

The BC Chief Minister slogan was confined to the 2023 Assembly elections and it will not continue till the next elections. The BJP high command will decide the new Telangana BJP President at an appropriate time. The party needs a new president in Telangana. Only a leader, who is free of other responsibilities, can do justice to the party by paying full attention to the job

- G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister P2

Brunei, Singapore important partners in our Indo-Pacific vision: **PM Modi**

**HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS BUILDING UP; TO REMAIN TOP NET LENDERS TO ECONOMY**

'GOAT is not a political **FILM**

**DON'T MISS...**

**GHMC to hold health camps to...**

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered the officials to set up health camps wherever necessary to prevent the spread of diseases and to make them available to the people at all times. The Commissioner visited several areas in the Kukatpally zone and inspected the flood-affected areas on Tuesday. The officials concerned were instructed to complete the arrangements for Ganesh immersion at IDL and Maisamma ponds. She spoke with...

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**Union Minister tenders apology...**

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Tuesday filed an affidavit before the Madras High Court, apologising to the people of Tamil Nadu for her remarks made in light of the Rameshwaram Cafe blast in Bengaluru earlier this year. Post the March 1 low intensity blast at the popular eatery in Bengaluru, Karandlaje had linked the people of Tamil Nadu with the incident and she was booked by the Madurai police over the matter. She had moved the court seeking to quash the criminal proceedings against her. In her affidavit...

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**'Will work to make India green...**

The government will relentlessly push for adoption of green mobility in India through all the policy levers available with it, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Tuesday. Speaking at the Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) event here, he stated that the government is taking several policy measures to encourage a shift towards electric mobility in the country. "We have had a policy framework where the tax on electric vehicles is just 5 per cent as compared to..."

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**It's time to make amends: Pat...**

Australian captain Pat Cummins is looking at the upcoming five-match rubber against India as a chance to "make amends" for the successive Test series defeats at home against their fierce rivals. He said the next Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will start on November 22 in Perth, promises to be a 50-50 affair. India retained the trophy in the last four series, from 2016-17 to 2022-23. India had defeated Australia in their own backyard in the last two series in 2018-19 and 2020-21. Cummins said Australia are...

-SPORTS

**AI GLOBAL SUMMIT**

# Will make TG a global hub: Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is set to host the prestigious "Global AI Summit 2024" at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) on September 5th and 6th.

With the theme 'Making AI Work for Everyone', this landmark event is poised to position Telangana as a global hub for artificial intelligence (AI) innovation. The summit will be inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, alongside IT Minister Duddula Sridhar Babu, highlighting the State's commitment to advancing AI and establishing itself as a leader in global technology.

"The Global AI Summit 2024 represents a pivotal moment for Telangana as we bring together the world's foremost experts to explore and advance artificial intelligence," said Sridhar Babu. "This summit not only highlights our commitment to innovation but also positions Telangana at the forefront of



"The Global AI Summit 2024 represents a pivotal moment for Telangana as we bring together the world's foremost experts to explore and advance artificial intelligence," said Sridhar Babu

the global AI landscape." Attracting 2,500 delegates from across the globe, the summit will feature an impressive lineup of AI experts,

including Sal Khan from Khan Academy, Daniela Combe from IBM and Peter Diamandis from the XPRIZE Foundation. These thought leaders will provide insights into AI's transformative impact across various sectors, from governance and technology to finance, manufacturing, and beyond. The event will showcase a series of high-profile panel discussions, fireside chats, and interactive sessions with contributions from prominent organizations like the World Bank, WHO, and NVIDIA.

Key topics will include AI's role in social good, regulatory challenges, and the future trajectory of AI in various industries. In a significant development, Telangana will also unveil its ambitious AI City project during the summit. Spanning 200 acres near Hyderabad, the AI City aims to become a central hub for global tech giants and local talent to collaborate on groundbreaking AI innovations.

## ED files prosecution complaint against BRS leader's firms

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) unit of Hyderabad has filed a Prosecution Complaint (PC) before the Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, against M/s Ranchi Expressway Ltd, Madhucon Projects Ltd, Madhucon Toll Highway Ltd, Madhucon Infra Ltd, and some other entities.

These companies are owned by BRS leader Nama Nageshwar Rao. The court took cognizance of the complaint on August 31. The ED's investigation originated from a FIR lodged by the CBI ACB Ranchi against Ranchi Expressways Limited and its directors.

The CBI subsequently filed a charge sheet before the Special Judge for CBI cases in Ranchi, implicating Ranchi Expressways Limited and others.

According to the FIR and charge sheet, the National Highways

Authority of India (NHAI) awarded the four-laning project of NH-33 on the Ranchi-Rargaon-Jamshedpur section to Madhucon Project Limited.

A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), M/s Ranchi Expressway Limited, was incorporated by Madhucon Group to execute this project, with Madhucon Project Limited serving as the Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contractor.

Despite obtaining the full loan, the Madhucon Group failed to complete the project, leading to the termination of their contract and the subsequent registration of an FIR as directed by the Jharkhand High Court.

The ED's investigation found that M/s REL had obtained loans amounting to Rs 1,030 crore from a consortium of banks led by Canara Bank. However, the Madhucon Group did not use the full loan amount for its intended purpose.

## Sigh of relief as floods recede

P2



## CM moots HYDRAA-like system in all districts

- CM vows to remove encroachments on lakes across the state
- More encroachments in BRS admin than in erstwhile United AP
- Puvvada Ajay's encroachments led to floods in Khammam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy declared that encroachments on lakes across the state will be removed and added that encroachments were the main reason behind the flooding during the recent rains. He pointed out that disasters



like the one in Uttarakhand occur due to environmental damage and encroachment of water bodies. Addressing a press conference at Minister Ponguleti's residence in Khammam on Tuesday and at a subsequent review meeting held in Mahabubabad district,

## R&B ENC Ganapathi quits amid Vigilance probe

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ganapathi Reddy has resigned from his post as the Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) of Roads and Buildings (R&B) amid Vigilance investigations into the increase in estimated costs for the construction of the Warangal Multi-Speciality Hospital.

Ganapathi submitted his resignation on Tuesday to Principal Secretary Vikas Raj. Despite having retired in 2017, Ganapathi was retained by the BRS government for an additional seven years. The Revanth government allowed him to continue as the ENC for the last nine months.

## Centre launches Rs 750-cr fund AgriSure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday launched a Rs 750-crore fund 'AgriSure' to provide financial support to agritech startups even as he underlined the need for increasing public as well as private investments in the farm sector.

The Union Cabinet on Monday approved seven schemes for the agriculture sector with an outlay of nearly Rs 14,000 crore.

The minister was speaking after launching an integrated Agri

Investment Portal named KrishNiVesh and 'AgriSure' fund at an event held here.

The Rs 750-crore 'AgriSure' (Agri Fund for Startups & Rural Enterprises) will support startups and 'agripreneurs' by providing both equity and debt capital.

Chouhan asked startups to utilise this fund and assured that there would be no fund constraints for agritech startups, which he said are playing an important role in the agriculture sector.

## CS orders immediate assessment of flood damage

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the context of the heavy rains and floods across the state, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari said that a detailed report on the damage to life and property should be submitted by the end of this week.

The Chief Secretary held a review on Tuesday at the Secretariat with the Secretaries of various departments and Heads of Departments (HoDs) to assess the impact of the floods. The meeting was attended by DGP Dr Jitender, Special Chief Secretaries Ramakrishna Rao, Ravi Gupta, Vikas Raj, Arvind Kumar,

Chief Secretaries Dana Kishore, Naveen Mittal, Secretaries Rahul Bojja, Raghunandan Rao, Lokesh Kumar, Ronald Rose and Prashant Jeevan Patil among others.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that several districts are still facing floods. She instructed the respective department teams to visit affected areas immediately and submit damage estimates with GPS coordinates.

She emphasised the need to provide details on funds, staff and equipment required to set up State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs) in each district.

## KOLKATA DOC'S RAPE-MURDER

# Centre moves SC, alleges non-cooperation by WB govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court alleging "unpardonable" non-cooperation by the West Bengal government in providing logistical support to the CISE, tasked with providing security at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, where a trainee doctor was raped and murdered.

Terming the alleged non-cooperation of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government as an example

"symptomatic of a systemic malaise", the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has sought a direction to West Bengal authorities to extend full cooperation to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

On August 20, the apex court had termed the rape and murder of a doctor at the hospital as "heinous" and issued a slew of directions including setting up of a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other health care professionals.

# Massive boost to defence capabilities

**CENTRE APPROVES 10 CAPITAL ACQUISITION PROPOSALS AMOUNTING TO RS 1,44,716 CRORE**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The defence ministry on Tuesday approved the procurement of future-ready combat vehicles (FRCVs) for modernisation of the Army's tank fleet and air defence fire control radars, among other proposals.

The proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The DAC "accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 10 capital acquisition proposals amounting to Rs 1,44,716 crore," the ministry said in a statement.

Of the total cost of the AoNs, 99 per cent is from indigenous sources



under the "Buy (Indian)" and "Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed and Manufactured)" categories, it added.

"For modernisation of the tank fleet of the Indian

Army, the proposal for procurement of Future Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs) has been cleared," the statement said. The FRCVs will

be futuristic main battle tanks with superior mobility, all-terrain ability, multi-layered protections, precision and lethal fires and real-time situational awareness. An AoN was also accorded for the procurement of air defence fire control radars, which will detect and track aerial targets and provide firing solutions.

"The proposal has also been approved for Forward Repair Team (Tracked), which has suitable cross-country mobility for carrying out in-situ repair during mechanised operations. This equipment is designed and developed by Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, and is authorised for both mechanised Infantry Battalion.

# Natural calamity: Time when political noise is better drowned

A natural calamity, aside from causing widespread devastation in a region, also has the potential to silence the political noise, however shrill it might be in terms of competing claims. This is best exemplified by the current situation in Andhra Pradesh, following torrential rains and resultant flooding in urban and rural areas. With political on-upmanship relegated, the administration has risen to the occasion by engaging itself earnestly in relief operations. Noticeably, the opposition has refrained from making fierce and provocative criticism on the grim situation. Specifically, it appears that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), hav-

ing been decimated in the recent AP Legislative Assembly elections, is yet to recover from the shock. The internal situation in YSRCP is so shaky that the party is clueless over the shifting of loyalties by its public representatives to the ruling front headed by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. It may be mentioned here that two Rajya Sabha members belonging to YSRCP, Mopidevi Venkataramana Rao and Beeda Mastan Rao, have resigned from their RS membership, having decided to join the ruling front. Mopidevi Ramana Rao has raised eye-

**With the Chief Minister himself offering food packets to the affected people past midnight, the ruling TDP-led alliance does not need spin doctors to put across its message. Experience counts. The 1998 floods of Krishna River had a great impact on the combined state of Andhra Pradesh**

brows; for, being a close associate of party chief YS Jaganmohan Reddy, he had spent nearly one and half years in jail along with his boss. Impressed by his loyalty, Jagan had inducted him into his cabinet, though Mopidevi had not won in the 2019 elections. Later, he was made

Rajya Sabha member. In this context, it is felt that the opposition is perhaps of the view that any criticism of the government's handling of the present calamity could be boomerang on the party, given the agony faced by the affected people. It is a different matter that such silence of the



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opposition party may not be a positive sign for the ruling front when it comes to proper handling of flood situation.

With the Chief Minister himself offering food packets to the affected people past midnight, the ruling TDP-led alliance does not need spin doctors to put across its message. Experience counts. The 1998 floods of Krishna River had a great impact on the combined state of Andhra Pradesh. Chandrababu Naidu, who was the Chief Minister then, did not allow officials to release flood waters with a view to storing the surplus water at Srisailem project for meeting the needs of the state for both agriculture and drinking water besides power generation. In fact, Srisailem project was designed initially for power generation. But due to changing priorities of successive

governments, the project has become essential for meeting irrigation needs as well. This point might have driven Naidu then to act like that. But as the flood situation worsened, all of a sudden, the official machinery could not handle the situation properly, leading to the submergence of the power house at the dam site. The resulting situation forced the official machinery to hurriedly lift all the gates to release huge amount of water downstream. Then flood water created havoc downstream at both Nagarjuna Sagar and Prakasam Barrage. This columnist was part of the media team from Hyderabad that had, along with Congress legislator party leader P. Janardhan Reddy, assessed the

ground situation at Srisailem. Then power minister Kalidindi Ramachandra Raju was grilled by the CLP members for alleged failure of the government in effectively dealing with the situation. During floods caused by Krishna River in October 2009, the situation was handled effectively by then chief minister K. Rosaiah. Ahead of heavy inflows, the reservoir of Nagarjuna Sagar was so handled as to prevent disaster in four districts. During that flood, nearly 400 tmc of water passed through the Nagarjuna Sagar. Thus, natural calamities rarely entail political noise. After all, people, as better judges always, are watching, and, more importantly, they know history.

## Sigh of relief as floods recede



PNS ■ HYDERABAD/ AMARA-VATHI

Flood waters in several parts of Telangana started receding as the state has not witnessed any intense rain spells on Tuesday even as the state government stepped up relief works in the affected areas.

Torrential downpours in both the state left 16 people dead, battered roads and inundated rail track and submerged crops on thousands of acres of land. People struggled for their daily needs and rescue and rehabilitation efforts were on, official sources said. The Telangana government has already announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh to the kin of those who died in rain-related incidents.

Police personnel of Nalgonda and Nagarkurnool districts, in coordination with the Fire Department, rescued 10 Chenchu tribe members, including children of Dindi mandal, who were stranded in the flood waters of the Dindi river, a release from Telangana Police said.

Moved by the severe impact of the recent heavy rains and floods in Telangana, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, has released Rs 30 lakh from his discretionary grants to the Indian

Red Cross Society (IRCS), Telangana State Branch, to take up the immediate relief activities through its district branches and to assist those affected by the disaster, a press communique from Raj Bhavan said on Tuesday.

Telangana government employees have also donated their one day basic pay totalling Rs 130 crore to the flood relief measures. A cheque in this regard was handed over to Telangana CM Revanth Reddy. Tollywood actor and TDP MLA N Balakrishna announced a donation of Rs 50 lakh each to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Similarly, Telugu star Mahesh Babu in a post on X said: "In light of the floods impacting both the Telugu states, I am pledging a donation of 50 lakh each to the CM Relief Fund for both AP and Telangana."

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department observed that a cyclonic circulation is lying over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and vicinity between 3.1 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level.

"A fresh low pressure area is likely to form over west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal around September 5," the Met Department added.

## KCR confined to farmhouse, KTR enjoying in London: TPCC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Working President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that opposition leader K. Chandrasekhar Rao has confined himself to his farmhouse and BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is relaxing in Britain and posting comments on the Internet forgetting his social responsibility.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan here on Tuesday, Mahesh said that people are searching for KCR, who is supposed to infuse confidence among the flood-hit and give suggestions to the government. He said that the Chief



Minister is now among the people along with Ministers in flood-affected areas. KTR is posting irrelevant comments through his social media

accounts, he said. Recalling that former Chief Minister KCR did not come out from his house when MS Muktha located opposite the

Raj Bhavan was flooded during his rule, but his party leaders are now criticising Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Mahesh said that some newspapers have been publishing news as they liked and that YSRCP Chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is playing the opposition's leader role perfectly in AP. However, KCR has confined himself to his farmhouse here, he pointed out. Why didn't KCR and KTR care for the people when floods devastated them, he asked and added that KCR and KTR are busy hiding the money they looted.

## KTR, Sridhar lock horns over Kaynes' Gujarat plant

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao expressed his deep disappointment regarding the recent announcement that Kaynes SemiCon is planning to move a significant portion of its planned semiconductor facility from Telangana to Gujarat.

The investment, initially announced in October 2023, was expected to bring in around Rs 3,500 crore to Telangana, particularly to Kongara Kalan, near RGI Airport.

KTR, in a post on X, said that Telangana had put in a lot of effort to make Kaynes move from Karnataka, including the swift allocation of land near the

Foxconn plant. "This was an important investment of around Rs 3,500 crore in the semiconductor industry, which is now a huge loss to Telangana," KTR said. He congratulated Gujarat on securing the investment but expressed sadness over the development, which he described as a setback for Telangana's industrial ambitions.

However, Industries Minister Sridhar Babu, addressed the issue terming it as "blatant misinformation."

He clarified that Kaynes SemiCon remains fully committed to its Hyderabad project at Kongarkalan where the first phase of its advanced electron-

ics manufacturing facility has already been inaugurated.

"The addition of a facility in Gujarat does not mean that their investment in Telangana is gone. It increases employment generation," Sridhar emphasised.

He criticised those spreading misinformation stating that such actions only serve to undermine the progress being made by Telangana. He said that Kaynes' commitment to Telangana is unwavering, with employment at the Kongarkalan plant expected to increase to 3,000.

"Before spreading unfounded claims, it would be prudent for the opposition to verify facts," he remarked.

## CM inaugurates football tournament

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated the fourth edition of the Intercontinental Cup at the Gachibowli Stadium here. The football tournament features teams from India, Mauritius and Syria.

The CM expressed at the All India Football Federation (AIFF) picking Hyderabad to host the four-nation football tournament. He reiterated his commitment to transforming Hyderabad into the sports capital of India and extended his best wishes to all the teams and players. "On behalf of the football lovers of Hyderabad and the state of Telangana.

## Farm laws scrapped as Khalistanis tried to attract Sikh farmers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre scrapped farm laws to protect national integrity, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said during a chat with journalists on Tuesday at the State BJP office here. He said that Khalistanis tried to attract Sikh farmers, who took part in the farmers' movement. Sensing danger, the Centre withdrew the farm laws, but he clarified that it was not due to fear of anyone. He said that the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, is speaking irrelevant things as he likes. Criticising Rahul for politicking using caste census, Kishan wondered why Rahul was asking how many SC and ST women have become Miss World from India. He said that Rahul behaves differently from others in the



Lok Sabha. He enters the Lok Sabha keeping hands in his pant pockets and does not respect the Chair, Kishan pointed out. He said that the BC Chief Minister Shrikanth was confined to the 2023 Assembly elections and will not continue till the next elections. Kishan said that the BJP high command will decide the new Telangana BJP president at an appropriate time and that the party must have a new president.

## Flood casualties data inaccurate, says KTR

Blasts govt for releasing wrong figures; says 31 died, not 16

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao (KTR) criticised the Telangana government for allegedly providing inaccurate data regarding the number of deaths in the floods.

In a statement on X, KTR expressed his disappointment towards the government for not correctly assessing flood casualties.

He highlighted the fact that the government initially claimed that only 16 people had died in the floods. However, he presented a list that he said contained the names of 31 deceased persons, challenging the government's figures.

"Revanth Reddy Garu, here is the complete list of those who died in the floods. Looks like your government failed to even do a proper survey of those who lost their lives," KTR stated.

He criticized the government accusing it of disrespecting the dead by lying about the number of deaths and ignoring the suffering of families affected by the tragedy.

"You know that it is disrespectful to a person who has died? Ignoring his death, lying about their death, not considering their death," KTR said and urged the government to apologise to the bereaved families and provide accurate data.

KTR's message also included a rebuke of the government's handling of the situation.

"If you released wrong data because you aren't aware, I pity you. And if you released the wrong data because you wanted to cover up your inadequacies, I abhor you. Shame on you," he said in his post.

He urged the government to stop spreading lies and to show empathy by compensating all families who lost a loved one with a minimum of



Rs 25 lakh, as the Congress had demanded when it was in the opposition.

The 31 people who died in the floods are: Narsing Ravi of Mathapuram Mandal, Kodad; Padma Kandekaru from Athipamula Mandal, Kodad; Nagendra from Gettuappal, Nagarkurnool; Nagendradevi from Rajapuram, Nagarkurnool; Muhammad Najiduddin from Dharmapuri Mandal, Mancherla; Prashant from Dandepally Mandal, Mancherla; Jaipal from Dugnepally Mandal, Mancherla; Maddula Gangireddy from Varni Mandal, Nizamabad; Sk. Venkatesh from Pedda Maduru Mandal, Nirmal; Sambiah from Gummadavelli Mandal, Karimnagar; Madapu Bhoopath from Jakranpally Mandal, Nizamabad; Kotha Shashikanth from Koheda Mandal, Siddipet; Y. Rajaiah from Koheda Mandal, Siddipet; Ansar from Akkannapet Mandal, Siddipet; A. Bhagyalaxmi from Akkannapet Mandal, Siddipet; Madhavi from Akkannapet Mandal, Siddipet; P. Satyanarayana from Chegunta Mandal, Siddipet; Basheermyan from Chinna Maduru Mandal, Mahabubabad; Ramudu from Gopalapeta Mandal, Mahabubabad; P. Laxmi from Pochampad Mandal, Nizamabad; B. Rajanna from Konapuram Mandal, Nizamabad; Sreeramulu from Kamareddy Mandal, Kamareddy; S. Venkatram from Machapur Mandal.

**TODAY ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Pratipada: Sep 03 07:25 AM to Sep 04 09:47 AM  
Dwitiya: Sep 04 09:47 AM to Sep 05 12:21 PM  
Nakshatram: Uttara Phalguni: Sep 04 03:10 AM to Sep 05 06:14 AM  
Sadhya: Sep 03 07:05 PM to Sep 04 08:02 PM  
Rahukalam: 12:15 PM to 1:47 PM  
Yamagandam: 7:38 AM to 9:10 AM  
Varjyam: 11:17 AM to 01:06 PM  
Gulika: 10:42 AM to 12:15 PM  
Amritakalam: 10:07 PM to 11:55 PM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms  
Temp: 28°C  
Humidity: 81%  
Sunrise: 6:03 AM  
Sunset: 6:20 PM  
Updated: September 3, 2024 5:00 PM

## Ganesh Nimajjan & TG Liberation Day celebrations on Sept 17

K VENKATESHWARLU  
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■ HYDERABAD

The Centre has been celebrating Telangana Liberation Day officially for the last two years at the Parade Grounds here. This year too the Centre is observing Telangana Liberation Day officially. However, this year Telangana Liberation Day and Ganesh Nimajjan would be celebrated on the same day, that is, on September 17. Ganesh Nimajjan is falling on September 17 after 75 years. Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy who is also the state BJP President told party activists

that this year's Ganesh festival should be celebrated grandly, just like the Telangana Liberation Day which is being observed on September 17.

Kishan said the Centre will celebrate September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day every year. The Congress rulers of Telangana are afraid to celebrate Telangana Liberation Day as they are afraid of AIMIM, he said.

"We will celebrate September 17 like August 15 and January 26. I am happy that Ganesh Nimajjan and Telangana Liberation Day are falling on the same day. The Centre is observing Telangana Liberation Day

on September 17 as Hyderabad Mukth Divas. This year too, the Centre will celebrate Telangana Liberation Day officially on September 17. Already Karnataka and Maharashtra governments are observing Hyderabad Mukth Divas officially. Unfortunately, the BRS government did not celebrate Telangana Liberation Day as it was afraid AIMIM. We will celebrate TG Liberation Day on a grand scale by hoisting the national flag on every gram panchayat building and school building," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the celebrations.

## Palamuru-Rangareddy Project's Vattem pump house flooded

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project's Vattem Pump House was submerged after a day's heavy rain, forcing State Planning Board Vice Chairman Dr G. Chinna Reddy to inspect the site on Tuesday. Dr Chinna visited the Vattem Pump House located near Kummara village on the outskirts of the Nagarkurnool district centre, where he guided engineers.

Three days ago, a single day's rainfall of 14 cm resulted in water entering the Vattem Pump House and submerging five pumps.

As water from nearly 50 tanks overflowed into the Naganol Cheruvu near Nagarkurnool, the overflow flooded the Vattem Pump House, leading to the submergence of the large pumps.

Learning about the situation, Dr Chinna arrived at the Vattem Pump House, where he talked with engineers like SE Satyanarayana Reddy, EE Parthasarathi, DE Satyanarayana Goud and Bagaiah before visiting the incident site. Dr Chinna said that since the construction company has not yet handed over the lift irrigation project to the government.

## CITY EVENTS

### Vartalap

Media workshop Medchal/Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender to be the chief guest. Medchal/Malkajgiri district collector Gowtham Potru to be guest of honour. Principal of Rachana School of Journalism Uma Maheswara Rao to speak on New trends in journalism. Satendra Gupta, Project engineer for CDAC, Hyd to speak on usage of AI in journalism.

### Venue

Auditorium, Medchal/Malkajgiri district collectorate, September 4, 10.15 am.

### 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.

### Jam Junxion

Hyderabad's biggest musical night 6 bands, 6 individual stages, 7 rounds, jamming at once

### Venue

HITEX Hall, No. 4, Sept. 6

## SCR extends two special train services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to clear the rush of passengers during Dussehra, Diwali and Chhat festivals, South Central Railways (SCR) has extended two special trains on Tuesday. Train No 07193 (Secunderabad-Kollam) will be extended from September 11 to 27 on Wednesdays only while Train No 07194 (Kollam-Secunderabad) will be extended from September 13 to 29 on Fridays only. Total number of trips is 24 (both trains together).

## Three missing girls traced, handed over to parents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kalpathar Police traced three missing girls at 12:30 pm at Nampally railway station, who escaped from their home after being reprimanded by their parents on Monday. According to the Police, they received a petition from the complainant at 4 am wherein he stated that his daughter (14), along with his tenant's two daughters - (16) and (14) went missing at 2 am on Monday. Upon receiving the information, Kalpathar Police registered a case and formed three special teams. They continuously verified the CCTV footage starting from the complainant's house and other places. Finally they traced the missing girls at 12:30 pm at Nampally railway station while they were ready to board the Mumbai train. The complainant's daughter studied upto Class VII and stayed at home. Two days ago, the complainant reprimanded his daughter and told that she should be admitted to a residential hostel. On the other hand, the complainant's tenant, who is the mother of the other two girls, also reprimanded them as the girls were working as sales girls against her wishes.

# City Pioneer

**the pioneer**

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

03

## TANKERS TO SUPPLY WATER IN FLOODED AREAS

# GHMC to hold health camps to prevent vector-borne diseases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered the officials to set up health camps wherever necessary to prevent the spread of diseases and to make them available to the people at all times. The Commissioner visited several areas in the Kukatpally zone and inspected the flood-affected areas on Tuesday. The officials concerned were instructed to complete the arrangements for Ganesh immer-

sion at IDL and Maisamma ponds. She spoke with the people of Safdar Nagar. The Zonal Commissioner was ordered to take steps to ensure that the canal works are not affected by flooding. Meanwhile, health officials checked the bastis in the Kukatpally zone, where doctors said that 90 outpatients suffering from cold, viral fever, cough and body aches were being treated for the last three days. Meanwhile, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB)



The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata inspecting the Kukatpally zone on Tuesday

## MD Ashok Reddy has formed a special committee with high-level officials to monitor water-logging points, overflow, polluted water and other issues in the city. The officials were directed to take precautions in supplying drinking water

Managing Director Ashok Reddy ordered the officials that water should be supplied through water tankers in the flooded areas of the city. He visited Sai Nagar, Youth Colony, Masjid Band and other areas of Hafeezpet on Tuesday. He ordered the officials to take precautionary measures in drinking water supply. Samples number should be increased and water

supplied only after testing. So far, the Water Board distributed 8.80 lakh chlorine pills in rain-affected areas, slums and low-lying areas. The officials were directed to take precautions in supplying drinking water. Chlorine should also be kept ready in adequate quantities. MD Ashok Reddy has formed a special committee with

high-level officials to monitor water-logging points, overflow, polluted water and other issues in the city. He said that preventive measures should be taken to avoid sewage overflow on the roads. If the manholes swell up, the silt should be removed immediately. He requested the people to call 155313 for any issues.



Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Managing Director Ashok Reddy inspecting Hafeezpet area

## TO BACK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS WE Hub partners with Wadhvani Foundation



Women entrepreneurs seen at the WE Hub collaboration on Tuesday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Focusing on rural and urban women entrepreneurs, WE Hub, a Government of Telangana initiative, has partnered with the Wadhvani Foundation to support and promote women entrepreneurs. This collaboration focuses on launching all-women entrepreneur cohorts through co-designed programmes that combine the strengths of both organisations. According to WE Hub, the bootcamps, which are designed for early-stage and growth-stage startups, align well with the Wadhvani Liftoff

programme. With the collaboration, they provide a comprehensive support system for women entrepreneurs at crucial stages of their startup journey. The collaboration will also ensure the successful execution of WE Engage-Spark (for early-stage startups) and WE Engage-Propel (for growth-stage startups) programmes. WE Hub contributes its experience with women-led startups, peer learning and a supportive ecosystem. Meanwhile, Wadhvani Foundation adds its expertise in scaling entrepreneurial ventures globally, offering valuable resources and training.

## Encroachments demolished in Ameenpur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The revenue department on Tuesday demolished illegal constructions and demarcated stones at Ilapur Tanda under Ameenpur revenue office, Sangareddy district. Ameenpur Tahasildar Radha said that the officials received the information last week that the encroachers are occupying government land. "On that information we are removing the demarcated stones there." The Tahasildar said that around 20 acres of government land has been encroached. "We are demolishing the structures in it. As of now, we do not know who tried to occupy this land. However, we do not know who tried to encroach the land but we have filed a petition with the police," the Tahasildar added. A private school encroached on the land of 15 guntas. The revenue department demolished the sports ground, room and other walls of the private school with two bulldozers. Along with that, the revenue department had removed demarcated stones in government lands. The police official said that 70 police officers arranged the necessary security at the spot.



## Innovative teaching style fetches two TG gurus national awards

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY bhumireddyashmi@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

In the period of e-learning and advancement of technology, teachers are trying their best to bridge the gap between academics and professional jobs, especially in government schools. Teachers at several district government schools across Telangana are implementing innovative methods to make learning



Thaduri Sampath Kumar

easier. Recognising their distinct teaching techniques and passion for teaching, two teachers from Telangana were shortlisted for the national award which will be given on September 5. Thaduri Sampath Kumar and Prabhakar Reddy Pesara are the two teachers from Telangana out of 50 teachers who would be honoured



Prabhakar Reddy Pesara at work

with the awards by President Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on the occasion of Teachers Day. Sampath Kumar, a Physics teacher at Zilla Parishad High School, Dammannapet in Sirilla district, inspired his students to become innovators via his lifetime goal mission 100. Speaking to the Pioneer Correspondent, Sampath said, "Under mission 100, my goal is to mould 100 government school students as young innovators. So far, I have moulded 53 innovators and among them, eight students bagged gold medals in international science exhibitions and over 30 students won State-level awards. It all started with me setting up an innovation idea box and asked the students to drop innovative ideas for solving problems faced by locals. With the guidance of Telangana State

Innovation Cell, T-Works and T-Hub, my students could come up with several innovations." Similarly, adopting an experimental method of teaching has helped Prabhakar Reddy Pesara, a Biology teacher of Zilla Parishad Secondary School, Thirumalayapalem in Khammam, to be shortlisted for the national award. Prabhakar said, "This award is in recognition of my work in implementing step method, which means teaching of the subject by experiments and projects. As Science is to learn from experimenting, if there are no experiments or physical exposure then there is no learning at all. Along with this, I have integrated Information Communication Technology for content, so that students can easily understand the concepts."



## TO TAKE UP RELIEF WORKS ACROSS TG

## TG Gov releases Rs 30 lakh to Indian Red Cross Society

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Moved by the severe impact of the recent heavy rains and floods in the State, Telangana Governor, Jishnu Dev Varma, has released Rs 30 lakh from his discretionary grants to the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Telangana State Branch, to take up immediate relief activities through its district branches and to assist those affected by the disaster on Tuesday. The Governor handed over a cheque to the Chairman of the IRCS, Telangana State Branch, Ajay Mishra, at the Raj

Bhavan. He urged the public to remain cautious. He also called on district branches of the IRCS, Scouts and Guides, NSS Volunteers, philanthropists and NGOs to collaborate with the government authorities in rescue and relief operations, including the distribution of food, medicines and other essential items to the affected. He said, "The Chief Minister has assured that there is no need for panic and that the government machinery will take all necessary measures to support those affected."

## Identify 5 lakes for beautification, says MAUD official Dana Kishore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A comprehensive plan for the development and beautification of lakes in Greater Hyderabad must be prepared within three days, directed MAUD Principal Secretary M Dana Kishore during a teleconference on Tuesday with GHMC Commissioner Kata Amrapali and Zonal Commissioners. He instructed that five lakes in each zone - Charminar, LB Nagar, Sherilampally, Kukatpally, Secunderabad and Khairatabad be identified for these efforts.

The beautification work, to be funded through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions, will involve strengthening lake embankments, cleaning water channels and developing walking tracks, gardens and parks around the lakes to enhance public enjoyment.

## PRAJAVANI

# Senior citizens queue up for over six-month delay in pension

SAMUEL JOSHUA samueljoshuamjmc@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Senior Citizens queue up at Prajavani for over 6-month delay in pension sanctions. This issue has become a regular complaint. In all, 611 people have submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhava on Tuesday. When asked, Vasanthamma, a 70-year-old from Balanagar, said she has been waiting for her pension for six months. She said that she has been attending Prajavani for weeks, but officials keep telling her that the application is still in process. Despite applying multiple times through Meeseva, her application has not been considered. Vasanthamma explained that the pension



is crucial for buying groceries, as her husband is a daily wage worker, and they are struggling financially. Meanwhile, Rajarao, a 68-year-old

watchman, said he has been waiting for two months for his pension. He said that officials promised he would receive a text message, but the response has been delayed. He expressed concern over his financial struggles, as his salary barely covers rent and basic needs. Rajarao stressed that the pension is so important, especially as his wife, Subbulakshmi, is facing health problems. He urged the government to look into the issue, especially as the monsoon season brings additional problems.

According to officials, over 54 applications were related to revenue issues, 94 to the Minority Welfare department, 57 to the Energy department, 149 related to SC welfare, 123 related to BC Welfare and 1,345 to other departments, were received.

## 51 villages under ORR merge into municipalities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government has issued a gazette on Monday to merge 51 villages within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) with nearby municipalities. Many villages in Rangareddy, Medchal, Malkajgiri and Sangareddy districts are in the merger list.

Bacharam, Gourelli, Quthbullapur Taramatipet panchayats would be merged with Pedda Amberpet Municipality. Bahadurguda, Pedda Golconda, Chinna Golconda, Hamidullahnagar and Rashidguda would be merged into Shamshabad municipality. Mirjaguda Gram Panchayat would be merged with Narsingi municipality. Harshaguda Panchayat would be merged with Thukkuguda municipality. Pudur and Railapur would be merged with the Medchal municipality. Keesara, Yadgiripalli, Ankireddyipalli, Cheryala, Narsapalli and Thimmaipalli would be merged with Dammaiguda municipality.

## UoH alumnus to be HAL chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr DK Sunil, an alumnus of Centre for Advanced Studies in Electronics Science and Technology (CASEST), School of Physics, University of Hyderabad, has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Monday. Dr Sunil received his PhD (Electronics Science) degree in 2019 under the supervision of Prof. Samrat L. Sabat of CASEST. As CMD, he will be



Dr DK Sunil

responsible for the implementation of the LCA Tejas project and finalising a deal for joint production of jet engines, among many other strategically important projects.

## Mobile data validity extended

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mobile data validity was extended for people in flood-affected areas in Telugu States. This support has been extended by Bharti Airtel as a special measure to help customers in flood-affected areas of Telangana and AP stay connected during this challenging time.

For post-paid customers, the bill payment due dates have been extended by 7 days to ensure uninterrupted mobile and home Wi-Fi services. For prepaid customers, those whose validity has expired and cannot recharge will receive 1.5 GB of free mobile data per day and unlimited calling for 4 days. Additionally, prepaid home Wi-Fi users will get 4 extra days of validity.



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka interacting with people in flood-hit areas under the Madhira constituency in Khammam dist on Tuesday

Repair, restoration work will be on a war-footing: Ponguleti

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has directed the officials to take up restoration works on a war footing in flood-hit areas.

The Minister on the one hand was visiting the flood-hit areas of his Palair constituency in the district and on the other hand, reviewing the situation with the District Collectors over telephone on the floods and rain situation in the state.

He undertook a whirlwind tour of Khammam rural, Tirumalayapalemmandals. He spoke with the officials of the Disaster Management Department in Hyderabad alerted them and issued instructions to them.

He asked the officials to undertake relief measures. He enquired about the complaints received by the control room in the Disaster Management Department and action taken on them. He asked them to



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy interacting with people in the flood-hit area under Tirumalayapalem mandal in Khammam district on Tuesday

assess the loss of crops and properties and get the necessary information from districts.

According to information received so far, a total of 67,000 people, including 49,000 alone in Khammam district, were affected in 117 villages due to

floods. So far, the government set up 133 rehabilitation centres and shifted 10,538 persons there. Because of the precautions taken by the government, lives of 3,039 could be saved, the Minister said.

The floods left 51 road bridges, 249 culverts, 166 tanks

damaged and 13,342 livestock dead.

He instructed the officials to provide food and drinking water to flood-affected places without hiccups. Food should be provided to them on time to eliminate the need to wait for the flood victims.

The real challenge is ahead with the receding of the floods, he said, asking the authorities to undertake relief measures. He asked them to pay special attention to senior citizens, pregnant women, children and physically challenged people. He asked the officials to maintain alertness for some more days to come. He asked them to extend support to the people in difficulties in the same fashion for some more days. He directed them to take accelerated measures to restore normalcy in the affected areas. Measures should be initiated to prevent outbreaks of epidemics in the affected areas because of the unhygienic conditions.

Investigation into encroachment on lakes around Shadnagar demanded

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

TDP politburo member and former Shadnagar MLA Bakkani Narasimulu has said that there are illegal constructions in and around the ponds in Shadnagar. He claimed that several fish species are on the verge of extinction with illegal structures encroaching upon ponds and lakes.

During a visit on Tuesday, accompanied by other TDP leaders, Narasimulu inspected the CSK Villas, Mamidi Kunta, Jaladi Kunta, Bobbili Pond, and Golden Park within Shadnagar town limits, observing encroachments and construction activities in these areas.

He expressed displeasure at encroachments of Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones by CSK Ventures. He condemned the officials for turning a blind eye to the illegal structures. He demanded that action be taken against those who gave permission to build these structures. Narasimulu demanded a thorough investigation into the CSK venture, alleging that it has undertaken illegal villa construction in the buffer zone and FTL areas.



TDP politburo member Bakkani Narasimulu inspecting an encroached lake at Shadnagar

Bhatti visits flood-hit areas, assures people of all help

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday visited the flood-hit villages under Madhira constituency and assured the people of all help. He asked them not to be disheartened. The Indiramma people's government would come to their rescue at this hour of crisis.

He visited the New Lakshimpuram and Pandregulapalli villages of Mudigondamandal, inundated by the flood waters of Munneru stream.

He visited the house of Veerababu and Kalavati in New Lakshimpuram and inspected the goods damaged in flood waters. He assured them that the government would provide essential commodities. The residents of the colony urged him for permanent measures to avert the flood threat to the Scheduled Castes colony.

In Pandregupalli, he inspected the 2 BHK colony. He assured the farmers whose fields have been

inundated by flood waters of his help.

The Agricultural officers would be sent to assess the preliminary damage caused to the crops due to the floods and later the compensation would be paid to the farmers. He also inspected the Khammam-Kusumanchi 132 KV high-tension tower which collapsed and directed the Assistant Director of the Electricity Department to undertake repair works on a war-footing. He also enquired about the status of other such towers in the district.

He directed Tahsildar Karunakar Reddy to provide essential commodities to people in the flood-hit areas immediately. Mandal Agriculture officer has been asked to assess loss to crops.

Telangana State Warehousing Corporation chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, former MLC Potla Nageswara Rao, DCC president Puvalla Durga Prasad, Mudigonda Congress mandal president and constituency leaders and others were present.

Uttam undertakes a whirlwind tour of flood-hit areas by tractor



Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy visiting flood-hit areas by tractor in Suryapet district on Tuesday

PNS ■ SURYAPETA

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the repair works would be taken up on a war footing. He visited the flood-hit areas in Huzurnagar, Matampalli and some villages under Huzurnagar mandals. Huzurnagar recorded the highest rainfall in the entire state.

He inspected the drains that were damaged due to incessant rains in the limits of Huzurnagar Municipality on Tuesday. He inspected the crops submerged in rainwater. He

conducted a whirlwind tour of Choutapalli, Mathampalli mandal centre, Raghunatha-palem, Gundlupalli and Chennaipalem villages under Mathampalli mandal.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy undertook a whirlwind tour of flood-hit areas in two mandals, travelling on a tractor to the most inaccessible areas. He assured the farmers that the government would extend all possible help to them.

Later, speaking to the media at Gundlupalli in Mathampalli mandal, he said that Rs 10,000 per acre compensation would

be given to the farmers whose crops were damaged. He said that 10,000 houses that were partially damaged in the recent rains and 10,000 houses that were completely damaged would be constructed under the Indiramma scheme.

Uttam Kumar Reddy visited flood-hit areas in his constituency by tractor and other methods of transport to visit remote areas. Huzurnagar constituency is located on the banks of river Krishna and received the highest rainfall of 300 mm in a single day in the state on August 31.

Sridhar Babu inspects Yellampalli project

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Minister for IT D Sridhar Babu on Tuesday evening inspected the swollen SripadaYellampalli Project, in the district along with Ramagundam MLA Raj Thakur Makhana Singh, Peddapalli Collector Koya Sriharsha, Mancherial Collector Deepak Kumar.

He appealed to the people living in inundated villages to remain alert and maintained that the government has been taking special measures to rule out any problems due to the floods triggered by rains.

The Minister noted that the Yellampalli Project is brimming with water following heavy inflows into the project from the upper reaches of the project. He directed Peddapalli Collector Koya Sriharsha and Mancherial Collector Deepak Kumar to take all measures to ensure that people do not face any problem.

He sought information on outflow and inflow of water into the project.

The authorities have lifted 33 gates of the project to discharge heavy inflows into the reservoir



Minister for Information Technology D Sridhar Babu inspecting Yellampalli project in Peddapalli district on Tuesday

from SRSP and Kadem projects, the minister said, asking the police, municipal and irrigation department officials to work with coordination in case of heavy inflows into the irrigation projects in the district.

Meanwhile, the Minister has been monitoring the flood situation in the district on an hourly basis. The people living in catchment areas of River Godavari are living in the grip of fear. Several villages have

been marooned in the district. The officials have been discharging 6 lakh cusecs of water lifting 33 gates of Yellampalli project. They are also supply 331 cusecs to HMWSSB in Hyderabad to quench the thirst of people of Hyderabad.

The people living in Peddapalli, Mancherial, Asifabad, Bhupalpalli and Kothagudem districts in the coal belt area are in the grip of fear.

HR Conclave 2024 Held at Guru Nanak University

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Guru Nanak University Hyderabad hosted the 3rd National Level HR Campus Connect 2024, commonly known as the HR Conclave, a highly anticipated event centered on the theme "Turning Challenges into Opportunities: How Freshers Can Leverage Adversity for Career Success."

The conclave served as a crucial platform for fresh graduates to gain insights into overcoming the challenges that come with starting a career and turning them into stepping stones for success. The event aimed to equip students with the multi-skilled abilities required to

thrive in any adverse conditions. The event commenced with an address with Dr HS Saini, Managing Director and Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak University emphasising the importance of resilience and adaptability in

today's dynamic job market. His opening remarks set the tone for the day, focusing on the need for fresh graduates to navigate challenges with a proactive and positive mindset. Following his address, a series of engaging speeches and panel discussions took place, featuring some of the most respected HR professionals in the industry. These experts shared their experiences and strategies for thriving in challenging situations, offering practical advice and insights.

Key speakers at the event included Vinay Puralpa, Director - HR at Diebold Nixdorf discussed the importance of continuous learning and adapting to change.

ACB arrests AO for accepting bribe

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Anti-Corruption bureau (ACB) on Tuesday apprehended a Deputy State Tax Officer in Mahabubnagar district for allegedly taking Rs 10,000 bribe from a person.

In a press release, the ACB said that the Accused Officer (AO) Dinne Venkateshwar Reddy accepted a bribe from a complainant to do an official favour. He demanded a bribe to issue a GST licence to the complainant to enable him to establish seeds and scrap business.

ACB said that the tainted

bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the AO. The contacted portion of the file which came into contact with the tainted bribe amount yielded a positive result in the chemical test. The AO performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage.

Accused Officer Dinne Venkateshwar Reddy was arrested and produced before the Nampally ACB court. The case is under investigation.

ACB requested the people to call toll free number 1064, if any public servant demands a bribe.

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL -MOTHKUR YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI DISTRICT**

**TENDER NOTICE** Date: 02.09.2024

1) NIT No: 07/TLFD/C&U/11/NOTIF/HR/SHD/1 C/2024-25 (2nd Call), 2) No of Works: 01 works, 3) Name of the work: Mothkur Municipality -Construction of Storm water drains in various wards under TUPFDC loan Assistance (Invited under e-auctioned works-S/C Community are only eligible to participate), 4) Total value of work: Rs.100.00 Lakhs, 5) Download of tender document and submission of bid document: 04.09.2024 @ 10.30 AM to 12.09.2024 @ 04.30 PM, 6) Technical bid opening date: 12.09.2024 @ 04:31 PM. Further details can be seen in / tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Commissioner R.O.No: 3638-PR/C&U/NOTIF/2024/S, Dt. 02.09.2024 Mothkur Municipality

**Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd,**  
H.No. 3-4-109/5/21, Indrani Complex, Barkaspeta, Hyderabad - 509 027.

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT.**  
Notice under section 13(1) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

The below mentioned borrowers and guarantors/defaulters committed Default of Payment of loan amount dues together with interest till date of payment. The Bank has issued Notices calling upon to repay the outstanding amount. The notice was already sent to all by Registered Post. They are called upon to pay amount together with interest till date of payment and other costs charges and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of the notice failing which bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank.

Name & Address of the Borrowers & Guarantor: 1. Sri B. Vijay Sai Sri Srinivasa Chary, wife no-145, Sr. Sreedevnagar, Nagar Gouda Layout, Hapsita, Hyderabad 500088. Borrower Cum Mortgagor. 2. Sri B. Swarnalatha/Wife S. Srinivasa Chary, H No 5-5-98/3/1, Goshanath, Hind Nagar, Hyderabad 500012 (Guarantor). 3. Sri. Deepthi Gowdhanam/Wife Sri B. Vijay, H No-11-10-2/1, Plot no-3, Street No-4, Road no-2, Vijaynagar Colony, Saranagani, Hyderabad 500035 (Guarantor) Demand Notice Date: 03/09/2024. NPADA: 31/09/2024.

Amount Outstanding as on 31/09/2024 is the loan account aforesaid total amount of Rs 23,54,799/- including interest and the said amount carries further interest at the agreed rate from 01/09/2024 till date of repayment.

Description of the Property: Mortgaged properties: All that the piece and parcel of the plot bearing plot No 34/B, measuring 250 sqyds or equivalent to 209 sqmtr, in sy no/978/A, 76, 77 and 78 out of No 25,24 gate, Situated at Adibatla Village, Ibrahimpatnam Mandal, Ranga Reddy Dist belonging to Sri B. Vijay and bounded by: North: Plot No 34/A, South: Plot No 36, East: 50' wide Road, West: Plot No 64 & 65.

If you/the aforesaid persons fail to repay the above mentioned amount due by you with future interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, within 60 days from the date of this notice, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act and other applicable provisions of the said Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other provisions of law.

Date: 03/09/2024 Sri P. Anjaneyulu Reddy, Chief General Manager/Authorized Officer, Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Barkaspeta, Hyderabad.

**KALYAN NAGAR BRANCH**  
# 8-3-168/M/13, Kalyannagar Venture III  
Sriram Nagar, Yousufguda Post,  
HYDERABAD - 500 045

(Rule-811)  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**

Whereas I, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 05.02.2024 calling upon the borrower:- (1) Mr. Mohammed Ilyas S/o Late Mohammed Atzal (Applicant) & (2) Mrs. Noorjahan Begum/W/O Mohammed Ilyas (Co-applicant) with our Kalyan Nagar Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 8,87,819.04/- (Rupees Eight lakhs Eighty Seven thousand Eight hundred and Ninety nine and four paise four only) for Housing loan dated 18.12.2012 with further interest and cost within 90 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

2. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property on 02.09.2024 described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.

3. We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13 (6) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed thereunder which deals with the rights of redemption over the securities by the borrower.

4. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 8,87,819.04/- (Rupees Eight lakhs Eighty Seven thousand Eight hundred and Ninety nine and four paise four only) as on 05.02.2024 for Housing loan dated 18.12.2012 with further interest, cost and charges thereon.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Mortgaged Assets - All that the property Flat No. 401, on Fourth Floor, measuring 1430/Square feet (including common areas & Car parking) in Cellar area designated by No. 401) and Undivided share of land 25 Square yards out of total land area of 442.2 Sq yards in the residential apartment known as 'WIRZA HEIGHTS' in the premises bearing Part of House No. 11-4-624/1 and House No. 11-4-624/1/1, situated at A.C. Guard, Bazarghat, Hyderabad, Telangana State. Boundaries: North: Open to sky, South: Conditor, East: Open to sky, West: Open to sky.

Date: 02-09-2024 Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER  
Place: Hyderabad Indian Bank

Fruits of welfare schemes must reach SCs, STs: NCSC

PNS ■ ASIFABAD

Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Vaddepalli Ramchander has asked the state government to initiate measures to ensure that the fruits of various welfare schemes reach the Dalits.

He was reviewing the implementation of welfare schemes for the Scheduled Castes at the Collectorate here on Tuesday. He wanted the officials concerned to work with coordination to ensure that the Scheduled Castes get fruits of welfare and development schemes in proportion to their population.

He asked the police to conduct fair investigation in cases related to atrocities on people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The industries Department should sanction loans to the eligible youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes to set up small scale industries and pave the way for their development. The officials should work hard to ensure that the beneficiaries get subsidies from State and Central governments. The government should

take steps to fill backlog vacancies reserved for people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

It should conduct coaching centers, study centers for the SCs and ST youth preparing for competitive examinations. It should implement special measures for the SC and ST youth pursuing overseas edu-

member that there are 311 SC teachers are employed in 1,269 government schools in the district. The government spent Rs 1.65 crore for the benefit of the SC students.

The DMHO Dr Tukaram said that there are six community health centers, 15 PHCs, 118 health sub-centers in the district. The total bed strength in these hospitals is 676. Under the National Health Scheme, the locals get preference in filling jobs in these hospitals. Special attention is being paid to the health of expectant mothers, lactating mothers and children in providing health services.

District Revenue Officer Lokeshwar Rao went on record stating that 5,800 acres of land was given to 2,424 SCs in the form of Lavuni Patta.

In all, there are 408 SC students in seven hostels meant for them. There are three post-Matric hostels too. The government spends Rs 1.41 lakh on the SC students. In all, 11 inter-caste married couples have been given incentives. Under the Dalit Basti scheme, 136 acres has been distributed among 60 beneficiaries.



National Commission for Scheduled Castes Vaddepalli Ramchander speaking at a review in Asifabad on Tuesday

cation. The officials should supervise effectively that the SC and ST youth get job promotions as per the rules. DEO Ashok told the National Commission for SCs



Brunei, Singapore important partners in our Indo-Pacific vision: PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As he embarked on a visit to Brunei and Singapore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the two nations are "important partners" in India's 'Act East' policy and asserted that his visits would further strengthen the partnership with the two countries and the larger ASEAN region.



External Affairs. The visit will further strengthen India's cooperation with Brunei in all existing sectors, including defence cooperation, trade and investment, energy, space technology, health cooperation, capacity building, culture as well as people-to-people exchanges and explore

avenues for cooperation in newer sectors, the MEA earlier said. Modi's visit to Brunei is the first bilateral visit of an Indian prime minister to that country.

forward to the opportunity to meet President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Brunei

PNS ■ BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said he was looking forward to strong ties with Brunei, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages, as he arrived here on the first leg of his two-nation trip during which he will hold talks with

the country's top leadership. Modi, who is the first Indian Prime Minister to travel to Brunei on a bilateral visit, said he was looking forward to his meetings with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and other members of the royal family to advance the historical relationship to new heights.

"Landed in Brunei Darussalam. Looking forward to strong ties between our nations, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages. I thank Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah for welcoming me at the airport," Modi said in a post on X.

'Less effective anti-rape laws'

Mamata demands resignation of PM, HM, CMs of BJP-ruled states

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the chief ministers of all states that have "not been able to implement effective legislations to safeguard women".

perpetrators and quicker justice to victims. They showed no enthusiasm for it. That's why we made the move first. This Bill, once enacted, can serve as a model for the rest of the country," the chief minister said.

Banerjee also tabled the two letters she recently wrote to PM Modi in this regard, one of which was a counter statement to Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi's response to her first letter.



"I demand the resignation of PM Modi,

Bengal Assembly passes anti-rape Bill

The West Bengal Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed the state anti-rape Bill which seeks capital punishment for rape convicts if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state and stipulates life sentence without parole for other perpetrators.

Home Minister Amit Shah and chief ministers of all states that have failed to implement effective laws that can ensure security of women and children across the country," she stated.

ACROSS THE STATES



Assam: 28 foreigners shifted to transit camp after verdict

A total of 28 people, including nine women, from Barpeta district of Assam were shifted to a transit camp in Goalpara after they were declared foreigners by a tribunal, police said on Tuesday. It was a heart-wrenching scene for the family members when their dear ones were packed in a bus at the office of the Superintendent of Police on Monday and taken to the dedicated detention centre, now called a transit camp.

Centre launches ...

Continued from page 1

"There is a need for investment in agriculture, not only from the government side but also private investments," he said, adding that the investment is required to boost production and value addition in the sector. The minister said the government has launched a Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to create various farm-related infrastructure in rural India.

He emphasised small farmers forming groups to do farming on a larger scale. The minister also spoke about excessive use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers and emphasised the need to protect soil health. Chouhan also highlighted the significance of the Krishi Nivesh Portal, which is expected to transform the agricultural landscape by centralising investment opportunities and information.

Research should be encouraged in education system: Murmu



PNS ■ PUNE

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday stressed the need to encourage research in the education system, and said research scholars in India are capable of finding solutions to the problems not only faced by the country but by the world.

"I am confident that the young generation is working hard towards the development of the country. People of the country possess a lot of talent and skill. I want you to understand the requirements of the society and using your knowledge, come up with solutions that can help in the development of the masses, especially those who are marginalised, and it can encourage sustainability," the President said.

aged in the education system. Research scholars from India are capable of finding solutions not only to the problems within the country but from the world. In the National Education Policy, the research has been given impetus," the President added.

JHARKHAND CM MEETS TOP CONG BRASS

'INDIA bloc will get 'massive majority' in state polls'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi who asserted that the INDIA bloc will win the upcoming assembly polls in the state with a 'massive majority'.

satisfaction with the party's current style of functioning and "bitter humiliation". Soren met Kharge and Gandhi at the Congress president's residence here. Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and Soren's wife Kalpana Soren were also present during the meeting.

preparations for the assembly polls later this year were learnt to have been discussed. "Courtesy meeting with Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Hemant Soren and Mrs. Kalpana Soren in the presence of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, INDIA is united for the upliftment and rights of the people of Jharkhand, the poor and the tribals. We will win this election with a massive majority," Gandhi said in a Facebook post.

HYDRRA demolition ...

Continued from page 1

Kharge's displeasure could potentially have broader implications for the party's internal dynamics as the episode has stirred unrest among other senior leaders who share similar concerns about the leadership's approach, the sources added.

Demolition done without notice and without taking into account prior permissions and clearances." "ORO has been operational since 2015 and is entirely funded through my brother Anand's money. Feeling the pain of vilification after a clean record of three generations of public life," he said.

R&B ENC Ganapathi ...

Continued from page 1

The resignation has sparked considerable debate, particularly in the context of the Vigilance inquiry that has cast a shadow over the increased estimates. During his tenure, Ganapathi was responsible for overseeing key projects, including the allotment of a National Highway number to the Regional Ring Road. He played a significant role in liaising with Central authorities. Under his leadership, projects like the new Secretariat, Pragati Bhavan, Police Command

Control Centre, district collectorates, the Amarajyoti statue and the Ambedkar statue in front of the Secretariat, and the construction of medical colleges in many districts were completed. Ganapathi's resignation has drawn attention as the government continues its investigation into the increase in estimations for the Warangal Multi-Super Specialty Hospital and TMS Hospitals in Hyderabad. The Vigilance inquiry is going on and more developments are expected in coming days.

CM moots HYDRRA ...

Continued from page 1

Revanth stressed the importance of a detailed action plan to tackle these issues. He said that there have been demands to expand the operations of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRRA) across the state but he stressed the need for localised plans to address specific challenges.

Neji, and other family members. He assured Ashwini's brother, Ashok, that the government would consider offering him a government job, and announced the sanctioning of an Indiramma house for the family. He announced that a scientific survey would be conducted to study the flow of the Akeru stream, which has been flooding the area.

Massive boost ...

Continued from page 1

and is authorised for both mechanised Infantry Battalion and Armoured Regiment," the statement said. Three AONs have been accorded to enhance the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The procurement of the Dornier-228 aircraft, next-generation fast patrol vessels having high operational features in rough weather conditions and next-generation offshore patrol vessels with advanced technology and enhanced long-range operations will enhance the capability of the ICG to carry out surveillance, patrolling of maritime zones, search-and-rescue and disaster-relief operations, the statement said.

CS orders ...

Continued from page 1

as per the directives of the Chief Minister. The CS also stressed the importance of taking immediate action to ensure that the public does not face any difficulty due to the weather. The meeting was also

attended by GHMC Commissioner Amrapali, Water Board MD Ashok Reddy, SPDC CMD Musharraf Ali, Special Commissioner of Information, Hanumantha Rao and the Director of School Education, Narasimha Reddy.

Kolkata doc's ...

Continued from page 1

Besides, the top court had taken a serious note of mob violence at the hospital and the allegation that the Kolkata police fled the scene. It had ordered deployment of CISF personnel at the hospital to enable the striking doctors to resume work. In an application filed in the case, the MHA said the plea "concerns the deployment of CISF personnel at the R G Kar Medical College, including the hostels where the resident doctors are staying, to ensure their safety"

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## A strategic pivot

Amid rising regional tensions, Indo-US defence ties are strengthening, marking a significant strategic shift in South Asia

India has solidified its defence partnership with the United States through two pivotal agreements, signaling a deepening American commitment to South Asia at a time when China's military influence is expanding across the region. The agreements, secured during Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent four-day visit to the United States, include a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement on the Assignment of Liaison Officers. These developments underscore a significant shift in the dynamics of Indo-US relations, with both nations moving closer in their defence cooperation. The SOSA, a non-binding bilateral pact, is designed to prioritise support for defence-related goods and services between the two countries. This agreement is particularly crucial in addressing supply chain vulnerabilities that are critical to national security. Under the SOSA, India will receive assurances from Washington's Defence Priorities and Allocations System, while Indian companies will provide priority support to the United States. India's inclusion in the elite group of 18 SOSA partners, which includes nations like Australia, Canada, and Britain, marks a significant step in defence cooperation.



In effect it means if either of two nations ended up in combat with an adversary, the SOSA could help accelerate the delivery of crucial weapons and materials required for defence, thereby ensuring robust supply chains in times of crisis. India and the United States have already established several key strategic agreements, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) signed in 2016 and real-time intelligence sharing since 2018 under the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA). These agreements, alongside the new SOSA, create a framework for expedited deliveries of contracted goods and services, potentially streamlining defence commerce between the two nations. In 2019, the signing of the Industrial Security Annex marked another significant step, allowing the sharing of classified US information with private Indian defence firms—a departure from previous restrictions. The Reciprocal Defence Procurement Agreement could further streamline defence commerce, enabling private companies in both countries to bid on each other's contracts. Indeed, a technologically advanced Indian military aligns with American interests. The recent Indo-US defence agreements mark a significant milestone in the evolving relationship between the two nations. As China's influence continues to grow across South Asia, particularly in Islamabad and the Maldives, these agreements provide a foundation for enhanced collaboration and a shared commitment to regional stability. With these developments, India and the United States are poised to further deepen their defence ties, building a partnership that could play a crucial role in shaping the future of the region.

# The US endorses India-Tibet ties

The recent visit of a bipartisan delegation of US lawmakers to New Delhi and Dharamshala marks a significant moment in the US diplomacy in the region



ASHOK K MEHTA

**A**Tibet festival started on 3 September at India International Centre New Delhi to celebrate its rich Buddhist heritage, culture and identity. The Sikyong (head of Central Tibet Administration, Penpa Tshering, will preside over various activities to highlight Tibet's geo-strategic, spiritual and cultural importance for India.

His Holiness Dalai Lama at 89, is in a New York hospital for medical treatment but is considered in good health. US Special Coordinator on Tibet, Uzra Jeyva met him which elicited "immediate (solemn) protest from China". Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mao Ning said: "we don't allow Dalai Lama to engage in political activities in the US". Backchannel talks between the Dalai Lama envoy and China have been going on for an undisclosed period though Beijing does not confirm them. Talks are being pushed by the US House Resolution Resolve Tibet Act July 2024 which calls for restoration of its full autonomy. India needs to add its voice for Tibet's autonomy both internally and externally as part of a broader coalition. India's recognition of full Chinese sovereignty over Tibet was based on Beijing granting and implementing Tibet's autonomy. Instead, China has quashed Tibet's autonomy and trade treaties opening for India to take a more nuanced position.

Two issues require Gol's prompt attention: the Dalai Lama succession; and the border issue including restoration of peace and tranquillity and full disengagement in east Ladakh. The visit of a bipartisan US delegation of lawmakers to Dharamshala and Delhi and being received both by Dalai Lama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was significant. China baiter Nancy Pelosi had some unpleasant things to say about President Xi Jinping that drew Chinese ire. On the ground, the sinicisation process of Xijiang (Tibet) started in the mid-1960s. The time-tested method of injecting 7.5 mn Han Chinese into Tibet along with neutralization of Tibetan



Buddhism by deploying Chinese monks in Tibetan monasteries was designed to change the heart and soul of Tibet. Soon militarisation and infrastructure construction began which has hurt the environment. USD 5.8bn was spent on the Sichuan to Tibet railways system which is being extended to borders with India, Nepal and Bhutan. A new border law has led to the building of 628 well-off border villages close to or encroached into neighbouring countries. In 1965 Convenience Police Stations were constructed as a key security innovation: Big Brother is Watching. By 2011 Tibet Autonomous Region advertised for 2500 police stations with 458 designated for Lhasa alone. By 2016, this grid-style social management of Tibet had recruited thousands of Han Chinese and some Tibetan policemen. A Chinese Communist Party (CCP) political secretary has always kept a hawk-eye vigil over Tibet which is run by the CCP from Beijing. Internal policing has resulted in fostering a feeling of 'otherness' by the surveillance drive. There are reports that attempts are being made to recruit Tibetans into the PLA including some forcible intake. The day is not far when some Nepalese might opt to join PLA for other than the South West Theatre Command in



THE VISIT OF A BIPARTISAN US DELEGATION OF LAWMAKERS TO DHARAMSALA AND DELHI AND BEING RECEIVED BOTH BY DALAI LAMA AND PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI WAS SIGNIFICANT

Tibet. This will be the result of the ill-conceived Agniveer policy. The Chinese Renaming Campaign has resulted in what Forum for Non-Violent Alternatives (FNVA) has called 'Thread of Beads: an analysis of renaming 62 locations in India's Arunachal Pradesh since 2017. China claims that 90 per cent of Zangnan (Arunachal Pradesh) is illegally occupied by India. Chief Minister Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, has suggested renaming 62 locations in Tibet. This is not likely to irk the Chinese. The Chinese renaming drive was done in four phases in 2017, 2021, 2023 and 2024.

It had been supplemented by salami-slicing into Nepal and Bhutan by building Xiakong villages (well-off) in contested areas to strengthen their claims to them. While Nepal and Bhutan are pretending this has not happened or happening, India is building some 600 vibrant villages for which funds have been released. Numerous encroachments have taken place in India also. The strategic importance of Tibet for India cannot be overstated. The root of the border problem and the Tibet issue is India's failure to comprehend its significance in time and act. In C Eastern Command, Lt Gen Sir Francis Tucker had foreseen in 1946 in a paper he

wrote that India must prevent China from occupying Tibet and be prepared to occupy it. This did not happen for which we are paying now. The priority for now is to coordinate with Dalai Lama to articulate his succession. The Dalai Lama has been silent on it for some time now but has spoken and written about it in the past.

The Chinese are bound to appoint their own Dalai Lama as they appointed a Panchen Lama (second to Dalai Lama) Gyaltsen Norbu. This must be pre-empted. The CTA is preparing a new map of Tibet with the help of cartographic experts from Princeton University in the US.

The issue of the map and India announcing the contours of its Tibet policy including the border and full disengagement of PLA from its intrusions in east Ladakh have to be coordinated with CTA. A succession policy should also be outlined. With Tibetans migrating to the US and soon the majority of Tibetans residing there than in India, the Tibet issue may vanish leaving Delhi with no potential leverage against Beijing.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; views are personal)

### PICTALK



Devotees carry an idol of Lord Ganesh ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai

PTI

## Citation manipulation is undermining research integrity

As institutions chase rankings, the very foundation of scientific inquiry is at risk, calling for urgent reforms in how research quality is assessed and rewarded

**T**he mushrooming of predatory journals, fake research publications, and manipulated citations compromises the integrity of academic research. In the latest NIRF 2024 rankings, serious concerns were raised regarding the dropping ranking of many prestigious national institutions. Many mediocre institutions climbed to a higher level than institutions of national repute. Though the purpose of accreditations and rankings is to improve the quality of each institution through a competitive spirit, one major point of concern is that many institutions climbed the ladder through a single parameter, the publication metrics. The over-emphasis on publication spoils our country's academic and research environment. Even people who don't know how to write a paper properly publish one paper per month. There was a time when a researcher used to publish one or two papers per year. Even at the international level, people have expressed reservations about citation metrics. In a recent issue of Nature (published on



20th August), a team of researchers led by Yasir Zaki explicitly shows that a citation black market is operating in our society. The citation black market is the unscrupulous act of exchanging citations to enhance research articles' perceived influence unduly. The citation black market functions through the following mechanisms, 1. Citation Cartels: Citation cartels are groups of researchers who agree to quote each other's work a lot, even if it has nothing to do with the current topic. These cartels can change citation metrics in a big way, giving the wrong impression of how important and influential the study is. 2. Paid Citations: Citations may sometimes be available for purchase by researchers or publications. This phenomenon is especially widespread

in predatory publications, which frequently give primacy to financial gain above academic honesty. To enhance their citation counts, researchers may compensate these journals to incorporate their work into other publications, therefore artificially inflating their citation metrics. The study published in the journal Nature found that the companies were charging \$300 for 50 citations and \$500 for 100 citations. 3. Coercive Citation: Journal editors or reviewers can also manipulate citations by pushing writers to include certain papers, usually their own, to boost the number of citations for specific journals or articles. This can make the peer review process less reliable and tilt the research towards certain people or groups. Many people have been practising this to boost their scientometrics level. The intense pressure on academics to publish frequently and in high-impact journals drives this booming citation black market. The obsession with the impact factor as a factor of academic or scientific excel-

lence has incentivized citation manipulation. The study showed that Google Scholar (and ResearchGate), is manipulatable. Despite the conspicuous vulnerabilities, these are used to judge the quality of a researcher. The 'citation black market' has several detrimental effects on the scientific community and society. The government should reconsider its reliance on citation-based metrics, such as the impact factor, as the primary indicators of research quality. Alternative metrics, such as article-level, open peer reviews, and qualitative research impact assessments, should be explored and adopted. Metrics evaluating the social impact of research—that of policy, industry, or public understanding—should also be considered. This strategy can inspire effort in addressing practical problems and acknowledges the broader benefits of research to society. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Madam — The Justice Hema Committee report was only the tip of the iceberg against the sexual harassment. What we need is the solution and not confrontation anymore to the ongoing unpalatable issue. The time has changed and we are in the midst of gender equality. The world has become thickly competitive and along with freedom comes the package of jealousy, comparing with each other and at the end taking the pressure of enhancing the social status which is at times caused by giving up their own personal liberty and rights. The ongoing sexual harassment is not just there in one particular industry.

It's a rapid fire spreading across industries and globally. Cinema industry is in the eyes of the public because the glamour attached to celebrities is coming to light quickly. Today our culture has changed and values eroded. The Hon'ble Supreme Court permits living together and there are couples united this way. Some relationship breaks lead to mental turmoil by physical assault. The ratio of hate, love changed overnight, ending up in a divorce. All this is happening only because of economic independence of the once a weaker sex. There's no more weaker sex as we can conclude and in many places women are the stronger sex challenges men in many fields.

Where is the actual problem then? The problem starts with the anticipation by comparison to improve upon the social status. Even the luxuries became needs from wants under the current trend. When the background to the issue is such, how can we fix men alone as the reasons for the harassment? It was surprising to observe that a very senior artist after having acted in more than 200 movies has come out with her grievances that can't be taken at face value. One thing is to be noted that when someone is looking for an opportunity they shouldn't try it out as a chance since the very word 'Chance' dilutes the talents and ends up in a compromise and thereby the merits is taking

### Need for the caste census



In the absence of fresh data, government agencies are still formulating policies and allocating subsidies based on the data accrued from the 2011 Census. The government estimated that around 810 million people required food assistance for 5 more years. However, this estimate is based on the 2011 census. Economists pointed out that more than 100 million deserving Indians would not get the benefit of the 5-year

extension of free ration because of the government's failure to conduct the long-due population census. A government cannot function without updating necessary and detailed data on the population of the country every ten years. So, census and caste census should immediately and simultaneously be undertaken. A caste census will not add to the cost of conducting a census. A caste census can be done only by adding a question or two to the questionnaire for the census. Caste hatred and caste nepotism are like fractures in our society. After a suspected fracture, a doctor always takes decisions after doing at least an X-ray. Any action on caste reservation must similarly be taken after collecting necessary data by conducting a caste census.

Sujit De | Kolkata

the back seat.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

### RAINS WRECK HAVOC IN TELUGU STATES

Madam — The heavy rains have wreaked havoc in both Telugu states. The way Vijayawada has been inundated leaving lakhs of people got vacated to safe places and scores of people dead is unprecedented. The state governments have geared up their relief operations. The centre should come forward with all its might to help out the states in their most trying times. The seasons in India have been acting extreme with a regularity. The hot summer with abnormal levels of temperatures is now followed by rainy season with heavy down pours. There should be proper preparedness to mitigate the fury of nature. Raising green cover and decreasing carbon print will help in long run.

DVG Sankara Rao | Vizianagaram

### BREAK ON RELIGIOUS BREAK

Madam — While it may be true that the CM of Assam has not done justice to his

constitutional post on numerous occasions vis-a-vis the Muslims of the state, his move to put a brake on the two-hour break for Friday prayers in the state Assembly can hardly be compared with Hitler's treatment of the Jews. Hitler wanted a total extermination of the Jews and was unapologetic about targeting millions of them.

Has Sarma given a similar call to eliminate Muslims from the state of Assam? All that he has done is to put an end to a practice that allowed Muslims to avail of a two-hour break as a matter of right, in order to fulfil their religious obligations. Imagine the chaos that would ensue if professionals of other denominations were to press for similar breaks in the course of their duties? Is there anything that is more holy and sacred and pleasing to one's Creator than the performance of prescribed duties?

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### GENERATION Z'S FASHION DILEMMA

Can Gen Z find a sustainable balance between personal style and financial responsibility?



SHAINY SHARMA

Fashion has always been a form of self-expression and identity, but for Millennials or Generation Z (Gen Z); Generation Alpha (Gen Alpha) and many more, it has taken on new dimensions. The generation, growing up in the digital age, is deeply influenced by social media, fast fashion and the need for constant reinvention. Moreover, the spending habits of Gen Z on fashion are notable not just for the frequency of purchases but also for the psychological and financial implications. While many in this generation are still students or early in their careers, they tend to spend a substantial portion of their disposable income on clothing and accessories.

The constant bombardment of new trends and must-have items can create a sense of urgency and FOMO, leading to impulsive purchases, driven by the fear of missing out on trends or sales, which is a common behaviour among the current generation. This generation is also more likely to engage in buy now, pay later schemes, which can further lead to debt accumulation if not managed carefully.

The desire to maintain a certain image can result in financial strain, as spending on fashion takes precedence over saving for the future. Algorithms on social media platforms are designed to show users content that aligns with their interests, including fashion. This means that as users scroll, they are often presented with targeted ads and influencer promotions that encourage them to buy more, even if they don't need anything. Social media is a major driver of contemporary fashion, influ-



encing how trends are created, spread and consumed. While it has democratized fashion, giving individuals more influence and visibility at the same time it has also contributed to the challenges of fast fashion, overconsumption and sustainability issues. Thus, while social media is not solely responsible for fashion, it is undoubtedly one of the most powerful forces shaping the industry today. As a result, fashion has become both a passion and a source of significant expenditure for the generation, driving new consumer behaviours and reshaping the fashion industry. Fashion is not just about clothing rather it is a vital tool for expressing individuality and belonging. In a world where social media plays a dominant role, the clothes one wears are often seen as an extension of one's brand.

Platforms like Instagram, TikTok and Pinterest allow users to curate and showcase their style to a global audience, reinforcing the importance of fashion as a form of self-expression. The desire to create a unique and ever-evolving identity pushes this generation to frequently update their wardrobes. Mindless scrolling for fashion is a double-edged sword. While it provides entertainment and easy access to the latest trends, it can lead to impulsive buying, overconsumption and a detachment from sustainable and ethical practices. Being mindful of how much time is spent on these platforms and making conscious decisions about purchases can help mitigate these effects.

The need to stand out while simultaneously fitting in with peer groups creates a paradoxical demand for both originality and conformity, leading to increased spending on fashion items. Fast fashion brands, have capitalized on this behaviour by offering affordable, trendy clothing that changes frequently. These brands release new collections at a rapid pace, allowing consumers of every generation to keep up with the latest styles without breaking the bank—at least in the short term. However, the low prices and frequent purchases add up, leading to significant overall spending. As this generation continues to mature, it will be interesting to see how their fashion consumption evolves and whether a balance can be struck between the desire for personal style and the need for ethical, sustainable practices.

(The writer is a faculty at Art of Living, views expressed are personal)

# UPA: Addressing employee aspirations



B K SINGH

Unified Pension Scheme promises a guaranteed pension for long-serving employees, but at a significant fiscal cost to the exchequer



The old pension scheme (OPS) has been a big burden on the union and states' budget of the country. In one of the economic reforms, it was shelved for employees joining government services in 2004 and later. The new scheme was called the National Pension Scheme (NPS), where the employee had to contribute 10% of the salary during the entire period of service. Initially, the government too was to make a matching contribution of 10%, which was later increased to 14%. The corpus generated for pension this way was invested in government securities, shares and corporate bonds, which had daily net asset value like mutual funds. At the time of retirement, at least 40% of the corpus is to be used for purchasing an annuity. The NPS scheme does not guarantee a monthly pension equivalent to 50% of the last salary drawn.

This led to resentment among the government employees and opposition parties especially Congress saw an opportunity to keep the BJP-led central government in the dock. Among several freebies, Congress also promised in the election manifesto to revert to OPS in states they came to power. Montek Singh Ahluwalia has gone on record to bring home the point that the economy of the country will be ruined if OPS is revived for employees who joined service in and after 2004. Many experts have also concurred with the views. Congress won the Himachal Pradesh Assembly election on the promise to revert to OPS but did not implement it. Subsequently in the Telangana election and also in the Lok Sabha 2024 election, the revival of OPS was not again brought up in the manifesto.

BJP having disappointed with the Lok Sabha results in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh had to make a tightrope walk and find a middle ground between OPS and NPS. The central government now proposes a Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for employees whose service lasts for 25 years



THE NEW SCHEME WAS CALLED THE NATIONAL PENSION SCHEME (NPS), WHERE THE EMPLOYEE HAD TO CONTRIBUTE 10% OF THE SALARY DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF SERVICE. INITIALLY, THE GOVERNMENT TOO WAS TO MAKE A MATCHING CONTRIBUTION OF 10%, WHICH WAS LATER INCREASED TO 14%

or more to get a pension of 50% of the average of the preceding twelve months' salary before the super annulation. The pension amount will be inflation-adjusted in dearness allowance twice a year. It has also a provision for a 60% family pension, for all diseased employees. The scheme does not benefit those who served for less than ten years. However, a monthly pension of Rs 10,000 has been guaranteed for employees who retired after serving for at least ten years. An additional sweetener has also been brought in the provision for the payment of a lump sum amount linking it with the duration of service in the government.

The scheme will come into effect from 1st April 2025 and will benefit 23 lakh employees of the central Government if they opt for it. Further, if all states also opt for the scheme, 90 lakh employees will be benefited in the country. The Maharashtra government, where the Assembly election is due shortly, has already opted for the scheme. UPS is also a contributory scheme like NPS, where employees' contributions remain unchanged at 10% and the government matching contribution is increased from 14% to 18.5%.

If the monthly salary of the employee is Rs 50,000, the annual increase in the corpus is 3%, equivalent to a compound annual growth of 8%. SBI, LIC and UTI are three managers of corpus for employees' pensions. SBI offers 9.75% and LIC 9.56% interest on the fund. Currently, in NPS, government employee has three options for investment and 95% of subscribers allow 65% investment in government securities, 15% in equities and the remaining 20% in corporate debt.

Since the corpus is not large enough to earn 50% of the average of the last twelve months' salary, the government's matching contribution has been increased from 14% to 18.5%. Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan on UPS said, "definitely fiscally more prudent." "It remains within the same architecture of contributory funded scheme.

This is the critical difference. The OPS is unfunded, non-contributory scheme, this is funded, contributory scheme. The only difference in the changes made is to give an assurance and not leave things to the vagaries of market forces. But otherwise the structure of UPS has best elements of both (OPS and NPS)", he said. Economists think that UPS balances the fiscal cost and the aspiration of the employee. The increased cost of living will be taken care of because the real pension would not change as it is indexed to inflation. In NPS, if inflation goes up real pension comes down. Nevertheless, the scheme would put an extra burden of Rs 6250 crores on the government in the first year.

This has been done to satisfy 23 lakh beneficiaries, who are vocal political constituencies and no political party would easily ignore their demand. It is expected that most states would adopt UPS, without bothering for additional financial burden.

With the announcement of UPS, opposition parties are stepping up their demand for restoration of OPS. Economists have been consistently warning against the restoration; it has the potential to make the growth sluggish and hamper the progress of the nation. It also impacts the lives of the poor. Economic Advisory

Council to the Prime Minister has suggested that reverting to OPS will be catastrophic for poor populations and would crowd out private investments in states that revert to it. Reserve Bank of India in January 2023 had flagged concerns about the government finances for states opting to revert to OPS last year.

RBI had already cautioned that the move would lead to accumulation of liabilities, which can become a major risk in future. RBI had also said that states were expected to incur a 16% rise in pension expenditure at Rs 4,63,436 Crores as against Rs 3,99, 813 crores in the previous year. Pension outgo under NPS is Rs 4 lakh crores, which would be Rs 17 lakh crores if OPS is reverted. At present Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Punjab have reverted to OPS. Since then BJP has come back to power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and it is hoped that both governments will continue with NPS and opt for UPS with effect from 1st April 2025. Punjab is governed by AAP and their main agenda is to remain in power and not to be concerned about the state's finances.

UPS itself is causing a financial burden on the Central government of Rs 6250 crores in the first year. If all the states opt for it, the total economic burden on central and all state governments would be of the order of Rs 25,000 crores in the first year. Let there be no politics and political parties be conscious of maintaining fiscal discipline.

(The writer is a retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests -Head of Forest Force- Karnataka; views are personal)

# Policy rollbacks: The unseen cost of ignoring stakeholder consultation

There have been a number of high-profile policy rollbacks, underscoring the need for consultation and consensus-building before implementing major reforms

Since the Modi Government 1.0, India has witnessed a series of high-profile policy rollbacks that highlight a critical issue in governance: the need for broader consultation and consensus-building before introducing significant reforms. The latest example is the rollback of the lateral entry scheme, which sought to bring professionals from outside the traditional civil services into government roles.



JAIDEEP VAIDEESWAR

While the merits and demerits of such a policy can be debated, the rapid reversal following its announcement points to a deeper, more systemic issue—the lack of comprehensive stakeholder engagement. This pattern is not new. The government's

attempts to implement sweeping reforms have repeatedly stumbled due to insufficient consultation. The Land Acquisition Bill, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) paired with the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and the Farm Laws all serve as prime examples. In each case, the policies were introduced with minimal input from those most affected—be it farmers, minority

communities, or state governments. The predictable outcome has been an intense public backlash, forcing the government to either backpedal or face prolonged unrest. The trend is concerning. Policymaking in a diverse democracy like India requires not only a vision but also the patience to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. This includes not just the obvious beneficiaries or those directly affected but also civil society, industry experts, and regional representatives. The lack of such engagement has led to a growing distrust between the government and the public, where every new announcement is met with suspicion rather than optimism. Moreover, the need for broader consultation

becomes even more pressing when considering the long-term impact of these policies. Short-term political gains or expedient decision-making may lead to swift policy announcements, but the absence of robust dialogue with stakeholders can result in policies that are unsustainable or unimplementable in the long run. Take, for instance, the recent discussion in the media on potential additional restrictions on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the tobacco sector. While the government may have had reasons for this move, the absence of dialogue with stakeholders—particularly tobacco farmers—has exacerbated concerns. Tobacco provides livelihood



to 36 million people including 6 million farmers and 20 million farm labour engaged in tobacco farming. Since the huge scale of investment of \$4 trillion that the finance minister pointed to at the recent Voice of Global South Summit, it is clear that the FDI is the only way to protect farmers. Similarly, both the ill-conceived Tax Collection at Source (TCS) on foreign travel and now the introduction of the new Tax Clearance

Certificate requirement for Indians travelling abroad are poorly thought through and have virtually no machinery to provide certificates on an emergency basis.

The repeated lack of consensus-building not only undermines the effectiveness of policies but also erodes public trust in governance. It creates an environment where even well-intentioned reforms are viewed with scepticism, and the potential benefits are overshadowed by the immediate backlash. This is particularly damaging in a country as diverse as India, where the success of any policy hinges on its acceptance across different regions, communities, and economic strata. Furthermore, these repeated rollbacks damage India's

international reputation, as global investors and partners begin to view the country as an uncertain policy environment. This uncertainty not only affects domestic stakeholders but also risks deterring foreign investment, which is crucial for driving economic growth and development in a rapidly globalizing world.

Moving forward, the government must adopt a more inclusive approach to policymaking. This means going beyond the corridors of power in New Delhi and engaging with stakeholders at the grassroots level. It means recognizing that the voices of citizens, small business owners, and regional leaders, are not just peripheral—they are central to the success of any

reform. It also means being open to feedback and willing to make adjustments before policies are finalized, rather than being forced into a retreat after the fact. India's growth story is too important to be derailed by avoidable missteps in policy formulation.

By fostering a culture of consultation and consensus, the government can ensure that its reforms not only achieve their intended goals but also enjoy the support and trust of the people. The lesson from recent rollbacks is clear: no matter how well-conceived a policy may be, it cannot succeed without the buy-in of those it is meant to serve.

(The writer is a former consultant to MyGov. Views expressed are personal)

IN BRIEF



Gold slips Rs 50; silver slumps Rs 250

Gold prices slipped Rs 50 to Rs 74,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, according to the All India Sarafa Association.



GSTN to launch invoice management system

GST Network will launch the Invoice Management System (IMS) from October 1 which will facilitate taxpayers in matching their records/invoices vis-a-vis issued by their suppliers for availing the correct Input Tax Credit (ITC).



ONDC gets award for application of emerging tech

The government-backed Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) on Tuesday received the gold award for application of emerging technologies.

Household savings building up; to remain top net lenders: RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Household savings have again started building up, which sharply declined from the level in 2020-21, and will remain top net lenders to the economy in coming decades, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said on Tuesday.

Recently, the net financial savings of households have almost halved from their level in 2020-21 due to behavioural changes underway in the form of unwinding of prudential savings accumulated during the pandemic and shifts from financial assets to physical assets like housing, Patra said.

"Going forward, boosted by rising incomes, households will likely build back their financial assets... This process has already begun - households' financial assets have increased from 10.6 per cent of GDP during 2011-17 to 11.5 per cent during 2017-23 (excluding the pandemic year)," he noted.



Their physical savings have also risen in the post-pandemic years to over 12 per cent of GDP and could rise further. They had reached 16 per cent of GDP in 2010-11, he said in a keynote address at the Financing 3.0 Summit.

Looking ahead, its net borrowing requirement is likely to rise on the back of a revival in the capex cycle, he added.

"These financing requirements will largely be met by households and external resources. Net dissaving of the public sector has been moderating albeit unevenly; this sector will remain a net borrower in the economy in view of the critical role envisaged for fiscal policy in shaping India's future," the deputy governor said.

Patra stressed that India will need a transformation in

its institutional architecture for intermediating the needs of finance of its aspirational trajectory. The emphasis, he said, would be on financing physical, social and digital infrastructure, skilling, green energy, innovative manufacturing and MSMEs.

At its core, there has to be a robust corporate bond market with adequate secondary market trading liquidity and breadth, he said.

External financing will play an increasingly vibrant role in propelling investment and bringing in new technologies, provided the absorptive capacity in respect of external funding expands with the pursuit of reforms that enhance export potential and attract FDI, he added.

"In India's quest for higher levels of development, financing should be seen as a facilitator, not an obstructor," he said. During his address, Patra also delved into India's growth story and the fact that the country is riding on the cusp of a distinct demographic advantage.

He said a productive workforce is critical for value creation in an economy, while capital would play an important supportive role.

World Bank raises India growth forecast to 7%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Bank on Tuesday raised the growth forecast for the Indian economy to 7 per cent from an earlier projection of 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal, helped by recovery in the agri sector and pick-up in rural demand.

This is in line with projections by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Both multilateral funding agencies have raised their forecast to 7 per cent for the financial year ending March 2025.

According to E c o n o m i c Survey, the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) will grow at 6.5-7 per cent in 2024-25. However, the Reserve Bank of India estimates a higher 7.2 per cent for the current financial year.

It is to be noted that the World Bank has raised the GDP forecast by 40 basis points from earlier estimates of 6.6 per cent for FY25 released in June.

An increase in GDP forecast is supported by improvement in monsoon, private consumption and rising exports, World

Bank senior economist Ran Li said.

The growth rate of India, which accounts for the bulk of the South Asia region, is expected to remain strong at 7 per cent in 2024-25, the World Bank said in the India Development Update.

"Amid challenging external conditions, the World Bank expects India's medium-term outlook to remain positive. Growth is forecast to reach 7 per cent in FY25 and remain strong in FY26 and FY27," it said.

With robust revenue growth and further fiscal consolidation, it said, the debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to decline from 83.9 per cent in FY24 to 82 per cent by FY27.

The current account deficit is expected to remain around 1-1.6 per cent of the GDP up to FY27.

India's robust growth prospects, along with declining inflation rate will help to reduce extreme poverty, said World Bank's country director Auguste Tano Kouame.

"India can boost its growth further by harnessing its global trade potential.

TRAI'S CRACKDOWN ON PESKY CALLS

Telcos block 2.75 lakh telephone numbers, 50 firms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 2.75 lakh telephone numbers have been disconnected and services to 50 entities blocked as part of regulator Trai's massive crackdown against pesky calls and unregistered telemarketers.

The move came after Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) asked telcos to blacklist and disconnect unregistered telemarketers.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Trai said it has observed a significant rise in spam calls, with more than 7.9 lakh complaints reported against unregistered telemarketers in the first half of 2024.

In a bid to put a check on this, Trai had issued stringent directives to all access providers on 13th August 2024, and mandated access providers to immediately stop promotional voice

calls from unregistered senders or telemarketers using SIP, PRI, or other telecom resources, according to the statement.

"Consequent of these directions, access providers have taken stern measures against misuse of telecom resources for spamming and blacklisted over 50 entities and disconnected more than 2.75 lakh SIP DID/mobile numbers/telecom resources. These steps are expected to have a significant impact on reducing spam calls and providing relief to consumers," Trai said.

Trai urged stakeholders to contribute to a "cleaner and more efficient telecom ecosystem", and said any unregistered telemarketer found to be misusing these resources will face severe consequences, including disconnection of all telecom resources for up to two years and blacklisting.

Kia, Audi top customer experience index: study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kia India and Audi have topped the customer experience index in mass market and luxury segments, respectively, as per a study undertaken by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) and Frost & Sullivan.

The primary objective of the study was to assess and quantify customer experience across sales, after-sales service and product quality in the passenger vehicle category.

Customer Experience Index (CEI) was conducted with a sample size of 8,685 respondents.

Kia India led the mass market segment with a score of 45.84, as per the study.

India key market for Syngenta: CEO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global agricultural company Syngenta considers India one of its most important markets worldwide with a strong focus on bringing innovation to Indian farmers and enhancing food security, according to CEO Jeff Rowe.

Rowe highlighted the unique challenges and opportunities in the Indian market. "The rapid growth of the market is both a challenge and an opportunity. While it brings some hurdles, the opportunities far outweigh the challenges," he said. Syngenta's offerings are tailored to meet the specific needs of Indian farmers.

"We have some of the best new products that we are bringing to the market.

Ex-president of Atlas Cycles dies by suicide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former president of Atlas Cycles Salil Kapoor allegedly shot himself dead at his home in Lutyens Delhi area on Tuesday, police officials said.

Kapoor's body was found in a pool of blood near the puja room of his house on the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Road around 1 pm by his manager, they said.

According to a police officer, Kapoor shot in his head with a licensed revolver. In a note recovered from the spot, the former president of Atlas Cycles purportedly mentioned a "financial burden" on him, he said.

His wife and three children were staying separately, the police officer said.

Markets settle flat in lacklustre trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty took a breather after a record rally and ended on a flat note on Tuesday, with the 50-stock index settling in the green for the 14th straight session.

Halting its 10-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 4.40 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 82,555.44. During the day, it dropped 159.08 points or 0.19 per cent to 82,400.76.

The NSE Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 1.15 points to settle at 25,279.85, its highest-ever closing level.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Adani Ports, JSW Steel, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, Indian Bank and Tata Motors were the biggest laggards.

TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION

Gadkari favours 51% stake to foreign firms in joint ventures

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday favoured giving a majority 51 per cent stake to foreign partners in joint ventures for building tunnels and detailed project reports to improve work quality.

Gadkari said providing a majority stake to a foreign partner in the joint venture is necessary to ensure that only serious and technically qualified players bid for tunnel projects. In a lighter vein, Gadkari said that in some tunnel projects, European companies even choose Indian partners who own caterer services or beauty parlours.

"I seriously feel that foreign partners must have 51 per cent stake, leaving 49 per cent for the Indian companies in JV for building DPR and construction of tunnels, to ensure that work is done properly," the minister said at an event here.

'Will work to make India green mobility destination'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government will relentlessly push for adoption of green mobility in India through all the policy levers available with it, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) event here, he stated that the government is taking several policy measures to encourage a shift towards electric mobility in the country.

"We have had a policy framework where the tax on electric vehicles is just 5 per cent as compared to 48 per cent on



hybrids which we intend to continue over a long period of time," Kant stated.

He noted that the government is pushing for battery manufacturing in a very big way in India.

"Our policy is that we push for more and more electrification in mobility through all the policy levers available including

CAFE norms. So we will relentlessly push for India becoming a green mobility destination," Kant said.

He noted that if the country doesn't make the shift it would miss out on the opportunity to become a leader in EV manufacturing. Kant noted that following the tender for about 6,000 electric buses for seven cities, new bigger tenders would roll out in future. "The next tender we are doing is for 10,000 buses and the third tender would be for 50,000 buses, so the size and scale would help in bringing down the prices of electric buses in a big way," he said.

Recovery Department Zonal Office - KARIMNAGAR. APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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## From love to war

AARTI SREENATH

Santosh Singh's journey from an assistant director to helming notable projects like *Broken But Beautiful* and *Ranneeti: Balakot and Beyond* is nothing short of inspiring. With every project, he continues to explore new horizons in filmmaking, driven by a desire to tell stories that resonate deeply with audiences.

Reflecting on his career, the *Broken But Beautiful* mastermind begins, "I've been fortunate and God has been kind. The hard work I put in, learning all the tricks of the trade as an assistant director, has paid off. The experience I gained on sets over the years is something I now pour into my filmmaking. It's been a journey full of ups and downs, but I'm loving every bit of it."

Out of all his projects, as we ask him which of them was his favourite, to which he says, it's a hard choice. "I enjoy exploring different genres. As a filmmaker, I don't want to limit myself. Whether it's the love story of *Broken But Beautiful*, the massy appeal of *Apaharan*, or the geopolitical military drama of *Ranneeti*, each project challenges me in new ways. Every genre requires different filmmaking techniques and ideas, making each one special."

*Broken But Beautiful*, his directorial debut, holds a special place in his heart. He enthused, "That show introduced me as a director. Even now, I receive messages and letters about how much it resonated with people. It's incredible to be known for your work, even if people don't know you personally. There's no greater feeling."

He goes on, "The biggest reason it worked was because people could connect with the story. When people relate to characters, it makes a lasting impression. During *Ranneeti*, I met an actor who told me he'd watched *Broken But Beautiful* seven times because it mirrored his life. It's always amazing to hear how the show has touched upon people's lives."

As we move ahead in this chat, he goes on to discuss his approach, emphasising the importance of connecting with the audience. "Our job as storytellers is to present the story in the simplest, most impactful way possible. I'm passionate about telling stories that resonate with people. Whenever I come across a story that excites me, I jump at the chance to bring it to life. It's about making sure the story reaches the right audience and that they can relate to it."



Filmmaker Santosh Singh speaks to *The Pioneer* about his much-acclaimed series *Broken But Beautiful*, his bond with Vikrant Massey and also discusses his upcoming project *Aankhon ki Gustaakhiyan* and more

His collaboration with Vikrant Massey in *Aankhon ki Gustaakhiyan* is something he's looking forward to. He reveals to us that the project is still in its pre-production phase. Well, this is going to be his second collab with Vikrant, with whom he shares a great bond. "Vikrant and I, our bond dates back to our first project together, *Broken But Beautiful*, which also helped him reach a wider audience and it was my debut as a director. We've been trying to find the right script to work on together again and I think we've found it. When it comes to love stories, we make a great team."

*Aankhon ki Gustaakhiyan*, he reveals, is a musical love film and something very different from what Vikrant has done before. "You will see a different Vikrant altogether. A new challenge for me as well. It's going to be one of the most exciting projects for both of us."

Coming to his latest project, *Ranneeti*, it has presented its own set of challenges, having been inspired by real-life events. So the filmmaker says, "Getting it right required extensive research. We shot it across the world, from Serbia to Kashmir and the scale of the production was immense. Seeing the final product and the love it received made all the hard work worth it."

As for his future endeavours, he is ready to keep pushing the envelope. "I've always believed in challenging myself as a filmmaker. Working in different genres keeps my passion alive and allows me to avoid getting stuck in a rut. My next project, *Nausikhiye*, is a comedy produced by Lionsgate and Ellipsis. It stars Abhimanyu Dassani, Amol Parashar and Shreya and it's a complete fun and laughter project. We're currently finalising the release dates."

## Pritam Chakraborty:

# I left a few bestselling films so I could do *Dangal*!

TEJAL SINHA

Our guest for the day is a renowned musician, who has journeyed from Kolkata to Mumbai, overcoming challenges to establishing a legacy at the National Awards. So without any further ado, we bring to you our exclusive interaction with the none-other than Pritam Chakraborty, who has created music for over 125 Hindi films during his two-decade-long career, earning many awards. But the composer is celebrating a significant reward now, as he wins his first National Film Award!

His music for *Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva* (2022) captivated music lovers. Tracks such as *Kesariya* and *Deva Deva* are still being celebrated to such an extent that they continue to endure. Isn't now the perfect time for us to share with you our exclusive interview with him, where he discusses his humble beginnings and much more?

"The journey has been amazing, but of course with a lot of ups and downs," begins the music composer over a chat with us. But you know what, more than anything else, what's something that he really enjoys and feels blessed about is working in a profession that he has always loved—music after all. "My work never felt like work. Even if I had to work for hours without even sleeping, I never felt exhausted. Back then, we lived in a small house in Kolkata. Coming from a lower-middle-class family, we just had a few professions like doctor, engineer, CA, or professor. Initially, I was also supposed to be going in the same direction, though my love for music and playing in the band was on. I was hand-helped by destiny to accidentally reach the film institute."

Studying at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTI) changed his life. Unlike others, he never had a dream to travel down to Mumbai and work. But again, getting a chance to be selected in FTI, he by chance had applied in; got selected and his life changed in such a way that his inclination towards music just kept growing. Pritam, who got his big break for *Tere Liye* further recalls, "The ambiance of FTI was highly around the classics of Indian cinema. The faculty was so good. But though we had no special music course in FTI back then, there was a brilliant lecturer who was also into music. He kept orienting me in the film score. FTI was a very important part of my journey."

There was a time in his life when he had to stay with over 10 people in a small apartment, 8 of whom were his seniors. As things went on, so did he start getting opportunities for jingles; then came *Tere Liye*. In 2002, the duo we forever enjoy listening to, Jeet Ganguly and Pritam Chakraborty, aka Jeet-Pritam, were all in the news for their chart-buster songs in *Mere Yaar Ki Shaadi Hai*. Later came *Dhoom*, which was again a blockbuster that had also opened the doors for him in the industry!

Followed by many more of his compositions, the music of *Life in a...Metro* had garnered critical acclaim. This film to him is all about memories. "Anurag is a friend and we happen to stay together in a building complex," shares the tunesmith with great regards as he continues, "Anurag had narrated to me the story of *Gangster* and *Life in a...Metro* in this garden, where both of us were sitting on this 'jhula' as he was narrating. *Gangster* was a different story altogether and a great one. But *Life in a...Metro* got me very excited! It was such a fresh film and the whole idea of the band being there was something new. Anurag is brilliant in cheating locations. He was good at shooting something somewhere and making it look like it was shot somewhere else. It has become such a cult movie that the sound we decided to take in was more like soft rock. It kind of worked out really well back then. Being on-screen wasn't that much of a thing, but being a part of such a project?"

Many misconceptions exist regarding kids' skincare, which can cause parents to overlook using the right products. The health of a child's skin can be greatly impacted by misconceptions about what is good or bad. Together, we will dispel some common misconceptions about kids' skincare and offer evidence-based recommendations for maintaining your child's skin health and vibrancy.

**• Kids don't require skincare:** One of the most common misconceptions is that children's skin is naturally adaptable and doesn't need particular care. However, children still require regular skin care, even though they often have healthier skin than adults. Children's skin is still susceptible to environmental irritants like pollution, sunlight, and even harsh soaps. These may result in long-term harm, dryness and discomfort.

**• Children don't need to wear sunscreen:** It's a terrible misunderstanding to think that young skin is not tough enough to need sunscreen. A kid's sensitive skin is more vulnerable to the damaging effects of ultraviolet (UV) light. Their skin is thinner and more translucent than adults, making them more susceptible to the harmful effects of UV radiation. These effects can include sunburn and skin cancer, which can have long-term effects. Kids need to be protected from the sun every day. It is recommended to use sunscreen with a minimum

**• Kids don't need a moisturiser:** A common misconception among parents is that since children's skin is naturally moisturised and soft, they don't require moisturiser. However, climate, frequent cleaning and chlorinated pool water can cause a child's skin to become parched, which can irritate. Keeping the skin's natural barrier intact requires a good moisturiser. Select one that is suitable for your child's skin type and is mild, gentle and make sure it has allergen free fragrances.

**• Natural products are always safe:** The term "all natural" might be deceptive when it comes to kids' skincare products. Many parents believe kids' products are inherently safe for their child's skin if they are natural, but the truth is that they may also irritate the skin or trigger allergic reactions. Always check the ingredients on the label to ensure they won't cause any allergic reaction to your kids.

**• Kids can use adult skincare products:** Some parents may believe it's more convenient to use their skincare products on their children. However, children's skin is more sensitive and may respond differently to adult-formulated cosmetics. Always choose products made especially for kids. When in doubt, get advice from a pediatric dermatologist before giving your child any adult-sized cosmetics.

A musical connoisseur altogether that he has been, Pritam Chakraborty, aka Pritam Da, has won his first-ever national award. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, he takes us through his humble beginnings, creating the music for the cult film *Life in a...Metro* and more

How could we miss out on the opportunity of discussing with him about the much-awaited *Metro...In Dino*? Is there any sort of pressure to keep up with the nostalgic elements around *Life in a...Metro*? "The pressure, don't ask (he laughs). Pressure *lena hi mushkil hai*," humorously reveals the recipient of multiple Filmfare awards with *The Pioneer*. "If you take pressure, you certainly will not be able to match the essence or recreate something. 17 years later, that music has grown somewhere. It's impossible to match that. I don't think you should even try to match it because the music has lived for 17 years. It has seeped through and all this time, the sound has changed. *Metro...In Dino*, the sequel, has no connection. I am not going to put a comparison in my head. We are not trying to take forward any of the songs. It's just like a fresh soundtrack for me."

Known for *Jab We Met*, *Race*, *Kismet Connection*, *Kidnap*, *Love Aaj Kal*, *Ajab Prem Ki Gazab Kahaani*, *Crook*, *Dum Maaro Dum* and a lot more to the end-less list, *Dangal* marked his first film that was based on sports and had no romantic music. Guess what? The songs like *Dangal* title track, *Haanikaarak Babu* and *Dhaakad* were all cracked one-after-one in just three days. "We were all travelling and had gone to Aamir Khan's Panchgani house and there was some magic there. We finished these three songs in three days. But unfortunately, after that, both Amitabh and I fell sick. Later, on the next trip, we cracked *Naina* and the other songs from the film. *Dangal*, I was not expecting so much of love song-wise because this doesn't have anything romantic, but as I read the bound script, I was so happy."

He also revealed that songs for *Laal Singh Chaddha* were also composed in the same way. Then came 83, to which he was emotionally attached and still has many memories around it. But coming to *Dangal*, he said, "I was extremely moved. I had to leave a few films just so I could do *Dangal*. In movies that had these item songs and love songs, the scope of music was not as high as it was in *Dangal*. AK wanted very undivided attention. *Dilwale* and *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* at the same time were going on. There was something about the script that made me feel like I had to do it. In *Dangal*, I had done the background music as well." Going ahead, one of the actors that he's simultaneously worked with has been none other than Ranbir Kapoor. His association with the charming star dates back to *Ajab Prem Ki Gazab Kahaani*.

"Ranbir Kapoor is love. He is a director's dream. I got to work with him closely in *Barfi* and *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani*. When I saw him in *Barfi*, I told Anurag that there could hardly be anybody to have pulled off this role. He kind of always moulds himself to the role and he is like Rishi Ji; he is also a musical star. The *Rockstar* songs, if you see, the way he has emoted himself, then in *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*, he emoted all of it through his eyes, which was stupefying for me and Arijit, as we were working after the songs were shot," signs off Pritam, who has got some really big projects in his kitty, including *Metro 2*, *War 2* and *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*, among the other ones.

**METRO...IN DINO HAS NO CONNECTION WITH LIFE IN A...METRO. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO TAKE FORWARD ANY OF THE SONGS. IT'S JUST LIKE A FRESH SOUNDTRACK FOR ME**

Gentle washing, moisturising and sun protection are essential components of basic skincare for kids.

**• Kids don't need to wear sunscreen:** It's a terrible misunderstanding to think that young skin is not tough enough to need sunscreen. A kid's sensitive skin is more vulnerable to the damaging effects of ultraviolet (UV) light. Their skin is thinner and more translucent than adults, making them more susceptible to the harmful effects of UV radiation. These effects can include sunburn and skin cancer, which can have long-term effects. Kids need to be protected from the sun every day. It is recommended to use sunscreen with a minimum



## Debunking myths around kids' skincare

comes to kids' skincare products. Many parents believe kids' products are inherently safe for their child's skin if they are natural, but the truth is that they may also irritate the skin or trigger allergic reactions. Always check the ingredients on the label to ensure they won't cause any allergic reaction to your kids.

**• Kids can use adult skincare products:** Some parents may believe it's more convenient to use their skincare products on their children. However, children's skin is more sensitive and may respond differently to adult-formulated cosmetics. Always choose products made especially for kids. When in doubt, get advice from a pediatric dermatologist before giving your child any adult-sized cosmetics.

(The author, Prasanna Vasnadu, is a Parent Educator and Founder of Tikitoro.)

# what's brewing?



Socialite Sailaja Reddy inaugurated a 9-day National Silk Expo-2024 at Sri Satya Sai Nigamagmam in Sri Nagar Colony, which is organised by Jagdishwar Hastkala. The expo will be up until September 11.



L'Oréal Paris, has announced Alia Bhatt as the new global brand ambassador. She joins the brand's diverse roster of spokespersons like Viola Davis, Jane Fonda, Eva Longoria, Kendall Jenner, Elle Fanning, Camila Cabello and many others. The award-winning actress, producer and entrepreneur will star in the French beauty brand's campaigns starting from September 2024.

PARTY

The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) and London's Soho Theatre are thrilled to co-present Patchwork Ensemble's reprised version of their hit show – *The Gentlemen's Club* to audiences across two continents. This partnership marks a significant milestone in international theatre, highlighting the dynamic exchange between two of the leading art centres from India and the UK. *The Gentlemen's Club*, which presented at the NCPA in 2015 as a part of the Centrestage Festival, will be set for its much-awaited second run from the 27th and the 28th of September in the Experimental Theatre.



Photos by- SV Chary



Aster CMI Hospital and Coal India Ltd. have partnered to provide life-saving bone marrow transplants for children with thalassaemia and aplastic anaemia. This initiative, supported by the Health Ministry of India, allows Coal India Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility project to financially assist bone marrow transplant treatments for these life-threatening conditions.

Gemini Edibles and Fats India Ltd (GEF India) as a part of their efforts to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices, will distribute 10,000 eco-friendly seed Ganesha boxes; 7,000 eco-friendly seed Ganesha boxes in Hyderabad and 3,000 eco-friendly seed Ganesha boxes in Bengaluru. Chetan Pimpalkhute, DGM Marketing, Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils along with the team flagged off vehicles to distribute the Eco-friendly seed Ganesha to the apartment complexes like Rainbow Vista (Phase 1&2), Malaysian Township, Aparna Sarovar and NCC Urban, among many others.



Guru Nanak University Hyderabad hosted the 3rd National level HR Campus Connect 2024, HR CONCLAVE, centered on the theme "Turning Challenges into Opportunities: How Freshers Can Leverage Adversity for Career Success." The event served as a crucial platform for fresh graduates to gain insights into overcoming the challenges that come with starting a career and turning them into stepping stones for success.

FUN

**ARCHIE**

**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

**GARFIELD**

**REALITY CHECK**

**SPEED BUMP**

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8		9	10	11
		12		
13				
14	15	16	17	18
19				

**NANCY**

**SUDOKU**

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

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**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.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**ACROSS**

- 6 Job
- 8 A sung musical drama
- 10 A short part of a play
- 13 Refusing to obey orders
- 14 To cook vegetables or meat in an oven using fat
- 17 Listen to music and news on this
- 19 Somewhere students go

**DOWN**

- 1 Painful throb
- 2 Hawaiian dance
- 3 Overtake
- 4 Pleasant
- 5 A job with a syringe
- 7 Marvellous
- 9 A plant's anchors in the soil

**SOLUTION**

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

**GINGER MEGGS**

**SURESH KAVIRAYANI**  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

**T**amil Superstar Thalapathy Vijay announced his entry into politics a few months ago and now his fans have been eagerly anticipating his upcoming movies. Following the declaration of his political party, the actor will star in a few movies and one of them is *The Greatest Of All Time (GOAT)* set to be released on September 5 in both Tamil and Telugu.

The film is directed by Venkat Prabhu and actors including Prashanth, Prabhu, Vaibhav, Sneha, Laila and Meenakshi Chaudhary, participate in this film collectively. Yuvan Shankar Raja composed the music for it.

Vijay is entering politics, so can the audience expect any political dialogues in this film? "Absolutely no," clarifies the director, adding, "It is not a political film and there is not even a single political dialogue in it. Actually, Vijay sir has never included politics into his films; instead, he has always viewed them as films." When writing the script, he considered it for the big screen and didn't feel obligated to include any political dialogues.

Venkat Prabhu originally intended to cast Rajinikanth as the father and Dhanush as the son. "But later I came to know the AI technology with the VFX team. I thought it was best to show Vijay sir in both characters. In this film, Vijay sir will appear in dual roles; younger and older one," said Venkat Prabhu.

"It is not easy because we need to provide the AI with a significant amount of inputs. When we sought to exhibit a younger version of Vijay sir, I spoke with his mother to gather information about his youthful appearance and obtained numerous photos of him from his youth," said the director. The latest released song from the film has received negative reviews, which has turned into a matter of concern for the team. Further speak-



## 'GOAT IS NOT A POLITICAL FILM'

**DIRECTOR VENKAT PRABHU DISCUSSES HIS UPCOMING MOVIE GOAT STARRING TAMIL SUPERSTAR VIJAY AND THE CHALLENGES HE HAD ENCOUNTERED DURING THE FILM'S PRODUCTION**

ing about it, he said, "Yes, I am aware and even Vijay sir is also concerned about it. He has asked us not to change the body, as many usually know his face. He mentioned that he completed all the edits and the finalised version will be visible upon the movie's release."

Vijay is taking on two different roles, making this his most challenging film yet. "We have one younger Vijay and the other one is older. We had action and chasing scenes. We needed to do the same scenes for two days. Definitely, this is the toughest film in my career," he said.

The late actor Vijaykanth was also featured

in this movie. But how? The director clarifies, "With the help of AI, we managed to include Vijaykanth in a few scenes, where he resembles his character from the famous movie *Captain Prabhakaran*. We are in a technological world and anything is possible, but at the same time, I am also scared of it," said the director.

Venkat Prabhu had previously collaborated with the popular actor Ajith. "Both are relaxed and enjoyable, but Ajith sir is more entertaining and communicates more. Vijay sir is extremely quiet and reserved," mentioned Venkat while collaborating with these celebrities.



## Jr NTR & NBK's gesture towards Telugu states flood victims

**A**fter visiting his mother's homeland of Kundapura, Jr NTR is back and was blessed at Udupi Srikrishna Matha. Upon arriving in the city, he learned about the severe rain and the impact it has had on many individuals in the Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He instantly felt the urge to take action for the residents of Telugu states.

He has now donated Rs. 50 lakhs each to both the Telugu states, a total of Rs one crore. "Due to the recent rains, the Telugu states suffered heavy floods and devastated many people. It has disturbed me. I pray to God that they will recover quickly from this devastation and come to normal soon," said Jr NTR on his social media. He further stated that he contributed one crore rupees, giving fifty lakhs each to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, in order to assist the government and the people. "As part of my support, I am donating Rs 50 lakh each to Telangana and AP for the Chief Minister Relief Fund," said Jr NTR.

Before Jr NTR, Vyjayanthi Movies had donated Rs 25 lakhs to the AP Chief Minister Fund. "The state has given us so much to us and it is our duty to give back to them at this challenging time," the production house said on its social media page.

Actor Vishwak Sen donated Rs 5 lakh each to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. "To support the flood relief efforts, I am pledging a donation of Rs 5 lakhs," said the actor on his social media. Meanwhile, Sithara Entertainments, Trivikram Srinivas and producers Radhakrishna and Naga Vamsi jointly announced Rs 25 lakh to each Telugu state. "We hope and pray for faster recovery of the people affected," they said on their social media.

Young actor Siddhu Jonnalagadda responded to the devastation that caused the two Telugu states. He announced a donation of Rs 30 lakhs to both the states; each state gets Rs. 15 lakhs. "With a profoundly heavy heart, I have decided to contribute Rs 30 lakh rupees (Rs. 15 lakhs to AP and Rs. 15 lakhs to Telangana) to the flood relief fund," said the actor on his social media.

Actor Nandamuri Balakrishna has pledged to donate Rs 50 lakhs each to the Andhra Pradesh CM Relief Fund and Telangana CM Relief Fund. The actor, who is at present celebrating his 50 years in the industry, issued a statement saying, "My acting career has been shining bright for 50 years, with the divine blessings of my legendary father, who directed my first ever shot. Along with his blessings, my mother's Telugu language blessings and Telugu people's appreciation and kindness have created this unbreakable bond between us. I can't repay their love."

Going ahead, he shared that he would like to pledge his life to them and dedicate it for their upliftment and entertainment. At this joyous moment, he expressed his gratitude to everyone, who has been a part of his journey. Speaking of the current situation of floods in the Telugu states, he said, "Now, catastrophic floods have hit our Telugu states, and the visuals are heartbreaking. With a heavy heart, I'm pledging a Lakhs donation to the Andhra Pradesh CM Relief Fund and another Rs. 50 lakh donation to the Telangana CM Relief Fund for relief activities and all affected people. I would like to pray to God that the Telugu States return to normalcy, quite soon."

The Telugu film industry is consistently at the forefront during natural disasters in our country. A lot of individuals in the industry gave generously to the Kerala Chief Minister Relief Fund during the recent period of rain and floods in the state.



## Paid premieres are a strategy for small films: Dil Raju

**A**ctor Suhas is becoming more prominent with each film he appears in. His upcoming film *Janaka Aithe Kanaka* is set to release on September 7. Sandeep Reddy Bandla serves as the director, while the film is being produced by Dil Raju Productions. Dil Raju, the film producer, has revealed that the movie has finished the censorship procedures.

"The trailer and the other promotional videos enthralled everyone. Suhas is

inching step by step toward the top by selecting good scripts. He is choosing different stories and the audience is also encouraging him. I am confident that this *Janaka Aithe Kanaka* is also a big success," said Dil Raju. He also mentioned that international distributors are reporting that Suhas's movies are now securing a minimum guarantee at the box office.

"In my production, I have made clean films. This film is different as compared to my previous films. However, I made sure

to cross the line and made it very careful," said Dil Raju. He added that this film is like an educated one to the audience. "But it entertains you in all aspects," he said.

He praises Malayalam actress Sangeethana, who played the female lead in this one. "Though she is a Malayali, she learned Telugu and lent her own voice to her role," said Dil Raju. "Paid premieres are a strategy for small films and I too wanted to screen premieres for my film on September 6," said Dil Raju.

## Another film with police backdrop

**N**umerous Telugu films have been created featuring police themes and the upcoming release of *Police Vaari Hechcharika* adds to this collection. Babji is the one who directs the film. Senior actor Srikanth reveals the film's initial appearance and describes the poster as intriguing.

"The first look is interesting with the title. Usually, we see someone else getting tied with ropes, but in this poster, a policeman is tied with guns and ropes, which is new to me," said Srikanth after releasing the poster. He added that he knows director Babji and he

always comes up with innovative stories and ideas. "I am confident that he will achieve good success with this film," said Srikanth.

Director Babji said that actor Srikanth is like his brother. "Srikanth is a good-hearted person and I always believed when he did the honours to my film, it is going to be a good success," said director Babji. The makers stated that they have recently begun promoting the movie and will reveal the release date shortly within the upcoming days. The producer is Belli Janarthan. Sunny Akhil is in the starring role.



## Mokshagna to debut as Simba

**M**any reports circulating in Film Nagar suggest that director Prashanth Varma is helming the debut film of Mokshagna, the son of Nandamuri Balakrishna. On Tuesday, Prashanth Varma shared a post on his social media platform that has been circulating online. After reading the caption, numerous individuals commented saying that he was introducing Mokshagna and they verified it. A lot of people observed that the only one who entered was Mokshagna.

He captured an image of *The Lion King* and shared it on his social media platform, which read, "A new dawn is breaking at ThePVCU. Simba'sComing."

The director did not reveal anything about the movie and Mokshagna, leading netizens to speculate that Simba is actually Mokshagna.

According to a source, Mokshagna's debut film will be officially launching on September 6. "It is an auspicious day and Balakrishna wanted to introduce his son on that day," said a source. Some of the best technicians are being brought on board for this movie and several industry celebrities are expected to attend the launch event. However, Prashanth Varma achieved success as a director with his previous movie, *HanuMan*. The movie did not only do well in Telugu, but in all languages. Additionally, he revealed a follow-up to his movie *HanuMan* and helmed the debut film of producer Danayya's son Kalyan Dasari.

## GOPICHAND'S ULTRA STYLISH ROLE COMBINES COMEDY & INTENSITY

**D**irector Sreenu Vaitla is an expert in dealing with commercial entertainers. He is particularly expert in handling comedy. The director is presently making a stylish action and family entertainer *Viswam* with Macho Star Gopichand playing the lead role. On Tuesday, the makers released the film's teaser as a part of its promotions.

The teaser begins with Naresh's voiceover, followed by the introduction of Gopichand and Kavya Thapar's characters. Their contrasting roles promise a comedic spark. The teaser then showcases a series of comedic scenes with the prominent cast, before transitioning into action and thrilling elements in the latter half.

Sreenu Vaitla seems to be back in his element, balancing entertainment and action effectively. The witty dialogues and blend of comedy and action make it a promising commercial outing.

Gopichand appears ultra-stylish and shines in a role that combines comedy with his usual intensity. Kavya Thapar adds to the appeal with her glamour, while Naresh, Vennela Kishore and others contribute to the humour and entertainment.

KV Guhan's cinematography stands out, and Chaitan Bharadwaj's background score adds depth to the story. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under People Media Factory and Venu Donepudi's Chitralayam Studios, the production values are impressive.



Gopi Mohan, a veteran collaborator on Sreenu Vaitla's blockbusters, penned the screenplay. The team also includes Amar Reddy Kudumula as editor and Kiran Manne

as art director. *Viswam* is slated for release on October 11th for Dussehra, positioning it perfectly as a family entertainer during the festive season.

# IT'S TIME TO MAKE AMENDS: PAT CUMMINS ON TEST SERIES AGAINST INDIA

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian captain Pat Cummins is looking at the upcoming five-match rubber against India as a chance to "make amends" for the successive Test series defeats at home against their fierce rivals.

He said the next Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will start on November 22 in Perth, promises to be a 50-50 affair.

India retained the trophy in the last four series, from 2016-17 to 2022-23. India had defeated Australia in their own backyard in the last two series in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Cummins said Australia are hoping to draw confidence from their win over India in the World Test Championship Final at London last year.

"The last two series here in Australia, we haven't been successful, so it's been a long time. Hopefully, it's time to make amends," Cummins told Star Sports.

"You know, we've played them (India) plenty of times where they've beaten us, but we've also had plenty of wins against them as well, which we'll draw confidence from. The most recent Test match was, of course, the World Test Championship in neutral conditions, and we came out on top in that match.

"It's always fiercely competitive, and it always feels like it's 50-50. I'm 10 out of 10 excited for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy," he added.



Senior batter Steve Smith agreed with the skipper and said it will be a "big summer" for Australia against a "well-balanced" Indian team.

"You know, it's going to be a great series. You know, India have been playing outstanding cricket. We've

been playing really good cricket the last couple of years. You know, we haven't beaten India in the last two times they've come out here," he said. "Obviously got a terrific side, very well-balanced team, all bases covered. So, you know, they've played

really good cricket out here. They've

really good cricket when we've been over in India as well, where we know they're very, very difficult to beat. So it's going to be a big summer. It's going to be an exciting one." Pacer Mitchell Starc highlighted the

importance of the rivalry by keeping it at par with the Ashes.

"For Australian cricket, you've got the Ashes and then you've got the Border Gavaskar Trophy in there. I mean there's a long history in the Ashes but that Border Gavaskar rivalry, if you like, has just grown from strength to strength over each series.

"And now we see it as a five Test match series which is fantastic for not only the rivalry but for the Test series as well. Whether it's the calibre of player, the calibre of matches that we see as fans and as cricketers just continues to grow strength on strength each series," he said.

"Now (with) India obviously winning a number of series in a row, it's created even a bigger rivalry between the two countries. I mean both teams are well known to one another, we play each other very often across the formats, so I'm sure it'll be another exciting series," Starc added.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell said an India-Australia contest in any format has become a must-watch affair now. "I think over the last few years, definitely, it feels like the two teams sort of swap places in the rankings quite a bit. Whichever format it is, you will always see these two teams at number one at some stage around the world," Maxwell said.

"The different contexts we've had in both countries across all formats certainly provide a lot of highlights for the rest of the world. It's always must-watch cricket whenever these two teams are playing."



## Bangladesh thump Pakistan by 6 wickets in 2nd Test to complete historic sweep

AP ■ RAWALPINDI (PAKISTAN)

Bangladesh completed a six-wicket victory over here on Tuesday and achieved an historic sweep of their two-Test series.

Needing 143 more runs on the final day with 10 wickets in hand, Bangladesh knocked them off for the loss of four wickets when Shakib Al Hasan hit the winning boundary. Bangladesh recorded only its second bilateral series win of two or more Tests away from home; the last was against the West Indies in 2009.

The tourists won the opening Test by 10 wickets and required just four days in the second after the first day was washed out in Rawalpindi.

The visitors' second innings finished on 185-4, and Shakib was 21 not out and Mushfiqur Rahim 22 not out. Bangladesh was 26-6 in the

first innings but Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz led a gallant recovery.

Fast bowlers Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana and Taskin Ahmed dismissed Pakistan for 172 in the second innings to leave Bangladesh a victory target of 184 in four sessions. The Bangladesh top order showed plenty of resilience to flatten Pakistan plans of a dramatic comeback, with meaningful contributions from opener Zakir Hasan (40), captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haque (34).

They extended Pakistan's miserable home record in Tests to 10 matches without a win. Pakistan's last home win was in December 2021 against South Africa at Rawalpindi. Shan Masood has suffered a second consecutive clean sweep since he was elevated to the test skipper last year, having lost to Australia 3-0.

## WTC Final to be played at Lord's from June 11-15 next year: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The third World Test Championship (WTC) final will be played at the iconic Lord's between June 11 and 15 next year, announced the International Cricket Council on Tuesday.

The ICC has marked June 16 as the reserve day, if required. "The ICC World Test Championship Final has quickly become one of the most anticipated events in the crick-

eting calendar and we are pleased to announce the dates for the 2025 edition," said ICC CEO Geoff Allardice in a statement. The Lord's is hosting the WTC final for the first time as Southampton (2021) and the Oval (2023) were the venues for the two previous title matches. India featured in those two finals, but lost to New Zealand in the inaugural match and last year they were defeated by Australia. Currently, Rohit Sharma's India are sitting in pole

position ahead of reigning champions Australia. India will face the Aussies in an away five-match series later this year in the race to the WTC Final. However, New Zealand (third), England (fourth), Sri Lanka (fifth), South Africa (sixth) and Bangladesh (seventh) are still in contention for a place in the one-off decider next year. However, Pakistan suffered a huge setback as Bangladesh inflicted a 0-2 defeat on them in the just-concluded two-match home series.

## NZ award central contracts to Nathan Smith and Josh Clarkson

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Promising all-rounders Nathan Smith and Josh Clarkson have been awarded New Zealand's central contract for the first time, replacing Devon Conway and Finn Allen in the 20-member list. Clarkson has played three ODIs and six T20Is for the Black Caps since debuting against Bangladesh in Dunedin at the end of last year, while Smith was the standout performer for Wellington during the most recent Plunket Shield season at the domestic level in New Zealand.

The two spots were left vacant after Conway and Allen declined the offers

last month. Conway, who has signed up for Joburg Super Kings in SAT20, has signed a casual agreement with NZC that will make him available for all internationals except for the Sri Lanka white-ball matches in January. New Zealand coach Gary Stead said Smith and Clarkson deserved their first central contracts and believes the duo can make an impact at international level over the coming months.

"Nathan's been on our radar for a while having been a significant performer in domestic cricket for some time," Stead was quoted as saying in a New Zealand Cricket statement. "Josh has been involved in both white



ball squads over the past twelve months which shows the strides he's made in his game," he said. "Josh will provide depth and adds value

given the volume of white-ball cricket on the horizon."

Both Smith and Clarkson have also represented New Zealand at Under-19 level at the 2016 ICC Under-19 World Cup in Bangladesh, alongside fellow contracted players Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra and Ben Sears. **NZ CENTRAL CONTRACT 2024-25:** Tom Blundell, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Nathan Smith, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Will Young.



## Purani Dilli 6 beat Central Delhi Kings by 33 run to enter DPL playoffs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Purani Dilli 6 rode on Lalit Yadav's unbeaten 46 off 29 balls and Prince Yadav's 3/15 to beat Central Delhi Kings by 33 runs in their final league stage match and qualify for the playoffs of the Delhi Premier League T20 tournament here. Put into bat, Purani Dilli 6 notched 173 for 6 in their allotted 20 overs, and then dished out a clinical bowling performance to restrict Central Delhi Kings to 140 for 8 on Monday night.

They exploited the early swing at the Arun Jaitley Stadium to restrict Central Delhi Kings to 39 for 2 inside Powerplay. Prince Yadav drew first blood by dismissing Dhruv Kaushik, and the second wicket came through a run-out.

Lakshay Thareja, who looked in good touch, couldn't build on his start as he was dismissed for 34 off 26 in the ninth over. At the halfway mark, Central Delhi Kings were reduced to 57 for 3. Shivam Sharma then removed Hiten Dalal (27 off 25) in the 14th over, with the required run rate climbing above 12. Central Delhi Kings crossed the 100-run mark in the 15th over but they struggled to accelerate the run chase.

Prince Yadav picked up his second wicket of the match when he dismissed impact sub Aryan Rana (8 off 10) in the 17th over, putting Purani Dilli 6 firmly in control. Jonny Sidhu brought up his

fifty in 31 balls in the 19th over but was caught and bowled in the same over off Prince Yadav. Ayush Singh Thakur picked up two wickets in the final over to ensure Purani Dilli 6 entered the playoffs with a remarkable win.

Earlier, Purani Dilli 6 had a challenging start to their innings as they lost three wickets by the end of the Powerplay with only 38 runs on the board.

Keshav Dalal and Yug Gupta steadied the ship with timely boundaries, but Jonny Sidhu provided a breakthrough to Central Delhi Kings when he removed Dalal for 28 off 20 balls in the 11th over.

Gupta, on the other hand, took the team's total to the 100-run mark in 12.2 overs but was dismissed in the very next ball after scoring 44 off 30. Mayank Gousain (13 off 12) also fell cheaply to Dalal in the 16th over, leaving Purani Dilli 6 at 131 for 6.

From there, Lalit Yadav took charge as his unbeaten 46 off 29 balls and Sumit Chhikara's 19 not out off 10 balls guided Purani Dilli 6 to a competitive total of 173 for 6. Dadar was the pick of the bowlers as he returned with 2/29 in his four overs. **Brief Scores:** Purani Dilli 6: 173/6 in 20 overs (Lalit Yadav 46 not out, Yug Gupta 44; Rajneesh Dadar 2/29) beat Central Delhi Kings: 140/8 in 20 overs (Jonny Sidhu 52, Lakshay Thareja 34; Prince Yadav 3/15) by 33 runs.

## Can't rest on laurels, time to start afresh and retain ACT title: Harmanpreet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh said it's time to move on from the euphoria of a second successive Olympic bronze medal if the side desires to retain its Asian Champions Trophy title in Hulubair, China this month.

Under Harmanpreet's leadership, India won a second successive bronze medal for the first time in over half-a-century at the Olympics in Paris recently. But Harmanpreet said it's time to move and start afresh after a deserving break for the Asian showpiece to be held from September 8 to 17.

"With a brief break after the Paris Olympics, the team is ready to take on the best hockey playing nations in Asia and prove its mettle.

"We had a good outing in Paris but hockey is a very close game, we cannot rest on our laurels," the skipper said before leaving for China in the early hours on Tuesday.

"The aim will be to play high-octane hockey and retain our title."

Besides India, the Asian Champions Trophy will feature Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and hosts China. India will begin their campaign against China on September 8, followed by a match against Japan on September 9.

After a one-day break, India will take on Malaysia on September 11, followed by Korea on September 12 and arch-rivals Pakistan on



September 14. The top four teams will advance to the semifinals slated for September 16, with final scheduled for September 17.

India are the most successful team in the tournament with four titles, followed by Pakistan (3). India won the last edition in Chennai, beating Malaysia 4-3 in the final. Vice captain Vivek Sagar Prasad said the side has a few new players in the team this time around, who have immense potential and are eager to perform.

"We will do our best to create a nurturing environment for them on the way to our title defence," he said.

## FIFA says \$6.5 billion of international spending in transfer window

AP ■ ZURICH

Spending on transfer fees in international men's player deals cooled off during the mid-year trading period, according to International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) research published on Tuesday.

FIFA said clubs committed to spend USD 6.46 billion on buying players in cross-border deals during the June-to-September transfer window - down from USD 7.43 billion in the same period a year ago.

The average transfer fees paid by clubs in Europe, by far the richest market, was USD 3.13 million compared to USD 3.8 million a year ago. The biggest transfer fees in cross-border deals were Julián Alvarez's move from Manchester City to Atletico Madrid, reported to be about 75 million euros (USD 83 million) and Leny Yoro from Lille to Manchester United for a reported 62 million euros (USD 69 million). The FIFA study does not include deals involving two clubs in the same country.

Kylian Mbappé joined Real Madrid without a transfer fee being paid because the France star was a free agent after



letting his contract expire at Paris Saint-Germain. Still, Madrid had to pay Mbappé a signing bonus variously reported as between USD 110 million and USD 165 million. The biggest transfer fees in cross-border deals were Julián Alvarez's move from Manchester City to Atletico Madrid, reported to be about 75 million euros (USD 83 million) and Leny Yoro from Lille to Manchester United for a reported 62 million euros (USD 69 million). The FIFA study does not include deals involving two clubs in the same country where the player's registration

is not transferred between member federations.

Deals in the top-10 biggest transfer fees not counting toward the FIFA figures include Dominic Solanke from Bournemouth to Tottenham, Pedro Neto from Wolves to Chelsea and Teun Koopmeiners from Atalanta to Juventus.

English clubs were the biggest overall net spenders with an outlay of USD 1.69 billion on international transfers, and USD 1.25 billion recouped. Clubs in England, Italy and Saudi Arabia all had a collective net spending of at least USD 400 million. Belgian clubs took a net profit of USD 302 million, by receiving USD 412 million from selling players abroad and spending USD 110 million on players from clubs in other countries, according to FIFA.

Those deals included Igor Thiago moving from Club Brugge to Brentford and Ernest Nuamah from Molenbeek to its sister club Lyon.

## Tearful Luis Suárez announces Uruguay retirement

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

Striker Luis Suárez will play his last game for Uruguay on Friday. Suárez was emotional as he announced he was ending a 17-year international career after the World Cup qualifier against Paraguay at Centenario Stadium.

"It hurts to say it, but Friday will be my last match with my country's national team," Suárez said late Monday, unable to hold back tears at a press conference.

"I am retiring because I want to step aside. I am 37 years old, there are a lot of talented players, and I know it would be difficult to get to the next World Cup.

"It is comforting to know I can retire on my terms and not have to retire due to injuries, or to not being called up. I want to say goodbye here, with my people. This is the ideal moment."

Suárez debuted in 2007 and is Uruguay's all-time leading scorer with 69 goals in 142 matches. He played in four World Cups and five Copa America.

He helped to lead the team to the title at the 2011 Copa, where he scored twice in the semifinals and the match-winner in the final and was named player of the tournament.

"It's very difficult, but I want to be relaxed when I play my last game with the national team," he said. "I will be just as excited as I was for my first national team appearance in 2007 when I was a 19-year-old kid."

"Now, I am a veteran, an older player, whatever you want to call it, with an incredible history with the national team and I will give my life for the team on Friday."

In the 2010 World Cup quarter-finals, Suárez prevented Ghana from



scoring an extra-time winner with his hand on the goal line and was red-carded. Ghana missed the resulting penalty kick, Uruguay won a penalty shootout and reached the

semifinals for the first time in 40 years. Suárez was hailed at home as a saviour, but he was scorned at the 2014 World Cup when he bit Italy defender Giorgio

Chiellini in their last group game. It was the third of four times in his career he bit a player. FIFA banned Suarez for nine games, the longest ban in

World Cup history, and he missed the rest of the tournament and the 2015 Copa America.

"My fear has always been that my lasting image for my children and all Uruguayan fans would be of 2014," Suárez said.

"I have gotten past that. And, I hope the people have also forgotten and they are left with all the great moments I lived in our stadium, with all the things our team accomplished, in Copas America, in World Cups."

He reached 100 caps at the 2018 World Cup and was twice named man of the match en route to the quarter-finals. But in 2022, Uruguay didn't get out of their group.

Suárez will continue at Inter Miami, which he has previously said will be his last club. He's also had a stellar career at clubs including Barcelona, Liverpool, Ajax and Atletico Madrid.