

sunday pioneer

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

Uttam, are you trying to match Revanth in offensive language? Your name might be Uttam Kumar, but your language is anything but 'uttam' (best). It's more like the contaminated waters of the Musi. Uttam's words (terming KCR as dacoit) reveal a clear lack of respect. Wasn't it you, Uttam, who inflated the Pranahita-Chevella Project's outlay from Rs 17,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore without even starting work?

- Harish Rao, BRS MLA



DON'T MISS...

Dengue cases cross 6,000...

Telangana has recorded a total 6,242 dengue cases as of August 30. There were a total 1,06,356 samples tested and positivity is six per cent. According to the data from Health Minister office, top 10 dengue high risk districts are Hyderabad, which recorded 2,073, Suryapet 506, Medchal Malkajgiri 475, Khammam 407, Nizamabad 362, Nalgonda 351, Ranga Reddy 260, Jagtial 209, Sangareddy 198 and Warangal 128. Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narshimha conducted review meeting with officials on...

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Bhatti vows to make TG...

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has vowed to make Telangana a power surplus state soon by building thermal power projects and solar power projects and the state. Telangana will soon be in a position to offer power to other States, he has said. He, along with Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu, on Saturday laid the foundation stones for the projects to be launched at a cost of Rs 88 crore under AMRUT 2.0 and developmental works to be taken up at a cost of Rs 57.50 crore under TUFDC...

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BJP govt in Odisha launches....

The BJP government in Odisha on Saturday launched the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) programme in the state. The state government signed an MoU with the Union Education Ministry for the launch of PM-USHA programme in the presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan and state Higher Education minister Suryabanshi Suraj. The Centre will provide financial assistance of Rs 500 crore for different higher education institutions...

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Darsh Dronobotics ties up with...

Darsh Dronobotics Systems on Saturday announced its collaboration with Canada-based Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. for the development of hydrogen-based five-seater air taxi. The partnership also aims at combating climate change and reducing carbon emissions in the mobility and aviation sector, a company statement said. Supporting India's net zero goals and country's ambition to be a pioneer in the air taxi revolution by 2025, Vjairta Air Mobility, a division of Darsh Dronobotics Systems Pvt Ltd, has announced its strategic partnership with Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc, the statement said. As part of this partnership, Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. will play a pivotal role in supporting Darsh Dronobotics Systems...

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TG Buddhist spots to be global draws

- Buddha Statue in Hussainsagar to be made tourism spot
- Skywalk around Hussainsagar connecting Tank Bund, Martyrs Memorial, Necklace Road & Sanjeevaiah Park
- International Buddhist Museum at Buddhavanam
- Focus on Nagarjuna Sagar tourism
- Four-lane road to connect Hyd with Nagarjuna Sagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has decided to develop Buddhist tourist sites in the state as per international standards.

The CM is keen on developing a tourism destination circle around the Buddha statue in Hyderabad's Hussainsagar.

Despite concerns about the construction of buildings in FTL area of Hussainsagar, the CM suggested designing a circular skywalk connecting the Tank Bund, the Telangana Martyrs Memorial, the Necklace Road and Sanjeevaiah

Park transforming the area into a world-class tourism hub. He called for involving experienced consultancies and experts to create international standard designs for the area with plans to include food courts and various stalls to provide a pleasant experience for visitors.

He asked officials to prepare proposals for establishing an International Buddhist Museum at the Buddhavanam that would attract Buddhists from across the globe.

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TELANGANA ON RED ALERT

Spectre of Musi-like floods

State soaks in heavy rains; 1 dead in Kamareddy

- Holiday for schools on Monday
- No leaves for medical staff until rains subside
- Irrigation officials told not to leave headquarters

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is reeling under torrential rains and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for several districts across the state.

With continuous rain soaking the region, the administration is on high alert ensuring that every possible measure is taken to prevent loss of life and property.

In Kamareddy district's Nachupally mandal, lightning struck a house killing 18-year-old Swati, a degree student. The lightning struck



the rear of Swati's house and she suffered an electric shock. In Nagarkurnool, a person was washed away. Telangana weatherman T. Balaji said that we may see floods in the Musi River again. "The depression is shifting and it's going to rain in central and South Telangana in the next 48 hours. Hyderabad will also get heavy rains from this system. The Krishna, Musi and

Manjeera are likely to get flooded," he said.

Some areas of Suryapet recorded 250 mm of rain as a massive depression hit the region. Nalgonda, Mahbubabad, Khammam and Mulugu too may witness heavy rains.

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CM urges caution, alerts all depts

With heavy rains lashing Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has asked all government departments to be alert. The Chief Minister held discussions with Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari emphasizing the need for revenue, municipal, power and health departments to be on high alert. The CM stressed the importance of preventing untoward incidents, particularly in low-lying areas and said that residents of these areas should be relocated to relief camps.

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CM neglecting edn sector: Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao and Sabita Indra Reddy visited the Palamakula Gurukul Girls School in Rangareddy district to speak directly to the students and understand their problems.

Harish expressed his frustration, noting that even though young girls have been protesting on the streets, the government has remained silent. It's beyond understanding and frustrating to see the Chief Minister ignoring such a serious issue that affects our children, he said.

He added that instead of focusing on what matters like addressing the needs of our people the government seems more interested in attacking the opposition.



Harish was deeply concerned about the alarming situation in Gurukuls, where students are reportedly driven to take their own lives due to unbearable living conditions.

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Is Uttam trying to match CM's foul language?

BRS MLA Harish Rao countered Irrigation Minister Uttam's recent remarks describing former Chief Minister KCR as a "dacoit". He criticized Uttam's words saying that they indicate a clear lack of respect. "Uttam, are you trying to match Revanth in using offensive language? Harish asked. "Your name might be Uttam Kumar, but your language is anything but 'uttam' (best). It's more like the contaminated waters of the Musi River," he said.

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Bhatti: How can KCR face people after looting them for 10 years?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reacting to reports that BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao is getting ready to approach the people, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said, "How can he face the people of Telangana after looting them for 10 years?"



Bhatti was speaking at a public meeting after inaugurating development projects at Ramagundam in Peddapalli State," Bhatti said.

that he would expose the Congress government's failures, Bhatti sought to know whether KCR would tell people that it was wrong to implement the farm loan waiver scheme by releasing Rs 18,000 crore to banks.

"Or would he tell the people that he is against providing Indiramma houses to 3,500 people in all constituencies and constructing 4.5 lakh houses in the district on Saturday. Targeting KCR for claiming

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GROUND REPORT

Demolition notices leave the poor along Boin Lake dazed



People who had been in the military too are facing trouble from the government. Durgaiah, 93, said that his father also stayed in the same house but there were no problems then. "I was born and raised here. I was in the military for 27 years. I never received any eviction notice. At this age where can I go," he said.

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com
REVAANTH CHITHALURI revanth.chithaluri@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The time was 2 pm on Saturday and people living near the Boin Lake in Hasmathpet are panicking as they have only two days more to vacate their houses according to the orders issued by the Revenue Department of Medchal-Malkajgiri district.

The order dated August 27 states that the houses of these people are illegal as they are

located in the buffer zone and Full Tank Level area of Boin Cheruvu of Hasmathpet. They were given seven days to move out of the area.

When 'The Pioneer' team visited the locality they found families with handicapped and disabled people crying for help as they were unaware of whom to approach to save their houses. Among these are families who have documented evidence about their house and land issued by sarpanches years ago.

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G. Tulsamma, of the first house facing Boin Lake said, "My house was in the name of my late husband and it was transferred to my name after his death. I run a snack cart (Mirchi Bajji bandi) and we buy rice every day according to our earnings. My sons work as labourers and my daughter who is handicapped works as a tailor. How can we live if our house is pulled down?"

OBTUSE ANGLE



PAST IS NOT PAST

Cases against officials for issuing permits

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Cyberabad Police has registered cases against two officials for giving building permissions illegally in the buffer zone and Full Tank Level (FTL) areas of water bodies. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath gave two complaints to the police about illegal building permissions. In one complaint, a case was registered against Chandanagar Asst. City Planner M. Raj Kumar and Chandanagar Deputy

Commissioner N. Sudhamsh for allowing illegal buildings in the buffer zone of Erla Cheruvu. In another case, the police registered a case against the Commissioner of Nizampet Municipal Corporation, P. Ramakrishna Rao, Bachupally MRO Poosingsh, Assistant Director (AD) of Survey & Land Records, K. Srinivasulu and HMDA Assistant Planning Officer Sudheer Kumar for allowing illegal buildings in the buffer zone of the Errakunta Pond in Nizampet Municipality.

Continued on Page 5

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Bro has tough time ahead

People who had put their lifetime's savings into homes they bought in illegal structures currently on the block in buffer zones of lakes are now pulling their hair out over HYDRAA ops. That may be obviously because it could be their only home. What about those who buy and sell homes as an investment option? Even they are under deep waters, though the impact varies. In the corridors of power, the chatter over the Amar Society's alleged encroachment on Durgam Cheruvu Lake has taken an unexpected turn. Among those in the limelight (for the wrong reasons) is Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother, Tirupati Reddy, who can perhaps save neither his skin nor his house, given his brother's Arjuna-like determination to go strictly by the rules. That is not all. There is another house on the block and that belongs to Dubbaka MLA Kotha Prabhakar Reddy. It is adjacent to Tirupati's house. This house was 'almost sold' to none other than BRS leader Harish Rao. The deal did not come through due to delay. When reporters asked Harish Rao about it, he candidly admitted: "Thank God, it didn't progress".

Kalvakuntla ones find myriad ways of being in the limelight among Telangana prajalu. What if the winds are blowing against them in Praja palana? The synergy between KTR and Kavitha is positioning them as the emerging power duo on the state's political centre-stage.

Media credibility in tact amid vicious blame game

Politicians, be they motor mouths or loudmouthed, make atrocious statements and get away with their caveats that their remarks were torn out of context by the media. In Telangana, of late the media has been at the receiving end when it comes to certain allegations and behind-the-scene activity. Be it the talk of Adani's team beginning to collect electricity bills in the Old City or the con-

house! Still, sensing their nose for news, Harish Rao quipped, "All you will see (there) is maize and paddy crop". The media sees through things; so they responded: "Yea, show us, we will show it to the world". If the meet does take place at KCR's farmhouse, newshounds will ferret out a lot for showcasing perhaps some little known aspects of KCR's life as an unduly quiet opposition leader.

VHR wants media houses for the Congress

It is quite natural for a seasoned politician to expect to be featured prominently in dailies and channels. That said, one has to accept that media houses do give ample coverage to Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao, considering that he works hard for the party despite crossing the age of 70 years. Still, taking media circles by surprise, VHR said recently that the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy should consider the launch of "media houses for the Congress". Seeing that VHR has an axe to grind, one of the scribes commented that dailies and channels give more respect to VHR than what he gets in his own party.

Permits draw the thin line

In Andhra Pradesh, it appears that while some political leaders are indulging in illegal sandmining, others operate with permits. Senior Telugu Desam Party leader and former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy raised eyebrows when he went public that 25 of his followers were engaged in illegal sand mining in his home turf. He urged them not to distance themselves from him and the party by indulging in unlawful activities. In striking contrast, Tadipatri MLA and JC Prabhakar Reddy's son JC Asmit Reddy wanted Tadipatri (Rural) Circle Inspector (CI) Lakshmi Kanth Reddy to register cases against several individuals who were allegedly involved in illegal sand mining. Upon enquiries, CI Lakshmi Kanth Reddy found that the individuals were operating with permits. Still, Asmit Reddy protested in front of the Tadipatri Police Station until the CI tendered a public apology for not complying with his political demand.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, K Venkateshwarlu and Pradeep Kumar)

REPORTERS' DIARY

troversial comments made by netas in the wake of bail granted to MLC K Kavitha in the Delhi liquor scam case, the media appears to have come out unscathed, thanks to public trust despite 'trying' times. So far, there has been no backlash from the people. Consequently, within media circles there is a sense of pride in the realization that their credibility remains intact, if not stronger than ever. A seasoned journalist reflected on the situation, saying: "We might not always have everything on record to make a legal case, but our credentials, our trust with the public, remain unharmed." This sentiment is echoed by many members of the fourth estate, which remains the cornerstone of democracy.

Why reporters seek interaction with KCR at farmhouse

Reporters on Bharat Rashtira Samithi beat have had enough of jabs from the new government targeting former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, who rarely engages with the media even if he is expected to counter the allegations. Left with no alternative, when some of them approached Harish Rao -- the storied trouble-shooter -- he offered to speak to KCR about it. But what appeared beyond his means was the strange request made by scribes: that the interaction should happen at KCR's farm-

Striking parallels between Kalvakuntla and Gandhi siblings

The bonds between Kalvakuntla siblings and BRS leaders KT Rama Rao and K Kavitha, highlighted by the former's touching post on Rakshabandhan and the latter's recent emotional reunion with family amid fanfare, are also creating a buzz in political circles for striking similarities with the bonds of Gandhi family siblings Rahul and Priyanka. Just as Sonia Gandhi had played a pivotal role behind the scenes to guide her children to the forefront of national politics, near-home BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao seems to have put KTR and Kavitha on a similar trajectory in Telangana, while remaining in the background. Some 'political coincidences' did not go unnoticed. Following the release of Sonia Gandhi's picture with her pet dog, KTR too was seen with his own pooch in a similar snap. Taking a leaf from Rahul Gandhi's video campaign, KTR came out with a video addressing the Valmiki scam. Like the Gandhi siblings, the

NEW REVENUE ACT

Ponguleti asks officials to focus on meeting people's hopes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As assessing public opinion about the draft of the new Revenue Act is over, the Minister for Revenue, Housing and Information & PR, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, asked officials to focus on drafting the law and to quickly complete preparations to introduce the new Revenue Act.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Ponguleti emphasised the need to review all suggestions and to incorporate aspects that are essential for the people, particularly farmers, into the new Act.

He said that the new Revenue Act will be drafted keeping in mind changing times and cir-



cumstances and in line with the decades-long hopes of the people of Telangana.

He criticized the BRS administration's hasty decisions that created land disputes instead of resolving land problems after the formation of the Telangana state.

He pointed out that the 2020

Revenue Act was flawed and that it led to problems for farmers. The Dharani Portal, instead of resolving land issues worsened them leading to nearly 3 million farmers in the state becoming victims of the Dharani system.

He said that to avoid a repeat of such issues feedback was gathered from intellectuals, experts, retired revenue officials, public representatives, farmers and commoners.

On August 2, the draft was discussed in the Assembly, and on the same day, it was placed in the public domain at the Land Administration headquarters in Hyderabad. Workshops were also conducted under the supervision of

Collectors and they were told to immediately send the suggestions received in these workshops as reports to the Land Administration Office.

He said that the assessment of public opinion conducted on a large scale across the state yielded a significant number of suggestions, both in written form and via email with common citizens also providing inputs.

He said the new law is being designed to be corruption-free and understandable to farmers and commoners.

He announced that the government would make the secretive Dharani system accessible to the public as a public document.

Govt extends term of PC Ghose Commission by 2 months

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has announced the extension of the term of the Commission of Inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the construction of Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla bargages of the Kaleshwaram Project.

The Commission, led by Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, a former Judge of the Supreme Court, has been granted an extension of two months, from September 1, 2024, to October 31, 2024.

The decision to extend the Commission's term follows an earlier GO that had initially appointed Justice Ghose to head the inquiry. The original mandate was to investigate the allegations and submit a report by June 30, 2024.

KTR expresses concern over neglect of schools by Cong govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KTR expressed deep concern over the Congress government's neglect of school education in the state, which is distancing poor and middle-class students from education.

Reports suggest that the government is attempting to close around 1,864 schools this year, citing a lack of students. KTR criticized the government for considering closing schools instead of strengthening government schools and providing quality education to poor and middle-class students.

He pointed out that in 2024, admissions in government



schools decreased by about 2.4 lakhs compared to the previous year, which he sees as a danger signal for the state's education sector. KTR accused the Congress government of throwing the public education system into disarray in just eight months.

He said the government should identify and address

reasons for the declining enrolment in public schools instead of remaining in a state of inaction. He primarily attributed the decrease in admissions to the lack of teachers proportionate to the number of students.

KTR said that around 25,000 teacher posts are vacant in the state and urged their immediate filling. He criticized the government for creating problems instead of solving them and added that closing schools citing a lack of students and deputing teachers to other schools has resulted in a situation where many students are unable to access public education.

Exercise on for picking TPCC working presidents?

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The AICC may announce a new TPCC President in a few days. An exercise is also going on to select Working Presidents for the TPCC, it is learnt. The AICC may announce the names of the TPCC Working Presidents only after the announcement of the new TPCC President and the new AICC in-charge General Secretary. Already, the party has selected one each from the erstwhile Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts. The party will select the remaining three very soon, it is learnt. It is also learnt that one will be Reddy, one Yadav, one Madiga, one Lambada and the other one has not been decided. It is learnt that the current TPCC Working President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud's name was finalised for the TPCC President post and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was finalised as the AICC in-charge General Secretary of Telangana.

Cong & BRS must join hands against BJP's injustice: Kiran

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that there is a need for the Congress and the BRS to jointly fight against the BJP government's injustice against Telangana.

Speaking to the media on Saturday at the Gandhi Bhavan here, Kiran said that despite the Chief Minister and Ministers approaching the Centre several times, the Centre has been cold-shouldering implementation of bifurcation promises.

He said the Congress welcomes former Chief Minister KCR's decision to engage with the public.

"We have invited him to attend the Assembly as the Leader of the Opposition and fight for the people. For how long has KCR remained indif-



ferent to public issues? KCR has come now, but let's discuss what he promised in his 2014 and 2018 election manifestos, what he has done, and what we have said and accomplished. From appointing a Dalit as Chief Minister to providing three acres to Dalits, a job for every household, and establishing multi-speciality hospi-

tals in all districts, no promise has been fulfilled. Let's discuss what everyone has done on the Yadadri platform," he said.

Lashing out at T. Harish Rao's criticism of the government, he said that it was not Mission Kakatiya, but 'Commission Kakatiya.' The author of this programme, Harish, is criticising the Congress government which is protecting lakes, he said.

Rs 10,000 crore was allocated to 33 districts, but it was done for commissions and that's why those works were removed, he said.

Recalling KTR's post on the Internet to Kharge about the bulldozer government, he said that as someone who has functioned as Municipal Minister, KTR took the property on lease despite knowing it was an illegal building.

Andhra Pradesh: Seven die in rain-related incidents

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Seven persons died in rain-related incidents in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday including four in Vijayawada due to landslides, officials said.

The landslide deaths occurred at Mogalrajapuram area in Vijayawada when large boulders fell on the houses of the deceased due to heavy rain.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the landslide victims. "Landslides occurred at Mogalrajapuram in Vijayawada, leading to the death of four persons. Naidu expressed sorrow over the deaths. He declared an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of

the deceased persons," said an official statement. The CM directed officials to shift people away from places prone to landslides as heavy rainfall has been forecast for the next two to three days.

At Pedakakani village in Guntur district, a teacher and two students returning home in a hatchback died after their car was washed away while crossing an overflowing stream.

"The incident happened around 12:30 pm. Following the suspension of classes due to rain, the teacher picked up two students along with him to return to a village about 3 km from the school and the hatchback was washed away while crossing a stream," Guntur district superintendent of police S Satish said.

Demolition notices leave the poor...

Continued from page 1

Chigurla Anand said that he had sold his agricultural land and bought a house in 2007 for Rs 9 lakh. "When I bought this land, the vendor told me that this land was owned by at least four people before him. There will not be any issues. Believing him I bought the house. But now officials say that this is an illegal building located in the FTL area and buffer zone of the Boin Lake," he said.



walls of the house indicate how old it is. Why do poor people encroach on lands? Do they have the strength to fight the system? We are seeing only the poor and eviction notices are distributed to them. There is a function hall and large apartments on the other side but nobody issues notices to them."

Renu and P. Babitha, a single mother and housewife who built a house in 2019 with a tiled roof said, "It was unfortu-

nate that we built our house because we were happy in those two rooms. Our house was in the name of our father and as one of my sisters faced problems with her husband we used our savings and built a house. We are paying taxes and electricity bills and now we got a notice saying our houses will be demolished."

Tirupathi Amma who has two disabled children and who goes to work along with her husband said, "We shifted from

our village and bought a small house here as we were unable to pay for our children's medicines. After we came to Hasmathpet we saved money and started buying medicines for our children. Should I die with my disabled children?"

Chigurla Anand said that he had sold his agricultural land and bought a house in 2007 for Rs 9 lakh.

"When I bought this land, the vendor told me that this land was owned by at least four

people before him. There will not be any issues. Believing him I bought the house. But now officials say that this is an illegal building located in the FTL area and buffer zone of the Boin Lake," he said.

People who had been in the military too are facing trouble from the government. Durgaiha, 93, said that his father also stayed in the same house but there were no problems then. "I was born and raised here. I was in the military for 27 years. I never received any eviction notice. At this age where can I go," he said.

Ranjith Sharma said that he migrated from Bihar to work in Hyderabad. "My father bought a house in 2007 from a person for Rs 2.5 lakh. We are paying property tax. Now officials have issued notices asking us to leave. We don't know where to go and whom to ask. I hope the government will stop demolishing the houses of the poor," he said.

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Blood donation camp to be held on Sept 2

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A blood donation camp will be conducted at NIMS Hospital at Punjagutta on September 2 between 8 am and 8 pm.

The camp will be held behind Emergency block of the Hospital. The blood donation camp is being conducted in association with the NIMS Hospital.

One unit blood can help 3 lives! This amazing opportunity is open for everyone.

City Pioneer



Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty felicitating retired police officers at Cyberabad Police Commissionerate in Hyderabad on Saturday

Retired police officers felicitated in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Around 29 police officers and a staff member retired from their service in Hyderabad City Police Commissionerate limits on Saturday. Gajarao Bhupal, Joint Commissioner of Police, (Administration) Hyderabad honored them.

In the retirement farewell meeting organised on this occasion, Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration) Hyderabad, said that after retirement, all kinds of retirement benefits due from the police department would be taken care of in a timely manner.

"I wish that God will give you good health after retirement. The services you rendered to the police department are unforgettable, and if you face any problem in future, please contact us," he said.

He said that "on behalf of the police department, we will provide support and assistance to you and your families at all times."

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty also felicitated six retired Police officers at the Cyberabad Commissionerate Office on Saturday.

On this occasion, the Commissioner handed over pension papers to the retired Police officers. He encouraged them to spend quality time with their family members, relatives and friends in retired life.

Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu also felicitated seven retired police officers at his office. He felicitated retired officers at Rachakonda office.

Speaking on this occasion, the Commissioner congratulated the police department for working effectively with discipline and providing services for so many years. The officials were directed to take appropriate measures so that all kinds of benefits that are due to them will be provided quickly.

CM requested to free lake in Mulugu from encroachment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Hyderabad-based activist Lubna Sarvat said that around 30 acres of Mulgund lake was encroached upon at Premavathipet in Rajendranagar.

She wrote a letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and HYDRAA commissioner Ranganath requesting them to take action to free the lake from encroachment. She submitted Google earth satellite

images, NRSC satellite images and HMDA maps along with the complaint. She submitted the maps of the lake from 2017 to 2024. She alleged that Lake id is 2921 identified in 2014 but Full Tank Level (FTL) map and cadastral map are not available on the HMDA website.

She requested the CM to instruct the officials concerned to upload the FTL, Cadastral maps as well as to evict the encroachments.



I&PR official takes a bow, hails teamwork

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Joint Director of the Information Department, Mohammed Murtuza, stated that he successfully completed his responsibilities with the support of both officials and employees. Currently serving as CPRO in the cadre of the Joint Director in GHMC, Mohammed Murtuza retired from service on Saturday. On the occasion, the officials and employees of the Hyderabad State Information Department felicitated him with a grand farewell.

Speaking at the event, Murtuza said that during his 31-year career, he worked in various roles, from Assistant Public Relations Officer to Joint Director, across different districts of the former Andhra Pradesh. He highlighted the importance of

teamwork between officials and employees in effectively communicating government schemes to the public.

Additional Director of the State Information Department, DS Jagan praised Murtuza for bringing recognition to the department through his unique work style. He emphasised that Murtuza's long service to the Information Department is unforgettable, and there is much to learn from him.

Joint Director D Srinivas said that Murtuza's journey from a humble background to reaching a high position, becoming an inspiration to many. He praised Murtuza for being a mentor to his staff, always standing by them, and treating his employees like family. He also commended Murtuza for maintaining strong relationships with both officials and employees.

Dengue cases cross 6,000 mark in Telangana

'State government is taking all steps to prevent and control cases'



Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narasimha holding a review in Hyderabad on Saturday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana has recorded a total 6,242 dengue cases as of August 30.

There were a total 1,06,356 samples tested and positivity is six per cent.

According to the data from Health Minister office, top 10 dengue high risk districts are Hyderabad, which recorded 2,073, Suryapet 506, Medchal Malkajgiri 475, Khammam 407, Nizamabad 362, Nalgonda 351, Ranga Reddy 260, Jagtial 209, Sangareddy 198 and Warangal 128.

Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narasimha conducted review meeting with officials on prevention and control of dengue, chikungunya and malaria.

In Telangana State from January 1 till August 30 this year, a total of chikungunya cases reported are 167 out of 3,127 samples tested and Positivity is 5 per cent.

Chikungunya high risk district is Hyderabad (74), Mahabubnagar (20), Wanaparthy (17), Ranga Reddy (16) and Medchal (11).

As for malaria case, total cases reported from January 1 till August 30 are 197 out of

22,80,500 samples tested and Positivity is 0.01%

In Telangana State Fever survey initiated on July 23 as on August 30, So for majority of PHCs/ UPHCs in the district are conducting re-survey. Total number of houses visited: 1,68,42,891, total number of persons screened: 5,17,19,839 and total number of fever cases 2,99,708

In the state there are 42 T-Hub Labs functioning with adequate testing and 53 blood banks functioning with Adequate blood

units.

In all 33 Districts 108 Ambulances functional and Medicines and Logistics for Malaria Made available in all Districts said the release from Health Ministers office.



Domodar directs officials to be proactive in combating diseases

In the wake of the heavy rains pounding the State, Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has sent out an alert to medical officials, urging them to be proactive in tackling the rise of seasonal diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and malaria. The Minister emphasised the importance of early action, directing top officials from the State Medical and Health Department to conduct field visits and extend support to affected communities. He asked the Government Hospital doctors to review the list of pregnant women,

who are in an advanced state of pregnancy, and advised them to approach hospitals early to avoid journey in the rain. During an extensive discussion with the department's Minister also reviewed the measures in place to combat these diseases. He highlighted tat, due to the proactive steps taken earlier this year compared to previous years, the spread of seasonal diseases has been kept under control. He said that the government hospitals are providing free, high quality treatment to patients.

Inspector gets best performance award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"More effective work should be done to prevent trafficking", said Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu here on Saturday.

"We must be effective in curbing human trafficking as well, said the Commissioner. N Chandrababu, who is working as an inspector in the anti-trafficking department in Rachakonda Police Commissionerate, has been awarded for best performance.

In 2024 National level technical consultation on the topic of "Emerging Trends in Human Trafficking and Strategies To Combat Them" on Friday, the Inspector was awarded as part of the measures being taken to prevent human trafficking in Rachakonda Commissionerate.

Huge response to Montessori walk in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Montessori Training and Research Trust (MTRT) and the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) hosted a successful Montessori Walk in Hyderabad on Saturday. The event aimed to raise awareness of the Montessori method and saw participation from around 300 children and adults from over 20 Montessori schools in the city.



Students and parents participating in Montessori concept awareness walk in Hyderabad on Saturday

The Montessori Walk was organised to commemorate Dr Maria Montessori's birth anniversary and celebrate 40 years of the Montessori Training and Research Trust. The event took place at Sanjeevaiah Park, Hussain Sagar. It began with a message from the Secretary of the Montessori Training and Research Trust, Dr Usha Naik expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the Montessori schools for uniting for the walk.

The event included a walk around the park, where participants sang songs and carried banners and placards highlighting the Montessori philosophy and its benefits. The walk concluded with moments of reflection, where participants shared their thoughts on Dr. Montessori's impact on education and society.

MTRT, Teenaz Reporter said, We are thrilled with the huge response from the Montessori community in Hyderabad and thank every school that participated despite the rainy weather. The Montessori Walk was a great success, and it was a joy to see children and adults come together to celebrate the Montessori method and the legacy of Dr. Maria Montessori.

Director of Training at

Professor Haribandi Lakshmi assumes charge as EFLU VC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Professor Haribandi Lakshmi assumed the office as the Vice Chancellor (in-charge) of The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) on Saturday.

The Government of India directed the University for the appointment of the Vice Chancellor. Earlier, Prof Surabhi Bharati, the Pro-Vice Chancellor and senior most professor of the EFLU University was appointed earlier as acting Vice Chancellor of the University on January 1, 2024.

Prof Surabhi Bharati superannuated on August 31.

Prof Lakshmi is a senior academic and a renowned scholar in Translation Studies and she is widely published. She completed her PGDTE, M Litt, and doctoral studies in the EFLU University.

Combine Vedic, modern science

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Encouraging industries to collaborate and combine vedic science with modern science to ensure visibility, viability, and national impact, Dr G. Sathesh Reddy, former Scientific Advisor to the Defence Ministry, Government of India, and former DRDO Chairman, attended the inauguration of a two-day International Conference on Uniting Vedic Knowledge with Modern Technologies by ICON Bharat as the chief guest at T-Hub on Saturday



Addressing the delegates of ICON Bharat, Dr Sathesh Reddy congratulated Dr AB Sudhakar Sastry for his 25-year journey in Vedic Science. He appreciated the conference for showcasing the synergy between ancient sciences and modern technologies, noting the growing interest and confidence in Vedic Science. Reddy emphasised that bridging the gap between Vedic Science and modern science is challenging, but it's essential due to the proven impact of ancient methods.

He highlighted the importance of self-reliance in materials and advanced technologies for India's growth. Reddy mentioned that while India is still striving to be self-sufficient in materials, notable progress has been made, like building country's first aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant using 80 per cent indigenous materials. He also pointed out Hyderabad's role and contribution in developing critical indigenous materials. Reddy acknowledged that India still faces challenges due to less resources and inefficient

processes, making it difficult to compete globally. However, he noted that Vedic knowledge has proven valuable in areas like materials and cryptography. Reddy appreciated the research at SRIVT, which has outperformed existing methods and led to successful projects for DRDO. He urged industries to collaborate and adopt Vedic Science to ensure its visibility, viability, and acceptance across the country.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of BITS, Group of Institutions & Fr. Director, IIT Delhi,

Professor V Ramgopal Rao said that Dr. A.B. Sudhakar Sastry was introduced at IIT Bombay, where he explained his work on Vedic science. Rao admitted he was not familiar with Vedic sciences until he encountered Dr. Sastry's research. As a scientist, Rao emphasized the importance of verifying information through personal research. He was impressed by Dr Sastry's use of ancient methods to produce nano materials, which are usually made with modern techniques. Rao believes more people like Dr. Sastry are needed to bridge ancient and modern science, and he encouraged collaboration to further this work.

Rao suggested that Dr Sastry, through SRIVT, should connect with more people and collaborate with BITS Pilani to create and offer courses and degrees in Vedic science, benefiting society.

The conference is held in collaboration with leading scientific institutions like BrahMos, DRDO, DSIR, UOH, BITS, Atal Incubation Centre, and T-Hub.

T-SAT to provide digital lessons in English for TSPSC Group-1 candidates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Skills, Academic and Training (T-SAT) announced that it will offer digital lessons in English for candidates appearing for the TSPSC Group-1 recruitment examinations, according to CEO Bodanapalli Venugopal Reddy. T-SAT, which has already aired around 1,200 hours of Telugu lessons for the Group-1 Prelims exam, will broadcast special content for the mains exam from August 1 to October 20.

hour sessions will be broadcast from September 1 to October 20.



Venugopal explained that this content will air on T-SAT's Nipuna channel from 4 AM to 5 AM and will be broadcast on the Vidya channel from 7 PM to 8 PM on the same day.

Special broadcasts are being arranged to meet the needs of candidates from both Telugu-speaking states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, who are appearing for the Group-1 exams. CEO Bodanapalli Venugopal Reddy urged candidates taking the exams in

English to make the best use of T-SAT's study material.

PALAGUMMI SMARAKA PURASKARAM FOR SURIBABU AND RAMALAKSHMI

Palagummi Viswanatham, a pioneer in Telugu light music, has touched the heart-strings of Telugu music lovers by composing over 15,000 songs and there are about a 100 songs for which he wrote the lyrics as well. Cultural organization Mohan Melodies, instituted by lyricist-composer Kalaga Krishna Mohan, will be celebrating the 105 th birth anniversary of Palagummi by presenting awards in his name to renowned musicians and singers.

This year, the awards will be conferred on veteran music composer and singer Malladi Suribabu and popular singer Ramalakshmi Rangachari, at Tyagaraya Ganasabha hall in

Chikkadpalli on September 2 nd at 6.30 pm.

MALLADI SURIBABU

Hailing from a traditional family, Suribabu has made a niche for himself in Carnatic as well as light music,



by composing music to several award-winning musical features which were broadcast by All India Radio. He enriched his repertoire by learning music under stalwarts like Voleti Venkateswarulu, Sripada Pinakapani and Nedunuri Krishnamurthy. He has brought out 10 CDs with the lyrics of Ramadas, Annamayya and Navagraha

Kritimala. A CD of his Telugu ghazals has become very popular. He has penned a series of articles under the title Amruthavarshini in a popular Telugu daily. He has received the Kalaratna award from the state government and the Central Sangeeta Nataka Academy award for his accomplish-



ments. The famous Carnatic vocalists, Malladi Brothers, Sreeram Prasad and Ravi Kumar, are his sons.

RAMALAKSHMI RANGACHARI

The other awardee Ramalakshmi Rangachari, is not just a great singer but a teacher in Carnatic and light

music. She received acclaim by lending her voice to the musical compositions of Palagummi Viswanatham and Mahabhashyam Chittaranjan. Her rendering of C Narayana Reddy's song 'Saguna O nilimeghama' and Devulapalli's 'Puttakada evaro' have been very well received by the connoisseurs of music. She also lent her voice to actress Vijaya Nirmala in the film Vidhi Vilasam. Her foray into dance dramas of veteran dance gurus Uma Rama Rao, Sumathi Kaushal and Sobha Naidu were well acknowledged. As a teacher she has established Aahlaadini Music Arts Academy and brought out the latent talent of many young singers.

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Bhatti vows to make TG power surplus state

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has vowed to make Telangana a power surplus state soon by building thermal power projects and solar power projects and the state. Telangana will soon be in a position to offer power to other States, he has said.

He, along with Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu, on Saturday laid the foundation stones for the projects to be launched at a cost of Rs 88 crore under AMRUT 2.0 and developmental works to be taken up at a cost of Rs 57.50 crore under TUFDC.

Later addressing a public meeting, chaired by Ramagundam MLA Makkan Raj Singh Thakur, at Godavarikhani main junction, Bhatti Vikramarka, delivering a long speech, assured the people of Ramagundam that the government would ensure that SCCL and TS Genco jointly establish an 800 MW super critical power plant in place of the TS Genco power plant in Ramagundam city at a cost of Rs 800 crore.

The guidelines pertaining to the power plant would be released soon, he said.

The BRS regime that ruled Telangana for over 10 years had cheated the people as well



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers D Sridhar Babu and Ponnampati Prabhakar with SCCL workers in Peddapalli on Saturday

as the SCCL workers. Former chief minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy, who could not even waive crop loans of farmers up to Rs 1 lakh, should feel ashamed to criticise the Congress government's loan waiver policy.

The Congress has been implementing the election promises one after another, he said, adding that the government is committed to develop all Assembly constituencies in Peddapalli district.

Sridhar Babu declared that a rural technology development centre would soon be set up in Peddapalli and

Ramagundam Assembly constituency limits to provide employment to at least 1,000 persons per year. He said that the government would build 2 BHK houses to the eligible persons here soon.

Minister for Transport Ponnampati Prabhakar, MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, Whip Adiluru Lakshmana Kumar, adviser to the state government H Venugopal Rao, MLC Jeevan Reddy, MLAs Vijaya Ramana Rao, Vivek Venkata Swamy, Vinod, Mayor Anil Kumar, SCCL chairman Balram Naik and others were present.

Bandi offers to pay power bills of Ganesh pandals

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay on Saturday offered to foot the electricity bill of Ganesh pandals in the city from his pocket.

It may be recalled that the State Government has decided to give free power to the pandals during the festival.

The Minister asked the government officials not to trouble the pandal organisers for the electricity bill and offered to pay their bills whether the state government keeps its promise to provide free power to the pandals or not.

Taking part as the chief guest in a review meeting held at the city municipal commissionerate here on Saturday, he called upon the pandal organisers to worship Lord Ganesh with dedication to get their wishes fulfilled. He quoted the example of worshipping the deity for the past 30 years without

fail.

He asked the government officials to provide all amenities to the pandal organisers during the Navaratri celebrations, apart from the providing the amenities to them on Ganesh idol immersion day. He appealed to the pandal organisers to celebrate the festival in a peaceful atmosphere and maintained that the police and district officials are ready to cooperate with them.

He exhorted the Ganesh Utsav organisers to set an example for others to emulate by organizing the Ganesh idol immersion procession peacefully in Karimnagar.

He asked the district officials to take steps to remove the overhead sagging electric wires to ensure smooth Ganesh immersion procession.

On the day of immersion, he called for deploying more cranes and deploying enough number of personnel to operate these cranes.



The Minister asked the government officials not to trouble the pandal organisers for the electricity bill and offered to pay their bills whether the state government keeps its promise to provide free power to the pandals or not

SCCL promotes 2364 Badili workers as mazdoors



PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

SCCL management has given its green signal to regularise services of Badili workers who have put in an experience of working 190 days in a year in underground coal mines and open cast mines and those who put in 240 days of experience in various departments of the SCCL.

From Sep 1, 2024, the Badili workers will be given the status of mazdoors. The SCCL chairman N Balram Naik announced that the services of 2364 Badili workers would be regularized as general mazdoors, bringing joy to the SCCL workers.

The SCCL chairman issued directions to the director (Personnel) to issue orders in this regard.

The services of 25 Badili workers in SCCL corporate office area, 17 in Kothagudem, nine in Ilandu, 21 in Manuguru, 476 in Bhupalapalli area, 563 in Ramagundam-1 area, 50 in Ramagundam area-2, 240 in Ramagundam area-3 and Adriala project area, 655 in Srirampur area, 299 in Mandamarri area, nine in

Bellampalli area are going to be regularized.

The SCCL first appoints those who joined the services of the company on compassionate grounds and dependent job quota as Badili workers. After working for one year as Badili worker, those who completed minimum musters will be appointed as permanent workers giving them the designation of mazdoors. The highly qualified persons will be able to get promotions over a period of time. Moreover, they will be given preference in allotment of quarters.

The CMD urged the employees of the SCCL to work with dedication and discipline in view of the company promoting 2364 Badili workers as mazdoors. The mazdoors should work with more responsibly, he said advising them to abstain from work. He asked them to discharge duties attending office punctually.

This year, the company has plans to fill 1000 vacancies through internal promotions, providing opportunity to eligible workers to reach higher positions.

Maize fetches record price of Rs 2,960 a quintal

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Maize has commanded record price in Enumamula market yard on August 30, fetching Rs 2,960 per quintal, which is unheard of in the past. The farmers are jubilant over the record price the commodity and felt that the cultivation of maize was profitable this time.

It broke the previous record the market and on Friday. The commodity was procured in the market yard at a record price of Rs 2,960 a quintal, the highest in the annals of the commodity, according to officials of the Enumamula market yard.

A quintal of maize was procured at Rs 2,885 on Tuesday, Rs 2,911 on Wednesday and Rs 2936 on Thursday.

The officials have declared three days holidays to the Agricultural Market at Khammam. On August 31 and September 1 the market will remain closed on account of weekend holidays. However, on September 2 the market yard will remain closed on account of new moon day. The operations of the market will

resume from September 3 onwards. The officials have been asking the farmers to note the holidays and bring their commodity from Wednesday onwards.

The market yards in Telangana have started procuring green gram from Friday at the MSP through the Markfed. The procurement centres have been set up in seven districts - Mahabubabad, Kamareddy, Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Suryapeta, Narayanapeta and Kamareddy, where the area of cultivation under the greengram is high. The Centre fixed the MSP of green gram at Rs 8,682 per quintal.

Agriculture Minister Tummalala Nageswara Rao revealed that the area under green gram during the current kharif was 64,175 acres. The total green crop yield is predicted to be 17,841 tonnes.

The Minister said that the Markfed would procure the green gram at the MSP and asked the farmers to adhere to the quality specifications and get the MSP for the commodity.

Ensure pandal organisers take precautions: DCP

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Reviewing the arrangements for the Ganesh festival celebrations, Law and order additional DCP Prasada Rao asked the police officials of Madhira police station to ensure the Ganesh pandal organisers in to adopt suitable precautions.

He was holding a meeting with SHO, sector incharges at Madhira police station on Saturday.

He enquired from them about the online applications received seeking permission to install Ganesh idols in the pandals.

The sector in-charges should register with the police station details of Ganesh idols installed in the limits of their sectors. He asked them to confirm daily the number of online and offline requests received seeking permission to install idols.

The officials should visit the roads meant for the procession of Ganesh idols and Ganesh idol immersion points and ensure that necessary repairs to roads were carried out in advance.

Collector asks officials to monitor levels in water bodies

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Collector Muzameel Khan has asked the people of the district to remain alert in view of the Met office sounding red alert for the district, predicting heavy rains.

Reviewing the situation in the district through teleconference mode with district officials from collectorate on Saturday, he said that a round-the-clock control room has been established in Khammam city. One can call 9063211298 or dial a toll-free number of 1077 to reach the control room. People can also send WhatsApp message to the mobile phone number.

He asked the officials to monitor water levels in tanks and other water resources and alert the people asking them not to venture into tanks and streams. They should check the water levels in tanks and reservoirs in the district from time to time. The situation in low-lying areas and tanks should be closely monitored.

The officials should identify the places where the tanks, ponds and streams overflow their sluices and monitor the situation round the clock.

The district officials, tahsildars, MPDOs, MPOs should stay put in the headquarters, in view of heavy rains, and work with coordination of other officials. They should not let anyone to go near tanks and streams to catch fish. In case of water flooding the culverts and roads the places should be barricaded. The officials should alert the people through public address system and take steps to rule out any loss of life and loss to the property.

He asked the authorities to take precautions with regard to the dilapidated buildings. They should sensitise the villagers on Damini mobile application to help them protect themselves from lightnings. Volunteers should be deployed near streams to keep the people out of the place.

Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agasthya, Additional Collector D Madhusudhan Naik, ZP CEO Deeksha Raina, district revenue officer M Rajeshwari, DRDO Sanyasaiah, district Pancha yat Officer Nagalakshmi, municipal commissioners, MPDOs, Tahsildars and MPOs and others took part in the meeting.

Collector asks officials to prepare action plan for Ganesh festival

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

District Collector Adwait Kumar has directed the district authorities to prepare an action plan so that people celebrate the Ganesh festival and the Ganesh idol immersion festival in a peaceful atmosphere.

He asked the police, municipal administration, fire, irrigation, medical and health, electricity, transport department officials and personnel should work with coordination to celebrate the festival in a congenial atmosphere.

Addressing a coordination meeting of concerned officials at Collectorate here on Saturday, he asked the Ganesh pandal organisers to secure permission from the police and



hiccups in Ganesh Navaratri celebrations.

He asked the officials to appoint volunteers, fix CCTV cameras, irrigation department should appoint personnel near tanks and canals. Services of expert swimmers should be roped in at the time of immersion of idols. Cranes of police department should only be used to immerse idols in lakes.

The medical and health department should conduct health camps.

ASP Chennaiah, ZP CEO Narmada, R and B EE Bhimla Naik, DMHO Dr Muralidhar, additional collectors Lenin Vatsal and David, municipal commissioners, RDOs and others were present.

CARDON & SEARCH OPERATIONS

100 two-wheelers, 3 three-wheelers seized

PNS ■ KAGAZNAGAR

The police conducted cardon search operations in Kapuwada area of the city near Bhatpalli X Roads from 5 am onwards and seized 100 motorcycles and three autorickshaws.

The cardon and search operation was conducted on directions from Additional SP Prabhakar Reddy.

As part of the operation, 50 policemen descended on the area and searched vehicles undertaking door to door visit.

Commenting on it, DSP Karunakar appealed to people to cooperate with the police in the maintenance of the law and order. He asked the land lords to collect full details of their tenants and

advised them against letting their house to the people with suspicious conduct.

He asked the residents of Kapuwada to alert the police on the suspicious movements of the strangers. He appealed to philanthropic public to support the fixing of CCTV cameras in slums.

The police noted that some persons have been smoking ganja under the flyover and asked the people to alert the police about such people, if they happen to come across them.

He warned of initiating stern action against those who indulged in Matka and online betting. He educated the people on cybercrimes. Further, he advised them against clicking the links sent to their mobile phones.

The clicking of the links will enable to the phone to transfer their information to the cyber criminals.

He asked the people to call 1930 to report about cybercrimes. Cardon and search activities are going to be implemented in all areas of the town. He said that the police would seize vehicles not having valid documents. Each and every vehicle should have number plate without fail.

Kagaz Nagar town CI T Sankaraiyah, Rural CI Satyanarayana, Kautala and Vankidi Cis and Kagaznagar town SIs D Ramesh and Sudhakar, Kautala and Chintalamaneipalli, Rebbena, SIs and police personnel took part in the search operations.

Woman dies by 'suicide' in Telangana as boyfriend delays marriage

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

A female nurse at a private hospital in Kamareddy district in Telangana died allegedly by suicide, police said on Friday.

The woman is suspected to have ended her life as she was dejected over her boyfriend delaying their marriage.

She called her boyfriend this morning before taking the extreme step and switched off her phone.

Though the man rushed to her residence, she hung herself from the ceiling fan. The victim was taken to a government hospital in a car, but was declared brought dead by the doctors.

The boyfriend left the hospital fearing an angry reaction from her parents. As per preliminary information, the woman died by suicide and probe was on, police added.



Livestock census begins today

PNS ■ NARAYANAPETA

All arrangements have been made to conduct the 21st all-India livestock census from September 1. The enumerators' training programme has been completed. They will undertake door to door visit in their designated areas and record their findings in the relevant mobile application. The live stock census will be held till December 31.

For the purpose of the census, 54 enumerators, nine supervisors and a nodal officer have been appointed. They have been trained on how to use the mobile application and record the data. They collect names of the head of the families and record the cattle, poultry, goats, dogs owned by them. They should send the data to the supervisors who go through it and forward to the nodal officer.

The census helps identify the popula-

tion of various species in Telangana. So that the government will be able to set up the veterinary hospitals, appoint veterinary doctors and take other measures. The census helps identify statistics like milk yield of various animals and the production of meat and milk in the district among other statistics. The statistics help authorities to find out whether the district should import milk or meat and export them to other places. According to Dr B Eswar Reddy, district animal husbandry officer, Narayanapeta, the livestock census will be conducted in 13 mandals of the district and all wards of three municipalities. The enumerators would have to visit these places and collect livestock statistics.

He appealed to the farmers to cooperate with the enumerators and officials visiting their homes for the purpose of the livestock census.

BRS leader calls Irrigation Minister a 'dacoit'

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

BRS leader Peddi Sudarshan Reddy on Saturday called Irrigation Minister a big dacoit and charged him with amassing hundreds of crores in a civil supplies scam.

Addressing media along with former deputy CM Tatikonda Rajaiyah and former chief whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar here, he objected to Uttam Kumar Reddy calling former CM KCR a dacoit on Friday during the visit to Devadula Project. In fact, KCR accomplished 90% of the project works, he clarified.

He advised Uttam Kumar Reddy to make an introspection and warned him that the days when he is going to be lodged in prison were not far away. The civil supplies scam will become a bane of you, he warned.

He alleged that there is no coordination between Uttam Kumar Reddy and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

He claimed to have lodged a PIL in Telangana High Court on civil supplies scam and verdict on it is expected soon.

Telangana Rashtra Rytu Runa Vimochana Commission former chairman N Venkateswarlu, former ZP chairman Sudheer Kumar, Warangal West convenor Janardhan Goud and other functionaries of the BRS were present.

Jagadish deplors Uttam for calling KCR 'dacoit'

PNS ■ SURYAPETA

Former minister G Jagadish Reddy has criticised Irrigation Minister for failing to providing water for irrigation from Nagarjunasagar project, he said, accusing him of spending all the time criticising the previous BRS regime.

Attempting to turning tables on the Congress government, he accused the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his Cabinet of turning a blind eye to the problems being faced by

farmers from the projects completed during the BRS regime. He could not give water for irrigation from Nagarjunasagar project, he said, accusing him of spending all the time criticising the previous BRS regime.

Addressing media here on Saturday, Jagadish Reddy said that Uttam Kumar could not give irrigation facility to

farmers. The corruption is rampant in all government departments. The contractors have been alleging that they cannot get works done without having to grease the palms of the government servants, he alleged.

How dare Uttam call KCR a dacoit, an angry Jagadish Reddy said. He threatened to expose the "misdeeds" of Uttam Kumar Reddy. Further, he accused him as a 'notorious dacoit'.

ACROSS THE STATES



Delhi HC quashes Centre's 1987 eviction notice to Express bldg

The Delhi High Court has held as arbitrary and mala fide the Centre's decision to terminate its lease deed with Express Newspapers for the 'Express Building' at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg here and quashed the 37-year-old notice seeking ejection of the media house from the premises. Justice Prathiba M Singh, while dealing with the lawsuits by both the central government and Express Newspapers Ltd—filed over three decades ago, said the action of the authorities was an attempt to "muzzle Express Newspapers and dry up its source of income." The court nonetheless directed Express Newspapers to pay around Rs 64 crore to the Centre as payment towards "conversion charges", "ground rent" and "additional ground rent" in relation to the building.



Binoy Kumar Saren new Officiating VC of Visva Bharati

Prof Binoy Kumar Saren will be the new officiating Vice-Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, an official statement said. A statement signed by Acting Registrar on August 30 said Prof Arabinda Mondal, who was discharging the responsibility as the officiating VC, will hand over charge to Saren with immediate effect. Saren was Principal of Palli Siksha Bhavana (rural education department) of the university and member of Executive Council - the top decision-making body of Visva-Bharati. Saren is the first tribal to become VC of Visva Bharati, a senior university official said. After the term of permanent VC Bidyut Chakraborty ended in the first week of November 2023, Sanjoy Kumar Malik first took over charge as officiating VC in November. He was succeeded by Mondal a few months back.



Five booked for assaulting, humiliating Dalit boy in MP

Five persons, including three minors, were booked on Saturday for allegedly assaulting a 17-year-old Dalit boy in Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh and forcing him to perform humiliating acts, a police official said. He was made to squat and hold his earlobes in a way that is called 'murgha banana' in local parlance and is handed down as a punishment, and was also made to caw like a crow, the official said. "The accused shot a video of the victim's ordeal and uploaded clips on social media. After coming across these clips, we identified the victim, who is a Dalit. He told us the accused, who were known to him, took him to a desolate place and made him undergo this ordeal on August 25 over an old dispute," Kotwali police station inspector Raghavendra Tiwari said.

Spectre of Musi-like..

Continued from page 1

He said that Hyderabad will get heavy rains on Saturday night. Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari convened an urgent review meeting of collectors and senior officials through teleconference to assess the situation and streamline the emergency response. During the meeting, she emphasized the need for swift action and constant vigilance, particularly in low-lying areas prone to flooding. She also directed all departments to work in unison, ensuring that essential services like electricity and water supply remained operational despite adverse weather. With the IMD warning of heavy rains, the government has declared a holiday for all government schools on Monday (September 2). Districts like Adilabad, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu and Hyderabad are

getting heavy to extremely heavy rainfall causing water-logging, mudslides and road-blocks. The administration has opened 59 relief centres across affected districts to provide shelter and emergency assistance to those in need. In Hyderabad, the Collector declared a holiday for schools on Monday. Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has issued a high alert to senior health officials and has asked them to ensure that no leaves are granted to doctors and medical staff till the rains subside. The minister emphasized that all medical personnel should remain at their headquarters and attend duties without fail. Responding to anticipated challenges, the Health Minister also ordered that pregnant women nearing their Estimated Delivery Dates (EDD) should be admitted to hospitals and special waiting rooms must be allocated for them.



Committed to make rail travel comfortable for all: PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The railways has made big strides in addressing long-standing issues and will not stop till it becomes a guarantee of comfortable travel for all sections of society, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday. Flagging off three new Vande Bharat Express trains via videoconferencing, Modi said the nation was inching towards the goal of Viksit Bharat with modernisation and expansion of Vande Bharat trains. The three trains flagged off by the prime minister connect Meerut with Lucknow, Madurai with Bengaluru, and Chennai with Nagercoil. "Through its hard work over the years, the railways has made big strides in addressing long-standing issues and offered new hopes and solutions. We will not stop until the Indian Railways becomes a guarantee of comfortable travel for everyone," Modi said. The prime minister's remarks came against the backdrop of railway accidents that prompted the opposition to question the government's track record on rail safety. Modi said modern rail infrastructure was a strong pillar of the vision of Viksit Bharat. He said more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore was allocated to the railways in this year's budget and the government was connecting Indian Railways with high-tech services to transform its old image. The prime minister underlined that the rapid development of southern states was imperative to accomplish the goal of Viksit Bharat.

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Chennai-Nagercoil Vande Bharat offers fastest connectivity to Kanyakumari: Railways

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Chennai-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express, one of the three trains which Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off virtually on Saturday, offers the fastest connectivity to Kanyakumari, the country's southernmost tip, a senior railway official said. "The Chennai-Nagercoil Vande Bharat train will cover a distance of 726 km in 8 hrs



and 50 minutes to provide the fastest connectivity between two destinations. From Nagercoil, Kanyakumari is about 20 km which people can travel by rail or road route," the

Southern Railways official said. "There are two trains at present from Chennai which go straight to Kanyakumari but they take about 12 hours. Vande Bharat offers them a third option which is quickest and most comfortable among them," he added. After its launch on Saturday, its commercial operation will start from September 1 (Sunday), the official added.

India's August rainfall 16% higher than normal: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India recorded around 16 per cent more rainfall than normal in August, with rainfall over Northwest India recorded at 253.9 mm, the second highest in August since 2001, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday. Addressing a virtual press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the country recorded 287.1 mm of rainfall



in August, compared to the normal 248.1 mm. Overall, India has received 749 mm of precipitation against the normal 701 mm since the start of the monsoon season on June 1. Several districts in the foothills of the Himalayas and the northeast experienced below-normal rainfall as most of the low-pressure systems moved south of their usual position, and the monsoon trough also remained south of its typical position, the IMD chief said. Many states in the northeast, along with Kerala and the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, experienced deficient rainfall, he added.

Jai Ram Thakur attacks Sukhu govt over rising debt, salary delay

PNS ■ SHIMLA

BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday said that Himachal Pradesh would soon be too debt-wrecked to pay the salaries of its employees, as he attacked the Sukhvinder Sukhu government for deferring wages of several employees, including the chief minister's.



Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had on Thursday in the Vidhan Sabha said the government would be deferring the salaries of ministers, chief parliamentary secretaries, and chairpersons and vice chairpersons of boards and corporations for two months, citing the state's "grim financial situation." Thakur, a former Himachal Pradesh chief minister, said the deferment was not going to be a one-off incident.

Yechury under treatment for chest infection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury continues to be under treatment at AIIMS, New Delhi, for a respiratory infection, the party said on Saturday. Yechury was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 19 for treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection. The exact nature of his ailment was not revealed by the hospital. "Comrade Sitaram Yechury, general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), continues to be under treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences of New Delhi," the CPI(M) said in a statement. "He is under the care of a team of specialist doctors who are treating him for respiratory infection," it said. Yechury had recently undergone cataract surgery.

Providing safe environment to women is Centre's top priority

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Union Minister of Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi on Saturday said that empowering women and providing them with a safe environment is the Central government's top priority. Devi said the Central government has taken several concrete steps to ensure the safety of women. However, it is the responsibility of the state governments to take advantage of these schemes and implement them. The Union minister was addressing a gathering at Mahatma Mandir after inaugurating the seventh edition of "Poshan Maah", nationwide nutrition month, the Centre's flagship initiative celebrated annually throughout September. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state Women and Child Welfare Minister Bhanuben Babaria were also present. "Empowering women and providing them a safe environment is the Indian government's top priority. The government has taken many concrete steps to ensure the safety of women. But it is also the responsibility of the state gov-

ernments to take advantage of this and implement these schemes," she said. "Poshan Maah" reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the holistic health and nutrition of children, mothers and sisters, she said. "The main aspects of this 'Poshan Maah' are awareness about anaemia, growth monitoring, nutrition and education, appropriate dietary supplements, technology-based transparency and environmental protection.



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TG Buddhist spots..

Continued from page 1

As part of the new tourism policy, the state government aims to develop a tourism circuit connecting historical Buddhist sites like Phanigiri, Nelakondapalli and Nagarjuna Sagar along with the Buddha statue in Hussainsagar. Recently, the TG government submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the Centre as per the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, proposing the establishment of a Buddhist Digital Museum and exhibition at the Buddhavanam at an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore. The plan also includes the International Buddhist Museum. The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of trans-

CM urges caution, alerts..

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister also directed officials to alert people living downstream of reservoirs where gates are being opened. After the Chief Minister's orders, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari and DGP Jitender conducted a teleconference with all Collectors, SPs, Police Commissioners and Municipal Commissioners. They were told to continuously monitor the situation and take action accordingly.

Bhatti: How can KCR face..

Perhaps KCR would say that he could not give jobs to the people in the last 10 years but the Congress government is filling 60,000 posts in government service in three and a half months, he said taking a jibe at the BRS leader who mostly remains at home. KCR who cheated Dalits promising three acres should have some shame to attempt to hoodwink people again, he said. Bhatti pointed out that unfortunately that a 'people's government' could not be formed immediately after the people achieved a separate state. Telangana state was created to provide freedom and social justice and to distribute the state's resources equitably to the people. BRS rulers looted the state's wealth, he said. Workers were exploited and they took part in large numbers in my padayatra before the elections, recounted their problems and resolved to bring down the corrupt BRS government, he recalled. He asked people to assert in one voice that they want only a 'people's government' and not a feudal tyranny.

The Cabinet led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has resolved to implement all promises made to the people. Despite financial problems, 'all promises were implemented' within months, the Deputy CM said. The admin has made bus travel free for women and has increased the Rajiv Arogyasri Health Insurance cover to Rs 10 lakh, he said. He added that the government paid Rs 2,500 crore to TGSRRTC to subsidise women passengers. Zero bills for power consumption up to 200 units is being implemented from March 1. Cooking gas is being provided at Rs 500 per cylinder. He said that a Skill University is being set up to provide employment to unemployed youth. Lashing out at KCR and is KTR for not bringing any investments to the State in the last 10 years, Bhatti said that they have hid the wealth they looted from the State abroad. CM Revanth Reddy and IT Minister Sridhar Babu went to the US and South Korea and bagged investments worth Rs 36,000 crore, he said.

Cases against..

Continued from page 1

In the first case, the commissioner said that as per the findings of HYDRAA, many illegal buildings were found in the buffer zone of Erla Cheruvu. The buildings were demolished by HYDRAA on August 10 and 11. "Building permissions and occupancy certificates were issued for those plots despite clear communications from the Irrigation Department indicating that these buildings violated buffer zone regulations. But those two officials were responsible for granting building permissions and occupancy certificates for buildings that clearly violated buffer zone regulations, despite repeated requests of the Irrigation Department to stop their construction. In the second case, the complainant said the Errakunta Pond measures 3.033 acres. "An investigation by HYDRAA revealed that permissions were granted based on incorrect geo-coordinates, placing the buildings 75 meters away from the actual location of the pond. It was also found that the Additional Director of Survey and Land Records did not provide adequate documentation for the investigation and may have been partial to the encroachers by altering the geo-coordinates," the complainant said. The case has been registered under Sections 59, 198, 201, 316 (5), 329 (3), 324 (3), 49, 61 (2) and 3 (5) of the BNS Act.

Is Uttam trying..

Continued from page 1

Addressing Uttam's actions he asked why had Uttam introduced the EPC contract system, raised project costs without explanation, and handed out advance payments. That was a way to loot the state, Harish said. "Wasn't it you, Uttam, who inflated the Pranahita-Chevella project's budget from Rs 17,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore without even starting work?" Harish asked. He said that the project was originally approved for Rs 17,875 crore but later it was increased to Rs 38,500 crore by the Congress government with Uttam's involvement. Harish also pointed out that the Congress government divided the Tummidihatti Barrage project into multiple parts and began work without an agreement with Maharashtra. This led to significant advance payments. Harish asked who benefited from this implying Uttam's involvement.



From leading corporate giants to shaping culinary excellence, PAWAN SONI'S journey is a celebration of passion and innovation in the food industry, says SAKSHI PRIYA

FROM CORPORATE SUCCESS TO CULINARY STARDOM A JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF FOOD BLOGGING AND AWARDS

In the culinary world, where flavours tell stories and meals become cherished memories, Pawan Soni has forged an extraordinary path. A former Vice President at global giants like HSBC and GE Capital, Soni made a bold yet passionate shift from the corporate boardroom to the vibrant food scene. Driven by his love for discovering hidden gastronomic gems, he founded Indian Food Freak, a blog that has since grown into one of India's most influential food and travel platforms. His journey took a remarkable turn in 2014 when he launched The Big F Awards, a celebration of culinary excellence that has now become one of Delhi NCR's most prestigious events. Now entering its 11th year, The Big F Awards have distinguished themselves with an unwavering

commitment to transparency and integrity. Built on the principle of not imposing any financial burden on nominees, these awards have earned a reputation as a fair and respected platform for recognising excellence in the food industry. Over the past decade, they have become synonymous with culinary credibility, highlighting the region's finest dining establishments and championing new talents, including home chefs and bakers who bring fresh flavours and creativity to the table.

This year, The Big F Awards embark on an exciting new chapter by expanding their reach to encompass the entire Delhi-NCR region, reinforcing their vision of inclusivity and growth. This grand event will showcase a diverse array of culinary talent, with new categories that reflect the latest trends and celebrate the art of both dining out and home cooking. Attendees can look forward to an immersive experience where innovation, artistry, and passion are celebrated in a truly memorable way. At the heart of this celebration is a distinguished jury, featuring some of India's most renowned culinary experts, such as Chef Kunal Kapur, Chef Nita Mehta, Rocky Singh, and many others. These esteemed judges will rigorously evaluate each nominee, visiting the restaurants and sampling the dishes before casting their votes. This commitment to fairness ensures that the awards remain a beacon of trust and excellence in the food industry.

For Pawan Soni, The Big F Awards are more than just an event, they are a community and a platform for supporting genuine connections and inspiring culinary creativity. As he prepares for the upcoming awards in September, Soni envisions an evening that brings together the best of Delhi NCR's food scene, offering an opportunity to celebrate, connect and elevate the standards of culinary excellence. With a legacy of integrity and innovation, The Big F Awards continue to shine as a cornerstone of the region's vibrant food culture.

Founded in 2014, The Big F Awards have become a symbol of credibility and fairness, consistently upholding the highest standards in the industry. This year's edition promises to build on this legacy, with new surprises, new talents, and new stories to be told. Join Pawan Soni and his esteemed panel in this grand celebration of culinary brilliance, where the finest in food artistry come together to create an unforgettable experience.

A CONVERSATION WITH PAWAN SONI

Pawan Soni shares insights into his transition from corporate life to food blogging, the challenges he faced in

the early days and his commitment to transparency and excellence in The Big F Awards. He provides valuable perspectives on the growth of his blog, the influence of his corporate background and what to expect from this year's prestigious event.

You left a successful career as Vice President at MNCs like HSBC and GE Capital to follow your passion for food. What motivated this career shift, and how did your corporate experience shape your approach to food blogging and awards?

Back in our day, social media wasn't a thing. Like many, I followed the conventional route—completing an MBA and then diving into the corporate world. But food was my escape. Traveling the world, I discovered hidden culinary gems and started writing for newspapers and magazines. Eventually, I launched my own blog, Indian Food Freak. Before I knew it, my passion for food had grown into a full-blown career.

MY CORPORATE EXPERIENCE WAS THE YEAST THAT HELPED INDIAN FOOD FREAK RISE. THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN ORGANISING THE AWARDS WAS SECURING SPONSORS WHO BELIEVED IN THE VISION BUT DIDN'T INFLUENCE THE RESULTS.

In foodie terms, my corporate career was a recipe for success, but my love for food was the secret ingredient. I traded PowerPoint for paprika and now, I'm serving up a plate of purpose. Jokes aside, my corporate experience was invaluable. It taught me critical skills in sales, operations, and more, which I still use in my second career. Having worked with ethical companies, I've always prioritized transparency. Even after 11 years of running the food awards, I ensure there's no money exchange involved, whether for nominations, attending the awards or in any other aspect.

When you started Indian Food Freak food blogging was relatively new in India. How did you introduce the concept to an unfamiliar audience, and what strategies did you use to build your initial following?

Introducing food blogging to India was like adding a new spice to a traditional recipe—initially unfamiliar, but now indispensable. I focused on creating content that was relatable, authentic, and sprinkled

with humor. I remained honest and objective in all my reviews, even if it meant ruffling a few feathers among friends in the industry. By avoiding fancy jargon and staying true to my readers, I built trust and loyalty. My guiding principle has always been to write for my readers, not for the restaurants.

How did you address the skepticism or resistance from both the public and industry professionals during the early days of food blogging, especially when it was an emerging field?

Skeptics are like stale spices - they need to be replaced with fresh perspectives. I proved that food blogging wasn't just a flash in the pan by consistently delivering quality content and building a loyal community. Facebook played a significant role in this, as I created a space where food enthusiasts could exchange opinions and learn from each other.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in creating content for your blog in the early days, and how did you overcome issues related to resources, technology or audience engagement?

The early days were like cooking with limited ingredients—creativity was key. I tackled challenges by infusing my content with storytelling, leveraging social media, and engaging with my audience like a master chef. Content was never an issue because food is something we encounter daily. To improve the visual appeal, I invested in a DSLR. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Indian Food Freak has grown into one of the largest food and travel blogs in India. What were some of the initial challenges you encountered when starting your blog and organising The Big F Awards, and how did your corporate experience help you navigate these obstacles?

My corporate experience was the yeast that helped Indian Food Freak rise. The biggest challenge in organizing the awards was securing sponsors who believed in the vision but didn't influence the results. My sales and marketing skills were crucial here. Convincing people of the brand visibility that our awards could offer was key, and looking back, I'm proud to say that I delivered on those promises.

This year, The Big F Awards has expanded to cover the entire Delhi-NCR region. What motivated this expansion, and what new opportunities and challenges do you anticipate?

Expanding The Big F Awards to Delhi-NCR was like adding a new course to the menu—a natural progression. Since it takes nearly six months to organize the awards, with our jury visiting each restaurant to taste the food before

delivering a verdict, venturing into other cities wasn't feasible. However, Delhi-NCR should be treated as one city, with people frequently traveling for work and pleasure. Including Delhi has given us broader and, in some cases, better choices, helping foodies make informed decisions when they dine out.

The introduction of categories for home bakers and home chefs is a unique and thoughtful addition. What inspired these new categories, and how do they reflect current trends in the food industry?

Home bakers and home chefs are the new spice merchants—they're driving innovation and shaping trends. These categories reflect the democratisation of food and the rise of culinary entrepreneurship. I'm pleased to see that home chefs and bakers are now taken seriously. Not only have their businesses expanded, but many new ventures are focused solely on this segment, helping them grow by organising pop-ups at five-star hotels, developing apps for delivery, and introducing them to wider audiences.

Winning the Best Influencer Award by BBC Good Food in 2018 is a significant achievement. How did this recognition impact your career and the growth of Indian Food Freak and The Big F Awards?

We all seek acknowledgment and appreciation. Winning the award was a validation that I was on the right path. It boosted my morale and increased confidence in the products and content I deliver.

The Big F Awards are known for their transparency and integrity. How are you ensuring these values are upheld in this year's expanded edition, especially with the addition of new categories?

Transparency and integrity are the secret ingredients in The Big F Awards' recipe. We ensure fairness by using a robust judging process, clear criteria, and a commitment to accountability. From selecting the right jury to deliberating each result, we remain steadfast in our dedication to honesty and transparency.

As you prepare for the 11th edition of The Big F Awards, what are your personal goals for the event, and what do you hope attendees and participants will take away from this year's awards?

My personal goal for The Big F Awards is to foster a culinary community that's the icing on the cake. I hope attendees and participants leave inspired, with new connections and a renewed passion for the food industry. People don't mind losing as long as they know they lost to a worthy opponent. Our aim is to be fair and just while building camaraderie among all industry professionals.



PAWAN SONI
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

A TRIBUTE TO TRADITION

GURU SHOVANA NARAYAN'S 75 YEARS OF KATHAK MASTERY

Sharanyam, a heartfelt tribute to the legendary Guru SHOVANA NARAYAN on her 75th birthday, beautifully celebrated her extraordinary journey in Kathak. The evening was a touching tribute to her life's work, showcasing the profound impact she has had on the art form and her disciples, says SAKSHI PRIYA



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

In the world of Indian classical dance, few names resonate with as much reverence as Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan. Her journey is not just a tribute to her unparalleled dedication to Kathak but a living legacy that has inspired generations. As she steps into her 75th year, the Asavari Centre for Kathak honoured this icon with an evening titled "Sharanyam," a celebration as vibrant and profound as Guruji herself. Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan is a celebrated icon in Kathak, with a remarkable career spanning over six decades. Her innovative approach and deep understanding of Indian culture have redefined the art form. With prestigious awards like the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, her influence extends beyond performance to visionary choreography, dedicated teaching, and cultural leadership. On this unforgettable evening, the Stein Auditorium at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi was transformed into a space of dance and devotion. The evening was not just an event; it was a vibrant expression of love, respect and admiration from her disciples worldwide. Each performance honoured not just Kathak but the essence of Guru Shovana Narayan - the artist, the mentor and the visionary. From the moment the lights dimmed and the

first note echoed through the auditorium, it was clear that this evening was extraordinary. The performance of "Taal Pancham Sawari" was a masterful display of rhythm and precision, perfectly embodying the discipline and expression that Guruji has always emphasised. Beyond the technical brilliance, it was the sheer emotion that captivated the audience. "Chaand" was not just a dance; it was a poetic journey that moved everyone present. Similarly, "Malika" seamlessly fused song and dance, creating a blend of beauty that felt almost otherworldly. One of the most memorable moments of the night was "Moonlight Impressionism," a performance that seemed to slow time itself. The dancers moved with such grace that the stage became a peaceful space, where the silence of moonlight was captured in every gesture and step. The soft strains of the piano added an extra layer of

elegance, making it feel as though the audience was witnessing a dream come to life. The evening was a reflection of the profound bond between Guruji and her disciples, a connection that was evident in every movement and gesture on stage. This wasn't just a series of performances; it was a living reflection of the relationships built through years of shared passion, dedication, and mutual respect. As the video presentation played, featuring heartfelt birthday messages from her students, the emotion in the auditorium was overwhelming. These messages were more than just words of



“ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF THE NIGHT WAS 'MOONLIGHT IMPRESSIONISM,' A PERFORMANCE THAT SEEMED TO SLOW TIME ITSELF. THE DANCERS MOVED WITH SUCH GRACE THAT THE STAGE BECAME A PEACEFUL SPACE, WHERE THE SILENCE OF MOONLIGHT WAS CAPTURED IN EVERY GESTURE AND STEP.”

admiration; they were living proof of the deep, enduring love and gratitude that have grown over the years - a love that extends far beyond the art of Kathak. As the evening drew to a close with the powerful performance of "Dhwani-Pratidhwani," the energy in the auditorium reached its zenith. The audience's applause was more than just appreciation; it was a collective outpouring of respect, love, and admiration for a woman who has devoted her life to the pursuit of art and the nurturing of others. In the words of Guruji's first disciple, Shruti Gupta Chandra, "Sharanyam is a small tribute from all of us who have learned so much from Shovana Didi - dance in its purest form and, with it, many life lessons. And the learning continues..." Guruji herself reflected on the evening with emotion, saying, "The air rebounded with the pure love and sublime devotion of all the disciples that touched every heart and left everyone emotional. The programme was meticulously planned and executed." As her disciples paid tribute through their performances, it was clear that Guru Shovana Narayan's influence extends far beyond the stage. She has touched lives, instilled values, and inspired a generation of dancers who carry forward her legacy with pride and reverence. For them, she is not just a guru; she is a mother, a confidante, and a guiding star. Guru Shovana Narayan represents both tradition and innovation. She embodies the continuity of creativity, demonstrating that art is not just about preserving the past but about creating a future rooted in tradition yet open to new possibilities. As we celebrate her 75th year, it's evident that Guru Shovana Narayan is much more than a dancer; she is a visionary whose life has been dedicated to Kathak. Her legacy extends beyond performances to the hearts of her students and the countless lives she has touched. She is not just a mentor and guide but an inspiring figure whose dedication continues to elevate the art form and inspire those who learn from her.

A CELEBRATION OF INDIA'S TIMELESS CRAFTSMANSHIP

Naayaab highlights India's rich craftsmanship through over 100 masterpieces by renowned artisans. This exhibition blends tradition with innovation, presenting a unique cultural celebration, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

Naayaab, a groundbreaking exhibition platform, is set to become a beacon of India's rich heritage, showcasing over 100 masterpieces by the nation's most celebrated artisans. Spanning three major cities New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. This exhibition is more than just an exhibition, it is a profound celebration of India's artistic legacy, bringing together over 40 traditional art forms under one roof.

A SHOWCASE OF INDIA'S ARTISTIC DIVERSITY

Naayaab's significance lies in its ability to bring together an extraordinary collection of art forms, each representing a unique aspect of India's cultural fabric. With works from over 70 master artists, including several Padma Shri and Shilp Guru awards, this exhibition is a rare opportunity to witness the pinnacle of Indian craftsmanship. The exhibition highlighted the exceptional craftsmanship of several renowned artisans. Sudarshan Sahoo captivated with his intricate stone carving while Jai Prakash Lakhiwal impressed with his detailed miniature paintings. Khaleel Ahmad showcased his exquisite kilim carpets and Bhuri Bai presented her vibrant Bhil art. Durga Bai Vyam contributed her intricate Gond paintings. The visionary leaders behind Naayaab were Ajay A Singh, Founder Director and Akansha Dixit, Founder & Chief Curator. One of the most captivating pieces is the Inlay Artistry Chest by



Rupan Matharu, a work that exemplifies the exhibition's ethos of blending tradition with modernity. Crafted from Indian rosewood using traditional Hoshiarpur inlay techniques, Matharu's chest replaces the historically used ivory or bone with acrylic, making it both environmentally conscious and a stunning piece of art. The intricate patterns and meticulous detailing make it a true testament to the mastery of Indian artisans. Another powerful piece is Durga Bai Vyam's Gond Painting "Climate in Crisis", which uses symbolic imagery to address the resilience of nature in the face of human activity. This painting not only showcases the intricate detailing typical of Gond art but also delivers a poignant message about environmental conservation. Jai Prakash Lakhiwal's Shrinathji in Tanjore and Miniature Fusion painting is another highlight, merging Tanjore and Pichwai styles

to create a resplendent depiction of the Hindu deity. The use of gold leaf and natural pigments elevates this piece to a new level of artistic brilliance. The Heritage Red Sozni Shawl by Bashir Ahmed Bhatt is a must-see for those interested in traditional Indian textiles. This exquisite shawl, with its intricate embroidery of 600 stitches per centimeter, took four years to complete and is a tribute to the time-honored skills of Kashmiri Sozni artisans.

MASTERPIECES OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

Among the many remarkable pieces, Shiva Kumar's Tri Panel Mythic Tales stands out as a masterpiece of wood inlay and carving. Spanning six years in the making, this wooden set depicts narratives from the lives of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna across three panels, showcasing scenes like Sri Rama Pattabishekam,



Vishwaroopa and Krishna Leela. The craftsmanship is so intricate that concealed handles reveal a hidden third panel, an engineering feat in itself. The use of different woods and seashells for vibrant hues, along with hand-carved Yali motifs on the outer frame, make this artwork a true marvel. Another notable piece is Mukesh Kumar Soni's Maharaja Brooch Pendant, a stunning example of Meenakari on gold. Inspired by the regal bearing of Rajput personages, this pendant cum brooch combines uncut diamonds, baroque freshwater pearls, glass, spinels, and gold to create a piece that is both opulent and refined. The intricate designs on both sides, along with the use of

vibrant enamel colors, reflect the rich tradition of Meenakari, an art form passed down through generations since the Mughal era. A PLATFORM FOR PRESERVATION AND INNOVATION Naayaab is more than just an exhibition; it is a movement aimed at preserving and reviving India's traditional art forms. The long-term vision of making Naayaab an annual event, both in India and globally, is commendable. By doing so, the organizers hope to inspire the next generation of artisans and ensure that these invaluable skills continue to thrive. As an art enthusiast, witnessing Naayaab is both a privilege and a profound reminder of the richness of Indian heritage. The exhibition not only



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

showcases the exceptional talent of Indian artisans but also serves as a platform to elevate these crafts to the global stage, ensuring they are celebrated for generations to come. Naayaab is not just an exhibition, it is a celebration of India's artistic heritage, a platform for master artisans and a beacon of hope for the future of traditional crafts. In an age where digital and mass-produced art often takes center stage, Naayaab stands as a beautiful contradiction, a reminder of the beauty of handcrafted excellence and the importance of preserving cultural legacies. For collectors, connoisseurs and art lovers alike, Naayaab offers a rare opportunity to connect with the soul of Indian culture, to witness the legacy of its artistic heritage, and to support the artisans who dedicate their lives to preserving these traditions. It is an unmissable event that promises to leave a lasting impact on anyone who values the intersection of

history, culture and creativity. Naayaab is not just an exhibition but a profound celebration of India's rich artistic heritage. By bringing together over 100 masterpieces from acclaimed artisans across the country, it offers a unique platform that honors and revives traditional crafts. The intricate works displayed, from the innovative Inlay Artistry Chest to the evocative Gond Painting, illustrate the extraordinary skill and creativity of Indian artisans. This event is a tribute to the enduring significance of these art forms and serves as an inspiring reminder of the beauty that emerges when tradition meets innovation. Naayaab stands as a pivotal moment for both art lovers and cultural enthusiasts, marking a significant step in preserving and promoting India's invaluable artistic legacy.

IN BRIEF



10 new Ayush institutes to open in next five years

Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav announced that 10 new AYUSH institutes will be opened in the next five years to expand the traditional medical system. The Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Health made the remarks at a programme on Friday during his visit to the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) here. Jadhav inspected the entire campus and reviewed the facilities and the treatments being provided to the patients, the Ayush ministry statement said. During his address, he emphasized that his government is committed to fulfilling the prime minister's ambitious effort to bring Ayurveda to every household, it stated. The minister also mentioned that Ayurveda and our traditional medical system suffered significant damage during the colonial period and foreign invasions.

'India to lead bio-manufacturing revolution due to its resources'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday that bio-manufacturing will shape the future of global economy, and India is well-positioned to lead this revolution due to its abundant bio-resources. "India has an opportunity to lead the next big revolution which will be driven by bio-manufacturing. While the west led the IT revolution, India, with its immense and largely untapped bio-resources, is ready to take the lead," Singh said.

He said that bio-manufacturing offers solutions to global challenges like climate change, resource depletion, waste generation, and pollution. It can help meet the growing demand for food and fuel while also creating new jobs.

Singh said that India currently imports most of its crude oil, but bio-manufacturing, using biomass and carbon dioxide, can make the country more self-reliant in fuel production. Also, it could support the dairy industry through non-dairy milk alternatives, promoting resource sustainability.



While the west led the IT revolution, India, with its immense and largely untapped bio-resources, is ready to take the lead," Singh said

Last week, the Union Cabinet approved the 'BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomufacturing'. This policy seeks to boost research, technology development, and commercialisation by setting up bio-manufacturing and bio-ai hubs and biofoundries, and enable the production of several things from medicine to materials and promote the use of advanced biotechnological processes in agriculture and manufacturing.

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'Slowing of GDP growth due to lower govt spending, MCC'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The slowing of India's economic growth to a 15-month low of 6.7 per cent in the April-June quarter of this fiscal was due to "lower" government spending in the wake of the enforcement of the model code of conduct for the recent Lok Sabha polls, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said here on Saturday.



The RBI had projected a growth rate of 7.1 per cent for the April-June quarter of this fiscal.

"The Reserve Bank projected a growth rate of 7.1 per cent for the first quarter. However, the first advance estimation data released by the National Statistical Office showed the growth rate at 6.7 per cent," Das told reporters here.

The components and main drivers responsible for the GDP growth like consumption, investment, manufacturing, services and construction have registered a growth of more than 7 per cent, he said.

Only two aspects have pulled the growth rate slightly down. Those are—government (both central and state) expenditure and agriculture, the RBI governor pointed out.

He said the government expenditure was low during the first quarter perhaps due to elections (April to June) and operation of model code of conduct by the Election Commission.

"We would expect the government expenditure to pick up in coming quarters and provide the required support to growth," Das said.



Hero MotoCorp elevates Sanjay Bhan to VP post

Hero MotoCorp has elevated its Chief Business Officer for global business, Sanjay Bhan to the role of Executive Vice President with effect from September 1. Bhan, in his expanded capacity, will also lead the Global Product Planning (GPP) portfolio along with the newly established Global Market Insights function, Hero MotoCorp said in a regulatory filing on Friday. "This new function will be our strategic engine, enabling us anticipate customer and market trends, seize opportunities ahead of time, and further solidify our position as a thought leader in the industry," CEO Niranjan Gupta said. Bhan, however, will continue to report to the CEO for Global Business and GPP. Additionally, he will report directly to the Executive Chairman as the head of the Global Market Insights function while also leading the sports vertical.

Google-backed fund selects 4 Indian organisations for AI-driven climate solutions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four India-based organisations have been selected among 14 recipients across the Asia Pacific region for grants under the APAC Sustainability Seed Fund 2.0, supported by a USD 5-million grant from Google.org, the tech giant's philanthropic arm.

The fund, managed by Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN), aims to foster technology- and AI-driven solutions addressing critical environmental and social challenges.

The Indian recipients include INREM Foundation, CEPT Research and Development Foundation

(CRDF), Institute for Financial Management and Research (WELL Labs), and Gujarat Mahila Housing Sewa Trust (MHT), Google.org said in a statement.

INREM Foundation will develop AI-enabled open digital solutions for community access to water contamination data. CRDF plans to use machine learning and satellite imagery to protect lakes and their carbon sink function. WELL Labs will develop advanced models for village-level water security insights, while MHT will create an AI-powered model to identify urban heat islands and suggest community-centric solutions, the statement added.



TN CM visits Apple, Microsoft offices in US; inks pact with Google for AI lab

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin visited the offices of Apple, Google and Microsoft and discussed opportunities for investment and partnerships with them.

Day 2 of his US visit led to the signing of a pact to skill two million youngsters in the state in AI under the 'Naam Mudhalvan' scheme, in partnership with Google.

The Chief Minister, currently on a visit to the USA to attract investments to Tamil Nadu, on Saturday described the visit to the offices of Apple, Google and Microsoft as "awe-inspiring."

"Discussed various opportunities and exciting partnerships. Determined to strengthen these partnerships and make Tamil Nadu one of the foremost growth engines of Asia!" @TRBRajaa @Guidance_TN @TNIndMin #InvestInTN #ThriveInTN #LeadWithTN #DravidianModel," Stalin said in a post on the social media platform X.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of the Chief Minister, with Google for setting up Tamil Nadu AI (Artificial Intelligence) labs in Tamil Nadu.

The initiative will help to collaborate with startups, MSMEs, and the rural economy besides making the youth a future-ready force.

The signing of the pact was the outcome of a discussion initiated by the CM with officials at Google on August 30, a government release here said.



The Chief Minister met top officials of Google at Mountain View campus and discussed the further expansion of production of Pixel 8 phones manufactured in Tamil Nadu and the launch of other Google products and technology facilities in Tamil Nadu," the release said.

Stalin also spoke about boosting growth through AI innovations in start-ups, industrial ecosystem mobility and capacity for the future.

The Chief Minister visited the office of Apple Inc, which manufactures and markets smartphones, personal computers, portable computers and wearable electron-

ic products and accessories such as smart watches, headphones, AirPods and various related services.

It is headquartered in Cupertino, California, and is one of the Fortune 500 companies operating in 27 countries with 530 global outlets.

Stalin thanked the company officials for ensuring Tamil Nadu a place in the global electronics manufacturing map.

He outlined the various initiatives of the Tamil Nadu government to improve the manufacturing environment of the state and highlighted that Tamil Nadu is a leading state in terms of industry, housing and transport logistics facilities, as well as the education and skills development of youth and women.



DoNER's testing lab first NABL-accredited facility in NE

A textile testing laboratory in Guwahati, under the ministry of DoNER, has become the first such to be NABL-accredited, a statement said on Saturday. The laboratory of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHDC) has achieved the distinction, a statement said. "Previously, weavers and producers had to send their products to Kolkata for testing due to the lack of such a facility in the region. The establishment of this state-of-the-art testing lab in Guwahati, Assam marks a significant change, offering local weavers and manufacturers immediate access to high-quality testing services," it said. Accreditation provides a ready means for customers to find reliable testing, it said. It also enhances customer confidence in accepting testing/calibration reports issued by accredited laboratories, the statement added.

Dr D K Sunil takes over as CMD (Additional Charge) of HAL

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Dr D K Sunil, Director (Engineering, Research and Development) has taken over as Chairman and Managing Director (Additional Charge) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited from C B Ananthakrishnan, effective from September 1, 2024, officials said on Saturday.

Sunil joined Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in 1987 as a Management Trainee and has about 37 years of experience in varied roles in the company contributing significantly to design, production, quality enhancement and customer support, they said.

NBCC announces issue of bonus shares in 1:2 ratio

To use Rs 90 cr free reserve for this purpose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned NBCC (India) Ltd on Saturday said the board has approved issue of bonus shares in a ratio of 1:2 to eligible shareholders and the company will utilise Rs 90 crore free reserve for this purpose. In a regulatory filing, the company informed that the board has approved issuance of bonus shares and fixation of record date.

"The Board of Directors has recommended the issuance of bonus shares to the shareholders of the company in the ratio of 1:2 i.e. one new fully paid-up equity share of Rs 1 each for every two existing shares to the eligible members as on the record Date," the company said.

The company proposes to issue 90 crore shares as bonus shares.



"Free reserves of Rs 90 crore would be utilised for the issue of bonus Shares," the NBCC said. This is subject to the approval of the shareholders in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Board has fixed October 7, 2024 as record date to determine the eligibility of members to receive bonus shares.

NBCC is mainly into project management consultancy (PMC) and real estate business.

FMD-free zones in 8 states to enhance animal product exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government plans to establish Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)-free zones in eight states to boost exports of animal products, according to a senior government official.

Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, announced the initiative at the workshop that concluded on August 30 on the issue of animal infectious disease prioritisation, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with the department.

"We've made significant progress in tackling four critical diseases: FMD, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Brucellosis, and Classical Swine Fever under the National Control Programme," Upadhyaya said.

The government "plans to establish FMD-free zones in eight states, where advanced vaccination efforts are under-



way", she said.

This strategic move is expected to pave the way for expanded export opportunities for Indian animal products, enhancing the country's global market presence, she added. The three-day workshop resulted in a prioritized list of the top 20 animal infectious diseases, based on factors including severity, transmissibility, and national importance. An action plan was developed focusing on coordination, communication, monitoring and surveillance, prevention and control, therapeutics, and socio-economic and contingency planning.

DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN AIR TAXI

Darsh Dronobotics ties up with Trouvé Hub

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Darsh Dronobotics Systems on Saturday announced its collaboration with Canada-based Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. for the development of hydrogen-based five-seater air taxi.

The partnership also aims at combating climate change and reducing carbon emissions in the mobility and aviation sector, a company statement said.

Supporting India's net zero goals and country's ambition to be a pioneer in the air taxi revolution by 2025, Vjaitra Air

Mobility, a division of Darsh Dronobotics Systems Pvt Ltd, has announced its strategic partnership with Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc, the statement said.

As part of this partnership, Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. will play a pivotal role in supporting Darsh Dronobotics Systems in raising necessary funds to build a full-scale prototype of the hydrogen air taxi.

The project is set to redefine the future of urban transportation, offering an eco-friendly and efficient alternative to tra-



ditional modes of travel, it said.

Ratandeep Tripathi, CEO of Vjaitra Air Mobility, said, "Their support in fundraising and innovation will be instrumental in bringing our hydrogen-based air taxi to life, aligning with our commitment to sustainable and cutting-edge transportation solutions." These air taxis promise quieter flights,

zero emissions, and reduced operating costs as compared to conventional aircraft, it noted.

The air taxis will be capable of covering up to 600 kilometres, enabling users to travel from Delhi-NCR to Lucknow and other state capitals as well as other metropolitan city airports.

Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. will assist in securing the required funding for the project, leveraging their extensive network of private investors, government funding, and institutional support.

Surendran K joins The Westin Chennai Velachery

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Hospitality service provider The Westin Chennai Velachery has roped in Surendran K As its Director, Sales and Marketing with immediate effect. Prior to the new role, Surendran, who has over 18 years of experience, has served at Courtyard by Marriott Chennai, Hyatt Regency Chennai and The Residency Towers, a press release said on Saturday.

An alumnus of American Hotels Lodging Association, Surendran has graduated from Annamalai University.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No: 9/EEES/SRNR/GHMC/2024-25, Dated: 31.08.2024
 Name of the Work: For (7) No. of Works "Ganesh Nimajanam", Estimate Amount: Rs.77.00 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 03.09.2024 @ 3.01 P.M., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri. K. Srinivas, Executive Engineer, Seromagar Circle-5, GHMC, (M): 9989930602. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.e-procurement.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Saromagar Circle-5, GHMC
 B.O.No: 2595/PP/CLADVT/10224-25, Dt: 31.08.2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No: E/5826/11/2024-25/154, Dt: 31-08-2024
 Name of the Work: For (5) Works "Engaging of Vehicle and Labour for filling Potholes & Providing Civic amenities in view of the Ganesh Nimajanam-2024 in Ward Nos.11, 12, 13 & 14 of Hayathnagar Circle-3, GHMC". Estimate Amount: Rs 43.50 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 03-09-2024 @ 5:00 PM., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri K. Ramesh Babu, Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC, (M): 8790374055 & 7331189513. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.e-procurement.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC
 B.O.No: 2054/PP/CLADVT/10224-25, Dt: 31.08.2024

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion"
— Dalai Lama



MOSCOW FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH FOCUS ON INDIAN CINEMA

Laapata ladies and *Kalki* resonate with Russian audience, opening up huge possibilities for Indian cinema in Russia, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**



The Moscow International Films Week, an event that has become a significant cultural bridge between Russia and the world opened up in Moscow with much fanfare at Khudozhestvenny Cinema and with people from film fraternity from around the world in attendance at the gala event. On the first day of the Film Week, screenings of both foreign and domestic films took place, including the nationwide premieres of the Indian sports drama *Field* and the philosophical-mystical drama *Alzheimer* from Iran. This year it is an Indian-themed week with focus on Indian cinema and celebrating Indian art of storytelling on celluloid. The film festival is hosting films from more than 40-countries but the flavour of the festival is completely Indian. The second day was completely dedicated to Indian cinema, with Russian artists performing on Indian songs and Indian cuisine being served at the venue with Bollywood songs playing in the background. The Indian segment of the festival is dedicated to celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian cinema, offering Russian audiences a taste of India's cinematic brilliance through a curated selection of films. Among the highlights are two remarkable Indian films, *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki*, which have captivated the Russian audience with their unique storytelling and cultural nuances. Indian cinema has long been admired in Russia, with classics from Bollywood making their mark in the past. Ra Kapoor was a household name in Russia and 'mera joota hai Japani, an all-time hit. The Indian-themed week at the Moscow International Films Week is a testament to the enduring connection between the two cultures. This year's selection is not just about showcasing films; it's about highlighting the shared human experiences and emotions that transcend borders. As one Russian filmmaker quipped, "Indian and Russian films are made with heart, the most striking similarity between Indian and Russian films is that the songs are woven into the storyline." This is despite the fact that much is lost in translation and language barrier remains a significant impediment. But that is about to change as Swapna Dutt, the co-producer of *Kalki*, told the Pioneer that they would be releasing the film dubbed in Russian. "Indian films were once very popular in Russia, we want to open that bracket again. I am sure Indian films have a huge market here," said Swapna Dutt.

THE INDIAN SEGMENT OF THE FESTIVAL IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING THE RICHNESS AND DIVERSITY OF INDIAN CINEMA, OFFERING RUSSIAN AUDIENCES A TASTE OF INDIA'S CINEMATIC BRILLIANCE THROUGH A CURATED SELECTION OF FILMS. AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS ARE TWO REMARKABLE INDIAN FILMS, "LAAPATA LADIES" AND "KALKI," WHICH HAVE CAPTIVATED THE RUSSIAN AUDIENCE WITH THEIR UNIQUE STORYTELLING AND CULTURAL NUANCES

Laapata Ladies, a film that delves into the complexities of womanhood in contemporary India, has struck a chord with Russian viewers. The film's narrative, which intertwines humor with social commentary, offers a glimpse into the challenges and aspirations of Indian women. The Russian audience, known for its appreciation of nuanced storytelling, has responded positively to the film's portrayal of universal themes such as identity, freedom, and societal expectations. *Kalki*, another standout film screened on the second day, explores themes of mythology and modernity, blending them in a way that is both thought-provoking and visually stunning. The film's exploration of Indian mythology, set against the backdrop of modern societal issues, has intrigued Russian viewers. The film's ability to weave together the old and the new, the mythical and the real, resonates deeply with a culture that values its own rich historical and cultural heritage. The success of *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki* at the Moscow International Films Week highlights the growing appeal of Indian cinema in Russia. These films, while rooted in Indian culture, address universal themes that resonate with audiences across the world. The Russian viewers have found a connection with the characters and their stories, appreciating the films for their depth, creativity, and the way they tackle complex social issues.

The Indian-themed week has also opened doors for cultural exchange, with discussions and workshops that allow Russian audiences to engage more deeply with Indian cinema. This exchange of ideas and cultural narratives fosters a deeper understanding between the two nations, reinforcing the importance of art in bridging cultural gaps.

As Indian films continue to gain popularity in Russia, the Indian-themed week at the Moscow International Films Week is likely to become a regular feature, showcasing the best of Indian cinema to Russian audiences. The success of *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki* is not just a win for the filmmakers but also a testament to the universal appeal of Indian stories that, while deeply rooted in their own cultures, speak to the shared human experience. The Moscow International Films Week's Indian-themed week is more than just a showcase of films; it's a celebration of the cultural connections between India and Russia. The warm reception of films like *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki* by the Russian audience is a reflection of the power of cinema to transcend borders and bring people together through the shared language of storytelling.



МОСКОВСКАЯ
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ
НЕДЕЛЯ КИНО
22 - 28.08.2024



AARTI SREENATH

Threads of divinity

chain stitch and beadwork were all represented, each telling its own story through the skilled hands that crafted them. hand-painting styles like *Tanjore*, *Cheriyal*, *Kalamkari* and *Pattachitra* added another layer of depth to this rich tapestry of art and devotion.

The textile installation walk-through, led by none other than Gaurang Shah—the renowned textile revivalist and designer—was a journey into the heart of Indian craftsmanship. He shared insights into his approach to reviving ancient textile techniques, explaining, “These textiles I’ve been working with—I’ve been working with weavers for the last 24 years. The weaving technique remains the same, rooted in the region’s traditions. I’ve simply altered the design dialogue, infusing it with modern, contemporary elements and experimenting with different types of yarn.”

He elaborated on his work with Kanchipuram weavers, known primarily for their silk. “I’ve transformed Kanchipuram’s traditional silk into organza, chiffon and khadi, ensuring that weavers have work year-round. You can’t wear Kanchipuram sarees in summer, so I created lighter fabrics like chiffon and organza. It’s about evolving the craft to meet contemporary needs while preserving its essence,” he explained passionately.

When asked about the theme of the exhibition, he reflected on the divine inspiration behind it. “Shrinathji, Lord Krishna—when you usually see a panel or painting of him, it’s often done by *Nathdwara* artists, depicting cows and pastoral scenes. I’ve reimagined these themes across different Indian textiles, employing vari-



ous hand-paint techniques, weaving methods, and embroidery styles—from Rajasthan’s *gotta patti* to Hyderabad’s *aari* embroidery, Lucknow’s *chikankari* and *pattachitra* hand painting,” he said, highlighting the fusion of tradition and innovation.

Discussing the challenges he faced, he shared that convincing weavers to embrace new designs was initially a hurdle, but over time, they grew to trust his vision. “Now, most are ready to take on new challenges because they know they’ll achieve them. Handicrafts are timeless and won’t fade away; more young designers are engaging with weavers, ensuring this legacy continues. My greatest inspiration is the challenge itself—I need new things to work on every day,” he concluded with a sense of fulfillment.

In an exclusive conversation, Dr. Anita Bharat Shah, an eminent museologist, author and art historian, delved into the intricacies of the devotional art on display. “It’s all with the blessings of Krishna; it’s not easy,” she began, recounting the rigorous process of researching for her second book, now published. “I approached the archaeology department of Rajasthan, convincing the deputy director to grant me access to their museum’s storerooms, which are typically off-limits. We sat there as they opened the seals, revealing collections that are rarely seen.”

Her journey into the world of *Pushtimarga*, a rare sect that has inspired a vast array of eclectic

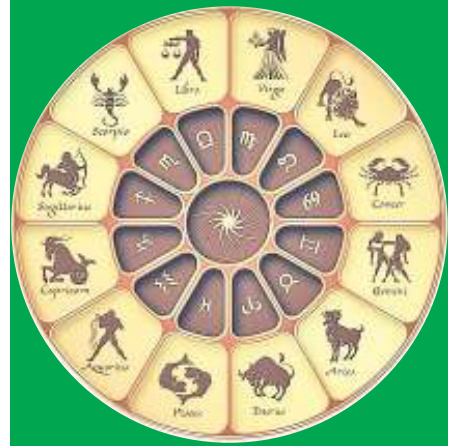


EVENT COVERAGE

art, was particularly fascinating. “*Pushtimarga* has influenced an extraordinary range of art forms, from flower garlands and pichwai paintings to the textiles we see here today. The art connects deeply with philosophy—Indian classical art is intricately linked to philosophy and altering its iconography would mean losing its essence,” she explained.

When asked about the challenges in preserving these textiles and paintings, she was candid. “We use museum techniques for conservation, but not all Indian museums are up to the mark. While the paintings in Udaipur are well preserved, they’re not displayed; they’re kept safely, but they deserve to be seen. Preservation is crucial, but so is showcasing these works to the world,” she emphasised.

The evening was not just a celebration of art but a profound exploration of the spirituality that drives it. As the event drew to a close, it was clear that “Swaroop” was more than an exhibition; it was a tribute to the timeless traditions that continue to inspire and evolve, ensuring that the legacy of India’s textile arts remains vibrant and relevant for generations to come.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

SEPTEMBER 1 - 6



ARIES

You will focus on moneymaking, appearing unreliable but joyful. Introspection brings peace. Kindness attracts others. Business decisions call for careful consideration.

TAURUS

Your hard work pays off, but avoid lethargy. Balance family time. Love shines, but be cautious of betrayal. Control spending and impulsiveness to avoid mistakes.

GEMINI

Joy fills you as introspection eases stress. Support from friends helps realize dreams. Balance marriage and ambition. Calm your mind. Enjoy a much-needed trip.

CANCER

Your experimentation earns praise, while meditation improves confidence. Challenges arise as a father and mood changes. Balance ego and avoid health risks.

LEO

Your warmth with siblings brings joy, but eccentricities affect your career. Balance work with rejuvenation. Success is likely, but avoid depression by taking a break.

VIRGO

Siblings reconcile. Financial worries are exaggerated. Your energy fuels productivity, turning negatives into positives. Leadership and reasoning aid success.

LIBRA

New project ideas emerge; your experimentation aids selection. Despite delays in support, persist for success. Manage insecurities and focus on your future.

SCORPIO

Your experimentation gains recognition, and support helps advance projects. Plan a journey with your kids, but manage restlessness and negative thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS

Your talent earns accolades, and your peculiarities gain your attention. Though ventures may be delayed, stay confident. Seize unexpected growth opportunities.

CAPRICORN

Your nature to experiment draws attention. Despite setbacks, rise above them confidently. Your innovative and outspoken nature will bring joy and recognition.

AQUARIUS

Avoid overestimating your abilities to prevent mistakes. Embrace beauty, relax as efforts pay off, and handle relationships with care. Consult family before decisions.

PISCES

Find a stimulating partner and be gentle with loved ones. Friends’ support helps achieve dreams. Manage life’s issues and rejuvenate relationships with a trip.

Blending traditional & contemporary styles

Kundan jewellery making is an age-old craft of transforming uncut diamonds into exquisite jewelry originated in the Rajput and Mughal eras. In contemporary times, these stunning creations are considered essential additions to any trousseau and treasured investments for personal collections. It has always showcased intricate and beautiful designs. It was originally crafted exclusively for royal families. Ruby Raang is a brand that has kept the legacy and craft of Kundan jewellery alive.



Maakhan Raas inspired by Janmashtami

Inspired by the eternal love of Radha and Krishna and the majestic presence of Lord Balaji, the collection embodies devotion, purity and par excellence artistry. Each piece is a tribute to the divine tales that have inspired generations, reflecting the joy and reverence of this auspicious day. Each piece of jewellery curated under this collection is not just an adornment but a heartfelt expression of faith, crafted to resonate with the spiritual essence of Janmashtami, embracing the divine through our specially curated, Krishna and Balaji inspired creations.

WHAT'S NEW



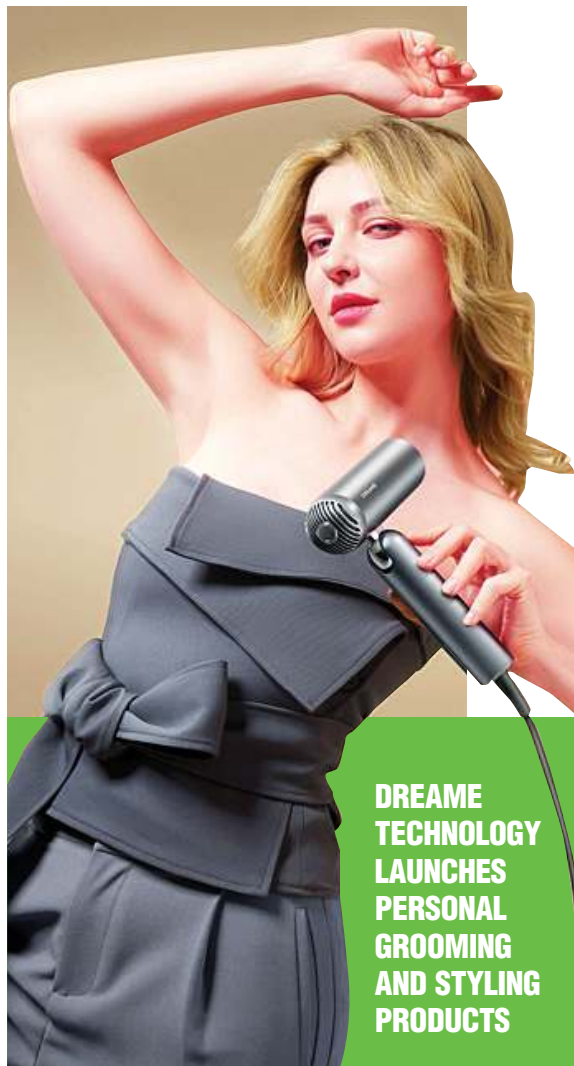
SADYASKA: SOMETHING YOU NEED ON YOUR WISHLIST THIS FESTIVE SEASON

As the festive season approaches, Sadyaska offers the perfect opportunity to revamp your home with pieces that add a touch of warmth and style. Their exquisite collection is ideal for gifting or refreshing your living spaces, ensuring your home exudes a sense of luxury and comfort during this special time of year. It offers a wide range of bedding products, with a special emphasis on luxurious bedspreads.

FROM KUTCH TO COUTURE



Sangeeta Kilachand, with no formal training but driven by an insatiable curiosity for ancient art, architecture and folklore, has spent years researching and preserving the traditional craftsmanship that has slowly faded over time. Her extensive travels and decades of collecting antique textiles have deeply informed her work, resulting in timeless creations that exude elegance and luxury.



DREAME TECHNOLOGY LAUNCHES PERSONAL GROOMING AND STYLING PRODUCTS



SKEYNDOR TINTED PROTECTIVE CREAM SPF 50

A multifunctional skincare product that combines the benefits of sun protection, hydration and a touch of colour for a flawless complexion. This innovative formula provides a high level of sun protection with an impressive SPF 50, ensuring that your skin remains shielded from the harmful effects of UVA and UVB rays, which can cause premature aging, sunburn, and skin damage.

Price -3,460

The pocket high-speed hair dryer is a game-changer in personal grooming, offering a combination of portability and power. Weighing just 300g with a slim profile and foldable body, this hair dryer is ideal for travel. It features an 110,000 RPM motor that ensures quick and effective drying, even on the go. The dryer comes with versatile styling attachments, including defrizz and curling nozzles, multiple temperature and airflow settings and negative ion technology to minimise frizz and maintain hair moisture. Additionally, the intelligent temperature control system prevents overheating, ensuring a safe and professional styling experience.



FRENCH ESSENCE PERFUMES LAUNCHES NEW MEN'S GROOMING LINE

French Essence is proud to announce the launch of MENZ, a new entity dedicated to delivering premium grooming products tailored specifically for men. With this exciting expansion, French Essence Perfumes is stepping into the men's grooming market, offering a comprehensive range of products that include shaving foam, aftershave, hair spray and other essential grooming care items.

INTRODUCING VITAMIN C GLOW MOISTURIZER

Vitamin C glow boosting intense moisturiser – the latest addition to The Body Shop's vitamin C range. This new formula is a richer, more potent version of their beloved cult favourite. Designed to deliver instant

radiance, the velvety, whipped cream texture makes skin look visibly brighter and feel replenished with 48-hour moisture right from the first use.

Price - 2,2496





‘Always wanted to gain respect that I’ve been getting from people down south’

CHAT-O-CINO

TEJAL SINHA

There's always a different kind of aura that comes around people with a 'make 'em laugh' skill. In this world of humours, laughs and comedy, there's this one gem who has got comedy in her veins! Does this bring a blurry face to your mind? Well, it's none other than Jamie Lever, who, along with her astonishingly brilliant comedy prowess, is also a great actress, which makes her an amalgam of what not.

The daughter of the legendary actor and comedian Johnny Lever is not just taking forward the 'Lever's legacy but also creating her own remark. Having been in the industry for almost 12 years now, with a lot of hard work and learning, she now has a name for herself and people know her as 'Jamie Lever' more than 'oh! She's Johnny Lever's daughter'.

"I feel some sort of satisfaction at this point and in a good phase right now," begins the comic-star in a gaily interaction with *The Pioneer*. "My intentions were always to get out from the shadow of my father. I always wanted to create my own identity and that was always my focus. I never wanted to be known as so and so's daughter. It's the privilege I have, but I always wanted to create my own identity. Today, with all the years that I have put in with all the hardwork, it's finally that people know me for my talents."

Jamie, who has already been known for her funny videos on social media or for her roles in films like *Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karun*, where she portrayed the role of Champa or Giggly in *Housefull 4*, having her own one-woman show, *The Jamie Lever Show*, has been her biggest achievement now. "It takes a lot for a comic to have their own one-woman show. It's

such a big achievement. Wherever my dad goes, he's always complimented and told that we appreciate your daughter and we love her. I've always wanted to make my dad proud. Recently, we were performing together in a show in London and he said on stage, 'naturally and impulsively that you kept me alive. Hehehe. It was so special for me to be able to keep the legacy alive and I will be always working hard towards it'."

As we ask the *Housefull 4* fame about her growing years around her father, she enthuses, "At work, he is known for being this goofy & over the top, funny man. There are so many titles that he has acquired, like KING OF COMEDY and THE FUNNIEST MAN OF INDIA. But at home, I've always seen him to be very different, disciplined, focused. Growing up, we always felt like being mindful about that Daddy has come back from work, so let's not bother him and create a peaceful environment for him." Of course, with all the more admiration, she goes on, "He is a very protective dad; he is very particular about a lot of things. He's a bit traditional; he was very strict with studies. He goes to work, comes back home and enjoys a home-like atmosphere. He is a very basic person who enjoys *dal chawal*; a person who likes the fan and not

AC. But yes, we obviously had fun times. There were also times when he used to drop and pick us up from the school."

You mimic someone, then get ready to be criticised or trolled! However, that's not been the case with Jamie. For instance, her reel mimicking the most viral dialogue of Alamzeb from *Heeramandi* was loved and had gotten positive feedback with tremendous love. This has been something that's been very motivating for her. In fact, stalwarts like Javed Akhtar and Usha Uthup have personally appreciated her for her fun, comedy-imitating videos. "It's such a nice thing to see that people are not afraid to laugh at themselves," says the adroit star, who goes on to recall, "When Javedji complimented me, he was complimenting me with some really minor observations. But again, some people do take offense. However, I haven't had any particular situation like that. Maybe it's because I do it in a more respectful way. I try not to be personal. It's obviously in good humour."

Going ahead, talking of the love that she has received, the South doesn't stand behind! There's equal love poured in for her down South too. Overwhelmed with the love, the ace artist recalls of her humble beginning in the South: "Honestly, people here were all so happy to know that I speak the language, which is my mother tongue. People here greeted me with all smiles. I'm a Telugu girl in Mumbai, doing what I'm doing in Bollywood but at the same time really attempting to keep my roots alive. Everybody welcomed me with open arms down South, especially my lead actor of *Aa Okkati Adakku*, Allari Naresh. He was the one who actually spotted me in *Pop Kaani*? He approached me for this role. In fact, he gave a special speech for me at the press launch of the movie. My aim has always been to gain this respect and that's something that I got from people down south."

Jamie, who admires the King Khan of Bollywood, for always being so humble and down to earth, further shares that beyond a doubt, comedy comes in naturally to her and that it is her comfortzone. "It is what I love doing," opines the *Aa Okkati Adakku* actress as she goes on, "But I never want to be someone who is always put in a box. I want to really challenge myself. For instance, in *Yaatri*, I worked with Seema Pahwa and Raghubir Yadav. I had no comedy in that film. It was a very simple role of a young girl in Benaras working hard. I played that character, and

Following the path of her dad, Johnny Lever, actress and comedian Jamie Lever has been taking the legacy forward. Prospering an identity for herself, the talented star gets onboard for an exclusive tête-à-tête with *The Pioneer*, as she takes us through her humble beginnings and being a favourite of all with her humour and wit

reviews had a mention that 'Jamie did not do any comedy. We were disappointed with her. But the character was not expected to do comedy. It's also something that the audience will have to accept. I want to challenge myself in trying new things because I feel like I'd get cautious. How will I grow as a person or as an artist?'"

So as she goes on to embark on being a multi-faceted star and explore much of her prowess, she brings to us a revelation: "I am doing a project that will come out sometime in the next year. It's a beautiful character that I'm playing in the web series that you'll soon get to know about, hoping that I can impress people with it."

But again, she had to go through her own share of challenges to make things right for herself. The *Yaatri* fame goes on to recall, "Initially, when I started off 11 years ago, there were literally like just 1 or 2

comics doing big. And to see a woman doing well in a very male-dominated industry was a lot to accept. There were more jokes being made about her body and her appearance. That was the kind of humour encouraged at that time. There was certainly a time, when even I had struggled, I wouldn't get a lot of jokes to tell and the punches would be on me. There was a perception among women that they could not be funny. However, now I see how women have grown as comics. There's been so many women who have come up over the years."

Well, after a hilarious chat with her, we head towards the end of the chat as she discusses with us about what's more. "I'm already touring for my *The Jamie Lever Show*. We started in February and on an average, I'm doing at least 1 or 2 shows every month. I've been doing my shows in Mumbai and also traveling to do my shows abroad."



AC. But yes, we obviously had fun times.

TRENDING

K KAVITHA

PERSON



BRS MLC K Kavitha was released from Tihar jail in New Delhi around 9.30 p.m. after the completion of legal formalities though the Supreme Court granted her bail in the afternoon on Tuesday

PAK WOMAN BEHIND FATAL CAR CRASH CAUGHT 'SMILING' ON CAMERA

VIDEO



A video of Pakistani woman smiling and appearing unremorseful after allegedly killing two people with her car has sparked outrage on social media.

IC 814

MOVIE

The Kandahar Hijack twenty-five years after an Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Delhi was taken over by Islamist terrorists, Anubhav Sinha and Trishant Srivastava bring to screen the story of the longest hijack and inarguably the most ignoble blot in the history of Indian aviation.

MILLIONAIRE

SONG



Yo Yo Honey Singh is back with his latest music track *Glory* that released. The release of this new song is a special occasion as it coincides with the 10th anniversary of his iconic 2014 hit, *Desi Kalakaar*.

PARALYMPICS 2024 DECLARED OPEN

PICTURE



The 2024 Paralympics were opened in Paris on Thursday (IST) by French President Emmanuel Macron, firing the starting gun on 11 days of competition in a city still riding the wave of the successful Olympics.

SOOTHING RELIEF

How hydrotherapy transforms pain management

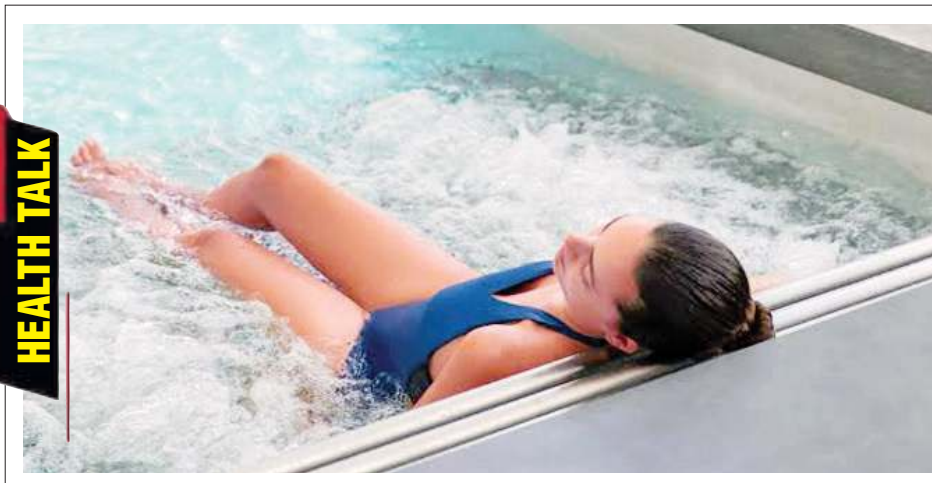
AARTI SREENATH

Hydrotherapy, often regarded as an ancient therapeutic practice, has found a renewed place in modern medicine, particularly for treating chronic conditions like rheumatoid arthritis (RA), Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. This water-based therapy combines the soothing properties of water with targeted exercises, offering a unique and effective approach to managing pain, inflammation and mobility issues associated with RA and other rheumatic conditions.

According to Dr. Yathish G C, Lead Consultant, Rheumatology at Aster Whitefield Hospital, hydrotherapy is especially beneficial for patients with rheumatoid arthritis due to its supportive and warm water environment. "Hydrotherapy helps alleviate symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, particularly the standard pain and immobility associated with the condition," he says. He explains that the buoyancy of water reduces stress on the joints, encouraging greater movement and improving circulation, which in turn aids muscle relaxation and enhances joint flexibility. Over time, patients who regularly participate in hydrotherapy sessions may experience significant improvement in symptom control and quality of life.

He also highlights the customisation potential of hydrotherapy for autoimmune diseases. "The use of warm water can significantly relieve the pain of swollen joints and sore muscles," he notes. Sessions can be tailored to focus on low-impact, resistance-based movements that not only enhance joint flexibility but also reduce inflammation. This safe, controlled environment is critical for preventing and managing complications such as muscle weakness and decreased activity, which are common in patients with autoimmune diseases. Additionally, the calming nature of water-based exercises helps in managing stress, which is crucial in controlling flare-ups of autoimmune diseases.

Hydrotherapy is increasingly being recognised as a valuable component of comprehensive treatment plans for chronic pain and joint inflammation. These sessions often involve light weights movements that do not stress the joints



HEALTH TALK

but rather improve their range of motion and decrease swelling. The aquatic environment allows patients to exercise with minimal pain, making hydrotherapy a complementary therapy alongside medication or physiotherapy, thus enhancing overall pain management.

However, he cautions that patients with severe joint damage should approach hydrotherapy with care. "Patients should begin with gentle exercises and ensure that the water temperature is neither too hot nor too cold," he advises.

Unlike land-based exercises, the low-impact nature of hydrotherapy is particularly advantageous for patients suffering from severe joint pain. Many patients report enhanced physical function and a greater sense of well-being, making hydrotherapy a valuable adjunct in a comprehensive rheumatic treatment plan.

Dr. Pramila Sharma, Head of Department, Physiotherapy, at Paras Health, says that one major concern is the risk of infections, as public pools and shared hydrotherapy equipment can harbour bacteria if not cleaned thoroughly. Common infections include folliculitis and athlete's foot, which can be particularly troublesome for individuals with weakened immune systems or open wounds. Another risk is overheating, prolonged exposure to hot water can lead to heat exhaustion, charac-

terised by dizziness and nausea and in severe cases, heat stroke. This risk is heightened for individuals with cardiovascular conditions, as hot water can increase heart rate and blood pressure. "Dehydration is also a concern, as extended periods in hot water can cause significant fluid loss, leading to symptoms like dry mouth, fatigue and dizziness," she adds. Water temperature should be regulated to avoid overheating, with sessions generally kept below 40°C (104°F).

Dr. J Karthik, Head of Therapy at Sukino Healthcare Solutions, explains that hydrotherapy, also known as water therapy, encompasses a wide range of treatments using water to address various symptoms throughout the body.

Common hydrotherapy methods offered in healthcare settings include contrast water bath therapy, sitz baths, saunas, aquatic therapy and water circuit therapy.

The future of hydrotherapy is promising, with advancements in digital and smart hydrotherapy systems, personalised protocols using AI and the integration of hydrotherapy with mental health treatments. He highlights the growing trend of combining hydrotherapy with mindfulness practices and its use in cognitive rehabilitation programs.

Dr. Subedha Rao, an expert in orthopaedic physiotherapy and sports injury rehabilitation, explains

that hydrotherapy makes use of water's physical properties, like temperature and pressure, for therapeutic purposes. This method not only promotes blood flow and alleviates symptoms of specific illnesses but also aids in cardiovascular workouts and enhances the management of pain through heightened peripheral sensory stimulation. Additionally, chilled water can help reduce swelling, while the reduction of pressure on joints improves overall mobility and supports a comprehensive rehabilitation process.

Dr. Dharmesh Shah, Founder and Director of Holistica World, has dedicated his career to exploring the profound benefits of hydrotherapy. For patients grappling with rheumatoid arthritis and other rheumatic conditions, he sees hydrotherapy as a hope of relief. "In warm water, hydrotherapy works wonders, he explains. "The heat soothes inflammation and relaxes the body, offering a reprieve from the relentless pain of arthritis. The buoyancy of the water reduces stress on the joints, facilitating greater flexibility and ease of movement."

He highlights the unique attributes of hydrotherapy in managing autoimmune diseases. "This therapy harnesses the soothing properties of warm water, essential oils and water jets to tackle the symptoms of autoimmune disorders. The reduced joint stress during exercises is crucial for these patients. The warm water alleviates inflammation, while the water's buoyancy minimises joint damage, enhancing mobility and muscle strength. Moreover, the relaxing nature of hydrotherapy helps reduce stress and anxiety, improving overall quality of life."

For patients with severe joint damage, he advises a cautious approach. "Hydrotherapy can be beneficial, but it must be carefully managed. Begin gradually and monitor for any signs of discomfort. The use of supportive devices should be approached with care to avoid exacerbating joint issues."

He compares hydrotherapy to other treatments for rheumatic conditions. "While hydrotherapy doesn't address the root causes of rheumatic diseases like medications do, it offers significant symptom relief. It improves pain management, range of motion, and muscle strength, contributing to a better quality of life. When combined with other therapies, such as physiotherapy and complementary practices like yoga, hydrotherapy can greatly enhance both physical and emotional well-being."

RAPID FIRE

Focused on harnessing

YOUTH
power

Your nickname: Saradhianna
Favourite colour: White and pink
Favourite food: Natu Kodi
Favourite movie: Dana Veera Sura Karna, particularly the dialogue of NTR on social justice
Favourite holiday destination: My village and constituency
Are you religious/spiritual: Religious but not pious
Favourite actor: Chiranjeevi and NTR
Hobbies/passions: Watching movies is my hobby. Along with my wife, I watch movies in theatres. Politics is my passion.



Seasoned politician and Andhra Pradesh's Information & Public Relations and Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy is keen on working for social justice and fostering leadership qualities among those representing downtrodden people. He wants to transform his constituency Nuzvid so that posterity would hail him as a tall leader.

In a conversation with C Pradeep Kumar of *The Pioneer*, Parthasarathy sheds light on his journey from a small village in Krishna district to his position as Minister in the AP Cabinet with his eyes trained on harnessing youth power.

PARENTS & SIBLINGS

I was born to Kolusu Pedda Reddaiah Yadav and Kolusu Samrajyam in Karatampadu village of Movva Mandal in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. My dad was initially an employee of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB). He used to also take up electrical contracts and later entered politics. My dad was elected as an MLA and as an MP in his brief political career. My mother is a homemaker. We are three siblings. I am the eldest and my immediate younger brother, Dr Subba Rao, is settled in the UK and my youngest brother, Krishna Kanth Yadav, is into business and agriculture. I was more attached to my dad and mom as during our early days of struggle, I was their only child - my immediate younger brother is eight years junior to me. In those days our financial struggles were so severe that we could not save our sister through medicines when she had fallen seriously ill as a two-year-old. Besides, I still remember how my mother used to convince me whenever I asked my parents to buy me crackers to celebrate Diwali.

caught many times on the streets. Although my father did not take those occasions seriously, my mother used to scold me whenever I was caught. Once, in an effort to give a packet of peanuts to Lakshmi, I lobbed it in her direction on the first floor of our apartment block where they were staying. She could not catch it and the packet fell on the lap of my mother-in-law, who happened to be sitting in the other room.

now, he is looking after my businesses.

LOVES RUSTIC ENVIRONMENT

A politician hardly finds free time. However, whenever I get some free time, I prefer going to my village and spending time in the fields. I love the rustic environment there. My love for my village is evergreen and I still wish to spend time there whenever possible.

POLITICAL PLUNGE

My political career started when my dad was active in politics. In 1994, I had tried for a ticket to contest as MLA, but could not get one. I tried again in 1999 quite seriously but in vain. My political plunge was formalised when I contested the 2002 by-elections from the Vuyyuru constituency for the first time. But I lost in that election. Again in 2004, I contested the elections and won as an MLA for the first time. I have met former PMs Rajiv Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao among stalwarts in Indian politics during my political journey. I met BP Mandal in Hyderabad and was lucky to have breakfast with him. The whole day I was with him when during Intermediate second year. My dad used to host meetings of BCs. I met BSP founder Kanshiram and also Mrs Ambedkar and many leaders, which inspired me to become a politician.



QUALITY TIME

For a politician with business interests, usually spouse plays an important role when it comes to taking care of the children and the family. My wife Lakshmi does it very well. As a politician, I had to make myself available to the public always and our businesses kept me occupied otherwise. Though I was busy with my activities, my wife used to take care of my son, for which I am very happy. My son was good at studies. He is calm and composed. He is well-behaved and I feel very lucky. During my leisure, I spend time with my son, trying to know his aims and ambition. As of



MESSAGE TO YOUTH

Present-day youth are very responsible, though a few of them are getting diverted. The system is responsible for this and we should change it. Youth should be strong and not get depressed at petty things. They have ample opportunity and should aim high and achieve their goals with sincerity.

DAD ROLE MODEL

My dad is my role model and influencer in life. I grew up looking at him, admiring his hard-working nature. My father came from a very poor background, having just one acre of cultivated land. He faced many hardships before becoming a successful businessman and a good politician. So, my father's influence has been significant on me throughout my career.



HAPPIEST MOMENTS

All the moments spent with my dad and mom are memorable and happiest moments, besides marriage. I was elated when my son was born.

LOWEST MOMENTS

Following a heated argument with my dad over a small

PLANS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS

I have a clear-cut plan for the coming five years. I want to develop my constituency, which is a backward area and which has more BC and SC community people. We should engender leadership qualities among the downtrodden people. I want to make a mark by doing well so that they remember me as a tall leader. I want to complete the Chintalapudi project at the earliest.



EARLY CHILDHOOD UNDER GRANDPARENTS' WATCH

I spent my early childhood in Karatampadu village and I still cherish very good memories of my days at my grandparents' village. My initial schooling was at the Government Primary School, Iyanapudu in Krishna district, where I studied from Class 1 to 3. I was an active kid, but an average student. I had switched many schools and colleges before joining the Chaitanya Bharati Institute of Technology in Hyderabad.

EDUCATION IN MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS

I have a big list of educational institutions where I had studied before finally joining CBIT Hyderabad to pursue engineering. From class 1 to 3, I was at the Government Primary School, Iyanapudu in Krishna district. I studied class 4 at Erramanzil Government High School in Hyderabad. From class 5 to 9, I studied at the Raj Bhavan High School, Hyderabad. For class 10, I was enrolled in Rama Rao Gurukulam, Chilumuru village. As for Intermediate, I had opted for MPC and did my first year at the Siddhartha College, Vijayawada. For the second year, I relocated to Hyderabad and joined St Joseph College. Later, I joined Mechanical Engineering (Production) at the Government College of Technology, Coimbatore. After completing first year of engineering there, I joined

CBIT. During my days at school, I was an average student. But once I entered college, I became studious. I was not much into any co-curricular or extracurricular activities. I have a good number of friends, including those whom I know from my days at school, college and university.

CHILDHOOD DREAM

I wanted to become an engineer or a good businessman like my father. My father did contractual electrical works across the country. After studies, though I wanted to develop my dad's businesses, I could not succeed. We closed that business later. Due to lingering interest in business, during my second year in CBIT, I floated a company, KS Constructions and later, after my marriage, commenced Nitin Sai Constructions as well.

CONSTANT SUPPORT FROM PARENTS

Coming from a Backward Class community (Yadav), my father did not have much support from my grandparents to go to school in those days. However, since my father was stubborn, he somehow convinced my grandparents to let him go to school. But I had very good support from my parents to study. Despite being busy with his business interests, my father kept track of my studies and encouraged me in my academic career.

MARRIAGE AND SUPPORT FROM SPOUSE

I got married in 1990 to Kamala Lakshmi; it was a love-cum-arranged marriage. The marriage ceremony was performed at Siddhartha College, Vijayawada in a grand manner. We are blessed with a son, Nithin Krishna, who is an engineer. My daughter-in-law is Amrutha Bhargavi. My son worked for an MNC for a couple of years and is now looking after our businesses.

COURTSHIP AND CAPERS

Having been in love for nine years, we got married in 1990 after convincing parents from both sides. We cherish memories of those nine years. We both were residing at Shalivan in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad. My friends and my cousin helped us a lot to steal moments together and to go to movies etc. Of course, we were

GOALS

I wish to bring substantive changes in the system so that the administration becomes people-friendly. Officials should help the poor and not make them go round offices. I advise police to be friendly with people in pain and treat them well so as to build confidence among the common people.