

The Congress ruled the state for the maximum number of years after Independence. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should agree that Congress CMs and officials under them committed illegal acts and must recover money from them. But there is no action against those who grabbed lands. HYDRAA has been demolishing buildings on Saturdays and Sundays thinking that courts are closed on these days. The victims are the poor who had purchased lands.
 - Eatala Rajender, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP

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

Modi projects India as land of opportunities

GAUTAMI KAPOOR
 TALKS OF EMOTIONAL ROLES & HER JOURNEY IN GYAARAH GYAARAH

'It's not about fitting into the mother's character but Nivetha Thomas doing it well' doing IT WELL

DON'T MISS...
 Health dept issues advisory as...

The Public Health and Family Welfare Department has issued a general advisory to help residents protect themselves from seasonal diseases as Telangana experiences heavy rainfall. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in Hyderabad, districts across the State are under a red alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rain, and an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain in several other districts. This could result in lower temperatures and increased humidity, creating ideal conditions for viral...

Will provide all help to Telangana: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on the phone. The PM enquired with the CM about the floods in heavy rain-hit areas and the damages caused by floods. The Chief Minister brought to the attention of the PM the losses caused by heavy rains in the state. The CM briefed the Prime Minister about relief measures undertaken by the state government. The CM told the Prime Minister that Khammam district bore the brunt of heavy rains and suffered huge damage.



Continued on Page 5

DELUGE DEVASTATES TG

Claim 9 lives across the state • Extremely heavy rains likely • No need to panic: Govt • Holiday for edu institutions today

Heavy rains wreaked havoc across Telangana including the capital Hyderabad, claiming the lives of at least nine people and inundating many low-lying areas. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Ministers have taken immediate steps to reduce hardships to people and at the same time asked officials to be on high alert to meet any eventuality. Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the Chief Minister and offered assistance from the Centre. As there is no hope for immediate relief from the rains, with weather officials forecasting heavy to heavy rains in the coming couple of days, the official machinery is gearing up for mitigating the impact of the natural calamity.



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Centre sends 9 NDRF teams

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the Centre has sent nine National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) units to Telangana. Posting regarding this on X on Sunday he said that he had informed Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the situation in Khammam district. As per Amit Shah's orders, nine NDRF teams, three each from Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Assam,



Continued on Page 5

How space travel affects body...

Space travel can cause shifts in the gut that might suppress the immune system of astronauts and affect their metabolism, according to a study. The findings help understand how space missions of long durations could affect health of astronauts, researchers said. Using genetic technologies, a team of researchers, led by those at Canada's McGill University, analysed changes in the guts, colons and livers of mice onboard the International Space Station or the ISS over a period of three months...

Majority of mobile users receive daily...

Vast majority of mobile subscribers who took part in a survey have said they receive pesky calls every day with most calls coming for financial services and real estate, online survey firm Localcircles said on Sunday. According to the survey, 95 per cent mobile subscribers confirmed receiving pesky calls every day with 77 per cent getting three or more such calls daily. Besides, vast majority confirmed receiving calls in the last 12 months despite being registered in the Trai's do not disturb (DND) list...

Mandhana and five other Indian...

Six Indian cricketers, including vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, will be part of the upcoming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), starting October 27, after being picked by different teams. While Mandhana was pre-signed by Adelaide Strikers, Dayalan Hemalatha will play the league for the first time after the top-order batter was drafted by the Perth Scorchers, where she will add firepower to their line-up. Wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia will also make her WBBL debut after being picked up by the Melbourne...

10,400 cusecs of water released from Hussain Sagar



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As heavy rains have been lashing the city for two days, the Hussain Sagar Lake has been receiving heavy inflows. The authorities have released 10,400 cusecs of water from Hussain Sagar. The Full Tank Level (FTL) of Hussain Sagar is 513.41 feet. The water levels touched 513.50 feet on Sunday. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Principal Secretary M. Dana Kishore said the authorities have alerted low-lying areas in the city. However, the

water levels in Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar are still 8 feet short of Full Tank Level (FTL). Dana Kishore said that he received information that 50 to 60 houses have been submerged in water in the Allapur and Kukatpally areas. Officials are moving people to safer places. "Thankfully, no major incidents have been reported, all are minor issues," he said. He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had ordered municipal officials out on the field. Around 610 teams of the GHMC, HYDRAA, HMDA and HMWSSB are on the field to help people.

V'wada-Hyd highway cut off

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Traffic between Vijayawada and Hyderabad has come to a standstill due to continuous heavy rains over the past two days. Flooding has occurred on the highways, with several streams and ponds breaching their banks and causing water to overflow onto the roads, leading to significant traffic disruptions. The persistent rainfall has severely impacted the region, submerging many villages, disrupting road transport, and flooding low-lying residential areas, resulting in considerable hardships for residents.

The heavy rainfall has severed road connections between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Chimiryala Lake, situated on the AP-Telangana border, is currently inundated near Ramapuram village. Additionally, rainwater has overflowed onto the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway near Nallabandagudem village, causing a massive traffic jam near the interstate checkpoint. Floodwaters have also spilt onto the National Highway near Ithavaram village in the Nandigama mandal, halting transportation on the highway. Consequently, the RTC has suspended bus services between Vijayawada and



Hyderabad temporarily. The disruption has left many people stranded, as railway services are also affected due to tracks being washed away near the Mahabubabad-Warangal railway station.

Public told to put off travel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Based on inputs received from the Superintendent of Police of Suryapet and the Commissioner of Police of Khammam, a traffic advisory has been issued requesting the public to postpone their planned journeys to ensure their safety. P. Viswa Prasad, Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Hyderabad, said that due to incessant rains,

28 tanks overflowing, 4 lakes near FTL

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Due to heavy rains in the city in the last two days, the water level in 28 lakes reached FTL on Sunday and four lakes are near their Full Tank Level (FTL). The Chakalavani Cheruvu, Nalaganda Cheruvu, Malka Cheruvu, Bandelaguda Cheruvu, Kaidama Kunta, Erla Cheruvu, Patel Cheruvu, Nalla Cheruvu, Yaprall Cheruvu, Mir Alam Tank, Pedda Cheruvu, Venna Cheruvu, Lingam Cheruvu, HMT Lake, Yellamma Cheruvu, Parki Cheruvu, Langer House Tank, Kotha Cheruvu,



Hussain Sagar and Bathur Kunta are overflowing as the water level has crossed FTL. With rains lashing the city, GHMC Commissioner

Did BRS develop Alzheimer's after losing power: TPCC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TPCC's Media and Communications wing Chairman, Sama Rammohan Reddy, asked whether the BRS has developed Alzheimer's disease after losing power. In a post on X on Sunday, Rammohan said, "Alzheimer's for BRS after losing power? You seem to have forgotten the atrocities that took place in Gurukuls during your rule. Under your incompetent rule, there were hundreds of incidents and thousands of students were hospitalised. The articles that appeared in newspapers of the day are proof of that. Worms in rice and earthworms in pulses. A lot of atrocities are happening in Gurukuls. The government is play-

ing with students' lives. A series of incidents across the state. Gurukul are places of problems. Cries of hunger in welfare hostels. Rotten vegetables, Broken rice. Worms seen in midday meal. Complaint of class four student Pujitha at Mir Peta (Sabita Indra Reddy's constituency) police station asking how to eat the food provided was filed on December 8, 2022. Gurukul students experienced hell under BRS rule. Our government works with sincerity to get Gurukuls out of those problems. 10 years of sin will not end in a day or a month. We are providing better services to Gurukul students and we will continue to improve it. @revanth_anumula PrajaPalana Telangana AgainstBRSdramas."

Govt enacting dramas in the name of HYDRAA: Eatala

Accuses govt of destroying livelihoods of poor



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Warning Chief Minister Revanth Reddy that he will not remain silent if the houses of the poor are demolished, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that the CM

has been enacting dramas in the name of HYDRAA. He said the government should punish those responsible for the illegal buildings and recover money from them.

Rains settle matters in favour of HYDRAA?

A serious debate is going on in the state regarding the demolitions carried out by HYDRAA. All sections of society irrespective of politics, intellectuals, poor, rich, and even film stars are participating in this debate. However, some environment lovers made use of the heavy rains to argue strongly for HYDRAA saying, "If this kind of rain

TG in turmoil: Harish Demands Rs 25 lakh for bereaved families

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA T. Harish Rao asked the state government to provide financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh as temporary relief, Rs 25 lakh ex-gratia to bereaved families and Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia for those injured in the heavy rains. Reacting to the rains, Harish posted on X on Sunday, "The unexpected calamity threw the state into turmoil. Sadly, many people lost their lives. My deepest condolences to their families. Some have lost domestic animals and crops, while others have lost their jobs. In times of crisis like this, we should stand by

each other. People should be helped regardless of politics. The government should act with foresight. Measures should be taken on a war footing to instil confidence in the people. Control rooms should be set up at the state and district levels and the situation should be monitored. Ensure that emergency medical services are available. Pregnant women in flooded areas must be taken to hospitals. Medical services should be provided to those who have suffered snake bites or have suffered electric shocks," he said.



CITY EVENTS

Pause and reflect

Featuring fascinating world of art curated by Annapurna Madipadiga. Featured artists: Dhruv Patel, Dushyant Patel, C Raghu and Mukhtar Ahmed Sardar.

Venue

State Art Gallery
Hyderabad
September 1 to 8.

Foundation Day

IITH celebrates 27th Foundation Day. Minister for IT and Industries D SZridhar Babu to be the chief guest.

Venue

Himalaya 105,
September 2, 6 to 7pm

Couple ends life after killing kids at Jeedimetla



Couple ends life after killing children at Jeedimetla

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a tragic incident, a couple allegedly killed their two children and later committed suicide at Jeedimetla police station limits due to financial issues on Saturday night.

The deceased couple, identified as Venkatesh (40) and Varshini (33), had two children Rishikanth (11) and Vihath (3).

The couple, native of Mancheriala district, were staying at an apartment in Gajulamaram. On Sunday morning, all the four members of the family were found dead in the house. The Jeedimetla police reached the house after getting the information and registered the case and started further investigation.

Excise Dept officials close Tonique Liquor Mart

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Prohibition and Excise officials sealed the Tonique Liquor Mart at Jubilee Hills on Sunday. The officials have seized 10,291 liquor bottles, the value of the liquor is estimated to be Rs 1.70 crore.

Excise officials said that the licence expired on August 31 and closed on September 1 as they do not have the permission from the department.

According to the Excise officials, for every two years wine shops should obtain a licence from the department. Though the Tonique applied for licence, the Excise department has rejected the application.

Hyderabad Excise Deputy Commissioner Shastrri, Assistant Commissioner Anil Kumar Reddy, Jubilee Hills CI Vasudeva Rao and other excise police have sealed the liquor shop. A few months back the 'Tonique' was raided by the Commercial Taxes department.

City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

03

Water being discharged from the overflowing Hussain Sagar Lake



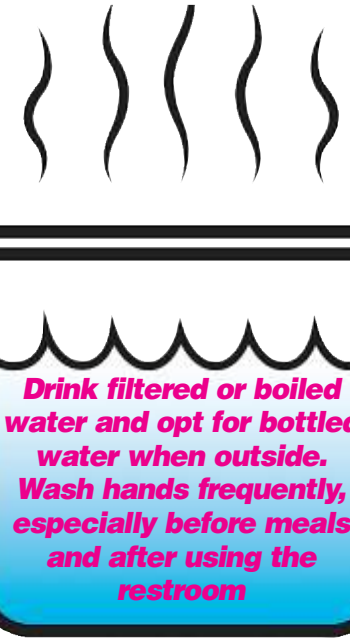
Health dept issues advisory as TG faces heavy rainfall

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Public Health and Family Welfare Department has issued a general advisory to help residents protect themselves from seasonal diseases as Telangana experiences heavy rainfall.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in Hyderabad, districts across the State are under a red alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rain, and an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain in several other districts.

This could result in lower temperatures and increased humidity, creating ideal conditions for viral infections and mosquito-borne diseases. "The government has made special arrangements in public health facilities, including extra beds, IV fluids, essential medicines and ORS sachets available through local health workers to address any



emergencies that may arise," said Dr B Ravinder Nayak, Director of Public Health and

Family Welfare.

PREVENTING MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

Ensure doors and windows are fitted with mosquito nets or screens. Repair any holes promptly and keep them closed during peak mosquito activity (early morning and evening).

Cover beds and cribs with insecticide-treated mosquito nets, ensuring the nets are securely tucked around the bed.

Dress children in light-coloured clothing that covers arms and legs.

Apply mosquito repellent creams, lotions or sprays before going outdoors, especially during dawn and dusk. Avoid applying repellent on hands, mouth, eyes, or open wounds and discontinue use if allergic. Use chemical repellents like liquid vaporizers, mats and coils with caution, keeping them out of the reach of children.

Observe a 'dry day' each week to remove stagnant water from around the house, including flower pots, cans, tires, buckets and coolers. Keep lawns well-trimmed.

PREVENTING WATER-BORNE INFECTIONS

Drink filtered or boiled water and opt for bottled water when outside. Wash hands frequently, especially before meals and after using the restroom. Carry and use hand sanitizers.

Avoid consuming raw, pre-cut or uncovered food from street vendors and opt for freshly made home-cooked meals. Discard any

Districts across the State are under a red alert for very heavy to extremely heavy rain, and an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain in several other districts



food leftovers. Preventing airborne infections: Avoid close contact with sick individuals and do not share food, water or clothing when unwell.

Minimize contact with public surfaces such as door handles, lift buttons and railings. Seek medical attention if you develop flu-like symptoms such as cough with fever, headache, sore throat, body aches or conjunctivitis.

TG Police comes to rescue of people in heavy rain

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad city witnessed heavy water-logging in some parts of the city due to heavy rain since Saturday, leading to disruption in traffic.

Hyderabad City Police requested people to stay at home and avoid going out unless absolutely necessary during the heavy rain. Also avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Apart from these, the City Police have advised people to keep themselves away from the electric poles, power lines and trees.

Also commuters are requested to drive slowly and safely, because during heavy rain roads are more slippery. The motorists are requested to keep a safe distance between

the vehicles to avoid accidents.

City Police have helped many commuters during the heavy rain. They cleared water-

logged areas to clear the traffic flow at Vengal Rao Park

and normalized the traffic flow at Vengal Rao Park towards NFCL Junction.



Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath inspecting the roads at Tolichowki on Sunday

logged areas to clear the traffic flow at Vengal Rao Park

and normalized the traffic flow at Vengal Rao Park towards NFCL Junction.



Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu giving instructions to the officials regarding the measures to be taken during heavy rains

People should be alert in the wake of heavy rains: Rachakonda CP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"People should be very alert in the wake of heavy rains and they should come out of the house, if it is urgent," said Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu on Sunday.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Chief Secretary of the State Government, Shanti Kumari and DGP Dr Jitender

on Sunday held a meeting with the District Collectors, Police Commissioners and SPs on relief and rehabilitation programmes to be undertaken in the wake of heavy rains and floods.

Sudheer Babu and Cyberabad Commissioner Avinash Mahanty participated in a video conference from Rachakonda office.

Complaint against two encroachers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) is demolishing illegal constructions and filing cases against officers for illegally giving permission for construction of buildings, the Hussain Sagar Lake Division is also filing cases against encroachers.

Mailardevally police station of Cyberabad commissioner on Friday registered a criminal case against two persons for illegally constructing buildings at Full Tank Level (FTL) and Buffer zone at Marshabaikunta in Katedand.

Hussain Sagar Lake Division's Deputy Executive Engineer has filed a com-

plaint against Ashok Kumar and Ranjit for illegal constructions in the lake.

Hussain Sagar Lake Division requested the police to initiate action against the damaging of the tanks as per Telangana Encroachment Act. No permission may be granted for temporary or permanent constructions in FTL and Buffer zone of Marshabaikunta.

The complainant said that those people were constructing illegally in the FTL and Buffer zone area of the tank and disturbing the water body's topography.

The case registered under 329(3) (Criminal Trespass), 326(a) (knowingly diminishing water supply) BNS, and 3 PDPPA (Damage to public property).



MLRIT Hyderabad aero team seen along with the drones

MLRIT Hyd aero teams win 3 prizes in drone challenge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Technology and Management (MLRITM), Hyderabad, Aero teams won 3 prizes in the SAE-ADC competition held at SRM University, Chennai. The Aeronautical Engineering student teams, guided by HOD Dr M Satyanarayana Gupta and faculty coordinators A Sai Kumar and S Sreekanth, earned the awards.

Four teams, Airavat, Aeolus, Yayuputhra and DarkSiders, made up of 40 students, competed in the Drone

Development Challenge (DDC) 2024 SAE-ADC event. Team Aeolus, led by Captain Harshitha Yadav, won 1st prize in the Best Innovation Micro Class with a Rs 10,000 cash award. Team Airavat, led by Captain Ishaan Suri, bagged the 2nd place in Best Innovation Regular Class and 3rd place in Best Presentation Regular Class.

MLRIT Chairman Marri Laxman Reddy, Secretary and MLA Marri Rajashekar Reddy and Principal Dr K Srinivas Rao appreciated the Aero HOD, faculty coordinators and students for their success.

Intercontinental Football Cup to be held in city from Sept 3

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Intercontinental Football Cup 2024 will be held at GMC Balayogi Stadium in Gachibowli, starting September 3. The tournament, to be organised by the Sports Authority of Telangana

and the All-India Football Federation (AIFF), will feature different matches on September 3, 6 and 9.

To ensure the tournament's success, AIFF has secured support from the Telangana government for using GMC Balayogi Stadium.

ISB conducts SPARK 2.0 on Hyd campus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian School of Business (ISB) organised SPARK 2.0 - Startup Conclave on Sunday, themed 'India's Growth Story'. Industry leaders, venture cap-

italists, founders and aspiring entrepreneurs gathered at ISB's Hyderabad campus to discuss opportunities and challenges in the startup sector.

Special Chief Secretary of

ITE&C and Industries & Commerce, Government of Telangana, Jayesh Ranjan delivered the keynote address, highlighting ISB and DLabs role in supporting entrepreneurial growth.

OU students decry shortcomings in library

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY
bhumireddyashmi@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Students of Osmania University raised their grievances about the lack of quality facilities in the library. They stated that the university lags behind in terms of the latest updates of books, journals, etc. and advancement or digitalisation of resources. Sumanth, President of the Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU) and student of the Department of Political Science, said, "Students are facing several issues, especially when

it comes to libraries. Irrespective of any department libraries, there are no new books, latest journals, international research journals, etc. There is no proper seating capacity or infrastructure. The washrooms in the libraries are pathetic. Also, there is no proper water supply in the washrooms. The books are not digitised yet. No proper wifi connections in the libraries. A century-old university should have access to international journals, economics magazines, business magazines, digitalisation, etc., which is not seen in the case of OU. Apart from that, the surroundings of the varsity are very unclean. When we raised complaints on this

issue, the officials said that the Telangana government is not providing sufficient funds, due to which we cannot accommodate international journals, digitised journals, etc. There are no sufficient research tools or research-related materials for scholars. Students are struggling to find their reference books and advanced computer software to make their dissertation work easier. In regards to library maintenance staff, the non-teaching staff members are very few. There are no regular staff who handle and maintain the libraries. Part-time or con-

tract professors are currently handling the libraries." Srivani, a student of the Physics department, said, "In the case of science department libraries, there are no latest books and journals available. Even after complaining to the authorities, only a few latest books and journals are brought, which are not sufficient for the students. The wifi connection in the libraries is very poor." The higher officials didn't respond on this issue when the Pioneer Correspondent tried to reach out to them.



ACROSS THE STATES



Maharashtra records 9.5 cr voters in final electoral rolls

With more than 16 lakh new voters registering in the electoral rolls, Maharashtra now has around 9.5 crore voters eligible to exercise their franchise in the upcoming state assembly elections, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI). The ECI published the final electoral rolls on August 30. The state has 9,53,74,302 voters, including 4,93,33,996 men, 4,60,34,362 women and 5,944 transgender voters, according to the electoral rolls. As per the data shared by the ECI, 16,98,368 new voters were registered in the electoral rolls. As many as 18.67 lakh voters are in the age group of 18 to 19 years, 1.81 crore in the age group of 20-29 years, and 25.4 lakh are 80 years and above. The 80-plus age group has seen a dip of 45,208 voters in the revised list, it was stated. There are also 21,558 divyang voters in the state. As per the ECI data, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Bhandara, and Gondia districts have more women voters than men.



Man 'possessed by evil spirit' kills infant son in Rajasthan

A 38-year-old man who claimed to be 'possessed' by an evil spirit allegedly killed his infant son in Rajasthan's Bundi district on Sunday, police said. The alleged incident occurred in the Dollar village around 5 am. Ten-month-old Ansh was asleep with his mother Gayatri when the accused Jitendra Bairwa alias Jittu allegedly picked him up and slammed him to the ground. Kapren SHO Kamal Singh said. The police said the family took Ansh to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead. A case of murder has been registered against the accused under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the SHO said. The body has been handed over to the family members after post-mortem, he added. Bairwa, a native of Badunda village, had been living at his in-laws' with his wife and son for around a year. He was visiting an exorcist for "treatment" to get relief from an "evil spirit", Singh said.

deluge devastates..

Continued from page 1

Ponguleti turned emotional saying that the government tried to save a family in his constituency Palair who were stuck in the floods. However, the rescue teams could save only one member of the family of three and they are trying to save the other two. He said they tried to send helicopters to the spot, however, the weather did not allow it. He directed collectors and the police to be on alert as the weather department said that rain would continue on Monday too. "We have been able to prevent loss of life and property. As per the Chief Minister's directions, the CS,

the DGP and district administrations have taken steps to prevent loss of life and property. Flood waters coming from the Godavari and Krishna were released carefully. So there was no major damage. However, as all ponds are full and there is a risk of water overflowing if there is more rain. So we are taking precautionary measures," the Minister said. He said that in Mahabubabad, Mulugu, Suryapet, Bhadradi Kotha gudum and Khammam districts the government has been able to rescue many villagers. In view of the situation's seriousness, he said he had directed the Chief Secretary to cancel leaves for all staff.

Fill all reservoirs, ponds..

Continued from page 1

Water levels in the Sripada Yellampally project in Peddapalli district reached nearly full installed capacity due to heavy inflows from catchment areas. The gates of the Yellampally Project have been raised and water is being released into the Godavari. Officials have been asked to take at least one TMC per day of water from the Yellampally Project. The Chief Minister asked officials to pump water from the Nandi and Gayatri Pump Houses and fill reservoirs. Water will also be pumped to Mid Manair and Lower Manair Dam as well as the Ranganayak Sagar and Mallanna Sagar reservoirs. The Yellampally Project's storage capacity is 20 TMC and current storage has already reached 18.45 TMC. As the flow of water is increasing in the Kadem Project, water will be pumped to Mid Manair from the Gayatri pump. The capacity of Mid Manair is 27 TMC and

the current water level is 15 TMC. Officials have been directed to pump more than 14,000 cusecs of water from Mid Manair and release it in the lower Manair Dam. Another 6400 cusecs of water will be released into the Ranganayak Sagar reservoir from the Annapurna reservoir. Water will be pumped from Ranganayak Sagar to Mallanna Sagar and Kondapochamma Sagar to fill up the two reservoirs. From there, water will be pumped to the Singur Project and the Nizam Sagar Dam. The capacity of Annapurna and Ranganayak Sagar are 7.53 TMC each and Mallanna Sagar's capacity is 50 TMC. Currently, 11.43 TMC of water is stored there. While the capacity of the Konda Pochamma Sagar is 15 TMC, the current water level is 7.91 TMC. The Chief Minister said that as per Central Water Commission (CWC) guidelines, excess water can be stored in the Kondapochamma Sagar reservoir.

Modi projects India as land of opportunities

Promises reforms, stable policy regime



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Projecting India as the land of biggest opportunities globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday promised the business sector facilitation, reforms, a stable policy regime and high growth. Addressing the ET World Leaders Forum, Modi, in turn, asked investors to commit to innovation, performance, positive disruption and high-quality products, as he stressed that the country respects wealth creators. With the opposition often taking

aim at his government over its reduced majority, the prime minister asserted that his dispensation has begun its third term with more determined intentions and is full of hope and confidence, citing a host of decisions it has taken for the welfare of various sections of society and boosting infrastructure. While people in most countries that went to polls this year voted for a change, Indians preferred continuity, political stability and economic growth, Modi said, asserting that a new neo-middle class is driving the country's progress and setting the

direction for its market. India is writing a unique success story, and the impact of its reforms is visible in the economy's performance, he said. In this dynamic world, he said, his government's policies and strategy are dynamic as well. It takes necessary steps as per the needs, setting its policies not based on the past but on the evolving future. "Our focus is on the future. We want to prepare the country for the challenges and opportunities that await us," he said, underlining his government's initiatives in the fields of green hydrogen, semiconductors, deep ocean and space.

WAYANAD LANDSLIDES

Rahul calls for concerted efforts to revitalise tourism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said it is imperative to make a concerted effort to revitalise tourism in Wayanad and encourage people to visit the area by dispelling the notion that it is "dangerous" place in the aftermath of the recent landslides. Gandhi made the assertion during a virtual meeting with some Kerala Congress leaders and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

It is important to note that the landslide was localised to a specific area in Wayanad, not the entire region, he said. Wayanad remains a stunning destination and will soon be ready to welcome tourists from across India and the world with all its natural charm, Gandhi said. "As we have done in the past, let us come together once again to support our brothers and sisters in beautiful Wayanad," he said. During the meeting, Gandhi said that for promoting tourism it is important to dispel the notion that it is not a safe place as it can damage the brand of Wayanad if people think that it is a "dangerous place". "There are four-five things we need to put pressure on - inter-departmental coordination on relief and rehabilitation, inadequate compensation, rent issue that I have raised, many people have lost livelihood, and finally the impact on tourism," he said.



No idea about Hema committee; related demands: Rajinikanth

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Superstar Rajinikanth on Sunday said he was not aware of the Justice K Hema Committee and demands to set up a similar panel in Tamil Nadu. When reporters asked him about the panel of the neighbouring state and several people demanding setting up in Tamil Nadu a panel like the Kerala's Justice Hema Committee, he told reporters: "What? I am not aware of it, sorry." The Justice Hema committee was constituted by the Kerala government after the 2017 actress assault case, and its report disclosed instances of harassment and exploitation of women in the Malayalam cinema industry.



Public told to..

Continued from page 1

water is flowing over NH 65 at Chillakkallu and Nandigama in Andhra Pradesh. The Paleru River is overflowing on to the road at Nayakani Gudum on the route from Suryapet to Khammam. A bridge on Ramapuram X Road after crossing Kodat town in the Suryapet district of Telangana collapsed. The public is requested to postpone their journey to ensure safety. In case of emergency and unavoidable circumstances, travellers are advised to take the following routes.

TG in turmoil..

Continued from page 1

"Central assistance should be sought to save people living in flooded areas. The NDRF should be deployed. Helicopters should be readied

to provide emergency assistance," Harish added. BRS MLAs, MLCs and activists in all districts should be available to the people. On behalf of the BRS, we are requesting all our activists to stand with the people in these difficult times," he added.

28 tanks overflowing, 4 lakes..

Continued from page 1

She said that many lakes have reached FTL and that water is being released from lakes like Hussain Sagar. "We are moving people from low-lying areas to safer places," she said. She said that people should

not come out of their homes unless there is an emergency as the weather department has warned of heavy rains on Monday too. Amrapali said that officials are dewatering at 141 traffic-related water logging points in the city.



'Kavach will be implemented in mission mode in country'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Modern technology like Kavach that was developed in the country will now be implemented in a mission mode, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said. The minister stated this in his welcome address before the flagging-off of three Vande Bharat trains by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. Vaishnaw said India has elected the leadership of PM Modi for the third time that is decisive, visionary and forward-looking and its impact is visible in every aspect of life including in Railways. "It always lacked technology and investment and nothing changed for decades," Vaishnaw said alleging that a technical organisation like the Railways was politicised. "PM Narendra Modi brought exten-

sive changes to it. Investment in Railways was ten times enhanced. He encouraged us to adopt new technologies. And above all he changed our mindset," Vaishnaw said. The minister referred to various initiatives like the electrification of tracks, the introduction of Vande Bharat trains, the trial of Vande Metro and the deployment of the Kavach anti-collision system. He said 1326 railway stations are being redeveloped in the country which is the biggest redevelopment project in the world. "Modern technology like Kavach was developed in the country and now it will be implemented in a mission mode in the country," he said. According to the government, the Kavach Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system is a highly technology-intensive system, which requires safety certification of the highest order.

Will dialogue with Pakistan end terrorism in valley? BJP asks NC

PNS ■ JAMMU

Slamming National Conference for advocating dialogue with Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Sunday asked it to clarify whether initiating dialogue with the neighbouring country will end terrorism and bloodshed in the Union Territory. He also played down the protests and resignations by his party leaders and workers over the selection of candidates, saying he is confident the BJP will form the government on its own. The assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to take place on September 18, 25, and October 1. Votes will be counted on October 8. "Unfortunately, the NC leaders do not talk about the welfare of the people, the Pakistani gun which brought death and destruction to our land. By advocating for dialogue with Pakistan, they are not doing the right thing," Raina said. He said starting a dialogue with Pakistan is the prerogative only of the

central government and the foreign minister. "NC leaders should know that our former PM A B Vajpayee went to Pakistan in a bus to extend the hand of friendship but Pakistan backstabbed India by starting Kargil war. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also went to Lahore on his return from Afghanistan but the terror attacks and killing of innocents continued," he said. Asked about resentment within the party over ticket distribution, he said BJP is like a family and works together like a team. "When you have 15 lakh registered members in J&K, political activists have their own aspirations but only one name is finalised for each segment. "We are all together because our party believes in nation first, party second and self last," he said. He said Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have turned around the fate of Jammu and Kashmir with restoration of peace, prosperity, and development.

Govt enacting dramas..

Continued from page 1

Speaking to the media on Sunday at the BJP office, Eatala described the CM as a true heir of the Congress which killed people who protested the demolition of their houses at Delhi's Turkman Gate in 1976. He said that HYDRAA is issuing notices to people who had constructed houses with government permission and also had pattas issued by the government. He said that 200 people constructed houses after purchasing land in a layout in Alwal in 1968 and the govern-

Will provide all help..

Continued from page 1

Modi appreciated the state government for maintaining a high alert and preventing loss of life. The Prime Minister assured that helicopters will be deployed to provide emergency services in adverse weather conditions. The PM said the Centre will provide all assistance possible to Telangana.

Centre sends 9..

Continued from page 1

have been dispatched to Telangana, Sanjay said. Sanjay said on X, "Informed Union Home Minister Shri@AmitShahji about the situation in Khammam and that 110 villages in the district have been submerged, nine people stranded on Prakash Nagar hillock, 68 people on Azmeera Thanda hillock in Palair, and 42 others trapped in buildings. As per the HM's orders, nine NDRF teams, three each from Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Assam, have been dispatched to Telangana. Spoke with senior NDRF officials to coordinate rescue efforts. Discussed the situation and rescue operations with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Urged NDRF teams to synchronize efforts and carry out relief operations efficiently. NDRF teams are already in action."

How space travel affects body systems, study examines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Space travel can cause shifts in the gut that might suppress the immune system of astronauts and affect their metabolism, according to a study. The findings help understand how space missions of long durations could affect health of astronauts, researchers said. Using genetic technologies, a team of researchers, led by those at Canada's McGill University, analysed changes in the guts, colons and livers of mice onboard the International Space Station or the ISS over a period of three months. An international collaboration of NASA and other space agen-



Space station, the ISS is a spacecraft in the Earth's orbit. It is a unique science lab and serves as a "home" where crews of astronauts live, according to the NASA. The authors found significant shifts in gut bacteria that indicated changes in the mice's liver and intestinal genes, suggesting that spaceflight might suppress the immune system and alter metabolism. "These interactions suggest disruption of the signals, metabolites, and immune factors exchanged across the gut-liver axis which are likely to drive glucose and lipid (fat) dysregulation," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal npj Biofilms and Microbiomes. "Collectively, these multiomic findings suggest host-gut microbiome interactions during spaceflight are likely to underlie widespread changes to host physiology which could pose a risk to health," they wrote.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

On a sound footing

PM Modi emphasises India's 90% economic growth in the past decade, outpacing the global average of 35%

India's resilience shines through in its remarkable economic growth, a testament to its enduring strength in the face of global challenges. It was recently reiterated in a recent statement by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He highlighted the impressive growth of the Indian economy, stating that while the global economy expanded by 35% over the past decade, India's economy surged by 90%. This bold claim not only underscores India's economic resilience and rapid development but also invites a closer examination of the factors driving this growth and what it means for the future. PM Modi's claim reflects a period of substantial economic transformation in India, marked by key reforms, increased foreign investment, and a burgeoning middle class. India has implemented significant structural reforms in the past decade, including the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and digital financial inclusion initiatives. These reforms have streamlined business processes, improved tax compliance, and enhanced the overall ease of doing business in India, making the economy more attractive to investors. India's young and growing population has been a crucial driver of its economic expansion. This demographic advantage, has fuelled domestic demand and boosted economic growth.



The digital revolution in India has transformed various sectors, including finance, retail, and services. The rise of digital payments, e-commerce, and fintech has created new economic opportunities and driven growth in the formal economy. Juxtaposed to it the global economy's 35% growth over the same period reflects a more subdued pace, influenced by various challenges, including geopolitical tensions, trade wars, and the impact of the pandemic. The disparity between India's growth and the global average highlights the country's relative resilience and potential as an emerging economic powerhouse. However, it's important to note that global economic growth has been uneven, with advanced economies experiencing slower growth rates, while emerging markets, including India, have driven much of the expansion. Despite the optimistic growth figures, India faces several challenges that could impact its future economic trajectory. High unemployment rates, income inequality, and a struggling agricultural sector remain pressing issues. Additionally, the global economic environment is becoming increasingly uncertain, with rising protectionism and geopolitical instability posing risks to sustained growth. The Indian government will need to continue implementing reforms and addressing structural challenges to maintain its growth momentum. Ensuring inclusive growth, enhancing job creation, and investing in infrastructure and education will be critical to sustaining long-term economic development. India's impressive growth over the past decade suggests a bright future, but the path forward is not without obstacles which must be addressed in the right earnest.

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PICTALK



People walk down a road during rain, in Shimla.

The decline of Parliamentary decorum



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Recent debates in the Lok Sabha, marked by factual blunders and misguided accusations, underscore the pressing need for well-prepared and knowledgeable representatives

The saying parliament is the temple of democracy has become a cliché phrase. Still, it is heard across the world where democracy is in vogue. In India, even the Communists, Dravidians and even Maoists use this term despite their nationalist views. The functioning of a nation's parliament symbolizes its civility. No doubt, the names of Benjamin Disraeli, who served twice as Prime Minister of Britain and William Gladstone, who had a 12-year term as Prime Minister (spread over four non-consecutive terms) are two names students of political science would never forget.

Disraeli was premier during 1868 and 1874-1880 and served as leader of the opposition. Gladstone was his contemporary and both were known for their tongue-in-the-cheek retorts. Though the verbal duels at times crossed all levels of parliamentary decorum, both the parties they headed (Conservatives and Labor Party) never had any issues with their style of exchange of words. "If Gladstone fell into the Thames, that would be a misfortune. But if anyone pulled him out, that I suppose would be a calamity," Disraeli reportedly told the Parliament once.

Similarly, Gladstone was named as GOM (Grand Old Man) of British politics and Disraeli said that GOM stood for God's Only Mistake.

India, described as the world's biggest democracy has its colourful past. The likes of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Mahavir Tyagi and Pilloo Modi are some of the names that come to mind while thinking of the Indian parliament. The debates and discussions featuring them remain eternal classics in the annals of the country's parliamentary democracy. Those were the days when Television and live telecasting of proceedings of the House were unheard of. Not any more. The proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are being aired live by the LSTV and RSTV.

After watching the Lok Sabha debate on the motion of thanks to the President's address to the joint session of the Houses, what



struck my mind was the scarcity of good leaders or speakers in the Opposition benches. K C Venugopal, as of date, the strongest leader in the Congress after the Gandhi clan, made a "bloomer" when he charged that the last ten years of Modi rule saw 2.5 lakh persons getting killed in train accidents across the country. Though Jagadambika Pal, a Congress turncoat occupying the chair asked him to check the facts, the Kerala Chanakya (as KC is addressed by his followers) stood his ground and reiterated that more than 2.5 lakh had perished in train mishaps during the last ten years. A senior railway official had a hearty laugh when asked about the charge made by the Congress leader.

Many members of the Lok Sabha are not competent to occupy the treasury or opposition benches. Thol Thirumavalavan, of the VCK, a Dalit outfit, blamed the Center for the recent hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi which claimed 63 innocent lives.

Had Thirumavalavan spent at least 15 minutes of his time reading the Constitution of India presented to him by Rahul Gandhi, he would not have made this blunder. The



THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO SHIV KHERA, A MANAGEMENT GURU— THOSE WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN, THOSE WHO WATCH THINGS HAPPEN AND THOSE WHO WONDER WHAT HAPPENED

manufacture, distribution and sale of liquor is the exclusive prerogative of the State governments under the seventh schedule of the Constitution. When one comes to the House to deliver an important speech like thanking the president for the address to the joint session of both Houses, one has to do some homework.

Gumma Tanuja Rani, a tribal leader representing Araku constituency in Andhra Pradesh was a major relief. She spoke from the bottom of her heart about the inadequacies in the education system for tribals in her constituency. The absence of good teachers costs the tribal students quality education. India, which has dozens of communication satellites of its own could dedicate one or two transponders for educating the tribal teachers making use of the quality teachers available in the country.

The words of representatives like Tanuja Rani should not be confined in the records of the House. The ministers of science and technology and human resources development should sit with the ISRO chairman and work out an action program to launch tribal schools through our satellites. Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, a Congress MP from Punjab,

spoke about the eternal pain of farmers in his State as well as the rest of the country.

This is proof of how our ministers in charge of agriculture failed to resolve the hardship faced by the farming community.

Wherever one goes in India, the farmers wait over their difficulties in getting water for irrigation, bank loans and of course the lack of marketing facilities.

A research scholar may be able to get a PhD for his thesis on how the politicians succeed in keeping the farmers in perpetual poverty and how they are forced to resort to extreme steps. Period.

Discussing an inconsequential comment made by the Leader of the Opposition about Sanatan Dharma is a waste of time. The ruling party should understand that he has to make some statements to stay relevant. There are three kinds of people in the world, according to Shiv Khera, a management guru. Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened. Our LOP does not belong to the first two categories!

(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE ROT RUNS DEEP

Madam — It was Prajwal Revanna (EX PM Deve Gowda's grand son) a few months back in the news for exploiting women in his home town in Karnataka for satisfying his sexual needs and it is now the Senior artistes and technicians of Malayalam Film industry exploiting the weaker sex. Several such news involving netas from other parts of India are frequent. When such leaders take law in their hands and involve in crimes the law administration agencies are also silenced by the power acquired through position, money and family influence.

The victims are forced into silence to protect themselves. In rare cases the matter reaches the court also despite all their influence very rarely the perpetrator gets conviction as the witnesses as required by the law turn hostile for fear of their lives. As the saying reads "Yatha raja thatha praja" (Artha sastra-267) (Subjects follow their King) individuals consider women as soft targets and involves in acts of crime and in cases only where the victim acts boldly and complains the perpetrator gets the punishment and in rest of the cases victims remain so. It is incumbent upon on the leaders of the political party or the head of the institution to ensure strict moral conduct is maintained by their members. The wrong doers must be kicked out immediately and ostracized. Other considerations should not blunt their decision in matters such as these.

Gopalswamy J | Chennai

IMPORTANCE OF BALANCED DIET

Madam— A healthy mind cannot exist without a healthy body, and the reverse, too, holds true. People from different walks of life are oblivious to the thin line of differentiation between overeating and healthy eating. Intake of essential nutrients in adequate proportion is an art. Everyone should know that both undernutrition and overnutrition can be an individual's death knell. Fruits, veg-

The golden girl



The game of shooting had been a piece of cake for the Indian Continent no matter the game is Olympics or Paralympics. Just a few days back, star Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarvijot Singh managed to lift medals in the Olympic event, and now it's just the beginning

of Paralympics that Avani Lekhara clinched the gold medal alongwith Mona Agarwal in the 10 m air rifle. This victory of Paralympics players in the initial events, is a clear indication of the fact that our para players are equally eager to made podium finish done once again this time at Paris. Avani's gold is a cherished moment for all the Indian back home.

She improved her own records, become first Indian women to win two Paralympics gold in the 10 m category and initiate the medal tally at Paris for India. Nation wishes her and all the players, heartfelt congratulations on their hard efforts and success.

We hope that more and more medals and more podium finishes will be ensured this time. With Indian flag and India's national anthem keep on mesmerising maximum time in the podium zone of Paris Paralympics 2024.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

etables, grains, meat, fish and skimmed milk are invariable components of a healthy food intake for supply of energy, protein, vitamin and minerals among others. Right from childhood, the significance of balanced nutrition has been unequivocally underscored by doctors and nutritionists.

Plenty of crippling diseases and lifestyle disorders may be prevented by a balanced, nutritious diet. Smart eating from the start can act as immunity booster. It is more important to know what not to eat than what to eat. It is said that junk food can satisfy for an hour but good food can do so for life. However, poor economic status can turn all nutrition plans topsy turvy. The governments should encompass all sections to foster a healthy society. The "National Nutrition Week" is observed annually from September 1 to 7 since 1982.

Ganapathi Bhat | Kolkata

THE COLLAPSE OF SHIVAJI'S STATUE

Madam — The apology expressed by the PM Narendra Modi over the collapse

of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Maharashtra suggests the lapses by the authorities in ensuring the quality of the construction. The 35-foot statue, unveiled with fanfare by Modi himself less than a year ago, lies in ruins, a victim of rusted nuts and bolts. This monumental blunder is not merely a case of shoddy workmanship; it is emblematic of the rot that has set in at the core of the government's projects.

The contractor, conveniently linked to those in power, stands accused of collusion, fraud and endangering public safety, while the government scrambles to shift the blame onto anything but its own negligence. The steel used in the statue had already begun to rust; yet, despite repeated warnings, no action was taken. The bigger issue beneath the surface lies a pattern of cutting corners, favouritism and a blatant disregard for quality and accountability.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

Paswan family power struggle may split the LJP

The recent meetings of the BJP leader with former LJP MPs Pashupati Paras and Prince Paswan, have intensified tensions within the Paswan family and the LJP



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

The recent meeting between former LJP MPs Pashupati Paras and Prince Paswan with Amit Shah has significantly elevated Chirag Paswan's political profile. Despite this boost, Chirag Paswan's statements during the last parliamentary session have left many observers puzzled, as he voiced positions that often contradicted those of the BJP. Issues such as the creamy layer in reservations, lateral appointments, and the Waqf Board Amendment Act 2024 saw Chirag taking stances that directly opposed the BJP's views.

In response, Pashupati Paras and Prince Paswan met with BJP leader Amit Shah. During these discussions, Chirag Paswan reportedly expressed concerns about his party's struggles to his uncle, Pashupati Paras. Political insiders suggest that this interaction was part of a broader BJP strategy, with Amit Shah subtly indicating that neither Pashupati Paras nor Prince Paswan are beyond his influence. Additionally, MPs affiliated with the LJP family have begun issuing clarifications, while RJD MLA



Mukesh Roshan has alleged that the BJP is targeting LJP R MPs. Furthermore, three MPs from Chirag Paswan's party are reportedly in communication with senior BJP leaders. The BJP is known for its strategic patience, gradually consolidating its position. This approach saw Pashupati Paras receiving assurances during the Lok Sabha elections, and the Rajya Sabha seat was subsequently occupied by Upendra Kushwaha. Pashupati Paras is now banking on the upcoming 2025 assembly elections, understanding that neither the BJP nor the JDU are likely to allocate him separate seat shares. Consequently, both Pashupati Paras and Chirag Paswan may need to share assembly seats within the NDA's seat-sharing framework, potentially alleviating BJP's concerns.

However, the emergence of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLP) poses a threat to the NDA, particularly as it fields candidates against NDA allies like Chirag Paswan's party. This increases the likelihood of vote splitting, whether it results in a reduction or redistribution of votes. Within the RJD, Ram Vilas Paswan's son-in-law, Anil Kumar Sadhu, has been vocally critical of Chirag Paswan. Should Pashupati Paras align with the India Alliance, internal conflicts could escalate, with figures like Sunny Paswan from Congress already preparing to oppose Chirag.

Former Samastipur MP Prince Paswan could also emerge as a significant political challenger to Chirag Paswan. Despite these tensions, Pashupati Paras has publicly expressed a willingness to mend relations with his nephew, stating that familial bonds could overcome political differences. In media statements, he emphasized that "blood is blood," indicating his desire to reconcile with Chirag Paswan. Pashupati has communicated his intentions to the NDA leadership, aiming to thaw the strained relationship. Nevertheless, Chirag Paswan has accused Pashupati Paras of previously undermining the LJP by breaking away MPs and seizing party offices established by their father, Ram Vilas Paswan, thereby betraying the family. Despite these accusations, Pashupati Paras now appears to be seeking reconciliation. This scenario may reflect the BJP's damage control efforts or a strategic policy shift aimed at balancing the factions within the LJP. The BJP aims to prevent the LJP from splitting into the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti and LJP (R) factions. During the Lok Sabha elections, Pashupati Paras was a target of BJP's strategies. The Paras faction suffered losses during the Lok Sabha elections, losing both MPs and Union Minister positions. When they sought a seat allocation for Sunil Pandey in a by-election, the BJP appropriated their candidate. LJP remains caught in a predicament of political uncertainty.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN CULTIVATING INNER STRENGTH

It often begins with cultivating a calm, unclouded mind



RAVI VALLURI

Aeons ago a neophyte Zen student was an apprentice at a temple of knowledge. Regrettably, his mind was not robust enough and kept vacillating; so much so his mind and soul were not satisfied with "mere" breathing practices and meditation techniques imparted at the monastery. Petals of knowledge revealed. In a state of haughtiness, the Zen student arrived at another temple of knowledge where he remarked, rather dramatically that, "The human mind, Sakya Muni Buddha and other sentient beings, in reality do not exist." The pontiff of the monastery was silently listening to the outburst but uttered nothing for a while.

And then abruptly and quite unexpectedly he whacked the tutee with his prized bamboo pipe which angered the student. The Zen Master compassionately inquired of the tutee that if nothing existed, from where did his bout of anger and arrogance emerge? The mentee was momentarily nonplussed and then fell at the feet of the Zen Master, begging for forgiveness.

A hollow and empty mind

The percipient Master agreed to admit the whippersnapper but with a few stipulations. It was incumbent upon the greenhorn to remember the cardinal principle of trying to keep the mind hollow and empty. Lord Krishna's flute there is an interesting parable about Lord Krishna and his flute. It is believed that he used to visit a garden and whisper, "I love you" to all the flora and fauna. In unison, the flora and fauna reciprocated their unalloyed and unadulterated affection



towards Lord Krishna. It so transpired that one day, an animated Lord Krishna approached a bamboo tree in the garden. The Lord broke the cataclysmic news that he would have to snuff out the life of the bamboo plant. The entire garden was aghast as the news spread; several plants and trees were however secretly joyous that they were spared of the torture. The bamboo mulled upon the news for a while and then languidly responded, "Lord, you and I have no choice.

At the altar of the Master of the Universe, I am willing to sacrifice my life." Hearing this, Lord Krishna beamed. With surgical precision, he struck the bamboo plant. Soon the bamboo was fashioned into a flute for Lord Krishna himself. The flora and fauna, all the gopis and gopikas were now covetous of the bamboo, that in its new avatar it would always be inseparable, constantly in the hands of Lord Krishna.

The exultant bamboo flute was to become a triumphant possession of Lord Krishna. "What was so noteworthy about you, that you were the chosen one?" was an incessant refrain faced by the flute. "Nothing but my singular capitulation to will of the Master; willing to be an instrument of the Lord," was the refrain of the flute. The classical epic Mahabharata is populated with numerous valorous characters. But the ace archer Arjuna stands out prominently. Why is that so?

Arjuna is the Sakha, the Nara through whom Narayana revealed the divine celestial song - The Bhagavad Gita. It was Arjuna's unflinching devotion to the Lord that made the character so robust and aerobicized. He faithfully carried out all the commandments of the Lord. Only inner strength and a mature mind transfigure an individual to establish contact with the source of our inner energy. This is possible through the process of authentic surrender. Breathing techniques like Sudarshan Kriya help to make the mind hollow and empty. "A mature mind is one who understands the impossibility of knowing the ultimate, and with this understanding there is a new dimension, the dimension of the being," said the philosopher, Osho.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Diplomacy: India's neighborhood quandary



PARUL CHANDRA

Despite its vigorous 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has struggled to maintain stable and lasting relationships with neighboring countries



Ironical as it might seem, despite a vigorous pursuit of a 'Neighbourhood First' policy in tune with its strategic imperatives, India has floundered to build lasting and steady bilateral relations with countries in its backyard. The pendulum of India's fortunes continues to swing up and down with regime changes in the neighbourhood.

Despite intense diplomatic engagements and regular outreach at the highest political levels in its neighbourhood, India often finds itself out in the cold each time a party or leadership not so inclined towards it sweeps to power. Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and even Afghanistan are cases in point. And now, with the ignominious exit of the Awami League's Sheikh Hasina as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, India has lost the only loyal and steadfast friend it had in the neighbourhood for over a decade. Indeed, so heavily was New Delhi invested in Sheikh Hasina's prime ministership that it was even accused of interfering in the country's elections to favour her when she won a fourth consecutive term this January.

If her ouster took Sheikh Hasina by surprise, it also caught New Delhi completely unawares. India was blindsided, even though the Sheikh Hasina government was being accused of increasing authoritarianism and a ruthless decimation of the Opposition with backsliding of democracy. New Delhi saw no reason to complain with Sheikh Hasina delivering on what it wanted - connectivity, crackdown on north-east insurgents sheltering in Bangladesh, not making too much noise about the unfulfilled Teesta waters agreement and keeping India's interests in mind while building ties with China. Under Sheikh Hasina, the cordial bilateral ties were not impacted even when the Indian government brought in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which fast-tracks citizenship for persecuted



IN BANGLADESH WHERE THE OPPOSITION HAD BRIEFLY INITIATED AN 'INDIA OUT' CAMPAIGN, INDIA WILL FACE AN UPHILL TASK IN BUILDING TIES WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT ONCE ELECTIONS ARE HELD

non-Muslim minorities from neighbouring countries, though it created considerable disquiet in Bangladesh.

Likewise, she chose not to make a fuss over the controversial National Register of Citizens in Assam, which was seen as targeting illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. For sure, India's ruling party's hyper-nationalism does not help the country's cause in its neighbourhood either, especially in Muslim-majority Bangladesh and the Maldives. Moreover, India's propensity to openly back a particular regime often works to its detriment. It leaves not only the government of the day open to charges of being India's lackey but equally helps the Opposition there fuel anti-India sentiments. In Bangladesh where the Opposition had briefly initiated an 'India Out' campaign, India will face an uphill task in building ties with the new government once elections are held. Likewise in the Maldives, the Opposition had launched an 'India Out' campaign, which helped propel current President Mohamed Muizzu and his party to power.

Along with its required development initiatives, India threw its entire weight behind Muizzu's predecessor, Ibu Solih and his Maldivian Democratic Party, but failed to see him win a second term. Given these experiences, it's time India extended support to its neighbours in a more discreet and calibrated manner instead of being seen as an emperor doling out largesse to subjects. India may like to be seen as a close friend, benefactor and net security provider in the

Subcontinent and the Indian Ocean Region, and it does do a lot for all this, but there is a marked shift in how it is now perceived.

For one, neither the polity nor the people of these nations want to be seen as mere appendages of a big neighbour even though their countries seem inevitably tied with India owing to their geographical location.

Second, small as they may be, there is a growing assertion of national identity and sovereignty among them. Third, they know that India isn't the only big power they can turn to for financial and other assistance.

China, with far greater financial muscle, after all, is only too happy to step in. Indeed, with China's expanding footprint in the Subcontinent and beyond, India has considerably stepped up its financial assistance for infrastructure projects and sought to forge strong economic linkages and trading ties with its neighbours, among other things. It has also sought to be the 'first responder' when they require humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Even so, those days when India was seen as the sole provider for its smaller neighbours are long gone. In Nepal, the Kalapani border dispute was drummed up as a sovereignty issue by then Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli to rally public support for his government. Oli even altered Nepal's map to show the disputed area as part of Nepal.

New Delhi could have simply prevented matters from escalating by holding a meeting at the foreign secretary level as was demanded

by Kathmandu to discuss the territorial dispute. But India looked the other way instead of addressing Nepal's concerns. Consequently, Kalapani remains a major irritant in the relationship. India did something similar with the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report prepared jointly by a team of experts from the two countries, with one of its mandates being to review the Nepal-India Friendship Treaty of 1950 that Kathmandu wants revised in keeping with present times.

It's been ready since 2018 but has been given a quiet burial by New Delhi even though Kathmandu had been pressing that its findings be made public. In Sri Lanka too, India's fortunes change with the change of guard. The going was difficult with the Rajapaksa in power, though India now appears to have regained some lost ground after it provided the island nation with loans after its economy was badly hit during the pandemic.

However, this does not mean that India will enjoy the goodwill of all political parties there for all times to come, given that relationships in the neighbourhood appear to have acquired a transactional character. Going forward, India will do well to not put all its eggs in one basket and seek to engage more vigorously with parties across the political spectrum in its neighbourhood, while continuing to help the countries with financial and other assistance. It should come across as a benevolent friend, not be perceived as an overbearing bully.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

Transforming the India Islamic Cultural Centre: A vision for progress and reform

With a new leadership poised to take charge, the Centre faces the challenge of dispelling stereotypes and promoting a progressive vision of Islam

While showcasing the rich heritage of Islamic literature, culture, art, and traditions, the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) must also foster a culture of debate, discussion, and dialogue. This can be achieved by organizing conferences and seminars on crucial issues such as democracy, human rights, justice, peace, and global affairs.



TARIQ ASHRAF

The Centre should present a gentle and progressive face of Islam to our fellow citizens, countering media-generated stereotypes through engagement and cross-cultural interactions. This can be facilitated by hosting lectures and seminars led by renowned Islamic scholars.

In this context, I offer a few suggestions for the consideration of the new IICC leadership. While maintaining an apolitical stance, the IICC could engage in research and documentation on contemporary issues through fellowships. Additionally, it should enhance its modest library into a comprehensive resource center for reference, research, and docu-

mentation. The IICC must also regularly publish reports and monographs on current issues affecting the community. There is an urgent need to add a small academic block to the building, providing a co-working space for authors and writers to interact.

A significant issue within the Muslim community has been the breakdown of communication with other communities. The Centre should actively engage with civil society groups and the media to cultivate healthy relationships and dispel misconceptions. Special emphasis should be placed on involving women from the community in the Centre's



activities, exposing them to an open, liberal, and progressive environment. The Centre can also advocate for much-needed reforms in Muslim society through dialogue and discussion, involving the Muslim clergy. By doing so, the IICC can become a serious hub for advocacy,

reform, and the promotion of moderation and cultural exchange. It should broaden its scope by involving a larger section of the community, not relying solely on financially resourceful members. The IICC is not intended to be a center for coaching and career counseling, but

rather a space for intellectual discussions, cultural and artistic events, akin to its neighboring institutions like the India International Centre (IIC) and the India Habitat Centre (IHC). There is no better person than Mr. Salman Khurshid to lay the foundation for this transformation during his tenure. With his visionary leadership and persuasive skills, he is expected to leave a lasting impact by establishing a strong visionary and regulatory institutional framework for future generations. There will undoubtedly be resistance from influential members who have treated the IICC as a social club for networking. However, Mr.

Khurshid, a charismatic and widely respected figure, has the capacity to lead effectively and develop the Centre into a progressive, representative, and responsible space that showcases the rich and ever-evolving Islamic culture—especially in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, both locally and globally. We will see how things unfold for the Centre in the coming days. In conclusion, the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) stands at a pivotal juncture, poised to redefine its role as a beacon of intellectual discourse, cultural exchange, and societal reform. Under the leadership of Mr. Salman Khurshid, the Centre has

the potential to transform into a progressive and inclusive institution that not only preserves the rich heritage of Islamic culture but also fosters a spirit of dialogue and engagement. As the IICC embraces this visionary path, it could become a model for moderation, diversity, and meaningful community interaction, impacting both the Muslim community and the broader society positively.

(The author is an alumnus of Hindu College, Delhi University and has been associated with the Centre for Policy Research, IIM Lucknow, University of Delhi South Campus, and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; views are personal)

Gautami Kapoor talks of emotional roles & her journey in *Gyaarah Gyaarah*

TEJAL SINHA

The Raghav Juyal, Kritika Kamra and Dhairya Karwa starrer *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, released on Zee5 on August 9, continues to be buzzing. While the lead stars certainly brought in a remarkable performance, among the other stars, there was this one actor who had a small screen space, yet she did make a huge impact on the audience. Well, it was none other than Gautami Kapoor, who played the character of Sanjana Tiwari, a mother of a 7-year-old kid who was mysteriously abducted and murdered. Taking a plunge into the digital space after being a well-known and much-celebrated face in the television industry, she's on cloud nine with the love that she's received and still continues to get. "An actor wants to act and do good work," begins the *Tere Sheher Mein* actress in a fun chat with *The Pioneer*.

Getting a chance to work on OTT now, she considers herself pretty lucky and blessed. And with her latest flick, *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, she describes her experience to be no less than that of a wonderful one. "The response has been overwhelming. I play a small role, it's not like the three main protagonists. However, it's a very important role. I always knew that it was a small role. But the response has gone through the roof. It is the most unexpected response one could imagine. I'm really happy that I've managed to touch the audience's

heart with my performance. I'm so grateful to them," shares Gautami with immense endearment, who was very intrigued to get on board for the project due to its concept of time travel and the concept of being in another dimension.

Basically, "Ram (Kapoor) and my son, both watch a lot of content on this, dimensions and time travel. Both of them are quite in tune with what they watch. It's always been like an intriguing part of my life and when I realised that in *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, the concept is that you can go back in time, you can move forward and maybe change something. It was so intriguing."

Then, of course, the cast and crew, who all, she says, were masters in their own crafts. "The project was so good on papers; I'd be a fool to say no to a project like this." Shooting around the pleasant year-round weather and scenic surroundings of Dehradun was no less than a challenge for her and most importantly, she says it was for Raghav and Kritika, who got drenched for almost 20 times. "Be it all the junior artists and people who were playing the journalists, were all drenched to their bones. But no one complained. Everyone continued shooting and we've shot like this for almost 4 to 5 days. So that was very tough, but everybody pulled it off and hats off to all the actors," enthuses the *Kehta Hai Dil* actress.

In the series, we certainly see a bond that she shares with Raghav, who was on a quest to bring out the truth behind the little kid's murder. Speaking of working with Raghav, with great warmth, she says, "Raghav is a phenomenal performer and the best thing about him is he's very unassuming. When you see him and when you talk to him, he's always laughing, cracking jokes and pulling my leg. It's fun to be around him. But as soon as the director says, 'Now, let's start, Action,' he simply just transforms."

In fact, "He has worked with Ram on two projects. So Ram talks very highly of Raghav because they also have a very good bond." She further goes on to hint and bring us a revelation: "I have another project coming up with him. Though I do not have scenes with him, he's also a part of that show. This show will probably be released in the first half of next year. We have finished the shooting and the project is in its post-production phase. Raghav is amazing and very comfortable to work with. He made the whole unit

comfortable, whether it was junior actors or those who just have one scene to do."

Playing the character of a mother, who is fighting for justice for her little girl could have acted upon her too. Her character was just for a few scenes in a few episodes; however, the intensity and impact the character had was immense. "It was a tough shoot for me, emotionally, because it's a very intense role. The two scenes, one where I see her body for the first time and then the climax or midway scene of episode 2, where I confront the killer, those scenes were tough. I had to really connect. I had to imagine my daughter there. I had to really tell myself that if this was happening to me, what would I do? But you know what? The director had given me the freedom to do it just as I wanted to do. I've performed these scenes from my heart."

Her character had brought in so much relatability element that, to our surprise, during our research we came across a comment where the user had shared that they could relate to her character's emotions and hardship for justice just as it was during the Nirbhaya case when her mother was fighting for justice. We enlightened her about it and she shares, "My god! I'm just getting goosebumps as I listen to it. I really want to thank you, all the fans and everyone who's watched *Gyaarah Gyaarah*. I've really put my heart into this role but thank you for being so sensitive about it." She further enthuses, "I generally don't carry my work home. I never have. I leave it back there. But of course, I do discuss it with Ram. You just want to come back home content that I've done some good work." The *Ghar Ek Mandir* fame, going ahead in this interaction, shares that the director, Umesh Bist, had suggested she not watch any other reference for her character. Her only preparation was to be alert! She also shares, "There are no real criteria that I have for me to get on board for a project. I am open to doing and experimenting in all kinds of roles. This is the best time to be an actor because there's so much available, so much content is being churned out. I hope directors and producers think of me for a different role, something that I have not done before. Like, my next three releases are completely different from *Gyaarah Gyaarah*. Though all were signed almost at the same time, it's just that they have all now turned out to be completely different."

Actress Gautami Kapoor has taken a plunge into the digital space. Her latest series, *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, has brought her, in fact, into a much newer picture. In an exclusive chit-chat with *The Pioneer*, she discusses the love and response she's been getting for her role, creating an impact with a character with less screen space and more around it

Sleep and body positivity in maintaining better lifestyle

Adolescence is undeniably a crucial period of self-discovery and in today's hyperconnected world where the internet heavily shapes perceptions, it is essential to develop healthy habits. Since these are the transformative years of an individual, addressing key aspects like prioritising sleep and fostering body positivity early on promotes a healthier lifestyle

BODY POSITIVITY: A FOUNDATIONAL LESSON

A key fact often missed is that body image concerns often take root in childhood and are influenced by societal pressures and media portrayals. Such early exposure can lead to lifelong struggles with self-worth as they tie it to external appearances and body weight. This makes it critical to help children understand early on that as we age, our bodies undergo natural changes—weight fluctuations, hormonal shifts, and other physiological changes that can affect how we look. If self-worth is tied to these variables, it can lead to ongoing dissatisfaction and self-criticism.

In fact, real health is more than just numbers on a scale. It's about how active we are, the kind of content we consume, our sleep habits, hydration, mindset and overall attitude toward life. Educating adolescents about the importance of focusing on holistic health rather than just weight is key. Additionally, emphasising on the importance of building muscle for longevity, posture and overall health is vital over focusing solely on fat loss.

GROWING ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTS

Social media also plays a significant role in shaping young minds. Today, with parents providing children with access to phones and social media, there is also a need for them to take responsibility for educating children about the types of accounts they should follow and the values they

should aspire to cultivate. If their social media feeds are filled with picture-perfect bodies, airbrushed images and flawless skin, their perception of beauty becomes skewed. This makes it harder for them to accept themselves as they are, leading to struggles with self-esteem and confidence.

Another important aspect of fostering healthy habits in adolescents is for parents to be mindful of how they perceive and talk about their bodies. If they frequently criticise their bodies or obsess over weight and appearance, children are likely to mirror these behaviors, developing similar insecurities. Parents need to model positive body image and healthy habits. By focusing on overall health rather than appearance, parents can teach their children to value their bodies for what they can do rather than how they look.

IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

In today's fast-paced world, where pulling all-nighters is often viewed as an achievement, it's crucial to stress the importance of sleep to adolescents from their formative years. This stage involves significant physiological changes, including growth, hormonal shifts and repair, making sleep essential for overall health. Unfortunately, many parents take sleep for granted, and this attitude often passes on to their children. While occasional late nights during exams or due to occasional recreation are a part of growing up, what matters is the overall pattern. Regular late nights or poor sleep habits can lead to long-term health issues. In conclusion, a collective effort from parents, educators and society is imperative to create an environment that supports healthy body image and adequate sleep, thereby laying the foundation for a happier and healthier future generation.

(The author, Taarika Dave, is the Head Of Life Coaching and Head Of Yoga at Luke Coutinho Holistic Healing Systems.)



'RATHER THAN FAMOUS CO-STAR, IT'S PUBLIC THAT MAKES OR DESTROYS YOU'

Actress Parul Yadav, who has carved a niche for herself, will next be seen in the multi-lingual *Butterfly*. She speaks to *The Pioneer* about her mistaken entry into the acting world, speaking of her role in the upcoming film and more

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Actress Parul Yadav needs no introduction. The gorgeous and captivating beauty has certainly excelled professionally over the years, carving out a distinct niche for herself. The actress, who starred in popular movies like *Shivajinagara*, *Uppi 2* and *Killing Veerappan*, is undoubtedly one of the top talents sought after in the southern states.

She had not long ago disclosed that she was cast for the upcoming Kannada film *Butterfly*. Yes, readers down South will find it interesting to learn that her next movie is a remake of the popular Hindi film *Queen*, which starred Kangana Ranaut. Parul, who plays the same character for multi-lingual viewers, is gradually preparing to retake her place as the leading lady of South Indian cinema along with her extraordinary producing skills!

The *Bachchan* fame, who also has a few Tamil and Malayalam films in her kitty, in addition to Hindi TV shows, says in an exclusive interview with us, "As I would like to candidly share with my readers, this journey into South cinema happened by mistake or possibly as a result of certain circumstances. Because I was so impressed by Steffi Graf's style of play, I always wanted to be a scientist, inventor, or tennis player. However, circumstances dictated otherwise and I ended up in front of the camera! The way Madhuri Dixit mesmerised audiences with her dance moves and the way Amitabh Bachchan mastered his art and diction both inspired me. Is that even possible to imagine?"

With the eagerly anticipated simultaneous multiple-language remakes (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam) of *Queen*, the *Dreams* star transitioned to a producer too! She debuted as Shivarajkumar's sister-in-law in the Kannada film

Bandhu Balaga in 2011. Following that, she appeared in *Govindaya Namaha*, which was previously cited as one of the top-grossing films of the year. She portrayed the role of Mumtaz, a Muslim girl who develops feelings for Komal Kumar's Govinda. Her performance earned her a nomination for the best actor category at the Udaya Film Awards that year, the Bangalore Times Best Newcomer Award (2013), the SIIMA Best Debutant Award (2013) and more. She gained greater recognition after appearing in the song *Pyarge Aagbitaite* with Yadav.

Simultaneously, she says, "I had made my film debut in Malayalam with Privithiraj Sukumaran and Tamil with Dhanush, but *Govindaya Namaha*—which starred an unorthodox hero and a debut director—was the film that launched my so-called career. I was featured in a song that won multiple awards and is the most downloaded Kannada tune to this day. This made me realise that rather than a famous co-star, it's the public that has the power to make or destroy you!"

This was becoming a rather intriguing conversation; what more could the *Shivajinagara* fame tell? Alright, let's listen while she clears her throat. "One of my most difficult roles has to be Parvathi in *Butterfly*, the official version of the national award-winning Hindi film *Queen*. The character, a straightforward Kannadiga girl from Gokarna, appears in every frame of the two-hour film. Since this was my first time helming a film, the pressure was tremendous. During the launch day, when we were all on stage, I remember a journalist asking the director 'Why Parul, a girl from Mumbai, why not a local? Is Parul, not a misfit?' While I could appreciate the journalist's perspective, I also saw this as an opportunity to show the audience that I could locate the character and bring her to life."

She is thrilled about the different

genres of projects she is currently involved in. Apart from the movie she is currently writing, she is also working on a wild actioner in Tamil, a mythological extravaganza in Hindi and Telugu and a delightful comedy à la *Welcome* in Kannada. She holds high expectations for these films, just like the rest, yet ultimately she puts her faith in fate. In the meantime, the eccentric *Vaastu Prakaara* star says, "I've always subscribed to the theory that 80% of the training takes place at the dinner table! Nevertheless, I feel incomplete if I don't walk for 40-45 minutes every day and do weights for 60 minutes every day. For whatever reason, I will become depressed if I miss training. When alone, I enjoy learning from any source, including the internet and literature. I adore watching documentaries. Any new perspective or piece of information that surprises me is something I am happy to find."

She claims that after she passes away and if, like Anne Frank, her notes are ever published in the same way as Anne's poetry, then everyone would learn that Parul had several beliefs jotted down in notebooks and on various gadgets. If she had the means, she would like to create a lot of useful inventions for people. Not many people are aware that she also wrote the screenplay for the *Queen* remake in addition to having previously written a screenplay for a love story film. In order for people to learn my secrets and, maybe, enjoy the movie, she hopes that it will be made soon.

She claims that if her notes are published after her death and her notes are ever published in the same way as Anne's poetry, it will reveal that Parul had several beliefs jotted down in notebooks and on various gadgets. If she had the means, she would like to create a lot of useful inventions for people.



what's brewing?

Devender Kumar And Ankit Agarwal

Nanditha

Sumahitha

Devender Kumar, Ankit Agarwal Managing Partners Krishna Pearls & Jewellers Showcasing the award "Telangana Leadership Award" - "Excellence Award for Best Retail Company-Jewellery" at the press meet at Marks Media Centre, Banjara Hills in Hyderabad.

The heart of A.S Rao Nagar witnessed a spectacular event as the much-anticipated new store of Sakhi, The House of Kanchi Weaves was inaugurated in Hyderabad. The grand opening of this opulent store marked a momentous occasion for both the fashion-forward community of A.S Rao Nagar and the world of traditional textiles. Renowned guests like Sri Sri Sri Vasudevananda Giri Swami, Ramaa Raavi, B Venkata Bhargava Murthy, Nadupally Nagasri, Meghana Raami and Idream Anjali, Deepika Rangaraju along with Anchor Lasya Manjunath attended the launch event.

Re Sustainability Limited (ReSL) is proud to announce its continued collaboration with 92.7 BIG FM for the 17th edition of the award-winning Green Ganesha initiative, #ReBIGGreenGanesha. As a global leader in the circular economy, Re Sustainability aligns this initiative with Mission LIFE, emphasising the importance of individual actions and local cultures in global climate efforts. This initiative will engage communities across the country, promoting sustainable practices through a series of innovative activities.

PARTY

Meridian School Banjara Hills held a very colourful inaugural function for the 9th Edition of its Meridian Model United Nations The Scientist & Asst Director of ISRO, Dr V Seshagiri Rao marked his presence as the chief guest of the event.

Mehfil Group of Restaurants felicitated Yogita Nagara on her remarkable journey at Master Chef UK-2024. Hailing from Hyderabad and working for an organisation in the United Kingdom, Yogita Nagara was among the 50 selected contestants at the famous "Master Chef UK-2024".

Volta announced a strategic collaboration with Varcas. The collaboration will further introduce 1 lakh electric scooters into Volta's fleet over the next five years. These eco-friendly vehicles will serve both Volta's ride-hailing customers and parcel services, marking a significant leap towards sustainable and efficient urban mobility.

S Infra Heights Pvt. Ltd., founded by Dr. Sravanthi Ellasiri and Youth Icon of Telangana 2021, has officially opened its head office at Sun City, Hyderabad, marking a new era in Telangana's real estate landscape. They are now offering a DTCP RERA-approved project, Hill County, at Balanagar, Bangalore Highway.

Tamrapatra Live was a scintillating treat of classical dance, Annamacharya poetry with music set by Hyderabad's own Late Sathiraju Venumadhav and performed by 5 of India's leading dancers - Ananda Shankar Jayant, Anupama Kylash, Deepika Reddy, Gopika Varma and Viabha Arekar - across the styles of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi & Mohiniattam. Presented by Ministry of Culture, Govt of India & Shankarananda Katakshetra in association with the Dept of Culture, Govt of Telangana, Tamrapatra Live was a unique evening of the best of arts and artists, taking the audience on a surreal journey of Sringeri

Presented by Art Magnum, Delhi, curated by Annapurna Madipadiga the exhibition "Pause and Reflect : Life's Simple Moments" featuring four distinct artists, showcased the need to pause and experience life through their unique perspectives. Through their visual language, each artist captured subtle memories and moments, encouraging viewers to reconnect with the simple joys of life. Dr Neelima Kota, General Secretary, TPCC and AICC member inaugurated the exhibition amidst the artists and art lovers of Hyderabad

FUN

ARCHIE

I JUST CAN'T GET STARTED ON DAYS LIKE THIS!

I HEAR YA! I CAN'T EITHER!

"DAYS LIKE THIS"? WHAT KIND OF DAYS ARE "DAYS LIKE THIS"?

SCHOOL DAYS!

HENRY SCARPELLI CRAIG BOLDMAN!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR MOM ABOUT THE BINOCULARS, AND SHE CAN HELP SOMEHOW.

TELL MOM?? ARE YOU CRAZY?? NO WAY!

WHY NOT? YOU'VE GOT TO TELL SOMEONE, MAYBE SHE CAN THINK OF SOMETHING.

AT TIMES LIKE THESE, ALL MOM CAN THINK OF IS HOW LONG SHE WAS IN LABOR WITH ME.

GARFIELD

HEY, GARFIELD, WHAT SAY WE GO ON A DIET TOGETHER?

SURE!

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU ONLY EAT WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO!

OF COURSE!

I'LL WATCH YOU EVERY WAKING MINUTE!

AND I'LL SNEAK FOOD WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING!

REALITY CHECK

You look tired! Mind you, you look tired all the time... and that hair sure doesn't help! That can't be the look you're going for!

THE COFFEE HAS NO FILTER

SPEED BUMP

IT IS A TRAVEL MUG - I'M JUST NOT GOING VERY FAR.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6				9
9			10	
12	13		14	15
17			16	
			18	
19				

NANCY

I WANT YOU TO LEARN A LOT IN ROBOTICS CLUB...

BUT I ALSO HOPE YOU'LL MAKE FRIENDS

SHE WANTS US TO MAKE... FRIENDS...

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- An exact copy
- Someone who decides who won
- Tiny bread scrap
- Young woman
- Shout this to attract attention (3-3)
- A frozen drip
- Went quickly
- Dirt
- Sea
- Tried

DOWN

- Beneath
- Told a fib
- This type of clock has a mechanical bird in it

SOLUTION

S	C	I	S	S	O	R	S	
C	H	G	O	U	E			
O	N	I	O	N	H	E	L	A
U	F	O	E	L	E	G		
R	E	T	I	N	E	A	R	C
T	E	C	A					
R	U	S	H	B	R	O	K	E
O	U	S	A	N	G			
O	R	G	A	N	I	E	E	
M	A	A	P	E	E	D		
P	R	O	P	O	S	A	L	

GINGER MEGGS

I'M THINKIN' ABOUT A CAREER IN BIG BUSINESS. MAYBE BANKING.

WHAT'RE YOU THINKIN'?

I'M THINKIN' WE SHOULD STAY FRIENDS!

SPEEL THE ROSES BIT, WATCH OUT FOR BEES.

'It's not about fitting into the mother's character but Nivetha Thomas doing it well'

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Nivetha Thomas is returning to the screen after a two-year gap with a movie titled *35: Chinna Katha Kaadu* helmed by Nanda Kishore Eemani. The movie is set to premiere on September 6, with well-known actor Rana Daggubati as the presenter. Nivetha is portraying the role of a mother with two children. When asked about the gap, she says, "I wanted to do five films a year, I didn't take any breaks, but it just happened." Nivetha started her career in Telugu films with *Gentleman* alongside Nani and later appeared in movies such as *Ninnu Kori* and *Brochevaravara*. Her successful performance in Telugu demonstrated her talent as an actress. Prior to making her debut in Telugu cinema, she appeared in movies in the Malayalam and Telugu film industries. Currently, she is working on *35: Chinna Katha Kaathu*, where she portrays the character of Saraswathi. "I would like to do many films with different kinds of roles and that's why I chose Saraswathi's role," she says. In the film, she plays the character of a mother. So when asked about what if she gets typecast into similar roles and that the director would approach her for the same, she says, "In our country, when a woman turns 20 or 21, people ask her, 'When are you getting married?' So, I

don't think I am wrong if I play a mother role. With this, I would like to tell filmmakers that I can play different kinds of roles," says Nivetha. She added, "You all don't write that Nivetha is fit for a mother's character, please write that Nivetha did very well for the mother role." Her character, Saraswathi, is one year younger than her actual age. In this film, she says, you can see love in the family, relationships and many more elements. She further shares, "It is the story of a middle-class family story from Tirupathi. A few misunderstandings end up into an incident. Now, how the mother takes up the responsibility is the story," says Nivetha. In this film, the director narrates little stories that she is extremely enthusiastic about. "When there is no power, the entire family is having dinner under candlelight, the parents talk about the future in the night when kids are sleeping; these kinds of things are shown in this film in a beautiful way," she said. She mentioned how people think back to their youth when they see school memories on TV. The actress admits to feeling pressured to score a perfect 100 in mathematics during her 10th-grade exams. "My father used to score 99 marks in math and this was told to me every time I used to go for my exams. What I did was write the wrong answer for the first question and the remaining ones were all correct. So I was very happy that I scored 99 marks," she recalls. The team had prepared for a local accent. "Most

of the shooting has happened in Tirupathi; we got a tutor to get our dialect right. It took nearly a month and we practiced the dialogues before the shoot to get the accent right," she said. The actress said that she learned a lot from the senior actors like Bhagyaraja and Gautami, who are also a part of this film. "They respect everyone irrespective of their age and also their discipline on the sets. I learned a lot from them and their experience," said Nivetha. The Hema committee report has become a hot topic, particularly in the Malayalam film industry. Nivetha hails from the Malayalam film industry and when questioned about it, she discusses her experiences. "I am very closely reading it and I am a part of the AMMA (Association of Malayalam Movie Artists) body also. When I get something that disturbs me a lot, before I talk about it, I have a discussion with my family and close friends. I think about it; I want to understand what is happening and why it is happening. Extremely proud of the Malayalam industry because it started there, WCC stood strong, they had to take all the heat. It's bittersweet, but it's a happy moment. It has already begun and I am very happy and it should be implemented everywhere. Not just for women, I think we should generally have a safe working space which is a basic thing. We are spending more time at the workspace than at home, so we should all have a safe working space," she comments about the Hema report.

Nivetha Thomas' last film, *Saakini Daakini*, was released two years ago. Now, she will be seen portraying a mother in her upcoming movie *35: Chinna Katha Kaadu*, touted to be in an action genre. She discusses the long break, taking on the role of a mother, her personal life experiences and the Hema Committee findings in the Malayalam film industry.



Gireeshaaya to direct Kalyan Ram

Remember the film *Ranga Ranga Vaibhavana* starring Vaishnav Tej and Ketika Sharma in the main roles? Gireeshaaya serves as the director of the movie, which was released two years ago. This movie did not perform well in terms of the box office.

As per a source, the director is ready to direct Nandamuri Kalyan Ram.

"Gireeshaaya narrated a story to Kalyan Ram and he liked it and agreed to do the film," revealed a source.

Sateesh Botta, who worked as a manager to Sai Dharam Tej earlier, will now be turning producer in this film.

The source stated that Sateesh presented the story to Kalyan Ram and the director in a meeting. The source also mentioned that the release of this movie's announcement might happen in a couple of days.

Sateesh, a hard-core fan of Pawan Kalyan, is close to director Harish Shankar. Sateesh worked as manager to Sai Dharam Tej, but due to some differences with the actor, he came out and now wanted to start his own production house along with a few of his friends.



Nagababu supports 'HYDRAA' and appreciates Revanth Reddy

Jana Sena leader and Pawan Kalyan's brother Nagababu's comment on social media is doing rounds and a big discussion point. In his comment, he supported Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his HYDRAA concept. The actor-turned-politician said that everyone should be appreciating the Telangana CM for his daring decisions and commendable work. Nagababu's comment indirectly implies support for the demolition of N-Convention, which is owned by actor Akkineni Nagarjuna.

Because of intense rainfall, the water has been overflowing into many houses, leading to many fatalities. This has been due to the illegal occupation of the ponds, canals and structures built on them.

"Now, everyone understands about the Telangana Chief Minister's latest Hydra concept. Let's appreciate our honorable CM Revanth Anumula. Thank you for your daring decisions and com-



mendable work. We stand with you in full support, (sic)," said Nagababu in his comment.

He added, "If we protect the environment, it will protect us; if we destroy the same environment, it will surely punish us."

Currently, there is a heated debate over whether the Jana Sena leader endorsed the tearing down of Nagarjuna's N Convention. It is interestingly being reported that Akkineni Nagarjuna met Chiranjeevi, the older brother of Nagababu, to discuss the demolition of his convention center.

Suriya postpones *Kanguva* to clear way for Rajinikanth

On October 10, two major movies were supposed to be going head to head, one of which is Rajinikanth's *Vettaian* while the other is Suriya's *Kanguva*. Both the actors are looking to benefit from the festivities of Dasara. However, actor Suriya has revealed that the release of his film will be delayed out of respect for Rajinikanth. The actor made this statement while in attendance at his brother Karthi's movie event. His announcement ensures that there won't be any major conflict during the upcoming Dasara festival.

Suriya said that Rajinikanth's *Vettaian* will be releasing on October 10 and also stated that when he was born, he (Rajinikanth) was already one of the most accomplished actors. "He has been a senior to me and the identity of Tamil cinema for over 50 years. It is best that

his film comes out first," said Suriya at the function.

Talking of his film, he shared that nearly 1000 people had worked day and night for nearly two and a half years for *Kanguva* and hard work, he says, will certainly pay off. Whenever the film is released, Suriya said that the audience definitely gives their respect and love for the film.

According to a source, Suriya is set to play dual roles in the period drama *Kanguva*. The narrative recounts events from both the past and the present, showcasing Suriya's presence in both time periods in unique ways.

Superstar Rajinikanth, speaking to the media, expressed his gratitude to Suriya for choosing to delay the release of his film to a later date. Rajini also expressed his best wishes for Suriya's film *Kanguva* to be a successful one.



RAJ TARUN'S FILM RELEASE POSTPONED

Despite the controversy surrounding his personal life, Raj Tarun's movies have been released back-to-back. His movie *Purushottamudu* was released in July, followed by the release of *Tiragabadara Saami* on August 2. His upcoming movie *Bhale Unnade* is set to release on September 7, coinciding with Vinayaka Chavithi.

But now the makers of the film wanted to postpone the release of this film. They released a statement that they are planning to release the film on September 13. "Due to unavoidable reasons, our film *Bhale Unnade* has been postponed from September 7 to September 13," the makers said in a statement. They also mentioned that they will provide complete entertainment with the film.

Kannada girl Manisha Kandukur, who will be making her debut, will be seen playing the lead role in this film directed by J Sivasai Vardhan. Raj Tarun requires a successful film as his previous movies have not performed well at the box office. Both *Purushottamudu* and *Tiragabadara Saami* have failed to meet expectations and have been labeled as flops. Currently, he is placing his hopes on this *Bhale Unnade*. Raj Tarun portrays the role of a skilled saree draper in this movie.

Jr NTR visits his mother's hometown in Karnataka

Jr NTR had visited Kundapura, located in the Udupi district of Karnataka, over the weekend. He was on a devotional trip with his wife and mother. The actor took to his social media and shared that he has fulfilled his mother Shalini's desire to take her to Kundapura, which is her hometown. Shalini has presently been residing in Hyderabad. The actor, accompanied by his wife Lakshmi Pranathi, visited the location and offered his prayers at the Sri Krishna Matha temple in Udupi. Kannada superstar Rishabh Setty, along with director Prashanth Neel had also joined Jr NTR during this visit.

"My mother's forever dream of bringing me to her hometown Kundapura and seeking darshan at Udupi Sri Krishna Matha has finally come true! To make it happen just before her birthday on September 2 is the best gift I could give her, (sic)" read the post on his social media.



Badoni: Never thought of hitting record 19 sixes; focus on timing the ball

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Superstar skipper Ayush Badoni, who hit a record 19 sixes, believes his ability to time the ball is the reason behind a record-smashing 55-ball 165 runs effort in the Delhi Premier League match against North Delhi Strikers. The 24-year-old right-hander's superb effort guiding his team to a 112-run win on Saturday. Ayush, who also shared a 286-run partnership with

opener Priyansh Arya for the second wicket, bettered the record for most sixes by a batter in an innings which stood in the name of West Indian great Chris Gayle and Estonia's Sahil Chauhan. They had both hit 18 maximums in T20 games. "I was just looking to time the ball well, I never thought I would end up hitting 19 sixes in an innings. I just focus on timing the ball and not trying to hit the ball hard," Badoni told PTI Videos.



Badoni, who plays for Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL, has had a decent run with the bat in the lucrative league in his short cricketing career. After his heroics in the ongoing DPL, the batter would be on the radar of several franchises. "I am not thinking about the (IPL) mega auction yet; my focus is on winning the Delhi Premier League right now as a skipper," he said. "Playing in the IPL has made life a lot easier for me as a batter here (DPL). We face

world-class bowlers there, and then coming here and playing becomes relatively easy." LSG assistant coach Jonty Rhodes compared Badoni to former Proteas hard-hitting batter Herschelle Gibbs. "Jonty and I have a great relationship. I want to thank him for his kind words and just want to say that 'see you soon, Jonty,'" Badoni has led South Delhi Superstarz from the front. He along with Priyansh Arya have amassed 1,091 runs in

the inaugural edition of the DPL. The skipper conceded that good partnerships take the pressure off batters coming down the order. "I know that Priyansh and I have done well and our batting does help take the pressure off the team. But they come and tell me after the game that they too are eager to contribute with the bat. There are a few youngsters who have impressed and now it is our turn to groom them well," he said.

Mandhana and five other Indian cricketers picked up WBBL teams

PTI ■ MELBOURNE, (PTI)

Six Indian cricketers, including vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, will be part of the upcoming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), starting October 27, after being picked by different teams. While Mandhana was pre-signed by Adelaide Strikers, Dayalan Hemalatha will play the league for the first time after the top-order batter was drafted by the Perth Scorchers, where she will add firepower to their line-up. Wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia will also make her WBBL debut after being picked up by the Melbourne Stars, where she'll join national



teammate Deepti Sharma. India all-rounder Shikha Pandey has been picked up by Brisbane Heat, where she is expected to inject much-needed pace into the squad and add plenty as a powerful middle-to-lower-order batter. Pandey will be available

for the entire season as she is not part of India's T20 World Cup squad. She joins Jemimah Rodrigues in Brisbane Heat's squad. The WBBL will start on October 27 in Adelaide with a match between Adelaide Strikers and Brisbane Heat.

Gambhir makes an impact wherever he goes: Rhodes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

South Africa cricket legend Jonty Rhodes believes the Indian team will only become stronger under new head coach Gautam Gambhir, and said the former opener has the ability to make an instant impact in any side. "Wherever GG (Gautam Gambhir) goes he makes an impact, we saw this when he left the Lucknow Super Giants and went to the Kolkata Knight Riders the impact that he had," Rhodes told PTI videos at the Pro Cricket League launch event on Saturday. "He is very much a hands-on guy and is certainly somebody who knows what he

wants and speaks his own mind. "Gambhir leaves no stone unturned, and now that he has taken over the reigns of the Indian team, they will go from strength to strength," he added. Rhodes, who is the fielding coach of Lucknow Super Giants, also lauded Zaheer Khan's appointment as mentor of the IPL side. He said Zaheer's calm head will help the side get through tense situations during a game. "A calm cricketing mind is what you need at the IPL level, especially in the dugout scenario. You need people with calm heads because it gets very tense. "If emotions start to get the better of you it



impacts everybody sitting in the dug-out or on the field. In such situations, it is great to have someone like Zak (Zaheer), because he brings the skills and the knowledge, and he also brings the mojo," he said. "We have worked together at Mumbai Indians and he is

technically very sound indeed." Rumours are doing rounds that Rohit Sharma is set to replace KL Rahul in LSG. "I spent a lot of time with Rohit Sharma at the Mumbai Indians and I am just so grateful that had I had an opportunity to watch him play there. The

changes, if there are, will not be my decision and I am not worried about them right now," Rhodes said. Rhodes also compared young LSG batter Ayush Badoni with former Proteas batting great Herschelle Gibbs after the latter broke the record for smashing sixes

(19) by a batter in a single innings of a T20 game in the ongoing Delhi Premier League. "He is a precocious talent that is for sure, he is short so he has got a low centre of gravity. He gets under the good length deliveries he can hit it anywhere around the ground, he has such fast hands. Justin Langer was so impressed with the sheer talent that he has," he said. "He reminds me a bit of Herschelle Gibbs. He has tremendous hitting ability and when he matches that with calmness, presence of mind, good game plan, he will become a really tough guy to bowl to because he can play both conventional and unconventional shots with ease."

Bopanna-Sutjiadi pair enters mixed doubles quarterfinals of US Open

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi moved into the mixed doubles quarterfinals of the US Open here. Bopanna and Sutjiadi, seeded eighth, beat the Australian duo of John Peers and Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic 0-6 7-6(5) 10-7 in a second-round match that lasted one hour and 13 minutes. Bopanna and Sutjiadi will next play fourth seeds Matthew Ebden and Barbora Krejickikova.



Bopanna and his partner had won 7-6(7) 7-6(5) against Germany's Tim Puetz and Dutch player Demi Schuurs in the opening round. Bopanna had also moved into the third round of men's doubles along with Ebden with a 6-2 6-4 win over Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena and Federico Coria from Argentina.



Manisha advances to semifinals; Palak, Mandeep bow out of Paris Paralympics

PTI ■ PARIS

Shuttler Manisha Ramdass kept India's medal hopes alive by progressing to the women's single semifinals in SU5 category but Mandeep Kaur and Palak Kohli were eliminated from the Paris Paralympics following contrasting defeats in their respective quarterfinals here on Sunday. The 19-year-old Manisha, who was born with Erb's palsy which affected her right arm, had no trouble in dispatching Japan's Mamiko Toyoda 21-13 21-16 in the quarterfinal. The second seed Indian left-hander needed 30 minutes to down her unseeded rival. In SU5 category, the players have impairment of the upper limbs. The impairment could be on the playing or non-playing hand. Competing in SL3 category, Mandeep hardly posed a challenge to Nigeria's third seed Bolaji Mariam Eniola, losing the contest 8-21 9-21 in

23 minutes. It was the second consecutive defeat for Mandeep against Eniola, having lost to the Nigerian in the Group stage as well. SL3 category is for players with severe lower-limb disability competing on a half-width court. In SL4 category, para world champion bronze medalist Palak went down fighting 19-21 15-21 to Indonesia's Khalimatuz Sadiyah in 28 minutes. SL4 is a class for athletes competing standing with less severe impairment than in SL3. Later in the day, Nithya Sivan Sumathy will compete in the last-eight stage in SH6 category against Poland's Oliwia Szmigiel. The men's singles semifinal in SL4 category will be an all-Indian affair with Suhay Yathiraj and Sukant Kadam clashing against each other. Nitesh Kumar will fight it out with Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the men's singles semifinal in SL3 category.

Odisha FC secure AFC Women's Champions League group stage berth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Odisha FC have secured AFC Women's Champions League Group Stage berth, by topping their preliminary round in Zarqa, Jordan. Making their international debut, the Indian Women's League champions first defeated Lion City Sailors FC (Singapore) 4-1 before notching a hard-fought 2-1 win over hosts Etihad Club on Saturday to qualify for the Group Stage of Asia's elite women's club competition. A brace from 19-year-old Lynda Kom Serto and two own goals paved the way for Odisha FC's 4-1 win over the Singapore outfit. With Etihad Club winning 5-0 against Lion City Sailors in the next match, Odisha FC required nothing less than three points against the Jordanian champions to qualify from the group. Expectedly, it started as a close contest but the Juggernauts managed to take a 1-0 lead at half-time thanks to Jennifer Kankam Yeboah's 27th-minute goal after she was released in space by Neha. However, Etihad Club found the equaliser in the 57th minute via Jordan's all-time top-scorer Maysa Jbarah, who scored with a left-footed strike into the bottom corner.



But Odisha FC were not to be denied. They found their second goal in the 70th minute, with Lynda picking out Yeboah, who took advantage of an error in judgement by the Etihad goalkeeper, before slotting it into the back of an empty net. The Juggernauts defended in numbers for the remaining 20 minutes. India custodian Shreya Hooda also made a couple of remarkable saves in the dying minutes to ensure the win and cap off a historic night in Indian women's football. In the Group Stage of the AFC Women's Champions League, Odisha FC will travel to Vietnam to face Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies (Japan), Taichung Blue Whale Women's Football Team (Chinese Taipei), and hosts Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC (Vietnam). The Group Stage comprises three groups of four teams and will also be contested in a centralised league format from October 6-12. The top two finishers of each group and the two best third-placed sides will progress to the quarters to be played on March 22 and 23, 2025. A knockout stage draw will be conducted prior to the quarterfinals to determine the four pairings, which will be contested in a single-leg format, with the higher-ranked team of each tie to serve as the home side. This will be followed by a centralised finals, which will see the semi-finals and final -- all single-leg ties -- being played out from May 21-24, 2025, to determine the first ever champions of the AFC Women's Champions League.

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PTI ■ AL AIN (UAE)

Boxing's already uncertain Olympic future was thrown into further jeopardy after the sport's Asian governing body voted against leaving the suspended International Boxing Association (IBA) to join the rival association. The polling was held via a secret ballot with 21 countries voting in favour of continuing with IBA, while 14 cast their ballot in favour of joining World Boxing, the new body constituted to run the affairs of the sport. There was one invalid vote. Besides India, which participated as an observer, the other countries whose names figured on the roll call included, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, Timor Leste, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi

Boxing's future hangs in balance after Asian body votes in favour of IBA

Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen. The IBA has been at loggerheads with the IOC, with the latter managing the Olympics qualification process for the Tokyo and Paris Games. With the Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) refusing to join World Boxing, which is being pushed as an alternate to IBA, the future of the sport in the 2028 Los Angeles Games hangs in a balance. Following the voting, IBA hit out at World Boxing, saying the new body lacked the wherewithal to organise major international events.

"World Boxing, to tell the truth, has no finances, expertise and support to organise any proper major events, no means to support their members and no intention to develop boxing," said IBA in a statement. "They (World Boxing) claim that they want to keep boxing at the heart of the Olympics, fair enough; that said, they do not care about the development of the sport in the countries, grassroots boxing, performance path of the athletes. They have no program, no vision -- just a standalone idea of boxing being at the Olympics," the statement added. IBA also asked the national federations to think twice before leaving as that could



mean a dead end for them. "The IBA calls (upon) National Federations to make decisions carefully, as there

will be no way for a U-turn, should a federation decide to leave. The IBA remains committed to supporting its

athletes, coaches and National Federations. "World Boxing can guarantee nothing; the IBA in turn can

show actions supporting every word said. We work hard in support of grassroots boxing, while giving elite boxers opportunities to excel as amateurs and professionals both," the statement added. Welcoming the support from the Asian body, IBA added that it was an affirmation of the good work done by it over the years. "This decision (by ASBC) reflects the years of IBA's hard work invested in boxing development worldwide and true unity of the IBA Boxing Family," the statement added. IBA also hit out at some of the national federations that had voted against it during the secret ballot.

"Politically motivated intentions to join World Boxing backed by some members are reckless. There is no rationale in joining an organization that has no intention for boxing to thrive but only pursues personal ambitions of their leadership. "A move towards World Boxing will undoubtedly damage the sport in those respective countries, the thesis confirmed by the performance of World Boxing nations in Paris 2024," it said. **Where does India stand vis-a-vis World Boxing?** The Boxing Federation of India had in May agreed to become a member of World Boxing. The membership application was approved by the BFI's General Assembly. Senior BFI office-bearers had also met with World Boxing president and secretary-general to discuss ways in which India could support the international federation in growing its membership base in Asia.