let it cool completely before arranging the berries on top of the almond cream. It's ready to serve



EASTER CAKE

STEP BY STEP

- Step 1:** Preheat the oven to 170°C and melt the chocolate in a double boiler over low heat.
Step 2: Meanwhile, beat the eggs with the condensed milk until they are frothy. Add the light extra-virgin olive oil, the apple cider vinegar and the melted chocolate, and beat again.
Step 3: Add the flour, almond flour and baking powder and mix until the batter is smooth.
Step 4: Pour the batter into an 8-inch cake pan, greased with light extra-virgin olive oil, and bake for 40-45 minutes.
Step 5: Let the cake cool for 5 minutes in the pan, then take it out and set it on a wire rack to finish cooling.
Step 6: To make the chocolate coating, heat the cream in a saucepan. Just as it begins to boil, remove it from the heat and add the chocolate and butter. Stir until both have melted. Pour the coating over the cake, making sure to cover it completely, and let the cake cool until the coating hardens.
Step 7: Sprinkle with grated coconut and decorate with Easter figurines.



Day 3 of Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroha evening began with a soulful Hindustani vocal performance by Swar Sharma, whose melodious voice and intricate singing created a calming start. This was followed by a spellbinding performance by Rahul Deshpande, a celebrated vocalist and grandson of the legendary Pandit Vasantrao Deshpande. Rahul showcased his talent by singing a mix of classical and semi-classical styles like khayal, Natya sangeet and thumri.



Sunfeast Dark Fantasy has partnered with Pushpa 2: The Rule. As part of this special collaboration, Sunfeast Dark Fantasy has introduced specially designed limited-edition Pushpa 2 packs ahead of the movie release. Further, the brand will offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to five lucky fans to meet superstar Allu Arjun with the 'Biggest Fan Biggest Fantasy' contest, creating a dream come true moment for fans of Pushpa. Participants need to take a selfie using a special Augmented Reality (AR) filter on the dedicated campaign microsite (www.biggestfanbiggestfantasy.com) and share it on their social platforms while tagging the brand for their chance to win exciting prizes and for an opportunity to meet the Pushpa star.



The Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA)/ Poultry India inaugurated the 3-day 16th edition of Poultry India Expo 2024. The event was inaugurated at Hitec exhibition centre in Hyderabad and will end tomorrow (November 29).



Barbeque Nation presented 'The Great Grill Loot' – a pirate-themed seafood and entertainment festival. Available across outlets in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, this exciting festival will go on till December 15, offering diners an exceptional seafood experience at Barbeque Nation.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



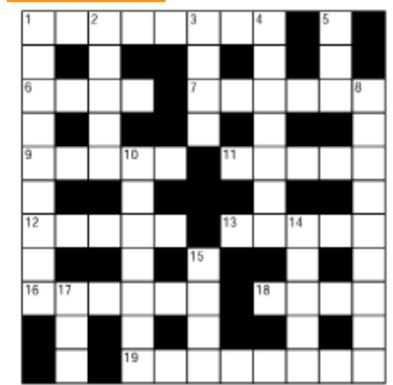
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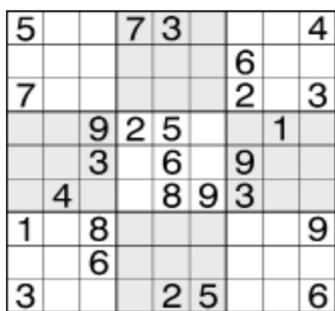
CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- 1 Creatures that turn into frogs
- 6 Absent
- 7 Extremely foolish
- 9 Vote into power
- 11 One fifth of thirty-five
- 12 Memorise
- 13 The part of a theatre where people perform
- 16 Take something away
- 18 A toy on a string that can be spun up and down
- 19 Dried grapes used in baking

DOWN

- 1 Someone on a journey
- 2 A male duck
- 3 Fewer



GINGER MEGGS



GOLD MEDALIST-TURNED-DIRECTOR, SUKU PURVAJ TAKING TELUGU CINEMA BY STORM

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Suku Purvaj, a gold medalist from Andhra University in Fine Arts, turned out to be the director of four Telugu films. It's an interesting story when talking about his debut film, *Shukra*, released in the year 2019. "It's a thriller and we were all excited as we announced the release date and even held an event before the release day," reminisces Suku.

But at the same time the pandemic happened and most of the theaters were all closed. "My film ran successfully for a couple of years, but because the lockdown theatres closed. We made the film with a budget of 75 lakhs, but it ran successfully on Amazon Prime Video and collected an amount of Rs 4.2 crore," said Purvaj.

A filmmaker approached him for the second film. "They liked my *Shukra* and approached me for another film, which I made, *Matarani Maunamidi*. This is a horror film and after the film was completed and ready to hit the screens, at that time the second lockdown happened," said

Purvaj. Though his films did not have a big-screen release, he was never disappointed. Reason—he got a good name as director. Hailing from Visakhapatnam, Purvaj completed an MBA. Before that he completed his graduation in Fine Arts from Andhra University. "I was a gold medalist from the university," he said. "From my childhood, I was into writing and formation scenes," he said. He added that in his third class he wrote a play in school.

Purvaj learnt all the skills that are needed for cinema. "I learned at Raj Kapoor Memorial, Pune, about photography and acting," he said. "I feel it is my destiny to become a director and I am confident that I can show my talent and in the coming years, people will talk about me," he said.

Now, Purvaj is coming up with a superhero film titled *A Masterpiece*. "The film is completed and the VFX work is pending. A UK-based company is doing the VFX and once it is completed, I want to release it in the coming summer," he said. He added that Aravind Krishna, Aashu Reddy, Jyothi Pooraj, Jayaprakash, Manish Gillada and many others played



SUKU PURVAJ, THE MAN BEHIND SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING FILMS IN RECENT TELUGU CINEMA, SPEAKS EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PIONEER ABOUT HIS CREATIVE PROCESS, HIS INSPIRATIONS AND WHAT'S NEXT FOR THIS TALENTED FILMMAKER!

tion, Purvaj wrote this superhero story. "A means Aryasumantra; that's why my title is *A Masterpiece*," he said.

The film is pending for the VFX, so he started another thriller called *Killer*. "In my earlier films, I wanted to act, but because of a few circumstances, I couldn't act. But now, I am producing the film on my own, so I decided to act in this *Killer*," he said. The first schedule is already completed.

Though he hails from Visakhapatnam, many of his films few portions were shot here. "My superhero film was shot in Araku, Visakhapatnam, Vadodara, Hyderabad and many other places," he said. He is plan-

ning to release the superhero film in Hindi too. He made the film with a budget of Rs 15 crores. "I am very confident that my superhero film will definitely enthrall everyone," said.

When asked about the name Suku Purvaj, which is not familiar to Telugu people. He said his actual name is Suresh Kumar. So he has taken the first two letters from the name 'Suku.' "I met a Swamiji at a village near Visakhapatnam and he gave me the name Purvaj. From then onwards I started as Suku Purvaj," he said.



It's official! Keerthy Suresh & Antony to enter wedlock this Dec



Folks, the day we were all waiting for is here. The rumours around actress Keerthy Suresh dating her long-time beau Antony Thattil are true! Yes, you read that right. And who has confirmed it? Keerthy herself.

Keerthy on Wednesday shared an adorable Instagram post. She shared a photo of the two enjoying fireworks, captioning it, "15 years and counting! It has always been... AntoNY x KEerthy."

Well, adding to the excitement, Keerthy's father, G. Suresh, revealed that the two have been friends since Class 12. "The wedding will take place in Goa in December. The exact date is yet to be decided as she is presently finishing her debut film in Hindi (Baby John)," said Kumar.

He further revealed that Antony is an engineer by profession and after working in Qatar, he returned to Kochi briefly and is now engaged in wholesale business in Venetian blinds.

He added that the wedding in Goa is going to be a very close affair and will see very few people. "We are deciding whether to have a reception and if it happens, it is likely to be in Thiruvananthapuram," said Kumar.

Keerthy (32) began her career as a child actress in the early 2000s and returned to films after studying fashion design. Her first lead role was in the 2013 Malayalam film *Geethaanjali*, directed by Priyadarshan.

In 2018, she won the National Award for acting in the Telugu film *Mahanadi*. Her younger sister, Revathy Suresh, is now an assistant to Priyadarshan.



Pushpa 2 set for a long haul!

Lately, the length of a film has been a topic of discussion in film circles. While some argue that a good film will keep audiences engaged regardless of its duration, others feel that films over three hours are too long. Films like *Arjun Reddy* and *Animal*, both of which exceeded three hours in length, went on to become blockbusters. Now, the highly anticipated *Pushpa 2* has also finalised its runtime. The film clocks in at three hours and 20 minutes. The film has also finally completed its censor certification on Wednesday.

"You never feel bored as every scene is iconic and interesting. Though our film is more than three hours, you feel like it is two and half hours after watching. It needs this much length and I am sure the audience will enjoy every bit from

the film," said Naveen Yerneni, one of the producers of Mythri Movie Makers production house.

Sukumar is the director and this is sequel to the earlier *Pushpa*. Rashmika Mandanna is playing the female lead, while Sreeleela appears in the special song. Devi Sri Prasad is the music director. When asked about Devi Sri Prasad's comments on producers, they said it is not a big thing. "He only said that I love him, so we will work with DSP in more films in the coming days and we don't have any differences between us," said Ravi, one of the producers.

Meanwhile, Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna electrified fans in Kochi, Kerala, with a pre-release event. The event marked a pivotal moment in the promotional journey of the sequel to the blockbuster *Pushpa: The Rise*.

CHIRALA GOES THRILLS AS CRIME THRILLER WEEKEND TAKES OFF

The much-anticipated crime thriller *Weekend* has commenced its first shooting schedule in Chirala. Featuring VIP Sri as the protagonist and Priya Deshapaga as the lead heroine, the film is being produced by ID Bharathi under the Khadgadhara Movies banner.

Promising to be a gripping commercial entertainer, *Weekend* is set to blend crime, suspense and other intriguing elements.

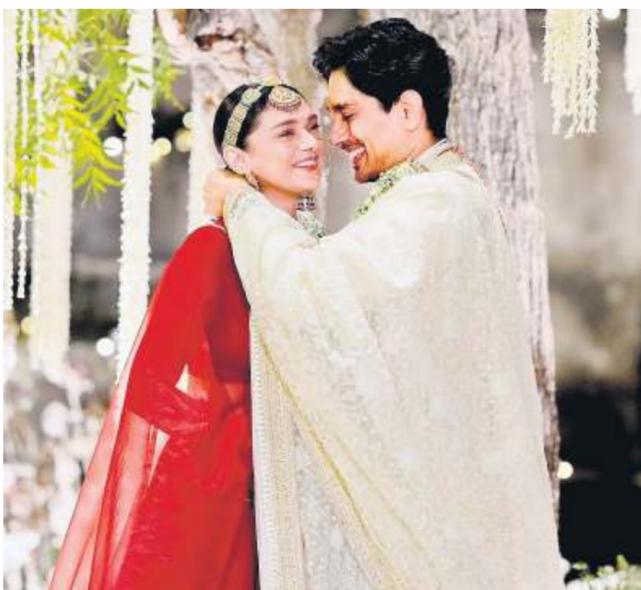
The shooting began at St. Ann's College of Engineering, Chirala, in the presence of the film's directors and producers. The launch was marked by NRI Lela

Jaya switching on the camera, while senior character artist Ajay Ghosh gave the first clap.

The team has announced that the first schedule will take place entirely in Chirala, setting the stage for this exciting project.



STANDALONE



The love birds, Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth, on Wednesday shared a few adorable pictures of their wedding for the second time at the magnificent Aila Fort Bishargarh. The couple announced their wedding on September 16, 2024. While fans were all in awe already, their latest wedding pics are no less than a visual treat.

After this film, Sreeleela and I will become a hit pair: Nithiin

Actor Nithiin is coming up with his upcoming film *Robinhood*, directed by Venky Kudumula. The film, starring Sreeleela as the female lead, is set to hit the screens on December 25. It is interesting to note that Nithiin is pairing up with Sreeleela again in this film. During the promotions of his earlier film *Extraordinary Man*, Nithiin had criticised Sreeleela for not providing sufficient dates to complete the film. At that time, he had also cautioned Venky Kudumula about this issue. "I know I said those words, but for this film, she gave her time, and after its release, we became a hit pair," said Nithiin.

The actor has also joined hands with director Venky Kudumula for the second time after *Bheesma*. "In this film, you can see more entertainment than *Bheesma*," said Venky. He added that this film will definitely give a boost to Nithiin's career. Talking about Sreeleela, the director said that till now, many see her as *Dancing Queen*. "But now, with this film, Sreeleela could prove herself as a

good actress with her performance," said the director.

Sreeleela is currently in the news for her special song from *Pushpa 2*. When asked whether the makers had initially wanted to rope in Shraddha Kapoor for the same song, she replied, "I don't know about it, but when it came to me, I decided to do the song." When

asked about her remuneration for the song, she said, "I haven't discussed it with my producers yet." Mythri Movie Makers, the producers of *Pushpa 2* and *Robinhood*, are confident that they will end the year on a high note. "Our film *Robinhood* is definitely a good film," said Ravi, one of the producers.



Hansika Motwani's Sri Gandhari casts its spell for Dec release

Hansika Motwani is set to stun audiences with her dual-role performance in the upcoming horror-thriller *Sri Gandhari*. Directed and produced by R Kannan under the Masala Pix banner, the film reunites Hansika with the filmmaker after their successful collaboration on the 2013 comedy *Settai*.

The movie will be brought to Telugu audiences by Raju Nayak of Lachuram Productions, in association with Saraswati Developers and presented by Vikram Kumar Rejintala. Scheduled for a December release, *Sri Gandhari* has already generated excitement with its trailer and promotional material, receiving a fantastic response.

In the film, Hansika portrays a young officer leading a Hindu Trust Committee, embarking on a fascinating mission to unravel the mysteries of the ancient 'Gandharva Kota' monument. The fort, steeped in history and secrets, serves as the backdrop for a gripping tale of suspense, horror and intrigue. The ensemble cast includes Metro Sirish, Mayilsamy, Thalavasa Vijay, Aadukalam Naren, Stunt Silva, Vinodhini, Pavan, Brigida Saga, Vadivel Murugan and Kalairani. With a story by Tholkappiyana and a screenplay by Dhananjayan, the film promises a compelling narrative.

The technical team features Balasubramanian as the cinematographer, LV Ganesh Muthu as the music composer, Jijnithra as the editor and Silva as the stunt director, ensuring a visually and emotionally engaging cinematic experience.

Sri Gandhari blends horror, mystery and suspense, promising to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. The exact release date will be announced soon.



Gavaskar credits Kohli's stance adjustment for success in Perth

PTI ■ PERTH

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar feels a subtle adjustment to his batting stance in the second innings of the Perth Test helped Virat Kohli neutralise the Australian attack and rediscover his vintage form.

Kohli arrived in Australia after a lean run of form across formats in recent months. His struggles against spin on turning tracks raised doubts about his spot in the team.

However, he silenced his detractors by scoring his 30th Test ton in the first Test at Perth. It was his first hundred after the 121 against the West Indies at Port of Spain in July 2023.

"His body was completely relaxed when he came into bat in the second innings. In the first innings, because of the fact that India had lost two wickets early, he would have also been under pressure," Gavaskar said on Star Sports. "In that second innings, you could sense apart from chang-

ing that stance, I think he also got his legs, which were maybe just a little bit wider at the start. Just a little bit, maybe I'm thinking too much, but that little thing might have given him that height he wanted. Well, in Australia, on the bouncer pitches, you need that edge.

"I liked that mid-wicket boundary that he hit off Hazlewood. That, to me, was not the easiest of shots. A straight drive is a little easier because your stance is like that, but just to open up a little bit and play that - that was all magic."

Having gotten out on 5 in the first innings, Kohli brought all his technical expertise into play while dealing with the vagaries of variable bounce in the second essay as Australian bowlers desperately tried the off-stump line, short ball tactic and even attacking the line of stump to get the veteran batter out.

Former Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden also commented on Kohli's stance



adjustments in the second innings, saying the move to be more upright on a pitch where variable bounce was present

worked for Kohli.

"It's a very good point because the reverse can be said also to someone touring

to India and having to lower their stance. I know I certainly did that. But being able to be a little more upright

means that your head position has to stay on top of the bounce so that it starts to work in your favour.

"I said right from the start that I actually liked his move, batting in more line with the ball. I thought that was a good strategy. I think he loves to play like that, and we saw some classic cases where he just eased the ball through mid-wicket. But you can't do that from outside off stump, so getting into the line, I thought, was important."

"The other little adjustment that you mentioned, being a little more upright, so he could stay on top of the bounce, was also really important. If you're getting closer to the ball like he was -- another thing, I think, was probably playing the ball later. "When he's not in his best form, he goes quite hard, feeling for the ball. He wants to feel the ball on the bat, particularly on the front foot. But he just seemed to give himself a little more time and be a little softer."

Gavaskar compared Kohli's recent struggles to the time when tennis legends like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal

and Novak Djokovic went without a title.

"I said in commentary that Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, and Rafa Nadal, they are title winners. If they lose in the semi-finals, people say, 'Oh, they're not in form.' Anybody else getting into the semi-finals, you would say, 'Oh, what a wonderful performance.'"

"Similarly, with Virat Kohli, because everybody is so used to him scoring so many hundreds quite regularly, when he doesn't score 100, even if he's getting 70-80 -- which a lot of guys will be very happy to get -- people say, 'Look, he's not scoring runs.' And that is the reason why there was that feeling. "But then again, Indian fans, they're greedy fans. They're not going to be happy with their idol scoring only 60-70s. They want their icons, their idols, to score hundreds, and that is the reason there was this little talk about, 'Oh, he hasn't got a hundred since July 2023.' July 2023 is just about a year ago," he added.

Syed Modi International: Sindhu, Lakshya storm into second round

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Top seeds PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the second round of the women's and men's singles respectively at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament after registering straight-game victories here on Wednesday.

Two-time Olympic medalist Sindhu defeated rising shuttler Anmol Kharb 21-17, 21-15, while Lakshya, 2021 world championships bronze medalist, powered past Malaysian qualifier Sholeh Aidil 21-12, 21-12 in another match.

Sindhu, who is returning to the tournament after a two-year hiatus, will face compatriot Ira Sharma, who triumphed over Deepshikha Singh 21-13, 21-19 in her opening match.

"I'm happy to be back here after two years. I couldn't play last year because of injury, but it feels great to be playing on home soil again," Sindhu said after her win.

"I was playing against Anmol for the first time, and she did well. We've played together in the Asian Team Championships before, so I was confident. It was my first match, and I made some mistakes, but overall I'm happy



with my performance." Lakshya will next face either Ravi or Israel's Daniil Dubovenko.

"It's always great to play in front of the home crowd. I've competed here in the past, but right now, I'm focusing on my next match. My goal is to do well in the BWF tournaments and at the World Championships," said Lakshya, the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion.

In the men's singles, third seed Kiran George, eighth seed Ayush Shetty, and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam also progressed to the second round.

In the women's singles, second seed Malvika Bansod,

fifth seed Anupama Upadhyaya, Isharani Baruah, Devika Sihag, Unnati Hooda, Tasnim Mir and Shriyanshi Valishetty all advanced to the next stage.

Malvika defeated Viktoria Dabczynska 21-12, 21-7, while Anupama overcame Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Azzahra 19-21, 22-20, 21-15. Hooda, meanwhile, beat Thailand's Thamonwan Nithititkrai 21-12, 21-16.

In the men's singles, Kiran George triumphed over Alup Mishra 21-12, 23-21; Ayush Shetty outlasted Raghuram Saran 21-18, 15-21, 21-16; and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam defeated Thailand's Saran Jamsri 14-21, 21-19, 21-10.

Cricket is religion in India but not roadblock for other sports: Coe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Athletics boss Sebastian Coe is quite aware that cricket is nothing short of "religion" in India but he feels it shouldn't be viewed as a "roadblock" for other sports, which can challenge its dominance by producing trailblazers like javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra to capture the public imagination.

Coe, one of the candidates for next year's International Olympic Committee (IOC) presidential elections, has been in the country for the past two days, meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya among others to discuss the growth potential of Indian sports.

Expressing faith in the country's potential to become a powerhouse, the four-time Olympic medal-winning former middle distance runner said, "When you have an Indian athlete winning Olympic titles and world championships, then you are in good shape."

"When you have athletes of the calibre and high profile of Neeraj, then you can actually mount a very good challenge to other sports. And look, we know the national religion is cricket," he stated in a telephonic interview with PTI on Wednesday.

"It's really important that India have athletes that capture the



imagination of the public, ultimately the broadcasters. And Neeraj does both," added Coe, who also headed the 2012 London Olympics bid.

Chopra won an unprecedented track-and-field gold in the Tokyo Olympics before adding a silver to his kitty in Paris this year making him an all-time great in Indian sports at a mere 26 years of age.

Cricket not a roadblock for other sports

Cricket enjoys massive following in India but Coe said it is not a roadblock for others and they should find innovative and creative ways to gain popularity. "It (cricket) shouldn't be (a roadblock), because every country has sports that are dominant. It would be like saying in the UK, well, football is an inhibitor for track and field. We have one of the best

The nation is now aiming to host the quadrennial showpiece in 2036 and has submitted a letter of intent to the IOC. The bid is being backed by PM Modi, whom Coe met on Monday.

"I'm not going to divulge a private conversation. But we talked about the importance of big events in India. He was very clear that big events promote not just better competition, but have a broader societal impact, particularly on the health, mental and physical of young people" Coe said.

"And he (PM) is obviously very keen for more events to come to India and was particularly encouraging of the Indian athletics federation (AFI) to bid for more of our events," he added.

With World Athletics Ultimate Championship (WAUC) set to shine all global athletics events in terms of star cast and record-setting prize money of USD 10 million starting 2026, Coe said India could joint the bidding process. Budapest has been chosen as the venue for the inaugural event.

"I sincerely hope so (India can aspire to host the event). But look, we have a bidding process, which we actively encourage all our federations that love athletics and have the capacity to deliver those events, to want to bid for them."

"So, World Athletics is open for business and India is a very

important market for us," he said.

Coe said the idea of giving USD 50,000 to gold-winning track and field athletes at the Paris Olympics was driven by a desire to provide them financial security.

"Look, there was nothing new in what we announced. And it's certainly been my philosophy for the best part of 45-50 years. I've always believed that the welfare of the athletes isn't just about mental and physical. "It's also about giving them some financial security. So look, the decision we made was a decision that is in line with our prize money policies in the sport. I have to say that it's been welcomed by our athletes."

'Protecting women's sport is non-negotiable'

The participation of transgender athletes in women's sports events has become an increasingly contentious issue with the IOC drawing flak for allowing this to happen. WA, under Coe, has maintained a strictly-women stance, a decision criticised by trans-rights advocates.

"You know my position. It's very clear. It's very much in the public domain...For me, protecting the female category, protecting women's sport is non-negotiable. "And at World Athletics, we have very clear cut policies that make that declaration of intent very clear."

Bayern Munich fans protest against PSG president Al-Khelaifi

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich fans protested against Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi during the teams' Champions League match.

The supporters in Bayern's stadium's Südkurve held up several banners making clear their opposition to the Qatari businessman during the first half of Bayern's 1-0 win.

One banner showed Al-Khelaifi's face with a line over it, another accused him of being "plutocratic" with an expletive, and more banners read: "Minister, club owner, TV rights holder, UEFA ExCo member & ECA chairman all in one?" The 51-year-old Al-Khelaifi is



unpopular among the Bayern fans for his influence on European soccer as chairman of the European Club Association, Qatar Sports Investments -- the owner of PSG -- and the Qatari state-owned beIN media group. He also joined UEFA's executive committee in 2019.

Al-Khelaifi has long drawn scrutiny for apparent conflicts of interest because of his various roles. The ECA has a big influence on shaping the Champions League's playing format and commercial strategy, while beIN is one of the competition's major broadcast partners.

In 2022, UEFA left Al-Khelaifi unpunished despite finding PSG guilty of misconduct for confrontations with match officials after losing in the Champions League. There were heated scenes involving Al-Khelaifi and then-PSG sporting director Leonardo after a defeat to Real Madrid.

UEFA sanctioned Leonardo but did not cite Al-Khelaifi in its disciplinary statement, nor did it say why.

Al-Khelaifi, a former tennis professional, is a longtime friend of Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, an International Olympic Committee member who is influential in global sports. Bayern fans had long protest-

ed against their own club's sponsorship deals with Qatar, which was accused of human rights abuses before it hosted the 2022 World Cup. The fans eventually got their way last year when Bayern's long-running sponsorship deal with Qatar Airways was not renewed.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper reported at the time that the decision came from Qatar. Sheikh Tamim was reportedly unhappy with the Bayern fans' constant criticism and the club's failure to distance itself from their protests.

Kim Min-jae's first-half header was enough for Bayern's victory, its seventh straight without conceding across all competitions.

I want to prolong England career: Stokes' reason for skipping IPL mega auction

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

England Test captain Ben Stokes said he opted out of the recent IPL mega auction to prolong his international career, and focus on some important assignments such as the Ashes.

The newly-framed IPL rule disallow a player to enter the mini auction if he was not registered for the mega auction. A total of 52 English players went under the hammer in the auction held at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia recently.

"There's no hiding behind the fact that I'm at the back-end of my career. It's about looking at what I've got ahead and making the decision that is right for



me to be able to prolong my career as long as possible," Stokes told BBC ahead of England's first Test against New Zealand, starting here on Thursday.

"There is just so much cricket. I want to be wearing this England shirt for as long as I can," he added. In the past, Stokes has played

for Chennai Super Kings, Rajasthan Royals and Rising Pune Supergiant, for whom he was the most valuable player in 2017.

Stokes was bought by the erstwhile Pune outfit for Rs 14.5 crore ahead of IPL 2027. "It is about prioritising games and when I do play - obviously I'm in South Africa this year - so it's about looking at what I've got ahead," he said. "Looking after my body and looking after myself as much as I can is key to that," said the 32-year-old.

The Durham man will head to South Africa for a series at the end of England's trip to New Zealand before starting preparations for next year's Ashes.

Phillip Hughes remembered on 10th death anniversary as Abbott gets teary-eyed

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Sean Abbott was seen wiping away tears as family and friends paid tribute to the late Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes on Wednesday to mark the 10-year anniversary of his tragic death after being struck on the neck while batting.

Abbott bowled the fatal delivery that struck Hughes during a Sheffield Shield match between New South Wales and South Australia in 2014 at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

NSW players consoled Abbott as they stood for an emotional tribute, including observing a minute's silence, before the start of play on day four of their Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania at the SCG. Hughes, who played 26 Tests,

25 ODIs and one T20I for Australia, lost his life three days before his 26th birthday. Players in the Sheffield Shield have been wearing black armbands in matches since Saturday as a tribute to Hughes.

"Today marks the 10-year anniversary of the passing of our treasured son and brother, Phillip Joel Hughes," the family said in its message. "Phillip was a loving, humorous and an infectious person to be around."

According to reports in local media, Abbott was consulted in advance about whether he would be comfortable with a match being scheduled on the anniversary of one of the most saddest moments in Australian sports.

The family further said, "He always aimed to make those



Phillip Hughes
1988 - 2014

around him smile and enjoy the little things in life, where his beautiful smile would come to life. He shined bright even in the tough times, which is a testament to who he was as a person, and we loved everything about him. "He was the light of our lives. Phillip had a profound love for his family and lived his life with respect to everyone around him."

Cricket Australia had planned in advance a series of initiatives to mark the 10th anniversary of Hughes' death including a tribute before the start of the second Test between India and Australia at the Adelaide Oval scheduled from December 6-10.

"Phillip, the small-town country boy, became an Australian Test, One-Day and Twenty-20 cricketer, where he

played on the toughest pitches around the globe, alongside the toughest of cricketers to the world stage, but never forgot where he came from and who helped along the way," the family said in the message. "He was a unique individual that took risky and adventurous strides to conquer the dreams he set for himself to become test baggy green number 408."

"He played cricket for all the right reasons and had the ability to take it all in his stride. He loved being a part of a team and representing Australia for the game he loved so deeply."

Cricket Australia, which has produced a special documentary on him, will broadcast it ahead of the second Test between India and Australia, as part of a two-

week commemoration programme. Batting on 63, Hughes collapsed before receiving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and was subsequently taken to Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital, where he underwent surgery and was placed in an induced coma. Hughes, however, could not recover from the blow and died on November 27. The left-hander was viewed as one of the promising Australian cricketers as the team went through a transitional phase.

In the Australia-India Adelaide Test that followed his death a decade ago, the southpaw was named as the home team's 13th player with 63 (the score he was batting at in his last match) seconds of applause observed ahead of the game.