

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

India supports policy of development, asserts Modi




SITHARAMAN MOOTS QUARTERLY TARGETS FOR CAPEX BY MINISTRIES



Janhvi & Jr NTR drop their dance magic IN DAAVUDI



QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The pioneer
 During the 2022 floods in the erstwhile Khammam district, BRS leaders, including KCR and Harish Rao, tried to divert attention by claiming 'a foreign conspiracy' behind the cloudbursts. Are you again viewing the current floods with the same conspiracy lens? We expected at least one suggestion from KCR, with his 10 years of governance experience, but he hasn't even opened his mouth. Unlike KCR, who remained in his farmhouse during the rains, we have been on the ground with the people from the moment the first drops fell.
 - Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Minister



DON'T MISS...
No link between mobile phone...
 There is no link between using a mobile phone and developing brain cancer, according to a review of studies, which was commissioned by the World Health Organization. An international team of researchers looked at more than 5,000 studies of which 63, published between 1994 to 2022, were included in the final analysis. The team, led by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), found that even though the use of wireless technology has...
 -PAGE: 2

Minister Seethakka sanctions...
 Minister of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Dansari Anasuya alias (Seethakka) stated that Rs 24 crore has been sanctioned for the urgent need for revamping of roads and issued instructions to the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development staff to support the people who are in trouble due to heavy rains and floods on Wednesday. The Minister asked them to be available to the people continuously and ensure that they do not face any difficulties. She enquired about...
 -PAGE: 3

India remains fastest growing...
 India remains the fastest-growing paper market in the world with domestic consumption of packaging paper and paperboard growing at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24, a report said on Wednesday. According to the report by Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) for 2023-24, packaging paper & paperboard market is growing at an annual rate of 8.2 per cent in the country. The domestic packaging paper & paperboard market stands at about 15 million tonnes which is nearly 65 per cent of the...
 -PAGE: 8

Pant in focus on red ball return...
 Rishabh Pant's red-ball return will be closely monitored but the national selectors will also trace suitable backup options to frontline stars when Duleep Trophy, which precludes an important Test season, begins across Bengaluru and Anantapur on Thursday. Pant, who returned to white-ball formats after that horrific car crash, is yet to play in a longer-duration match. His last red-ball outing was against Bangladesh in December 2022. Now, he will turn out for Abhimanyu Easwaran-led Team B against Shubman...
 -SPORTS

GLOBAL SUMMIT FROM TODAY
CM Revanth to unveil AI Roadmap
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 United States. Notable global AI leaders, including Sal Khan of the Khan Academy, Daniela Combe from IBM, and Peter Diamandis of XPRIZE Foundation, will share their insights. The summit will focus on new innovations, future opportunities, and regulatory challenges in AI.
 Research presentations and startup demos are also part of the event's agenda. The Telangana government is also planning the establishment of an AI City across 200 acres within the proposed Fourth City of Greater Hyderabad. This ambitious project underscores the state's commitment to transforming the region into a technology-driven powerhouse. The summit, organized to draw global attention to Telangana's IT growth, will include 25 special programs and multiple panel discussions, solidifying Hyderabad's position as a prime destination for AI and IT investments.
 Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is set to release a comprehensive roadmap for development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the state, during the Global AI Summit, which begins on Thursday at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC). The two-day summit, a landmark event for the city, aims to position Hyderabad as a global leader in AI innovation and investments. With the theme 'Making AI Work for Everyone', the summit will feature discussions on AI's role in advancing technology and its impact on society. More than 2,000 representatives from around the world are expected to attend the summit. The event will also highlight Telangana's vision for promoting Hyderabad as a hub for AI services and related technologies -- a priority that Revanth Reddy outlined during his recent visit to the

Sexual assault triggers violence in Asifabad district
 P 4

Expedite power restoration works: Bhatti
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 In the wake of disruption in power supply caused in several areas across the state by the recent flash floods, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has emphasized the need to expedite power restoration works on a war-footing. During a review with senior officials at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat here on Wednesday, the Deputy Chief Minister urged officials to promptly address any issues faced by field staff during the power restoration process by bringing them to the attention of CMDs of DISCOM concerned. He praised the field staff for their courageous efforts in swiftly restoring power supply despite the unprecedented heavy rains. The Deputy Chief Minister stressed the importance of also ensuring safety measures during the power restoration process, while calling upon field staff to never compromise on safety protocols. He directed the officials to give special attention to 'every consumer' during the restoration operations. The review included interactions with the CMDs of discoms overseeing the field operations. He mentioned that the electricity department had suffered significant losses due to the floods and instructed the officials to accurately assess the damage and swiftly prepare a detailed report.

BRS slams Cong for floods in Rajiv Gruha Kalpa Colony
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Munneru basin. As a result, the recent floods caused severe damage to these areas." Ajay Kumar condemned the Congress for politicising the flood relief efforts, saying, "Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, without understanding the situation, came to Mahabubabad and tried to instigate violence against us." He also pointed out that despite the significant water inflow into Munneru, the government failed to alert the public in time, leading to widespread damage.
 BRS leaders accused the Congress government of being responsible for the construction of colonies in flood-prone areas of Khammam, particularly citing the Rajiv Gruha Kalpa Colony in the Munneru flood-plain. Former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar, speaking at a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, stated, "It was the Congress government that built Rajiv Gruha Kalpa and Jalagam Nagar colonies in the

'TGSPDCL has no pact with Adani Group'
Response to query under RTI
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 In response to a query raised under the Right to Information (RTI), the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) has clarified that it has not signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or agreement with the Adani Group. Kareem Ansari, a resident of Hyderabad, had filed an application under the Right to Information Act seeking clarity on whether there was any agreement between the Adani Group and TGSPDCL. In its reply, dated 7th August 2024, TSSPDCL explicitly stated that no such agreement or MoU had been signed. According to Kareem, the response from TSSPDCL could put to rest any speculations regarding the company's collaboration with the Adani Group. "I had filed an RTI query to inquire about the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Telangana and the Adani Group. The concerned department responded that no such MoU exists. This clarification should alleviate concerns among the people of old city of Hyderabad regarding power privatization."
 Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday expressed his approval of the Telangana government's HYDRAA initiative, which is actively demolishing 'illegal' constructions encroaching on water bodies. "The steps taken by CM Revanth Reddy are the right ones," Pawan Kalyan said, lauding the Telangana government's efforts to tackle the flood crisis. While expressing his support for a similar campaign in Andhra Pradesh,

DISASTROUS PAPERWORK!
Non-submission of report delays Central aid to TG
 URGING the Centre post-haste to declare a natural calamity in the state as a 'national disaster' is one thing and doing the spadework quickly to tap available funds in the first instance is quite another. The Government of India has just flagged how the Telangana government had failed to submit requisite documents and situation reports on natural disasters, thereby delaying the release of the central share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Although the state has been facing heavy rainfall and consequent flooding in several districts, including Khammam, Bhadrachalam, Mahabubnagar, Suryapet, Warangal, and Mahabubabad, Telangana has yet to provide the essential reports required for the disbursement of funds, according to a letter from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). In a letter to the Chief Secretary on Tuesday, the MHA's Disaster Management Division noted that the

state had been experiencing flood-like situations due to overflowing rivers and dam discharges. Although some relief and rescue measures had already been implemented, including the deployment of helicopters, the non-submission of financial and situational reports had become a roadblock in securing the central share of SDRF. According to the State Accountant General, Rs. 1345.15 crore is available in the SDRF account for managing relief efforts, including those for natural disasters like floods.



Sridhar: Centre must declare TG floods a 'national disaster'
 T and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has suggested that it is time for the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government at the Centre to repay its 'debt' to the people of Telangana by declaring the havoc caused by recent torrential rains in the state as a 'national disaster'. In his statements on Wednesday, following his visits to flood-hit areas of Adilabad and Nirmal districts, Sridhar Babu mentioned that in the last Lok Sabha elections, the people of Telangana had enlivened the BJP by granting it eight Lok Sabha seats. He pointed out that, due to unprecedented heavy rains, 14 districts in Telangana had been devastated by flash floods, leading to the loss of 16 lives and damage to crops across approximately 1.5 million acres, aside from significant property damage. While touring Nirmal district, Sridhar Babu urged the Union government to immediately declare the floods in Telangana as a national disaster and provide generous assistance.
 Continued on Page 5

Two from Hyd burnt alive in US road mishap
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Two people from Hyderabad were among four Indians who died in a multi-vehicle road accident in the US, according to information received by their family members here. The victims were identified as Aryan Raghunath Orampatti from Kukatpally here and his friend Farooq Sheikh, Lokesh Palacharla, another Telugu student, and Darshini Vasudev from Tamil Nadu. According to the Collin County Sheriff's office, the accident involving five vehicles occurred on the northbound US 75 just past White Street at Anna near Dallas on Friday afternoon. A truck travelling at a high speed failed to slow down and struck the rear of the SUV.

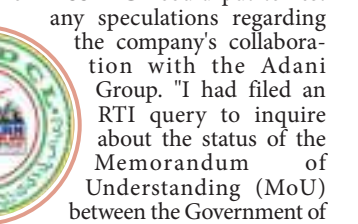
Centralised pension withdrawal system from Jan
Minister says pensioners can withdraw pensions from any bank across nation
 PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 run by retirement fund body EPFO will be able to get pension from any bank or branch across India from January, Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Wednesday. Mandaviya, who is also the chairperson of EPFO's apex decision-making body Central Board of Trustees, has approved the propos-

Bandi bats for powerloom cluster in Sircilla
Sanjay highlighted that the setting up a powerloom cluster in Sircilla would benefit thousands of weavers by modernizing machinery and enhancing productivity.
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar met Union Textile Minister Giriraj Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday and sought the establishment of a powerloom cluster in Sircilla. He pitched also for the setting up of a yarn depot under the National Handloom Development Corporation to ensure availability of raw materials for weavers at affordable prices. Additionally, Bandi Sanjay urged the Centre to increase the subsidy component to 80 per cent and to provide loans at minimal interest rates to support weavers currently struggling in the region. Sanjay highlighted that the setting up a powerloom cluster in Sircilla would benefit thousands of weavers by modernizing machinery and enhancing productivity.
 Continued on Page 5

KTR slams Cong govt for incompetence
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Bharat Rashtra Samithi legislator KT Rama Rao took to X for criticizing the Congress government for its alleged failure to secure two crucial projects that would have boosted Telangana's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. Adverting to recent developments, KTR said, "The highly advanced OSAT unit by Keynes Technology is not coming to Telangana; that's the truth." He highlighted that the Congress government's incompetence resulted in the shifting of two significant projects, including the OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing) unit, from Kongara Kalan to Gujarat.

Ponguleti: Unlike BRS, we didn't blame floods on foreign conspiracy
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Pointing to the world of difference between the manner in which the present government in Telangana had been handling the flash floods caused by recent torrential rains and the way in which the erstwhile Bharat Rashtra Samithi government had dealt with floods in 2022, state Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy criticized the BRS leaders for their claims relating to 'foreign conspiracy', and said they were unfit to comment on the Revanth government's studied efforts to address the crisis caused by the recent floods. The Minister was interacting with the media on Wednesday at Khammam. Ponguleti recalled that, during the 2022 floods in erstwhile Khammam district, BRS leaders, including Harish Rao, had tried to divert attention by claiming 'a foreign conspiracy' behind the cloudbursts.
 Continued on Page 5

'TGSPDCL has no pact with Adani Group'
Response to query under RTI
 PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 In response to a query raised under the Right to Information (RTI), the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) has clarified that it has not signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or agreement with the Adani Group. Kareem Ansari, a resident of Hyderabad, had filed an application under the Right to Information Act seeking clarity on whether there was any agreement between the Adani Group and TGSPDCL. In its reply, dated 7th August 2024, TSSPDCL explicitly stated that no such agreement or MoU had been signed. According to Kareem, the response from TSSPDCL could put to rest any speculations regarding the company's collaboration with the Adani Group. "I had filed an RTI query to inquire about the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Telangana and the Adani Group. The concerned department responded that no such MoU exists. This clarification should alleviate concerns among the people of old city of Hyderabad regarding power privatization."
 Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday expressed his approval of the Telangana government's HYDRAA initiative, which is actively demolishing 'illegal' constructions encroaching on water bodies. "The steps taken by CM Revanth Reddy are the right ones," Pawan Kalyan said, lauding the Telangana government's efforts to tackle the flood crisis. While expressing his support for a similar campaign in Andhra Pradesh,



Amaravati project faces renewed political assault

As Andhra Pradesh grapples with unprecedented floods, the natural disaster has quickly spiralled into a political storm. While Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's government races to provide relief, the opposition YSRCP has seized the moment to hurl accusations and reignite the controversy over Amaravati's viability as the state capital.

The recent floods in Andhra Pradesh have not only wreaked havoc on the lives of thousands of people but also given room for political manoeuvring. A natural calamity of unprecedented proportions has been exacerbated by a series of events that have turned disaster response into a political showdown.

As the state government struggled to manage the crisis, the Opposition seized the opportunity to hurl allegations. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Leader of the Opposition and former chief minister, made a brief but high-profile visit to the flood-hit Singh Nagar area.



RAMESH KANDULA, Chief Editor Swatantra TV and author

In many instances, those in need mirrored mob mentality, making orderly distribution of supplies nearly impossible. The administrative lapses provided more ammunition for the Opposition, who criticised the Naidu government for its failure to manage the situation effectively.

fact that Amaravati had largely escaped the worst of the flooding, thanks to the Kondaveeti Vagu Lift Irrigation Project, constructed during Naidu's previous tenure. Educational institutions in the Amaravati region continued to function smoothly, and the area did not experience prolonged water-logging.

If the government fails to address these challenges and counter the negative narrative, the ambitious Amaravati project could face further setbacks. The flood crisis, while primarily a natural calamity, has exposed the underlying political tensions in the state.

As the state government struggled to manage the crisis, the Opposition seized the opportunity to hurl allegations. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Leader of the Opposition and former chief minister, made a brief but high-profile visit to the flood-hit Singh Nagar area.

Jagan's allegation that the Budameru Vagu gates were lifted for political gain added a new dimension to the flood crisis. The accusation was quickly picked up by YSRCP leaders and other detractors, who used it to fuel a broader narrative against the Naidu government.

game, the real challenge of addressing the needs of the marooned people became increasingly difficult. There were reports of a lack of coordination in the administration, particularly in the distribution of food packets and essential supplies.

THE AMARAVATI CONTROVERSY REIGNITED

As the floodwaters receded, the political fallout continued. The YSRCP and other critics of the Naidu government revived their campaign against the Amaravati capital project.

TURNING DISASTER INTO POLITICAL CAPITAL

The flood situation in Andhra Pradesh has been turned into an opportunity for political gain by various parties. The latest developments should serve as a wake-up call for the Naidu government.

As Andhra Pradesh begins the long process of recovery from the floods, the political reverberations will continue to be felt, reminding all that in the world of politics, even natural calamities can be manipulated for gain.

PRLIS pump house must be restored: Minister Jupally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Excise, Tourism, and Cultural Affairs Minister Jupally Krishna Rao directed irrigation officials to restore the pump house, which was submerged due to unforeseen circumstances at the Vattem (Venkatadri) reservoir.

The Minister, along with irrigation department officials, inspected the submerged pump house and enquired about the reasons behind the pumps getting submerged, their capacity, and issues related to maintenance and servicing.

Jupally instructed them to install motors near the tunnels and drain the stagnant water in the tunnel on a war footing as soon as the flow stops.

CM's native place to pilot shift to solar power

Farmers to be given free solar pump sets

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant step towards harnessing renewable energy, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has picked his native place Kondareddy for piloting Telangana's ambitious initiative concerning provision of solar pump sets.

Revanth Reddy announced this during a review with officials from the Energy Department on Wednesday.

The project is designed to promote solar energy as a sustainable solution for the state's growing energy demands, with the pilot focusing on providing farmers with solar pump sets at no cost. Revanth Reddy emphasized the long-term vision of this



initiative, stating that it is essential to increase solar energy usage to meet future power needs. By focusing on Kondareddy, the state aims to create a model that can be replicated across Telangana. Farmers would be encouraged to adopt solar pump sets, backed by plans to provide them free of cost to boost the shift toward solar energy.

Additionally, the excess electricity generated through solar pump sets should provide farmers with a steady income, he added.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need to ensure uninterrupted power supply, keeping future requirements in mind. Revanth Reddy directed officials to explore solar power production on unused lands across various departments.

In a significant move, the Chief Minister proposed the introduction of solar cylinders as a replacement for cooking gas and highlighted the need for training women's groups to encourage them toward shifting to solar cylinder businesses.

Efforts to generate solar power on forest lands were also discussed, with a target of ensuring 40,000 megawatt power availability annually.

HYDRAA is not bulldozer politics, says Niranjana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

G Niranjana, the TPCC senior vice-president and Chairman of the Election Commission Coordination Committee, criticised KTR's recent remarks about Rahul Gandhi's stance on bulldozer politics. He said KTR's criticism reflects ignorance and a lack of understanding of the issues at hand.

Why Cong reluctant to celebrate Liberation Day?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP Legislative Party leader, Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, addressed the media at the Assembly Media Hall, calling for the Telangana government to officially celebrate September 17 as Liberation Day.



Reddy pointed out that previous governments failed to commemorate this day appropriately, despite the significance it holds for Telangana's identity and pride. "After the formation of Telangana, the BRS government had the opportunity to officially recognise Liberation Day, but they did not act on it."

The current Congress government has shown no intention of organising this important event either," Maheshwar Reddy said. He went on to claim that the

ruling party is avoiding the celebration out of fear of the Majlis party. Reddy accused both BRS and Congress of deliberately obscuring the history of Telangana's struggle, particularly the atrocities committed during the Razakar regime. He criticised former chief minister K Chandrababu Naidu for his reluctance to officially celebrate September 17 as Liberation Day, stating, "KCR spoke lofty words about self-respect when Telangana was being formed, but after coming to power, he succumbed to the pressures of the Majlis party and has not celebrated the day for the past 10 years."

He also questioned why, while other regions such as districts now in Karnataka and Maharashtra commemorate September 17, Telangana does not.

TG needs immediate central package: Chamala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has demanded that the Central government immediately release a package for Telangana under the national disaster relief framework.

Speaking at a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, Kiran Kumar Reddy stressed the need for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to personally visit Telangana and assess the damage caused by recent floods. "The Centre must come forward to support the State, and it's crucial for the Prime Minister to understand the ground reality firsthand," he stated.

Taking aim at Union Minister Kishan Reddy, he remarked that the minister's



statements were causing confusion among the people. "Even when rains and floods devastate the State, KT Rama Rao seems unbothered. He spends his time on Elon Musk's platform X, where his posts have become the subject of ridicule," Kiran Kumar Reddy said. He also referred to the recent Supreme Court judgment on bulldozer politics in Uttar Pradesh, drawing a comparison to Hyderabad's HYDRAA initiatives.

Heavy damage to power sector in Suryapet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The power infrastructure in Suryapet district has suffered severe damage, with 2,127 electric poles and 319 transformers destroyed, and four sub-stations submerged due to incessant rainfall. This was the highest reported damage to the power sector in the State, according to Musharraf Faruqui, Chairman and Managing Director of the Southern Telangana Power Distribution Company (TSPDC), who inspected the affected areas in Kodad on Wednesday. Faruqui visited Ramapuram and MB Gudem sub-stations, which were submerged due to the floods, as well as other parts of the electricity network that were severely impacted.

Dismissal of Gurukula lecturers condemned

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reacting over the firing of part-time employees in the Telangana welfare gurukula schools, former minister T Harish Rao strongly condemned the government's ruthless dismissal of 6,200 part-time lecturers and teachers working in social welfare schools across the state on Wednesday.

Harish Rao said, "Simultaneous dismissal of 6,200 part-time teachers, lecturers and DEOs (DEOs) working in social welfare schools is an ill-advised move. Salaries are not paid for three months and they are fired for asking. Is this your public governance? Is this the kingdom of Indira Gandhi you mentioned? The teachers were fired in the



middle of the school year, leaving their families in deep grief. On the other hand, your careless and senseless decision has put the future of thousands of students in question. On behalf of the BRS, we demand the government to reinstate the fired part-time lecturers, teachers and DEOs immediately and pay the pending salaries of three months immediately." RS Praveen Kumar, a BRS leader said, "During the tenure of KCR, fair Gurukula education was provided at the international level."

BRS MLAs express concern over law & order in TG

SUBMIT MEMORANDUM TO ADDL DGP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLAs KP Vivekananda and Madhavaram Krishna Rao submitted a memorandum to Additional DGP Mahesh Bhagwat at the DGP office, expressing their concerns over law and order issues in the State. They highlighted the recent attacks on BRS leaders in Khammam as evidence of what they termed "jungle raj" prevailing under the current regime. Vivekananda accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of orchestrating the attacks in Khammam, claiming that the violence was directed at BRS leaders who were actively supporting flood victims. "The Chief Minister could not toler-



ate our support for the flood victims, and thus rowdy elements were instigated to attack us in Khammam," Vivekananda said. He alleged that the CM's office had overseen the attacks, and that Congress leaders involved in the violence received police protection during the incident.

The MLAs informed Bhagwat that the police had not acted on the details of the attackers, which had already been provided to them. They demanded immediate arrests of those responsible and called for strong measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Dwitaya: Sep 04 09:47 AM to Sep 05 12:21 PM
Tritiya: Sep 05 12:21 PM to Sep 06 03:01 PM
Nakshatram: Uttara Phalguni: Sep 04 03:10 AM to Sep 05 06:14 AM
Hasta: Sep 05 06:14 AM to Sep 06 09:25 AM
Rahukalam: 1:46 PM to 3:18 PM
Yamaganadam: 6:06 AM to 7:38 AM
Varjyam: 03:45 PM to 05:34 PM
Gulika: 9:10 AM to 10:42 AM
Amritakalam: 02:37 AM to 04:26 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:50 AM to 12:39 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Scattered Thundrestorms
Temp: 28°C
Humidity: 82%
Sunrise: 6:03 AM
Sunset: 6:26 PM
Updated: September 4, 2024 5:00 PM

BJP names 67 candidates for Haryana assembly polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday fielded Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini from the Ladwa seat and rewarded several recent entrants to the party with poll tickets as it released the first list of 67 candidates for the elections to the 90-member assembly.

Former Haryana BJP president Om Prakash Dhankar has been fielded from Badli and veteran party leader Anil Vij from Ambala Cantt. Devender Singh Babli, Sanjay Kablana and Shruti Choudhry, who joined the BJP recently, will contest from the Tohana, Beri and Toshama seats, respectively. Union Minister Rao



Inderjit Singh's daughter Arti Singh Rao will contest from Ateli. The names of Capt Abhimanyu, Bhavya Bishnoi, the son of Kuldeep Bishnoi, and former MP Sunita Duggal are also on the list. The assembly polls are scheduled to be held on October 5, and the counting of votes will take place on October 8.

No link between mobile phone use, brain cancer

Says WHO-commissioned review

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is no link between using a mobile phone and developing brain cancer, according to a review of studies, which was commissioned by the World Health Organization.

An international team of researchers looked at more than 5,000 studies of which 63, published between 1994 to 2022, were included in the final analysis.

The team, led by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), found that even though the use of



wireless technology has "massively" increased over the last two decades, cases of brain cancers have not risen.

The analysis, "the most comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the evidence to

date," is published in the journal Environment International. In May 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) - the WHO's cancer agency - classified exposure to radio waves as "possibly carcinogenic to humans," based on an increased risk for glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer, associated with wireless phone use. Mobile phones use radio waves for communication. However, the classification was "largely based on limited evidence from human observational studies," according to the researchers.

Additional IMGD water supply plan to Cantonment moves forward

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The residents of Cantonment still await for their additional IMGD water supply as the plan moved forward by the officials. Meetings have been held for the last couple of months on the supply of additional water and a conclusion was also still in the process after meeting on Wednesday by Cantonment Office, convened by Sriganesh, MLA, Secunderabad Cantonment, to discuss the long-standing issue of water scarcity in the region. The meeting was attended by Ashok Reddy, MD, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), representing the State Government, Madhukar Naik, CEO, Cantonment, and other officials. The agenda of

the meeting was to expedite the process of sanctioning an additional 1 MGD water supply to the Cantonment by the State Government, as sanctioned by Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy.

The meeting concluded with a clear plan to move forward, ensuring that the needs of the Cantonment people are met immediately. With this additional water supply, the residents of Secunderabad Cantonment can look forward to a significant improvement in their access to clean drinking water.

This augmentation will increase the total drinking water supply to the Cantonment from 6 MGD to 7 MGD, thereby addressing the persistent water shortage faced by the residents.

Pink Power Run-2024

Organized by the Sudha Reddy Foundation and MEIL Foundation, the Pink Power Run is a landmark event dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer through community participation and support. SUDHA REDDY, Founder & Chairperson, Sudha Reddy Foundation; DR SUDHA SINHA, Clinical Director & HOD, Senior Consultant Medical Oncology & Hematology; PV SINDHU, Sports Personality, Olympic Silver & Bronze Medal Winner, to speak.

Venue

Avasa Hotel - My Home, Navadweepa Road, HUDA Techno Enclave,HITEC City, Hyderabad September 5 at 12 pm

ABHAYA case: Women's safety in Hyderabad

A discussion Speakers: Santosh Mehra, Vinay Verma, Sulogna Das, Sushma Chitta, Sarah Abraham, Tashi Choedep Convener: Kingshuk Nage

Venue

Lamakaan, Banjara Hills, September 5, 7.30 pm.

Jam Junxion

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

Venue

HITEX Hall, No. 4, Sept. 6

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.

TG shooters win big at India Open

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Shooters from Telangana won big at the "0832 India Open Shooting Competitions - 2024," held by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) in Goa from August 18 to August 28. Over 225 shooters from Telangana participated across various events, from Sub-Youth to Super Masters, in both National and Civilian Competitions, as well as individual and mixed team events. The Telangana Rifle Association (TRA), led by President Amit Sanghi, played an important role in promoting shooting sports in the state since 2014. According to TRA, Raiyan Faisal Yousufuddin won Gold in the 50M Rifle Prone Junior Men category, scoring 580/600. Other winners include Gopala Krishna Kalagara with Bronze, scoring 551/600. B Shankar bagged the Silver Medal, scoring 257/300. Manideep Jetta secured two Gold Medals, scoring 570/600. Chennupalli Pranathi secured Silver, scoring 560/600, and Arcita Karar, achieved a Gold Medal in 10M Air Pistol Junior Women Individual and Team categories, with a score of 367/400.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

03

FLOOD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES TO BE SET UP

Minister Seethakka sanctions Rs 24 cr for development of roads

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Dansari Anasuya alias (Seethakka) stated that Rs 24 crore has been sanctioned for the urgent need for revamping of roads and issued instructions to the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development staff to support the people who are in trouble due to heavy rains and floods on Wednesday. The Minister asked them to be available to the people continuously and ensure that they do not face any difficulties. She enquired about the conditions in the districts and the action taken by the department.

The officers were directed on the action to be taken by the departments in the backdrop of heavy rains. She gave important suggestions on sanitation management, drinking water supply and road revamping in villages. It was suggested that flood management committees with five officers should be appointed in each mandal to be prepared in advance during calamities. Seethakka said that the five-member committee has given good results in Mulugu constituency and such committees should be formed with MPDO, SI, MRO and local officials in all mandals.

She directed the concerned officials to identify the illegal constructions on the ponds, streams and canals in the villages and submit their details to the respective district collectors. She warned that the government will not tolerate the occupation of water bodies under any circumstances.

Seethakka also asked them to move the sanitation workers to the villages that were not affected by the flood from the flooded areas and complete the sanitation work. Overhead water tanks in villages should be cleaned thoroughly. As there is a risk of contamination of drinking water due to rains and floods, chlorination should be given high priority. Actions should be taken to double chlorination.

It is suggested to coordinate with all the departments on issues like public health, sanitation and conservation of ponds. The staff were advised to support the people in this difficult time.

The Minister said that the curriculum should be designed according to the local conditions. Mission Bhagiradha ENC Krupakar Reddy, PR Engineering ENC Kanakaratriam, along with many senior officials participated in the review meeting.

Illegal constructions on the ponds, streams and canals in the villages to be identified and their details submitted to the respective district collectors

It is suggested to coordinate with all the departments on issues like public health, sanitation and conservation of ponds. The staff were advised to support the people in this difficult time.



Focus on expansion, flyover construction: GHMC chief

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata examined the proposals for the provision of elevated road infrastructure and flyovers to accommodate the increasing traffic in Charminar zone. She visited the Charminar zone on Wednesday and said that the proposed road widening and flyover constructions were reviewed with the authorities concerned. Later, she inspected the on-going flyover works from Aramghar to Zoo Park. Speaking on this occasion, the Commissioner ordered the town planning officials to remove the encroachments and complete the project. The town planning and project engineers were ordered to complete the land

acquisition required for the construction of the flyover as soon as possible. The Commissioner directed the project officials to expedite the preparation of detailed plans and cost estimates for the proposed projects. Road-widening proposals in the city are 100 feet road-widening from Bengaluru National Highway to Shastripuram Junction, development of a 100-feet-wide road from Shastripuram Junction to Engine Bawl, widening and development of 80-feet-wide road from Azim Hotel to ChurchGate (Shoaib Hotel to Balapur Road), widening and development of 60-feet road from Chandrayangutta cross-road to Barkas Road via Chandrayangutta police station.



National Skill Academy offers online software courses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National Skill Academy will offer online courses in software development, subsidised by 80 per cent for students across Telangana. These courses, certified by the Government of India, are available to students who have completed or are currently pursuing their Intermediate, Engineering, Degree, PG, or Polytechnic diploma. With over 100 courses available, students can choose from a wide range of options, including diplomas, PG diplomas, and certificate programmes in areas like Data Science, Cloud Computing, Cyber

Security, Artificial Intelligence, Python and more.

Training is delivered through e-learning, followed by exams. Successful candidates receive a government-approved certificate. Course durations range from 2 to 6 months, allowing students to gain in-depth knowledge. Special concessions are available for students from Backward Classes, SC, ST, BC, EBC, OBC, minority communities, persons with disabilities, women candidates, ex-servicemen and their children, making them eligible for an 80 per cent fee reduction under the skill development programme.

TG cyber sleuths bust multi-cr scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) arrested three individuals allegedly involved in duping a senior citizen of a whopping Rs13.16 crore.

The accused have been identified as Sayed Khaja Hashim Uddin (24), Arafat Khaled Mohinuddin (25), and Mohd. Ather Pasha (25). The victim reported that after receiving a WhatsApp message urging him to join an online stockbroking group. Enticed by the promise of high returns, the complainant joined a WhatsApp group, where representatives of three companies-AFSL,UPSTOX, International Brokers (IB)-began contacting him about stock trading opportunities. They shared various website URLs, app links, WhatsApp group links, and bank account details to facilitate investments said Cyber Sleuths release.

The fraudsters initially gained the victim's confidence by allowing him to withdraw small profits. Convinced of the legitimacy of the scheme, the victim invested larger sums in the hope of reaping substantial returns. However, when the investments reportedly doubled on the fraudsters' websites, he was prevented from withdrawing his funds and was instead encouraged to invest more. It was only after he had invested Rs13.16 crore that the victim realized he had been duped.

Authorities have seized three mobile phones used in the execution of the scam.

The investigation revealed that A1 (Hashim Uddin) and A2 (Khaled Mohinuddin) were engaged in an illegal cryptocurrency business, operating primarily through the Binance platform. They would buy crypto assets like USD (Tether) on Binance and then sell them at a higher profit on another platform, Angelx.com. A3 (Ather Pasha) was convinced by the other two to use his bank account as a mule account to receive the defrauded money.

24 TG teachers to get State Awards -2024

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, the names of 24 teachers from Telangana were approved for Best Teachers State Awards-2024 by the Telangana government on Wednesday, as per the recommendations of the State-level Committee.

In regards to university teachers, Dr KECH Vidya Sagar, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Dr Surya Dharavath, Department of Telugu, Dr Gaddam Nares Reddy, Department of Commerce and Dr P Chandra Sekhar, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering from Osmania University, have been selected. In regards to Kakatiya University, Prof. B Venkatram Reddy, Professor of Physics, while from Satavahana University, Dr K Padmavathi, Associate Professor of Sociology, were approved for the awards.

Also, Dr R Sudhakar Goud, Associate Professor, Department of Geo-informatics, Telangana University, Nizamabad, Dr N Kishore, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Palamuru University, Mahabubnagar, Dr R Sridhar, Asst. Prof. of Commerce and Dr M Anil Kumar, Asst. Prof. of Chemistry from Nagarjuna Government Degree College (A), Nalgonda, Dr T Krishnaiah, Asst. Prof. of

Telugu from Government Degree College, Ramannapet, Anandam Durga Prasad, Librarian from Government Degree College, Hayathnagar and Capt B Balamani, Physical Director, Girraj Government College(A), Nizamabad were approved for the awards.

In regards to principals, G Venkataiah, Government Junior College, Wardhannapeta, Warangal, Meetakoti Simhachalam, Government Junior College, Enkoor, Khammam, Syed Abdul Hameed, Government Junior College, Kothapeta, Rangareddy and P Sampath Kumar, Government Junior College(B), Narsampet, Warangal will secure the awards on Teachers Day.

In the case of Junior Lecturers, Dr N Praveen Raju, JL in Hindi, NGJC(G), Malakpet, Hyderabad, Dr L Komura Reddy, JL in Hindi, GJC(Co-Edn), Narsampet, Warangal, Dr Babu Rao, JL in Hindi, GJC(B), Sangareddy, Dr V Shekaraiah, JL in Telugu, Government Junior College, Saroornagar, Rangareddy, Dr RU Shilpa, JL in Chemistry, Government Junior College, Choutuppal, Yadadri-Bhongir, MD Khursheed Ahmed, JL in Civics, Government Junior College, Manuguru, Bhadradi Kothagudem and N Nares, JL in Physics, Government Junior College, Navabpet, Vikarabad will secure the awards.

GACHIBOWLI, KONDAPUR, AND MIYAPUR ROAD

Real estate hotspots see remarkable price rise

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's real estate hotspots, Gachibowli, Kondapur and Miyapur Road, have seen remarkable price increases, making them key investment areas.

According to PropWorth, Magicbricks property valuation tool, Gachibowli has become a top choice due to its proximity to IT hubs and strong connectivity, leading to a 22.60 per cent rise in residential prices, now averaging Rs10,995 per square foot. This surge highlights growing demand from professionals and families.

Meanwhile, Kondapur, known



for its modern amenities and convenient location, has also seen a 4.40 per cent increase, with prices reaching Rs 9,499 per square foot. This steady growth shows its appeal to those seeking a balance of comfort and convenience.

Miyapur Road, recognised for affordability, has experienced a significant 26.60 per cent price jump, with rates now at Rs.6,181 per square foot. This rise highlights its growing popularity among budget-conscious buyers.

With rising rents, these areas offer great potential for both investors and homebuyers seeking growth and long-term value.

DG's call to curb workplace harassment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A review meeting was convened with the Steering Committee and Working Group of the SAHAS Initiative on Wednesday. The meeting was dedicated to enhancing efforts aimed at ensuring safe work environments for women across Telangana.

Shikha Goel, Director General of the Women Safety Wing (WSW), emphasised the need to shift focus from merely addressing complaints to preventing and prohibiting workplace harassment. The meeting concluded with valuable insights and suggestions from the committee members that will shape the future direc-



tion of the SAHAS Initiative. The highlighted points were strengthening industry collaboration; Emphasis was placed on improving industry ties and communication channels to broaden the reach of the SAHAS Initiative. Increased visibility: Affiliate organisations are encouraged to prominently feature the SAHAS weblink and Internal Committee (IC) member details on their websites to facilitate easier access to resources and support. Support for internal committees: SAHAS will continue

to assist organisations in establishing internal committees by providing guidance, templates and conducting Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions to ensure adherence to the POSH Act.

Integration with SHE Box portal: Plans were discussed to integrate the State's T-SHE Box with the Central government's SHE Box portal, along with strategies for monitoring and enforcing POSH Act compliance across Telangana.

Compendium formation: A proposal was made to develop a comprehensive compendium to consolidate all SAHAS-related activities on a single platform for streamlined operations.

Traffic diverted for movement of Ganesh idols

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of the transportation of Ganesh idols from Dhoolpet, traffic diversions have been made by Hyderabad city traffic police from September 5 to 7.

As per the traffic advisory sent by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic-III, Hyderabad city, traffic entry, exit and diversions points have been marked for the dates. Vehicles carrying Ganesh idols will only be allowed from MJ bridge towards Gandhi Statue to Dhoolpet. Other vehicles will not be allowed from MJ bridge to Purnanapool from 7pm to 6am from September 5th to 7th.

Heavy vehicles will be allowed only between 10pm to 6am after showing the purchase receipt at the entry point at Gandhi statue. Sub-entries will be at Rahimpura road, Excise office lane, Balramgalli lane, Aramghar Colony and Anitha Towers. Exit route will be Shivalanagar road, Tappachabutra, Asif Nagar T Junction, Boiguda Kaman and Ghode Ki Kabar towards Thakarwadi T Junction. No vehicles will be allowed inside the Dhoolpet market from exit routes that are Mallepally X roads, Boiguda Kaman, Ek-Minar of Nampally, Alskara Petrol pump T Junction (Goshamahala).

DISHA CASE New FIR & fair probe sought by counsel

CHITHALURI REVANTH revanthuri.c@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

A new First Information Report (FIR) should be registered against the police and inquiry should be conducted in a fair manner in Disha case, said Counsel Vrinda Grover.

The two-judge panel of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Srinivasa Rao heard Public Interest Litigations (PIL) on Wednesday. During the arguments, Vrinda Grover said that the present FIR, which was registered by Shadnagar police, is against the deceased per-

sons. "This FIR would not constitute a second FIR in the correct legal terminology, but would be a fresh FIR or counter FIR," she added.

She read the Commission of Inquiry report (Sirpurkar report) in the court and explained what had happened in this case.

The Counsel said that the State shall act in a bonafide manner. The State agents are therefore protecting the good faith in statutes. In this protection of the good faith, legal

immunity granted actually goes back to the colonial period.

The Counsel said, "My proposition today is that if such an FIR is to be registered, if such an investigation is to be conducted as per whatever of the directions of the court, who shall conduct and why. The police of the State of Telangana has through its actions shown to the court that they are neither able nor willing to conduct an impartial independent and

competent investigation".

She said that the Sirpurkar report was released. "The State should have come on its own and lodge an FIR in accordance with law. But such law has not been lodged. The incident happened in 2019 now we are in the latter half of 2024, but there is no statement from the State. Therefore we wish for an independent investigation because there seems to be at least some misgivings and some cloud over the manner in which this police action has taken place and the commission of enquiry has held through its own examination."





ACP Vijay Kumar holding media conference in Warangal on Wednesday

Cybercriminal from Chennai held

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau in Wrangal Commissionerate on Wednesday arrested an alleged cybercriminal who hailed from Tamil Nadu.

He was identified as Maria Benedict, 38, resident of Chennai.

According to Warangal Assistant Commissioner of Police Vijaya Kumar, Benedict diverted the money extracted from public to various cybercriminal bank accounts.

Promising double returns on the investments, the cybercriminal encouraged the gullible to invest money in a Ponzi scheme.

The money looted was diverted to the bank account of Benedict. He used to withdraw the amount from the bank and used to convert the money into crypto currency and dollars and used to deposit the amount back into cyber criminals' bank accounts.

A person, who lost Rs 3.50 lakh in Hanamkonda to cyber criminals, lodged a complaint with the police.

The police during the investigation traced Benedict to Chennai and arrested him. He was brought to Warangal.

City Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha commanded the good work done by the ACP, Inspector Ravi Kumar, sub-inspector Charan, sub-inspector AAO Salman Pasha, Rajesh Reddy and constables Anjaneyulu and Raju.

Sexual assault triggers violence in Asifabad district

A MOB WENT ON THE RAMPAGE TORCHING SHOPS AND VANDALISING HOUSES



A shop gutted in the violence at Jainoor in Asifabad district on Wednesday

PNS ■ ASIFABAD

Communal tension flared up in Jainoor in Asifabad district after a mob allegedly attacked properties belonging to a minority community. The trigger for violence is said to be a sexual assault on a tribal woman by an auto-rickshaw driver.

People belonging to tribal communities called for a shutdown on Wednesday. During the agitation, a mob started attacking the properties

belonging to the minor community. The police reached the spot swiftly, but they could not contain the violence as the mob outnumbered them.

The mob set fire to shops and houses were vandalised. Furniture was destroyed, according to eyewitness accounts. The police were able to bring the situation under control after reinforcements were sent to the village.

An irate mob demanded that minori-

ties leave the Agency areas. Not less than 100 shops are said to have been set on fire. The mob even prevented the fire tenders from reaching the spot. The fire tenders, however, came to the village after the police force brought the situation under control. District Superintendent of Police DV Srinivas Rao deployed additional forces in the village. A Strict watch has been kept on the situation to prevent the recurrence of violence.



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy interacting with people during his visit to flood-hit areas in Khammam rural mandal on Wednesday

Ponguleti assures people in flood-hit areas of all help

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has assured the people in flood-hit in Khammam rural mandal that the government would come to their rescue and asked them not to be disheartened.

The Minister visited Teerthala, Ramannapeta, Danavaigudem villages of the rural mandal on Wednesday and visited the victims and infused confidence in them.

He made several suggestions to them on the repairs to the roads, ad hoc assistance to the victims and collection of details of the victims.

Every household was affected by the flood. The government would do justice to everyone, he said.

He asked the officials to undertake a survey of damage to houses and crops. He assured the students who lost their certificates and books of support. The people will be supplied with a fine variety of rice. He directed officials to attend to the repairs of the electric poles and power cables

The Minister visited Teerthala, Ramannapeta, Danavaigudem villages of the rural mandal on Wednesday and visited the victims and infused confidence in them. He made several suggestions to them on the repairs to the roads, ad hoc assistance to the victims and collection of details of the victims.

immediately. Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agasthya, RDO G Ganesh, R and B SE Hemalata, PR EE Venkat Reddy, Khammam Urban Tahsildar Ch Swamy, Municipal DE Dharani and others were present.

BJP, MIM seek DGP's intervention

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Jainoor town of Telangana's Komaram Bheem Asifabad district was rocked by communal violence on Wednesday as miscreants resorted to attacks and arson during a protest against the sexual assault of a tribal woman.

Shops and vehicles belonging to a particular community were targeted during the violence.

A place of worship was also reportedly ransacked. Following the incident, the police rushed additional forces to the town and stepped up security to stop further violence.

Union Minister of State in Minister of Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay in a statement on Wednesday said, "Deeply disturbed by the brutal assault on tribal woman by anti-social elements at Jainoor village in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district. Spoke to the victim's family and offered support. Contacted Telangana DGP Garu and sought swift and unbiased action against

the perpetrators, responsible for the attack. Informed him to restore law and order in Jainoor promptly and effectively. The safety of our women and peace in our communities is paramount."

On learning about the violence, AIMIM president and Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi spoke to Director General of Police Jitender and demanded that the police deal firmly with those taking the law into their hands. Talking to media persons, Owaisi said the DGP assured him that he was monitoring the situation and sending additional forces to the town.

The MP appealed for peace. He urged the state government to not allow anyone to take the law into their own hands.

"Wedemand that police take action and arrest all those who are indulging in violence. The supremacy of the rule of law should be there," he said.

Police had earlier arrested an autorickshaw driver for allegedly

molesting a woman. The incident occurred on August 31 when the woman, standing at a bus station to go to a nearby village, boarded an autorickshaw.

After coveringsome distance, the accused tried to molest her. When the victim raised an alarm, the autorickshaw driver hit her on the head with a heavy object. As she fell unconscious, he escaped after leaving her on the road. Some passersby presumed it to be an accident and shifted the woman to a hospital. She was later taken to RIMS Hospital in Adilabad. The woman, who regained consciousness on September 2, narrated the incident to the family members. They lodged a complaint with the local police and the accused was arrested. As word spread, people staged a protest in the town and demanded capital punishment for the accused.

Some of the protesters indulged in violence, targeting properties of a particular community.

1,000 police personnel to restore peace

More than 1,000 police personnel have been deployed to ensure peace in the violence-ridden village.

Director General of Police Jitender, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Mahesh Bhagwat and Inspector General of Police (North Zone) have been monitoring the situation.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 and 163 BNS have been clamped down on Jainoor, banning the assembly of more than four persons in public places. Internet shutdown was enforced as precautionary measures. Police has appealed to both the communities to exercise restraint as already accused in a case of sexual assault was arrested and remanded in judicial custody. The victims has been provided best healthcare at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad. A compensation of Rs 1 lakh was awarded to the victim. Superintendent of Police DV Srinivas Rao spoke to people belonging to both the communities and urged them to exercise restraint.

Special funds sought for local bodies

PNS ■ NALGONDA

CPI-M Mudireddy district unit secretary Sudhakar Reddy demanded that the State government release special funds to the local bodies to prevent the spread of seasonal disease like dengue and chikungunya in villages.

The incessant rains that lashed the State has aggravated the situation. The local bodies lacked wherewithal to ensure proper sanitation. The local bodies lacked resources even to buy bleaching powder,



CPI_M district unit secretary Sudhakar Reddy

he said. Mosquito menace was rampant in villages and towns and people were suffering from seasonal fevers and joint pains. He said

that due to incessant rains and seasonal diseases, people are suffering from fever aggravated sanitation and garbage accumulated in the villages.

He said that in the last few months, there has been an increase in garbage accumulation and mosquito menace. He demanded that the authorities take special initiative and spray mosquito repellents in the villages, clean the dirty drains, organise medical camps in all the villages and make medicines available to the people.

The MLA also directed the Medical and Health officials to remain vigilant against seasonal diseases. The responsibility to ensure that the students do not fall ill due to seasonal diseases rested on the medical officials. He urged them to implement necessary mea-

MLA conducts surprise inspection at residential school

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah conducted surprise inspection at Telangana Social Welfare Gurukula Residential School located at Moinabad. During the inspection, the legislator closely examined the kitchen facilities, emphasising the importance of maintaining cleanliness and ensuring that students are provided with nutritious and tasty food.

The MLA also directed the Medical and Health officials to remain vigilant against seasonal diseases. The responsibility to ensure that the students do not fall ill due to seasonal diseases rested on the medical officials. He urged them to implement necessary mea-



MLA Kale Yadaiah inspecting Gurukula Residential School at Moinabad on Wednesday

asures to ensure that pure water is provided to students.

Doctor donates Rs 6 lakh for Sewalal Maharaj temple

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Prominent doctor Shivram Naik on Wednesday made a significant contribution for the construction of the Sewalal Maharaj Temple, an important cultural and spiritual site for the tribal community. On Tuesday evening, Dr Naik donated Rs 6 lakhs for the temple's construction in Khajiguda Tanda under Kothur mandal in Shadnagar constituency.

Local people welcomed the doctor donating liberally for the construction of the temple.

Dr Naik emphasised the importance of preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the tribal community. He pledged to contribute a portion of his earnings towards the development of the temple and urged the tribal community to focus on education and



Doctor Shivram Naik handing over Rs 6 lakh cheque for construction of Sewalal Maharaj temple in Shadnagar on Wednesday

employment to achieve economic advancement.

He highlighted the significance of Sewalal Maharaj, noting his role in bringing tribal cultural traditions to broader recognition. He called for increased awareness and efforts to support the development of the backward tribal communities across various sectors. He

also affirmed his commitment to continuing his support for the temple and other initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the tribal population. The residents of Khajiguda Tanda extended their heartfelt congratulations to Dr Shivram Naik for his generous donation and ongoing efforts to uplift the tribal community.

Harish Rao seeks better facilities in govt hospitals

PNS ■ SIDDIPEET

Former MLA T Harish Rao on Wednesday alleged that dengue fever is spreading in villages due to prevailing unhygienic conditions.

He visited the bereaved family members of Sutari Kanaka Lakshmi who died due to dengue at Tadakapalli village in Siddipet urban mandal.

Lack of sanitation in the villages became a bane of the villagers, he alleged. Quoting the example of Kanaka Lakshmi, he said that she went to government hospital but could not secure appropriate medical services there.

Therefore, she sold an acre of land and spent Rs 25 lakh to receive treatment in a private hospital, but in vain.

Crops in 2,000 acres damaged in Adilabad dist

PNS ■ ADILABAD

The floods triggered by recent heavy rains dealt a crippling blow to farmers, particularly cotton growers in Adilabad district. The farmers have been appealing to the state government to come to their rescue and extend compensation to them. According to preliminary reports, standing crops in 2,000 acres in Jainadd, Tamsi, Bhipmur, Talamadugu and Bela mandals were damaged.

In Jainadmandal alone, standing crops were submerged in 550 acres due to the flooding of the villages by the Penganga backwaters.

The cotton farmers have been demanding that the government pay a compensation of Rs 30,000 per acre. The farmers have spent Rs 30,000 towards input cost per acre to

raise the cotton crop. Moreover, there is no scope for planting another crop in place of the damaged crops immediately. The soya, red gram and other crops have also been destroyed due to floods. The area under various crops in the district, including cotton, soya and maize, is put at 15 lakh acres. The flood threat is not yet over. The Met office predicts rain for next week too. The crop losses are likely to increase further.

The previous BRS regime implemented PM Fasalyojna from 2016 to 2020 and afterwards it stopped the scheme. As a result, the farmers are not able to get compensation when the natural calamities strike. Therefore, the farmers have been appealing to the government to implement the crop insurance scheme.

NARAYANAGUDA BRANCH
D No G-2,3-6-784/12, Legend Venkatesha
Narayanaiguda, Hyderabad -500029

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated-14.06.2024 calling upon borrower Mr. Cheruku Raju and Mrs. Cheruku Swarnalatha H.No.3-20C, Tirumala Nagar, Boduppal, Uppal, Hyderabad: 500039, for the Home Loan account availed you at Indian Bank, Narayanaiguda Branch, Hyderabad, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 3,14,163.99 (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifteen Thousand one hundred sixty three only) as on 14.06.2024 with further interest at the agreed rate from 15.06.2024 till the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The present amount due as on 11.09.2024 is Rs. 2,97,019.50 (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety-Seven Thousand and Ninety Nine Only) for the Home Loan account with further interest, cost, other charges and expenses there on from 02.09.2024. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with the said rules 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 02.09.2024.

The Borrower/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 2,97,019.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety-Seven Thousand and Ninety Nine Only) as on 01.09.2024 together with further interest, cost, other charges and expenses there on. We draw attention to the provisions of section 13(8) of the SARRFESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with the rights of redemption over the securities.

Description of the immovable property
MORTGAGED ASSETS - All that the piece and parcel of Eastern Part of Open plot in survey No. 150, measuring 246 Sq Yds or 205.65 Sq Mtrs., situated at Boduppal Village and Gram Panchayat, Ghateeswar Mandal, Rang Reddy Dist under BRD Uppal and bounded by NORTH: 25' Wide Road; SOUTH: Land of NV Broker; EAST: House of Sulthan; WEST: Western Part of the Open Plot.

Date: 02.09.2024
Place: Hyderabad
Sd- AUTHORISED OFFICER
Indian Bank

HUNTER ROAD BRANCH
H.No. 1-7-9335, SANTOSH NAGAR COLONY,
OPPOSITE NEW SCIENCE BEEHIVE, HUNTER ROAD
HANAMKONDA, WARANGAL - 506001

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization 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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (x) and Guarantor (y) that the below described immovable property mortgaged charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank, Hunter Road, Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25/09/2024, for recovery of Rs. 5,26,032/- (Rupees Five Lakhs twenty six thousand and thirty two rupees only) as on 27/08/2023 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon, due to the Indian Bank, Dharamaram Branch, Secured Creditor, from (1) Borrower/ Mr. PALAKURTHI VIKRAM, S/o Venkateswarlu H.No 13-1-154, Nallenaada, opp Sai towers Warangal-506002, Telangana State ; (2) Co-Borrower P Venkateswarlu, H.No 13-1-154, Nallenaada, opp Sai towers Warangal-506002 ; (3), Guarantor (Mortgagor) No. 1: Mr. Nandimooly Satyanarayana Raju, J/No 16-10-1015, Shivra Nagar, Warangal-509902.

The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Schedule of Property (Resisted Sale Deed No. 174/1992 dated 18.01.1992 SRO Warangal)
(Owner: Nandimooly Satyanarayana Raju, Resisted Sale Deed No. 174/1992 dated 18.01.1992 SRO Warangal)
Open plot to an extent of 290.27 Sq. yards in Sy No. 153 and 157 situated at Gontukunta Village, Gousugunda Mandal, Warangal District which is with in the limits of Gram Panchayat, Gontukunta and Registration jurisdiction of Sub Registrar Warangal. Boundaries of land: East: 47' Wide Road, West: 20' Wide Road, North: Plot of B Rajakumar; South: Plot of V Suresh.

Details of the Property to be auctioned/Resisted Sale Deed No. 174/1992 dated 18.01.1992 SRO Warangal/ Open plot to an extent of 290.27 Sq. yards in Sy No. 153 and 157 situated at Gontukunta Village, Gousugunda Mandal, Warangal District which is with in the limits of Gram Panchayat, Gontukunta and Registration jurisdiction of Sub Registrar Warangal. Boundaries of land: East: 47' Wide Road, West: 20' Wide Road, North: Plot of B Rajakumar; South: Plot of V Suresh.

Prior Encumbrances on property: INDIAN BANK (E-Ad)
Reserve Price: Rs. 26.50 lakhs
EMD Amount: Rs.2.65 lakhs
Bid incremental amount: Rs. 0.10 Lakhs
Date and time of auction: 25/09/2024, 10:30 AM TO 04:00 PM
Property ID No: DB212594805700

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstc.com/home/bid) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-2940022/23/4900021/23/400022 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact 155010@mstc.com and for EMD status please contact 155010@mstc.com. For enquiry details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://bids.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number: 18001025009 and 011-41198131. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://bids.in> and www.mstc.com/home/bid.

Date: 04/09/2024
Place: HANAMKONDA
Sd-Authorised Officer,
Indian Bank

ACROSS THE STATES



People still dying due to 'defective' vaccines: Soren

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday alleged that people were still dying because of "defective" Covid-19 vaccine doses administered during the pandemic. He claimed that though a particular vaccine was banned globally, it was still being supplied in India and given to the public. Soren's remarks followed the recent deaths of 12 people during physical tests for an excise constable recruitment drive in the state. On Monday, the government halted the ongoing job drive for three days. "Unfortunately, some aspirants died during the recruitment drive. The deaths are not only happening due to running; people are also dying while walking. It is known that the vaccine doses given to the people of this country during Covid-19 pandemic by the BJP government were defective and have had a global impact," Soren said.



Chargesheet filed against Darshan in murder case

The Bengaluru Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against 17 accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, including Kannada actor Darshan Thoguade. A "watertight" chargesheet was prepared after investigating the case from all aspects, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda told reporters here. The chargesheet comprises 231 witness statements and technical and electronic evidence, the police said, adding it was a massive investigation. The 3,991-page chargesheet (with seven volumes and 10 files) was submitted to the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court. "We have arrested 17 people in this case who are in judicial custody. There are three direct eye witnesses; 27 witnesses have given their statements before the court and other witnesses have recorded their statements before the police," Dayananda said.

India supports policy of development, asserts Modi

PNS ■ BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday said India supports a "policy of development, and not expansionism", a remark that appeared directed at China as he wrapped up a bilateral visit to Brunei, where the two countries also reiterated their commitment to "freedom of navigation" in the region. India and Brunei elevated their ties to "enhanced partnership" as Prime Minister Modi held wide-ranging talks with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah covering defence, trade and investment.

"We support the policy of development, and not expansionism," Prime Minister Modi said at a banquet hosted by Sultan Bolkiah, without naming any country.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South China Sea (SCS) and the East China Sea (ECS). China claims most of the South China Sea, while the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims.

"We agree that a Code of Conduct should be finalised in this region," Modi said, adding that India has always given priority to ASEAN Centrality and will continue to do so.

"We support freedom of navigation and overflight under international laws like UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)," said Modi, the first Indian Prime Minister to travel to Brunei on a bilateral visit.



India and Brunei elevated their ties to "enhanced partnership" as Prime Minister Modi held wide-ranging talks with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah covering defence, trade and investment

visit. A joint statement issued after their talks said both leaders "reiterated their commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, as well as respecting freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce, consistent with international law, notably the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982."

'India ideal investment destination'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday arrived here for a two-day visit aimed at boosting India-Singapore friendship, deepening 'strategic partnership' and attracting investment from the Southeast Asian country. During his visit at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, the prime minister will connect with three generations of Singapore's leadership, officials in New Delhi

said. "Landed in Singapore. Looking forward to the various meetings aimed at boosting the India-Singapore friendship. India's reforms and the talent of our Yuva Shakti makes our nation an ideal investment destination. We also look forward to closer cultural ties," Modi posted on X soon after his arrival for his first official trip to Singapore. Modi flew to Singapore after wrapping his visit to Brunei, the first bilateral visit there by an Indian prime minister. "PM @narendramodi lands in the Lion city, Singapore today. Warmly received by Minister of Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam of Singapore. An action packed agenda lies ahead," Ministry of External Affairs said in a post on X. The prime minister will receive an official welcome at the Parliament.



Govt signs peace pact with Tripura insurgent groups

Shah says development in NE priority

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is committed for all-round development of the northeastern region, especially tribals, while preserving their culture, language and identity, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

He also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only bridged the gap between the Northeast and Delhi by connecting them through roads, railways and flights, but has also bridged the gap between hearts.

Shah was addressing an event where a peace agreement was signed between the central and Tripura governments and two insurgent groups of the state here at North block aiming to end violence and

bring peace in the northeastern state. Shah said a new milestone is set today in Tripura's ongoing journey towards peace and progress with the signing of the agreement.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the state government were also present during the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement with the representatives of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF). The NLFT and the ATTF have agreed to end a 35-year-long conflict and return to the mainstream, renouncing violence and committing to building a prosperous and developed.

'Will do anything to defeat BJP,' says Sisodia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said his party will do "anything" to defeat the BJP, even allying with the Congress for the Haryana Assembly polls.

The former deputy chief minister of Delhi, who was campaigning in Haryana, said alliance with the Congress will be finalised after AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal is released from prison. Party leaders from both sides have already held two rounds of talks over seat sharing in Haryana, where polls are due on October 5. The AAP has demanded nine seats against Congress's offer of seven seats, party insiders said. Sisodia said the BJP has "betrayed" the people of Haryana in its 10-year rule.

"We Will do anything to defeat the BJP. Kejriwal has to come out and we will finalise."

Bangladesh will become 'big brother of Pakistan': Giriraj Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that Bangladesh's control has fallen into such hands that it will become the "big brother of Pakistan", Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Wednesday asserted that investors will shy away from the neighbouring nation.

Singh was speaking at a curtain raiser event of Bharat Tex 2025 to be held from February 14-17 at the Bharat Mandapam here.

The minister's remark comes in the backdrop of recent violence that led to regime change in Bangladesh.



Singh was speaking at a curtain raiser event of Bharat Tex 2025 to be held from February 14-17 at the Bharat Mandapam here

"Ab Bangladesh ki dori to aise haath main chala gaya hai, ki Pakistan ka bada Bhai ban jayega, Chhota nahi rahena, to kaun investor wahan jaana chahega (Reins of Bangladesh

fallen into such hands that it will become big brother of Pakistan...then which investor would like to go there)," Singh said. Elaborating on his comments, the minister said that

the Indian textile industry is not facing any challenge either from Bangladesh or Vietnam as India has a large labour market. He further said that if Bangladesh becomes like Pakistan, investors will think before going there.

The minister also said there are plans to link every sector to the production-linked incentive scheme. "...We are trying to bring more PLI schemes, to link every sector to it," Singh said. Bharat Tex 2025 is a mega global textiles event being organised by a consortium of Textile Export Promotion.

Ponguleti: Unlike BRS...

Continued from page 1

He questioned whether they were viewing the current floods again with the same foreign conspiracy lens. Ponguleti stated, "Unlike KCR, who remained in his farmhouse during the rains, we have been on the ground with the people from the moment the first drops fell. The preemptive measures we took helped minimize the loss of lives to the extent possible."

The Minister strongly condemned the comments reportedly made by former BRS minister Harish Rao on Tuesday regarding the floods in Khammam district. He remarked that it was unfortunate for BRS leaders, who could not even visit the families of those who had died in

the floods, to now criticize the government.

Citing a specific instance, Ponguleti mentioned that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, along with other cabinet ministers, visited and consoled the family of scientist Nunavat Ashwini, who tragically died when her car was swept away in the floods. "BRS leaders, on the other hand, did not even bother to offer condolences," he added. The Minister pointed out how KCR had time to bless a child released from jail but did not care to step out (of farmhouse) for flood victims. "We expected at least one suggestion from KCR, with his 10 years of governance experience, but he hasn't even opened his mouth," he said.

Criticizing KTR for his lack of involvement, Ponguleti said,

"While his father remains silent, KTR posts uninformed comments on social media from the US. Why hasn't he returned yet?" The Minister also highlighted how BRS, despite being in power for 10 years, completely neglected disaster management. "Did they ever hold a meeting on natural disasters or even think of strengthening disaster management? If they had, the damage could have been mitigated today."

Ponguleti detailed the government's efforts to mitigate the floods, especially in Khammam district, where he worked alongside Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Agriculture Minister Tummalala Nageswara Rao. "We have coordinated effectively, which is why we were able to minimize the loss of lives. We

have been constantly alerting officials and protecting the district's residents, like sheltering chicks under their wings." He also mentioned how Chief Minister Revanth Reddy personally toured Khammam, assessed the situation first-hand, stayed overnight, and ensured immediate relief to the affected people.

In contrast, Ponguleti pointed out, during past floods, BRS leaders had promised Rs. 10,000 in relief per victim but did nothing. "Now they demand Rs. 50,000 per victim. The people haven't forgotten this yet. We are not interested in BRS' dirty politics; we care about the people and their safety. Our focus is on ensuring that every last flood victim receives government assistance," he concluded.

BRS slams ... Non-submission...

Continued from page 1

"The Congress ministers from Khammam have no voice in their district, and the public sees them as failures," he added.

MLA Mutha Gopal and MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy echoed Ajay Kumar's concerns, accusing Congress of engaging in goondaism rather than helping flood victims. They demanded immediate demolition of illegal structures built by Congress leaders, including those alleged to be owned by ministers.

Former MLA Balka Suman added that BRS leaders were prepared to expose further encroachments made by Congress leaders. He called on the government to take swift action to prevent future flooding disasters.

Continued from page 1

However, the Telangana government has yet to submit the requisite financial utilization certificates and expenditure statements for the current financial year.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Bandi Sanjay expressed his concern, stating, "Brought to the attention of Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah the issue of utilization and approval of NDRF funds in Telangana along with G Kishan Reddy. Shri Amit Shah ji responded positively and, based on his instructions, Union Home Ministry's National Disaster Division Director issued the orders. A high-level Central team, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, will conduct an aerial survey of the affected areas in both states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh."

Bandi Sanjay further emphasized the financial status, adding, "As per the Accountant General's report, the state has Rs. 1,345 crore in SDRF funds. PM Modi-led Central govt has been consist-

tently releasing its share of the National Disaster Fund. Telangana government is advised to utilize the existing SDRF funds with the state. Further, Rs. 208.40 crore due in June this year was not released because the state government failed to submit the utilization certificate. As soon as the utilization certificate is submitted, the Centre is ready to release the pending funds."

The non-submission of these reports has drawn sharp criticism from other quarters as well. BRS MLA Harish Rao expressed his shock at the situation, saying, "Shocking! The Ministry of Home Affairs' letter has exposed the complete failure of the Congress government in submitting the situation report on the current natural disaster and flood situation in Telangana. The letter further reveals that Rs. 208.40 crores in SDRF funds for June 2024 couldn't be released by the Union government, as neither the Utilization Certificate nor the requisition was submitted by the Government of Telangana."

demned the Congress government's inaction, pointing to the State Accountant General's confirmation that Rs. 1,345.15 crores in the SDRF is available for relief management. "The Congress government's inaction is not just delaying critical funds that could bring immediate relief-it's turning a blind eye to the suffering of Telangana's people. This isn't just inefficiency; it's a betrayal of the people's trust," Rao added.

The Union Ministry has urged the Telangana government to expedite the submission of the necessary information in the prescribed format to facilitate the release of the funds, ensuring timely disaster management. The Ministry also instructed the state's Disaster Management Department to regularly update the MHA Control Room on the status of natural disasters to improve coordination. With monsoon rains continuing, the delay in submitting these reports could further complicate relief efforts in the districts already severely affected by the floods, it cautioned.

Sridhar: Centre... KTR slams Cong...

Continued from page 1

He called for the immediate release of ₹2,000 crore as well as a total flood relief package of ₹5,500 crore.

Sridhar Babu mentioned that never before had 30-40 cm rainfall been recorded in the month of September. It was more of a cloudburst, with a month's worth of rain falling within a few hours, he added. Sridhar Babu credited the state's alertness and the quick deployment of rescue personnel for limiting the casualties. He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Telangana, declare the floods as a national disaster, and allocate special funds.

Criticizing the BRS (Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi), which he accused of being a 'secret ally' of the BJP, Sridhar Babu demanded that they also push for the devastation to be declared a national disaster. He advised the BRS to stop engaging in dirty politics; and, if possible, extend aid to flood victims.

"We had given them sanction for OSAT in Kongara Kalan, with all necessary clearances from the Group of Ministers (GoM) and even issued a government order to support this. Unfortunately, this project is no longer happening in KK and has shifted to Gujarat," he said.

KTR further explained that this OSAT unit would have been instrumental in spurring the semiconductor ecosystem in Telangana, making the state's technology landscape more advanced. Additionally, KTR revealed that another proposed project, a Printed Circuit Board (PCB) manufacturing unit in Warangal, will also no longer proceed. "We had discussed a PCB manufacturing unit in Warangal, but that too isn't happening now," he stated.

Instead, KTR said, Keynes Technology would only proceed with establishing a reg-

ular electronics manufacturing and assembly unit in Kongara Kalan. "What Keynes is going to do in KK is regular electronics manufacturing and assembly, not OSAT, not PCB," he added.

According to KTR, of the three projects initially discussed and agreed upon with the previous Telangana government, only the third and comparatively smaller one is moving forward. The Congress government, he alleged, lost the other two major projects due to "their incompetence, confusion, and poor management."

After a tweet by KTR regarding the issue, a response from the Hon'ble Minister followed, but KTR pointed out that the Minister "conveniently ignored mentioning what kind of plant Telangana is actually getting instead." He called for transparency and honesty from the Congress government, stating, "The people deserve the truth, not half-baked narratives."

Continued from page 1

CPPS is expected to benefit more than 78 lakh EPS-95 pensioners of the EPFO. By harnessing advanced IT and banking technologies, it will offer a more efficient, seamless, and user-friendly experience for pensioners.

The centralised system would ensure disbursement of pension throughout India without any need for transfer of Pension Payment Orders (PPO) from one office to the other even when the pen-

sioner moves from one location to another or changes his bank or branch.

This would be a great relief to pensioners who move to their hometown after retirement.

This facility will be launched as part of EPFO's ongoing IT modernisation project Centralized IT Enabled System (CITES 2.0) from January 1, 2025. In the next phase, CPPS will enable a smooth transition to Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS), it said.

Centralised...

Continued from page 1

It would also foster a healthy competition among workers and result in the production of high-quality textiles, providing employment opportunities on a large scale. Regarding the yarn depot, Sanjay pointed out that it would ensure easy and affordable access to raw materials for Sircilla's weavers who had been reeling under financial crisis. The rise in input costs had made it hard for the weavers to purchase raw materials, making the demand for an 80 per cent subsidy and loans at a nominal interest rate even more urgent.

Responding positively to Sanjay's appeal, Giriraj Singh assured the latter that his ministry would examine.

Bandi bats for...

had been reeling under financial crisis. The rise in input costs had made it hard for the weavers to purchase raw materials, making the demand for an 80 per cent subsidy and loans at a nominal interest rate even more urgent.

Responding positively to Sanjay's appeal, Giriraj Singh assured the latter that his ministry would examine.

Two from Hyd...

Continued from page 1

The force of the collision was such that the SUV caught fire and the four occupants were trapped inside which resulted in their deaths. Aryan and Farooq were returning after visiting Aryan's cousin in Dallas while Palacharla was heading to Bentonville to reunite with his wife. Darshini Vasudev, a post-graduate from the University of Texas, was on her way to visit her uncle in Arkansas.

A friend of Aryan's father on Wednesday said here that four people including Aryan and his friend Farooq had joined in the vehicle using a carpooling app.

After getting to know about the accident from a relative staying in the US on Saturday, Aryan's parents already left for the US. Farooq's father Mastan Vali, who stays in Hyderabad, said that he was informed on Saturday that an over-speeding truck hit the vehicle in which his son and three other Indians including Aryan were travelling.

Pawan welcomes HYDRAA...

Continued from page 1

Pawan Kalyan acknowledged that removing encroachments could be challenging and might lead to social unrest.

He proposed a 'hybrid' strategy to prevent further encroachments on water bodies, emphasising the need for preemptive action by authorities. Referring to the severe floods in Vijayawada, he emphasised that officials should carefully document encroachments around lakes and ponds and assess their extent. He further suggested a dual approach involving both persuasion and compensation, asking occupants to voluntarily relinquish encroached lands and compensating socially disadvantaged groups while rehabilitating them.

"There must be an action plan similar to HYDRAA," he remarked, noting that influential politicians often play a role in such encroachments, and persuading them to return the land could follow a model akin to the Bhoodan movement.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

A boost to 'Act East'

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Singapore, marks a crucial step in fortifying India's 'Act East' policy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore marks a significant milestone in India's 'Act East' policy, reinforcing the strategic importance of the Southeast Asian region in India's foreign relations. Modi's Singapore visit enhanced bilateral cooperation in key areas, reflecting India's broader goals in the Indo-Pacific. Singapore occupies a pivotal position in India's 'Act East' policy, serving as a gateway to Southeast Asia and a key partner in advancing India's Indo-Pacific strategy. As the coordinator of ASEAN-India relations from 2021 to 2024, Singapore plays an instrumental role in shaping the regional dynamics between India and ASEAN, a bloc crucial for maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. Prime Minister Modi's visit underscores the deepening of ties between the two nations, particularly in areas such as trade, digitalisation, and sustainable development. With a trade volume reaching \$36.6 billion in 2023, Singapore is India's largest trade partner in Asia.



PM Modi's agenda during the visit included discussions with Singapore's senior leadership, including President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, aimed at exploring new avenues for collaboration in advanced manufacturing, logistics, and commercial real estate.

The visit is expected to yield significant economic benefits, particularly in attracting foreign direct investment from Singaporean companies into India's emerging sectors. The focus on advanced manufacturing and digitalisation aligns with India's

broader goal of transforming into a global manufacturing hub. Additionally, the emphasis on sustainable development highlights India's commitment to addressing global challenges such as climate change, a priority for both nations. Strategically, Singapore's role as a crucial partner in the Indo-Pacific region cannot be overstated. India's '5 S' approach—Sammaan (respect), Samvad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace), and Samridhi (prosperity)—forms the foundation of its Indo-Pacific engagement, with Singapore and Brunei being key players. The visit reinforces India's commitment to maintaining a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, where ASEAN plays a central role. Indeed, Prime Minister Modi's visit to Singapore is more than a bilateral engagement; it is a reaffirmation of India's commitment to strengthening ties with Southeast Asia as part of its 'Act East' policy. The discussions held during this visit are likely to pave the way for deeper economic and strategic cooperation, not just with Singapore, but across the Indo-Pacific region. As India continues to assert its role as a key player in the region, Singapore remains an indispensable partner in this endeavor, embodying the principles of dialogue, cooperation, and shared prosperity.

PICTALK



An aerial view of the illuminated Chennai Street Circuit during the Formula 4 Street Car Race, in Chennai

BJP's recruitment drive to solidify power



KALYANI SHANKAR

As the BJP aims to recruit 100 million new members, it continues to strengthen its dominance, despite facing criticism and internal challenges

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is working to expand on a two-track basis. The first is by recruiting influential leaders from other parties, particularly Congress. Although this may involve a small number of leaders, their influence is significant.

Second, the party is focusing on enrolling a large number of new members. Former Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Chief Minister Champai Soren joined the BJP after current CM Hemant Soren, allegedly involved in a scam, was released last week and resumed his post. This move adds to the trend of influential chief ministers joining the BJP, highlighting the party's strategic success. The BJP embraces well-known leaders from other parties as they bring their influence and workers along. — Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, imported from Congress, is a classic example. Sarma has become the go-to man in the northeast. According to the National Election Watch-ADR, the main reasons for defections and party switching are the absence of value-based politics, greed for money and power, rewarding political positions, and lack of efficient, honest, and credible leaders. BJP has plans to recruit 100 million new members on a parallel track.

At last week's meeting, the BJP leadership decided that the drive would be in two phases: September 2 to 25 and October 1 to 15. Over the last decade, the BJP has seen significant growth. In the 1980s, upper-middle-class, urban, and Hindus primarily supported the BJP. It has since built a broader political base, showing its increasing influence. The BJP has overtaken Congress and is already the world's largest party, with 180 million members. The Grand Old Party, Congress, has 130 million members. Between 2014 and 2019, around 180 million people joined the BJP nationwide. Eighty thousand leaders and workers from various parties have joined the BJP, which aims to recruit about 100,000 leaders at national and district levels.



Through this drive, the BJP collects data about its members, including their caste, gender, age, residence, and other details. In the last decade, many influential Congress leaders, including former chief ministers and ministers, shifted to the BJP, revealing their frustration, greed and lust for power. The BJP has rewarded some of them with good positions. Notable leaders among them include Himanta Biswa Sarma, Gulam Nabi Azad, Captain Amarendra Singh, Kapil Sibal, Jitin Prasad, R.P.N. Singh, Milind Deora, and Jyotiraditya Scindia. Former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan, Ritesh Pandey, Sangita Azad, and others have recently joined the BJP.

They come from various political parties such as Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party, All India Trinamool Congress, and YSRCP. The BJP has benefited the most from members switching sides, while the Congress has suffered the most since 2014. Even after winning, the Opposition parties are concerned that the BJP will try to persuade their legislators to switch—many defectors at crucial moments, such as during government majority voting. Why do they defect? If there is



EIGHTY THOUSAND LEADERS AND WORKERS FROM VARIOUS PARTIES HAVE JOINED THE BJP, WHICH AIMS TO RECRUIT ABOUT 100,000 LEADERS AT NATIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS

a reason for the defectors to leave their respective parties, the BJP also embraces them without hesitating. These leaders fear becoming politically irrelevant when their party loses power. By aligning with the dominant BJP, they hope to gain control and secure a political future for their children. The BJP's successful strategy of attracting leaders from other parties is evident in the ADR analysis. It shows that 22% of re-contesting candidates who switched parties joined the BJP, followed by 10% joining the Congress and 6% joining the BSP. Over the past decade, the BJP has attracted several leaders from other parties, contributing to the rise of leaders like Himanta Biswa Sarma in the northeastern region. Why does the BJP welcome these defectors? There are three key reasons: First, it weakens the party from which the defection occurs. Second, it allows the BJP to absorb known leaders from established parties, strengthening its ranks. Third, given the BJP's lack of second-rung leaders, it is easier to absorb the defectors. It is not as if dissenters have not left the BJP. Some, like Kalyani Singh, Shankar Singh Vaghela, and Yediyurappa (all chief ministers), launched their par-

ties but returned to the BJP when they failed. The BJP's deeply ideological glue holds it together. The BJP's long-time loyal members are unhappy when newcomers get good positions while they have been faithful to the party. This has happened in the past. During Vajpayee's leadership, the party could only accommodate some, and others left. While the party has been expanding, its leadership is still dominated by the Upper caste. The BJP has strengths but receives criticism for its limited ideology, aggressive attitude, complacency, and arrogance. The BJP's upcoming membership drive will test its strength in the post-2024 poll period. Though it emerged as the single largest party, it got only 240 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, 32 short of the majority. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to achieve a "Congress-Free India," but it may be challenging. You cannot eliminate a 140-year-old party in a day, as the Congress showed revival instincts. The BJP must refrain from repeating the mistakes of the Congress to stay in power. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ACTOR VIJAY ENTERS POLITICS

Madam — Environment prevailing, political narratives set, leadership space available and the ability to convert the mass created in the film domain determine the success of a film star who turns into a political leader. Though many film stars have entered into politics only few have succeeded. While M G Ramachandran (MGR) and N T Rama Rao (NTR) can be said to have had superlative successes both the stars have had in the 1970/80s are in no way comparable to any. For both MGR and NTR carefully built their image as a mass leader over two decades before plunging into politics.

While Jayalalitha was successful she had the advantage MGR's backing and her cleverly capitalizing on MGR's image. One more leader who came very close to success was Vijaykanth who set an anti corruption narrative and it took nearly a decade for him to become the LOP after which he died due to poor health. Superstar Rajnikanth backtracked after announcing his entry in politics citing health reasons. Seeman also from Kollywood though has his own vote bank he is yet to prove himself as a successful leader. Pawan Kalyan from Tollywood has tasted some success thanks to the alliance with BJP and TDP in AP. We will have to wait to see Vijay who has been successful as a hero in Kollywood and has a youth following, entering into TN politics when the towering leaders like Jayalalitha and Karunanidhi are absent the political narrative he sets and his ability to convert the mass following into his vote bank. Despite all these strengths the political party possess in the state, to fight the elections on its own without an alliance and form the government on its own is difficult and hence we will have to see the partners with whom he forges alliance in the 2026 TN assembly elections which he has announced to fight.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

SC ADDRESSES FARMERS' CONCERNS. Madam— The recent Supreme Court

Improve ties with neighbours



The editorial on SOSA details the need for India to be in this forum. Equally important for India is to improve its ties with its neighbours. As of now India is an island

in the ocean of hostile neighbouring countries. Such a situation is a lurking danger to nullify all the enviable achievements the country is boasting of. On priority India needs to ensure friendly relations with all its neighbours. Another fact to be kept in mind is that all the countries forming groups against China are too cautious in their steps as every country has its stake in China in terms of investment or imports. India's dependability on China is more. 70% of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients imported from China are inevitable to maintain the position of India as a global Pharma hub. Even Solar cells need to come from China. Therefore the so called arrangements and agreements against China are to push more weapons in the name of security. India needs to be careful not to fall in the trap of weapon mafia.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

decision to form a panel to address the farmers' concerns at the Shambhu border marks a critical step in resolving the ongoing crisis. It is essential that this panel operates with the utmost transparency and fairness, ensuring that the voices of the farmers are genuinely heard and their grievances adequately addressed. Farmers, the backbone of the nation, have been protesting for their rights and livelihood. Their demands are not just about immediate relief but also about securing the future of agriculture in the country. The formation of this panel must not be seen as a mere formality. Concrete actions must follow, with clear timelines and accountability. Moreover, this issue transcends regional boundaries and affects the entire nation. The agricultural sector's stability is crucial for food security and economic growth. A balanced and empathetic approach is necessary, where the government and the judiciary work in unison to safeguard the interests of both the farmers and the nation.

Priya Gupta | Kushinagar

INDIA'S NAVAL PROWESS

Madam — With the successful induction of its second indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine, the I.N.S. Arighat, India has once again showcased her naval prowess to the world. However, unlike I.N.S. Arighat, the recently commissioned submarine is more advanced and operational focused. In the realm of maritime security India with 172 warheads still has to cover a long distance as Russia and U.S with 1700 each, China (500) are way ahead of us in terms of operational warheads. Indian Ocean is being considered as a breeding ground for developing arms race as China, U.S, Russia and even Pakistan are flexing their muscles, should India reconsider its age old age No First Use (NFC) doctrine? India must decide whether to modernising its nuclear deterrent capabilities or remain committed to its traditional policy of minimum deterrence.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A green tribute to mothers and the environment



O P CHOUDHARY

Inspired by PM Modi's "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" initiative, the Chhattisgarh Government has launched the ambitious "People for Peepal" plantation drive in Nava Raipur

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" (a tree in the name of the mother) initiative, a deep thought process went behind it. One, to cherish the memory of our mothers; and two, to environmental conservation. The Chhattisgarh government took it as a unique opportunity to give Nava Raipur a new identity. The Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Development Authority launched the "People for Peepal" plantation drive to transform the city into the first "Peepal Tree" city in India. We also saw it as an opportunity to address the pressing issue of climate change by establishing Nava Raipur as a "Peepal Tree" City in the coming years. This drive reflects a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and aims to set a new benchmark for urban green spaces. We envision a city where extensive tree planting and green infrastructure contribute significantly to improving the urban environment and combatting climate



change. Echoing the Prime Minister's commitment to Mother Earth, the Chhattisgarh government is together with Modi's vision of nurturing our planet the way our mothers take care of us. The campaign, kick-started by Narendra Modi this World Environment Day on June 5, will help in reversing land degradation, recharge groundwater, prevent desertification and bring in drought resilience. The "People for Peepal" campaign aims to plant over 20,000 Peepal trees apart from 80,000 trees of other varieties throughout the city. Peepal or Ficus Religiosa, a large and fast-growing deciduous tree unique to

India that is a revered symbol of eternal life, wisdom and spirituality, has been chosen for its significant ecological benefits and cultural importance. The massive plantation will ensure that Peepal trees become a prominent and recognizable feature across Nava Raipur. In addition to Peepal trees, which are one of the most oxygen-producing trees, the drive will include planting other key species such as Neem, Banyan, and Jamun. These trees are integral to the city's green infrastructure, enhancing biodiversity and providing additional environmental benefits. To boost community involvement, the campaign includes a "virtu-

al adoption programme". This initiative allows individuals and organizations to adopt trees virtually, fostering widespread engagement and support for the drive. This approach encourages collective responsibility towards environmental conservation and helps ensure the campaign's success. The ultimate goal of this extensive plantation drive is to position Nava Raipur as a model city for environmental preservation and to earn recognition as the first "Peepal Tree" City of India. By expanding green spaces and promoting biodiversity, the city aims to inspire other urban areas and set a global example for sustainable urban development. Through this initiative, Nava Raipur seeks not only to address climate change but also to enhance the quality of life for its residents, establishing itself as a leading example of environmental stewardship and green urban planning. (The writer is the Minister of Finance of Government of Chhattisgarh; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

BEYOND SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

We must reconcile modern progress with sustainability by shifting to spiritually



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The competitive world in which we are living believes in the theory of "Survival of the Fittest," meaning that the strongest one is the one who survives. However, humanity in the 21st century has perceived this in a rather different manner because, in the actual sense, the strongest people are those who are most ethical and helpful, not those who gain strength by hurting others and exploiting nature. Today, educated people all over the world are well aware of the fact that the environment across the globe has deteriorated menacingly to its lowest ebb, and if this deterioration continues further for some more time at this rate, then the very existence of the human race will be in grave danger. But today, when economic progress takes precedence even over politics, many governments are under great pressure to increase production substantially and to take major strides towards high economic evolution and growth by undertaking developmental activities on a large scale for a quick turnaround. Therefore, every government increasingly engages itself in fulfilling the goals of modernisation through rapid industrialisation and technological advancement to create more jobs and thriving economies. But the real dilemma is that if the governments accelerate developmental activities and industrialisation, then the quality of the environment will be badly affected. If they do not take visible steps towards economic growth, then they cannot compete with other nations and may face criticism from their people and ultimately have to step down. So, the challenge faced by all countries is: "How to improve or sustain the quality of the environment while ensuring a high level of economic activity and growth?"



The solution that is generally suggested is that there should be sustainable development. But is this practically feasible without affecting the social domain? There is bound to be more and more strain on the environment and the depleting of mineral and natural resources. It is, therefore, urgent and important that we realize at the earliest that it will simply be impossible for the earth to sustain us if the strain on it increases. So, for our survival in a clean and healthy environment, it is of the utmost necessity to reduce our consumption and wastage by changing our lifestyle.

With massive industrialization and economic growth, the gains of some sectors of the society inevitably create pressures on the social fabric of an erratic developing society creating a great imbalance in the consumption levels of a small number of rich and an ever-increasing downtrodden. Hence to overcome all these issues, the need of the hour is to have a simple lifestyle, which is not possible through the virtues of the capitalistic or the socialist system of economy but only through the spiritual orientation of our economic thought because survivors aren't always the strongest; sometimes they're the smartest, but more often simply the luckiest.

Hence it is better to change ourselves before time devastates us. Indeed, we can cultivate a society that prioritizes the health of the planet over short-term gains. Schools, colleges, and universities should integrate environmental education into their curriculums, teaching students not only about the challenges we face but also about the solutions that can lead us to a more sustainable future. In conclusion, the path to true survival does not lie in the outdated notion of 'survival of the fittest,' understood as domination and exploitation. Instead, it lies in our ability to live in harmony with nature and each other, fostering a world where progress is measured not by the wealth we accumulate but by the health of our environment and the well-being of all living beings. If we fail to recognize this and continue on our current path, we risk not only our future but the very survival of the planet itself.

(Writer is a spiritual educator and a columnist; views are personal)

Reviving the legacy of quality in teacher education



J S RAJPUT

This year's Teacher's Day celebrations carry a special resonance as they align with the enduring concerns of Dr S Radhakrishnan, who passionately advocated for quality in education

Teacher's Day celebrations this year are indeed special in the context of quality, which was the major concern expressed on several occasions by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, whose contributions are recalled with gratitude on this day every year. Necessary academic and professional preparations have been made and the Integrated Teacher Education Programme - ITEP - has already been launched in 64 institutions. This initiative is based on the recommendations of the National Education Policy -NEP-2020 - that after 2030 all of the pre-service teacher preparation programmes would be only of four-year duration and all others shall be scrapped. It would be prudent to recall an earlier experiment in quality teacher preparation which was initiated in 1965 by the then newly established organization, the National Council of Educational Research and Training - NCERT - in its four Regional Colleges (now Institutes) of Education, located in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, and Mysore.

It was acknowledged at the level of experts and accepted by national decision-makers that the one-year teacher preparation programmes were inadequate in preparing quality teachers and must be replaced by the four-year integrated programmes after senior secondary. The products of these four-year integrated courses established a distinct reputation for themselves in the education sector, and also in other professions as well, which they preferred to join. It is indeed heartening to note that the NEP-2020 made the recommendation on ITEP based upon the solid evidence offered by the NCERT institutions. One is convinced that the growth, development and progress of any nation would be a direct consequence of the quality of education it achieves.

This quality is invariably a product of the level of excellence achieved by the Teacher Education Institutes -TEIs - of the nation. It is the work culture of the TEIs that mandates - without ever saying so formally - the work culture of the schools. The level of competence, commitment and performance witnessed in the TEIs by the student-teachers flows directly to schools and creates practically a comparable environment for school children. It is possible to achieve comprehensive personality evolution over four years and this is well-established in India, courtesy of the NCERT.

One must hasten to add that the proposed ITEP version of the earlier four-year programmes of the NCERT must be handled with great caution and care. Any inadequacy of academic, professional physical and financial resources could inflict irreversible damage to the great initiative. The future of the planet Earth and humanity depends on how education deals with man-nature mutuality. India decided in 2020 that 'The rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge and thought' would be a guiding light for the NEP-2020.

It has, thus, accepted that education in India must be 'rooted in a culture committed to new knowledge.' In every alert and active culture, the tradition of knowledge quest has to remain dynamic in word and deed. It is because of this inherent strength, that Indian culture and its tradition of knowledge quest with its



ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS NEED TO POSE AN INTERNAL QUERY: ARE WE FUNCTIONING AT A LEVEL OF SELF-CONFIDENCE, CONVICTION, DETERMINATION AND PASSION THAT COULD BRING CREDIBILITY TO EACH ONE OF US AND OUR INSTITUTION?

unique objectives and vision are now receiving global attention in the world. Yes, the knowledgeable and concerned persons of the world must come together and realize that the wanton destruction of natural resources without caring for their replenishment has forced scientists to calculate how long the planet Earth could survive.

They must inspire everyone to wake up and realize the dreadful magnitude of the devastation being inflicted on nature must stop, and much more, present big plans before people, but there it all ends. There is a solution that Indians are aware of from "ancient times: 'Aparigraha.' It was put up before the world in very simple terms in his indomitable style by Mahatma Gandhi: Nature has a sufficient resource to meet the needs of everyone but not the greed of anyone."

This is the only alternative. "To me, hope lies in the Teacher! The Teacher can do it if they resolve to do it and the 'Teachers of the world' unite! A new chapter has to be written in every discipline and an emphasis on multidisciplinary concerns of the human knowledge quest, the process of transfer and acquisition of knowledge.

Towards this, teachers shall have to realize, accept and internalize that they are makers of the future of human existence on planet Earth! It is their responsibility to shape every learner coming to them as an unaware and uninitiated person into a personality! That would shape the future generations, would prepare citizens committed to their nation, and their people but fully conscious of their role as international cit-

izens as well. The legendary philosopher, revered statesman and worthy teacher Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was one of the finest intellectual brains of the 20th century. He was a matchless interpreter of Eastern and Western thought, philosophy and the 'concept of a man'. We recall his greatness, and his multifarious contributions, but allow his philosophy and guiding principles for teachers to remain confined to a few shelves of some reputed libraries.

He pleads particularly to institutions of higher learning: "The ideal of the university is the promotion of liberty of mind and or freedom of thought. It has little to do with the protection of privilege or a call to conformity. It contests privilege which is something other than that excellence which follows on intellectual eminence or spiritual greatness. It contests conformity, for each individual has a right to develop his own convictions." Once this is accepted at each appropriate level by all those dealing with higher education, it becomes clear that the seeds for creating such an environment in institutions of higher learning have to be sown in schools!

Schools in the present context just cannot become the nourishing and nurturing grounds for the flowering of new ideas unless school teachers are well-equipped and well-endowed with the determination that every child, every learner is to be encouraged to express himself in whichever way he chooses to; may be in music, sports, mathematics, painting, imagination, creativity, and the like! In India right from the Ministry of Education to primary schools is just forgotten after

every discussion and deliberation! One is referring to the most distinct role of teacher education institutions; TEIs. Quality, ideas, innovations, and imagination are nurtured in schools and universities but how to do so is learnt, internalized and tested in TEIs. To universalize this comprehension, one must be ready with a reality test! We are proud of India of ancient times because of the universality of its culture and acceptance of the essential unity of mankind despite all the apparent diversities.

Academic institutions need to pose an internal query: are we functioning at a level of self-confidence, conviction, determination and passion that could bring credibility to each one of us and our institution? As academics 'have we accepted and succumbed to being teachers less original, to ambitions less exalted and to tame compliance with old forms! We were warned over seven-eight decades ago by Dr Radhakrishnan on this count: "There was a dread of venturing outside the safe limits of guaranteed ideas. The country seems to suffer from exhaustion." The future belongs to those equipped with learning that encourages ideas, imagination, curiosity and creativity. The fittest and finest tribute to Dr. Radhakrishnan and in fact to the great Indian tradition of teaching, learning and knowledge quest would be to respect teachers, and treat them as the creators of the future of not only the individual learner but of the society, community and the nation.

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity, views are personal)

The true power and purpose of teaching in a changing world

On this Teacher's Day, let us reflect on the challenges and triumphs of this noble profession

Born into a family of accomplished women, I've often faced a question that has puzzled me for years: "Why did you choose to be a teacher?" This question, posed by family, friends, and even strangers, stems from two assumptions. First, that teaching is a lesser profession, inferior to careers like medicine or bureaucracy, which my sisters have pursued. Second, and more disheartening, is the belief held by some that only those who fail in other "proper" professions resort to teaching. The underlying notion is that teaching is easy and requires no special skills—a perception I find not just ironic but profoundly misguided. The irony lies in the fact that we all remember teachers



SWATI PAL

who profoundly impacted our lives. We recall the teachers whose classes we eagerly attended, whose kindness and encouragement shaped who we are today. Conversely, we also remember those whose classes were dull, who seemed to take pleasure in demeaning students, or who treated teaching as nothing more than a paycheck. The truth is, teaching is easy only for those who see it as mere-

ly a job—a means to an end, rather than a calling. For those who aspire to be remembered as 'good' teachers, the profession is far from easy. It requires dedication, empathy, and a genuine desire to make a difference in students' lives. Unfortunately, there has been a shift in attitudes towards teaching, influenced by a growing corporate mentality and consumer culture. Many teachers today seem more concerned with holidays, salary increments, and perks than with the students they are supposed to nurture. While it's not wrong to seek these benefits, when they become the sole focus, teaching is reduced to a transactional relationship. This attitude contributes to the neg-

ative perception of teachers in society, where they are often seen as nothing more than paid servants in an "easy" profession. Yet, the disillusionment among teachers is not entirely self-inflicted. The idealism that once characterized the profession has been eroded by systemic issues that go beyond individual attitudes. Over the three-plus decades I've spent in education, I've witnessed changes that have not always benefited teachers or students. One of the most significant changes has been the shift from an annual examination system to a semester system at the undergraduate level. While the intention of aligning with global patterns is understandable, the semester system has

reduced teaching to a race to complete syllabi, leaving little room for individualized attention or meaningful engagement with students. This shift is particularly ironic in an era when "quality education" is a buzzword. The question we must ask is whether the semester system truly enhances quality or merely ensures that all the boxes are ticked on time. Teachers who feel they cannot do justice to the curriculum or their students are bound to feel frustrated. Even the most resilient educators may eventually succumb to the pressures of the system, abandoning the high ideals that initially drew them to the profession. The space that the annual system once provided for exploring innovative

teaching methods has been replaced by a relentless focus on deadlines, leading to a sense of exhaustion and apathy among teachers. The accreditation system, though well-intentioned, has also added to the burden. While it has encouraged institutions to improve infrastructure, training, and community outreach, the process itself is cumbersome. Hours are spent documenting activities and ensuring they conform to prescribed criteria for a good grade. This bureaucratic approach to education often detracts from the unique qualities of individual institutions, fostering a spirit of competition that can be more self-defeating than motivating. Another challenge is the rapid

succession of educational reforms—CBCS, LOCF, NEP, and others. While each reform is introduced with the intention of improving education, the pace of change has led to confusion, inadequate curriculum revision, and a lack of clarity about the objectives of these reforms among both teachers and students. The result is a situation where "a little learning," as Alexander Pope warned, becomes a "dangerous thing." Instead of fostering deep understanding, these rapid changes have led to superficial learning and a sense of disillusionment among educators. Despite these challenges, I remain steadfast in my belief that teaching is one of the

most powerful professions in the world. A teacher has the potential to drive away the clouds of ignorance to teach empathy and integrity, and to guide students toward a brighter future. Rabindranath Tagore, captured this sentiment beautifully in his poem "Where the Mind is Without Fear," envisioning a world led by reason, truth, and freedom. On this Teacher's Day, I urge my fellow educators to remember the profound role we play in shaping the future. Despite the odds, we must strive to create a better world by becoming more humane and resilient, even if we are the last ones standing. (The writer is Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, DU; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Flipkart expects to create 1 lakh new jobs

E-commerce major Flipkart is expecting to create 1 lakh new jobs for the upcoming festival season sale. The Big Billion Days 2024, across India, the company said on Wednesday. Ahead of The Big Billion Days (TBD) 2024, Flipkart has launched 11 new fulfillment centres (FCs) across nine cities, bringing their total number in the country to 83, the Walmart group firm said in a statement. "With its commitment to socio-economic development, Flipkart remains focused on enabling employment opportunities, creating over 1 lakh new jobs within its supply chain across the country. This aims to strengthen Flipkart's operational capabilities while empowering local communities and driving economic growth during this year's festive season," the statement said. Flipkart said the new job roles will be spread across various supply chain verticals, including inventory managers, warehouse associates, logistics coordinators, kirana partners and delivery drivers.



Star Health launches insurance policy in Braille

Private sector retail health insurer Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd on Wednesday launched its first insurance policy in Braille - Special Care Gold - tailored for individuals with 40 per cent or more disability. It is a significant step towards ensuring that the visually-impaired can access information and make independent decisions on matters related to their health and finance, the company said. Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd in a statement said about 34 million people were visually impaired in India and it is committed to support the unserved, marginalised section of society with training and up-skilling them to become health insurance agents. "We are pleased to announce the launch of Special Care Gold policy in Braille. This is a significant milestone in our mission to deliver equitable access to health insurance across all segments of society."



Dr Reddy's, Lupin recall products from US

Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Lupin are recalling products in the US due to manufacturing issues, as per the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). Dr Reddy's Laboratories Inc, a subsidiary of Hyderabad-based drug firm, is recalling ibuprofen tablets in multiple strengths, the US health regulator said in its latest enforcement report. Ibuprofen tablets are indicated for pain relief and fever. New Jersey-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories Inc, is recalling 1,03,298 bottles (800 mg); 31,802 bottles (600 mg); and 14,940 bottles (400 mg) of ibuprofen tablets in the US market, USFDA said. The company is recalling the affected lot due to "Failed impurities/degradation specifications," it added. "Results for unknown impurity were 0.13 per cent and 0.11 per cent, respectively, exceeding the 0.10 per cent specification limit," USFDA noted. The company initiated the Class II nationwide recall on August 6 this year. USFDA stated that Lupin is recalling 4,554 bottles of Cefixime for Oral Suspension in the market.

India provided more climate finance than rich countries: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India contributed USD 1.28 billion in climate finance through multilateral development banks (MDBs) in 2022, surpassing the contributions of many developed countries, according to a new analysis.

The analysis, conducted by the UK-based think tank ODI and the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, comes amid a renewed push by some developed countries to broaden the donor base for climate finance to include developing countries like China and Saudi Arabia.

The report reveals that only 12 developed countries provided their fair share of inter-

national climate finance in 2022. These countries are -- Norway, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium and Finland.

Researchers noted that the significant gap in climate finance is largely due to the United States failing to contribute its fair share. Australia, Spain, Canada and the United Kingdom also performed relatively poorly in this regard.

The analysis has identified the top 30 non-Annex II countries that provided substantial climate finance to developing countries in 2022 through multilateral contributions to development banks and climate funds.



Sitharaman moots quarterly targets for capex by ministries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

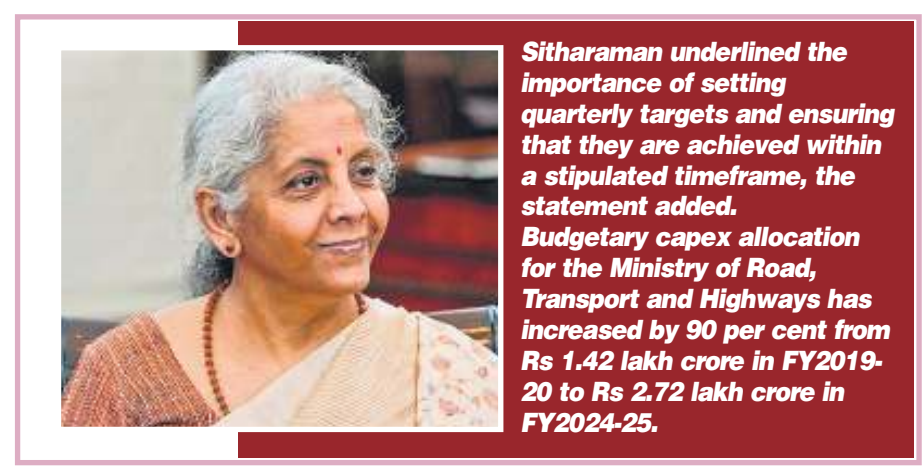
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday underlined the importance of setting quarterly targets for capex by various ministries and expedite spending in the remaining months of the year.

In a review meeting on the budgeted capital expenditure for the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the Department of Telecom, Sitharaman exhorted the respective ministries to expedite implementation and make up for the June and September quarter targets in December quarter of FY2024-25 itself, the finance ministry said in a statement.

A series of review meetings to be chaired by Sitharaman has been scheduled with various ministries/departments with significant capex outlays.

During the meeting, Sitharaman underlined the importance of setting quarterly targets and ensuring that they are achieved within a stipulated timeframe, the statement added.

Budgetary capex allocation for the Ministry of Road,



Sitharaman underlined the importance of setting quarterly targets and ensuring that they are achieved within a stipulated timeframe, the statement added. Budgetary capex allocation for the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has increased by 90 per cent from Rs 1.42 lakh crore in FY2019-20 to Rs 2.72 lakh crore in FY2024-25.

Transport and Highways has increased by 90 per cent from Rs 1.42 lakh crore in FY2019-20 to Rs 2.72 lakh crore in FY2024-25.

Secretary MoRTH apprised the Union finance minister about the capex plans for the remaining FY 2024-25.

Secretary MoRTH informed the Union finance minister that efforts are being made to attract private capital through various measures and efforts are underway to ensure that asset recycling targets are also

met, the statement added.

During the review with respect to the ministry of communication, the details of capex plans in FY2024-25 for Bharat Net Programme, 4G mobile projects -- Indigenous Technology, Network for Spectrum, and 4G saturation and other mobile projects were discussed. The estimated capex budgetary allocation for the ministry of communication in FY2024-25 stands at Rs 28,835 crore.

Secretary, Department of

Telecommunications (DoT), apprised the Union finance minister about the capex plan and targets for the Bharat Net project, which aims at providing affordable broadband services to citizens in rural and remote areas.

DoT secretary also apprised about the capital expenditure plans for the 4G saturation project and other mobile tower projects, which seek to improve connectivity in uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas.

Institutional investors put in Rs 2,300 cr bids for GIC Re OFS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Institutional investors on Wednesday put in bids worth about Rs 2,300 crore in the government's offer for sale (OFS) of General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re).

The first government disinvestment of the current fiscal -- the OFS of GIC Re -- saw a slow start on Wednesday with the issue getting fully subscribed just before the close of market hours. The OFS received bids from non-retail investors for 5.81 crore shares, which is 108.49 per cent of the over 5.35 crore shares reserved for them, as per BSE data.

Retail investors will get to bid in the OFS on Thursday. Based on indicative price of Rs 395.11 for the bids, institutional investors put about Rs 2,300 crore bids for GIC Re shares on Wednesday.

Nifty snaps 14-day run, Sensex drops 202 pts

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Nifty took a breather after a 14-day winning run while Sensex closed lower by 202 points on Wednesday due to profit-taking in IT, banking and metal shares amid weak global trends.

Recovering from the day's lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled at 82,352.64, down by 202.80 points or 0.25 per cent. The index opened lower and tumbled further 721.75 points or 0.87 per cent to hit a low of 81,833.69 amid losses in Asian markets.

Snapping its 14-day rally, the NSE Nifty declined 81.15 points or 0.32 per cent to 25,198.70. Intra-day, it tanked 196.05 points or 0.77 per cent to 25,083.80. Nifty had surged nearly 1,141 points or 4.59 per cent in 14 straight days to Tuesday.

"The warning signals from weak US manufacturing data added concerns about a potential slowdown in the US economy, which dragged the



domestic indices. Due to a lack of major domestic triggers, the indices will take direction based on global cues," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Tata

Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma and Reliance Industries were among the gainers.

"The markets ended their gaining streak, losing nearly half a per cent due to weak global cues. In-line with other Asian markets, the Nifty index opened with a gap down, following a decline in US markets. However, selective buying in heavyweight stocks helped trim the losses as the session progressed," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.15 per cent while smallcap index climbed 0.26 per cent.

Among the indices, metal dropped 1.11 per cent, IT (0.91 per cent), telecommunication (0.82 per cent), tech (0.71 per cent) and bankex (0.70 per cent). Healthcare, commodities, consumer discretionary and realty were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong ended a rally lower. European markets were also trading in the red.

India will need 10-20 chip plants in next 10 years: Semi CEO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will need 10-20 chip manufacturing plants over the next 10 years, Semicon India organiser Semi President and CEO Ajit Manocha said on Wednesday. Manocha said that huge interest is developing in the semiconductor ecosystem, especially in Taiwan after the success of Foxconn and Wistron in India.

"I think we will need probably in the next 10 years... maybe 10-20 fabs in India. This is a rough estimate," Manocha said.

Two-wheeler makers should provide helmets at a discount: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said two-wheeler manufacturers should provide helmet to the purchaser of the vehicle at a discount or reasonable rate as many people die in road accidents just for not wearing helmets.

Addressing an event here, Gadkari said 50,029 people lost their lives in accidents in the country in 2022 when they were not wearing helmets.

"I am thinking of requesting two-wheeler manufacturers... if they can give some reasonable discount on helmets to the purchaser of the vehicle then we can save the life of the people," he said. The road transport and

highways minister also stressed on the need to plan the parking arrangement for school buses.

Noting that the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 has enforced hefty penalties on traffic offences, he said, "But actually, effective enforcement is also a big challenge." Gadkari said his ambition is to start driving school in every taluka of the country.

According to a new report titled "National Strategy for Prevention of Unintentional Injury", compiled by the Ministry of Health, road crashes

cause the most deaths due to unintentional injuries in India, accounting for more than 43 per cent of such fatalities, with overspeeding being the leading reason.

"There were 4,30,504 deaths from unintentional injuries and 1,70,924 deaths due to unintentional injuries in India in 2022. From 2016 to 2022, there has been a marginal increase in deaths due to unintentional injuries. Road traffic crashes are the highest cause of unintentional injuries (43.7 per cent)," the report had said

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 84.02 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell 4 paise to close at 84.02 (provisional) on Wednesday amid a sharp decline in the domestic equity markets as investors stayed away from riskier assets.

However, a weak dollar against major currencies overseas and a drop in crude oil prices capped further losses in the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 83.96 and traded in the range of 83.95-84.01 during the day.

The unit moved in a tight range of 83.95-83.97 for most part of the session. However, it slipped at the fag-end of the trading hours to settle at 84.02 (provisional), 4 paise

below its previous close of 83.98. "...Weak domestic markets and risk aversion in the global markets pressurised the rupee.

However, a decline in crude oil prices and FII inflows cushioned the downside.

India's services PMI expanded to 60.9 in August vs forecast of 60.4 and a reading of 60.3 in July," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

At the domestic equity markets, Sensex dropped 202.80 points to settle at 82,352.64, while Nifty slipped 81.15 points to 25,198.70. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.17 per cent to 101.65.

India remains fastest growing paper market

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India remains the fastest-growing paper market in the world with domestic consumption of packaging paper and paperboard growing at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24, a report said on Wednesday.

According to the report by Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) for 2023-24, packaging paper & paperboard market is growing at an annual rate of 8.2 per cent in the country.

The domestic packaging paper & paperboard market stands at about 15 million tonnes which is nearly 65 per cent of the total paper, paperboard and newsprint market of 23 million tonnes in the country, the report said. Demand for better quality packaging of FMCG products,



textiles, pharmaceuticals, among others, as well as, booming e-commerce and rising healthcare spends are among the factors that are driving the growth of packaging paper & paperboard market in India, it said.

The ban on single-use plastic, with paper offering a sustainable environment-friendly option, has also emerged as a key demand driver for these products, it added.

"Overall, the demand for paper in India is growing at 6-7 per cent per annum, making it one of the

fastest growing markets in the world," the report said.

Writing & printing (W&P) paper market, which is traditionally associated with consumption of paper in the country, is growing at around 3 per cent and within this, copier paper demand is growing at the fastest rate of 4.5 per cent, it said.

Per capita paper consumption in India is currently at a low of 16 kg as against the global average of 50+ kg. Developed countries have 200+ kg of per capita consumption of paper, as per the report.

"Per capita paper consumption in India is projected to increase over time with increasing levels of literacy, higher growth of organised retail and need for packaging, and overall economic development," said Pawan Agarwal, President IPMA

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE MAINTENANCE WORKS

MT No. 15/EE-7(48)/CRZ/WHMC/2024-25 Dt. 03.09.2024

Name of the Work: SI No 1 to 10, Est. Cost: Rs. 179.18 Lakhs. Download Start Date & Time: 05.09.2024 at 02.00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 09.09.2024 at 02.00 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri G Ekambaram, EE (FAC), Santosh Nagar Circle-7, Charminar Zone, Masjid Ground, Darab Jung Colony, Santosh Nagar, Hyderabad, Ph. No. 7673951166. For further details can be seen at e-procurement@www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.O.No: 376-FPCLADVT12024-25, Dt. 04-09-2024 Santosh Nagar Circle-7, Charminar Zone, GHMC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FOREST DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

MT No. 95/1/2024IA2, dt. 30.09.2024 published on e-procurement platform. The details can be accessed by logging on to @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The details are as given below:

Name of the Work: Construction of watch tower in Gollapally Angham Urban Forest Park, Gollapally Angham RF, Tandur Section of Tandur Range, Vikarabad District during 2024-25.

Bid document download start date: 31.08.2024 @ 10:30AM

Last date & time for receipt of bids: 17.09.2024 @ 05:00PM

Technical/commercial bid opening: 18.09.2024 @ 11.00AM

Address of the Office: District Forest Officer, Forest Complex, Ananthagiri Road, Vikarabad - 501 101. Further details can be obtained on e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- District Forest Officer, Vikarabad

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA WANAPARTHY DISTRICT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 23 (2023) WANAPARTHY TUESDAY DATE: 13-08-2024
No: 0/829/2023 Dated: 13.08.2024

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013
As per Section -11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013 and sub Rule (1) of Rule -25 FORM - VI)

DECLARATION

Where as it appears that total of Ac 8-20 gts land is required for acquisition in the Sakulapuri Village of Ghanpur Mandal, Wanaparthi District, for public purpose, namely for providing of extension of Ghanpur branch canal minor 10, Komaladevapur Major from KM 0.000 to KM. 1.200 (Package No. 29).

Therefore declaration is made for the land measuring Ac. 8-20 Gts in Sakulapuri Village of Ghanpur Mandal, Wanaparthi District, which is needed for construction of above said project, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition

Sl. No.	Paata No.	Paata Name / S/O Name	Total extent to be acquired	Name of the pattaदार / Name of the enjoyer	Type of trees/ number/ type of construction area in Sq.Mts
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	81	Paatta Dry	0-00	Gangapur Sriram S/o Venkatesh	Ambie No structure
2	81	Paatta Dry	0-01	K. Nithiah W/o Pradeep Reddy	Bore and Pipe line (1 Bore)
3	82	Paatta Dry	0-20	Yelkesh S/o Malkesh	Bore and Pipe line (1 Bore)
4	85	Paatta Dry	0-01	Bashkar Reddy S/o Sai Reddy	2 Mangro trees & Bore
5	84	Paatta Dry	0-10	Jayamma W/o Venkat Reddy	
6	84	Paatta Dry	0-10	Anitha W/o Bai Reddy	3' S' trees & Bore
7	84	Paatta Dry	0-10	Kalavathi W/o Tirupati Reddy	
8	84	Paatta Dry	0-10	Varekemi W/o Laama Reddy	
9	84	Paatta Dry	0-29	Sarajamma W/o Anitha Reddy	
10	83	Govt.	0-16	Govt. land	Ambie No structure
11	44	Paatta Dry	0-11	Chinniah S/o Nagash	
12	44	Paatta Dry	0-11	Ramachandraiah S/o Nagash	
13	44	Paatta Dry	0-11	Balanagash S/o Nagash	
14	44	Paatta Dry	0-11	Balash S/o Nagash	Bore
15	44	Paatta Dry	0-08	Ganesh W/o Laku	
16	44	Paatta Dry	0-07	Ramesh S/o Nagarna	
17	44	Paatta Dry	0-07	Jyeshthav D/o Sisailam	
18	45	Paatta Dry	0-18	Keshav S/o Nagash	
19	45	Paatta Dry	0-12	Ramulu S/o Ramachandraiah	1 Bore + Pipe Line
20	45	Paatta Dry	0-12	Manamma w/o Balash	
21	48	Paatta Dry	0-06	Nagamalaksh S/o Edamma	Bore + Pipe Line
22	48	Paatta Dry	0-06	Bala Naganna S/o Edamma	
23	48	Paatta Dry	0-06	Balash S/o Edamma	
24	47	Paatta Dry	0-12	Nagamalaksh S/o Edamma	
25	47	Paatta Dry	0-12	Bala Naganna S/o Edamma	Bore + Pipe Line
26	47	Paatta Dry	0-12	Balash S/o Edamma	
27	59	Govt.	0-26	Govt. Land	Ambie No structure
	Total		8-20		

Hoops & hopes

BASKETBALL RENAISSANCE IN TELANGANA

The Telangana Basketball Association has been diligently promoting the sport on a national level and nurturing skilled basketball players from the state. *The Pioneer* engages with the General Secretary of the association to provide additional insights on the topic

AARTI SREENATH

When you speak with Norman Issac, the General Secretary of the Telangana Basketball Association, you immediately sense his fervour for the game. Basketball in Telangana has been making significant strides. For Issac, basketball isn't just a game; it's a lifelong commitment, a passion that has shaped both his personal and professional life. His journey reflects the evolution of the sport in the region and highlights the challenges and triumphs of nurturing talent in a landscape filled with obstacles.

The Telangana Basketball Association (TBA) operates with a comprehensive reach, covering the entire state of Telangana. "There are 33 districts according to the government and 19 of those are affiliated with our association," he says, detailing us about the association's extensive network. The TBA annually conducts inter-district championships across four age categories: youth, juniors, sub juniors and seniors. These championships serve as crucial platforms for talent identification, with top players from each district being selected to represent Telangana in the national championships organised by the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).

His own journey with basketball began in 1977 at the YMCA in Secunderabad. "I was into all kinds of sports—cricket, table tennis—but it was basketball that captured my heart," he recalls with nostalgia. Over the years, his passion for the game transformed into a professional calling. He represented the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state as a player and



later transitioned to become an international referee. "I was the first Indian nominated as a technical delegate to the world body and I officiated about 300 international games, including the 2019 World Cup final, becoming the first Asian to do so."

When Telangana was formed in 2014, following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, he stepped up as the General Secretary of the newly formed Telangana Basketball Association. Before that, he had served as the Treasurer of the Andhra Pradesh Basketball Association. With nearly two decades of experience—ten years in Andhra Pradesh and nine in Telangana—his tenure as General Secretary is set to conclude soon due to the national sports rules that limit administrative roles to two terms. "In three months, I will relinquish my post," he shares, reflecting on his journey with a mix of pride and sentimentality.

Despite its successes, the association faces significant challenges. A glaring issue is the lack of government support. "The Andhra Pradesh government had sports hostels in Hyderabad and other regions, identifying and nurturing talent. But after the national games in 2000, the sports hostel was shut down," he explains. The closure of these hostels has resulted in a noticeable decline in the inflow of talent. "Playing in Hyderabad, the hub of basketball, allowed players to compete against better opponents, automatically raising their standards. That's missing now," he adds.

The absence of appointed coaches fur-

ther complicates the situation. "Unless the government appoints coaches, it's difficult. Senior players are often not keen to guide junior players and parents are more focused on academics for a bright career," he says, outlining the cultural shift that prioritises academics over sports.

Compounding these issues is the lack of job opportunities in sports. "Departments like Telangana Police, APSRTC, Postal and Electricity used to recruit sports talent, but not anymore. Even though there is a 2% reservation for sports in recruitment, we don't know which sport benefits," he laments. His own experience at SBI, where he worked for 33 years, paints a stark contrast to the present reality. "The last recruitment for SBI was in 1995. After that, there has been none."

Financial constraints are another significant hurdle. "From 2019 till date, the government has not released a single financial grant to any state association," he points out. Despite these challenges, the Telangana Basketball Association has managed to win three gold and two silver medals at national championships in recent years. "With more support from the government and private corporations, the game could have a better future," he asserts, holding onto hope for the sport's revival.

A cornerstone of his vision for basketball in Telangana is grassroots development. "We ensure that inter-district championships are played, which helps us identify talent. We encourage school management to conduct more tournaments, giving players more opportunities to compete at a high level," he explains. This approach has led to more opportunities for young athletes, especially those from less privileged backgrounds. "Basketball is usually not played by the higher society but by those from financially challenging districts. In Hyderabad's heart, we ensure that no child who wishes to play is left behind."

The YMCA, where his journey began, remains a crucial hub for basketball in Telangana. "We provide free basketballs and financial assistance to children who can't afford them. We also offer coaching at highly subsidised rates," he says. These efforts are instrumental in keeping the sport alive at the grassroots level, providing a foundation for future stars to emerge.

He is particularly proud of recent success stories that have emerged under the association's watch. "Elleti Pritam, who played for Telangana in 2018-19, went to the US but came back to represent India in 2022. Aryan Sharma played for the India Under-18 team last year," he shares. Additionally, three players from Telangana—Dhruv Bopanna, Vihar Jonnalagadda and Saanvi Polishetty—were recently selected by the Basketball Federation of India's Corvoss Academy in Mumbai, which is modelled after the NBA and features American coaches. "It's



a good beginning for us," he says with optimism. Looking forward, Issac reveals ambitious plans to establish academies in Hyderabad and other districts. "Our next plan is to get into the medal tally for the Khelo India Games. Once we qualify, we get noticed at the all-India level. We also propose to start a couple of academies—one in Hyderabad and one in another district," he outlines. These academies are envisioned as key to nurturing young talent through regular, structured coaching programs, offering a pathway to higher levels of competition and success.

His story is intertwined with that of basketball in Telangana. Raised in a family deeply involved in sports, his uncle, G. Sampath Kumar, is considered the "father of basketball" in Andhra Pradesh and India. His initial attraction to basketball during a summer coaching camp at the YMCA has evolved into a lifetime commitment to the sport.

As his tenure nears its end, Norman Issac leaves behind a legacy marked by unwavering determination, challenges overcome and the promise of a brighter future for basketball in Telangana. His story, like the sport he loves, is one of perseverance, passion, and an unyielding belief in the transformative power of sports.

Women's sexual health 101

Sexual health is an essential part of a woman's life, but most women do not know where to start in caring for it. Understanding key components of sexual health can help a woman make better choices that lead to a healthier and fuller life. The following are the critical areas every woman must be informed about to keep her sexual life healthy:

Routine gynaecological check-ups

Scheduling regular gynaecological visits is one of the major steps in maintaining sexual health. These check-ups are very important in early detection and prevention of possible issues. Such examples include routine Pap smears and HPV testing—important in the prevention of cervical cancer by the detection of abnormal cells before they become malignant. Regular screenings ensure that other aspects of reproductive health are followed up on promptly. Consistency with such appointments empowers the woman to be ahead in ensuring good sexual and reproductive health.

Contraception and family planning

Knowledge of contraceptives is one of the critical issues that relate to sexual health. With numerous types of contraceptives, it is very crucial for a woman to look for one which best suits them. However, whether it refers to a birth control pill, intrauterine device, or some other form of contraception, each differs in its particular risk and benefit. How each works and understanding the risks and benefits could empower women to make such decisions which best fit each one's situation. The effective contraception and family planning not only avoid unplanned pregnancy but also enable the woman to make choices about her own body.

Sexually transmitted infections—its awareness and prevention

STIs are the other important sexual health concern the prevention of which depends on awareness. Many STIs do not have apparent signs or symptoms; thus, regular screening is important, even without any immediate apprehensions. The main way to avoid STIs transmission is via safe sex, proper use of condoms, and making it a rule to talk about their sexual history with their partners. In addition, examination for STIs will offer the chance of early identification of an infection and will aid in the prevention of serious complications that could

eventually create unfavourable effects on their health. Being proactive with STI prevention and awareness, women are also protecting their partners from different serious health conditions.

Menstrual health awareness and monitoring

The menstrual cycle is a good indicator of the general reproductive health for women. A woman should be able to know about her menstrual cycle and note changes that might indicate a problem. Irregularities, such as a change in the cycle length, sharp pains, or abnormal bleeding, should not be ignored. These could be signs of underlying conditions such as polycystic ovary syndrome, endometriosis, Pelvic Inflammatory Disorders, Fibroids, or any other serious reproductive problems. Giving more attention to menstrual health and seeking doctor advice from time to time will help women to catch the potential problems early on, thus keeping them in good reproductive health.

Psychological and emotional well-being

Sexual health encompasses a wide variety of meanings which largely includes emotional and psychological well-being. Women often have questions or insecurities pertaining to sexual health, which must be addressed in a non-judgmental environment. Communication is the key—be it through a health care provider, therapist, or partner. Open discussion of sexual health will help the woman build confidence to work through other challenges such as sexual anxiety, relationship concerns, or body image issues. A good sexual life is linked with

mental and emotional health, which, when improved, can generally lead to better satisfaction. Women's sexual health is all about routine medical checkups, responsible contraception choices, knowledge of sexually transmitted infections, menstrual health monitoring and not forgetting one's mental-emotional health. Knowledge and a proactive attitude will enable women to be in the driver's seat when it comes to sexual health and thus pave the way towards a healthier and more productive life. It is also important to have a holistic look at sexual health, considering that the latter should not only prevent diseases but also create an enabling relationship with oneself and health.

(The author, Dr Manjula N V, is a consultant in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.)



Balancing badlands of *Murshid* with joys of fatherhood

TEJAL SINHA

The gangster world of *Murshid* has not just added yet another list to the desperado dramas, but for all the obvious reasons, the series has opened to some amazing reviews. But one could just not ignore the fact that Tanuj Virwani had gotten so well into the skin of a cop, Kumar Pratap Rana, a dashing inspector!

This year has been certainly an amazing one for him with back-to-back interesting projects and reality shows, including playing the character of Sameer Khan in *Yodha*, hosting the most trending youth show *MTV Splitsvilla X5* and now with *Murshid*. "Honestly, it's been a fantastic year and I consider myself extremely grateful and blessed," enthused Tanuj in an exclusive telephonic interaction with *The Pioneer*.

"The year started on a good note. I got to do my first Dharma project, *Yodha*. Then I did not actually know what to expect with *Splitsvilla* because it was the first time I was dabbling with a reality television show. I knew the show was extremely popular among the youth, but I did not expect this response. The show had aired for about 4 and a half months. Every week the buzz was so much and now *Murshid* is out just as *Splitsvilla* got over. None of this was planned and all of it just fell into place. People who have been observing my journey would think I'm a master technician, but I had no hand in any of it." Apart from all of it, nothing can just come closer to him becoming a father; after all, he is all excited for this new phase of his life.

Going ahead, the experience of working in *Murshid* was a great experience for him for many reasons. One of which was the director Shrawan Tiwari, with whom he has worked in *Kamathipura*. "We understand how we function, what our way of working is and what his expectations are for me. We had many conversations before we even started shooting about how this guy should look, how he should act, how he should walk, talk, you know, everything. I like being prepared, so



Actor Tanuj Virwani has been over-the-top with some back-to-back good releases and works that he is keen on being a part of. Tanuj, who is also soon going to enter the phase of fatherhood, speaks to *The Pioneer* about his latest gangster show *Murshid* and discusses donning a cop uniform

when I was there, the director didn't have to direct me personally. He just had to tweak my performance as to what he wants and what he doesn't want," shares the *Luv U Soniyo* fame adding that working with the director of that calibre and then actors like Kay Kay Menon or Zakir Hussain, he believes you have no alternative but to kind of up your game and go that extra mile. Working with the talents, he says, "It automatically helps you raise your own game, you know. As they say, a rising tide raises all ships. So yeah, it's been great and very aesthetic."

So this makes it evident that the star cast had certainly played a major role in making him get onboard for the project. But again, the *Purani Jeans* actor says, "*Murshid* is a nice throwback to those gangster films like *Satya*, *Company* and *Sarkar*. It's a show that puts substance over style. These days you see there's style but not much substance. It's all about the technical aspects. *Murshid* is the kind of content we used to see back then."

Playing the character of an inspector in the 'Khaki' uniform was something very intriguing for him to do.

any sector, but because he has strong morals and moralities, he would certainly stand for what's right. It was an integral part of him being an inspector. I tried to play him to the best of my ability and in a way the script needed me to. At the end of the day, all the characters bond into the large game of chess," opines the *Cartel* star.

Gangster stories, he says, have somewhere captured our imaginations as the audience. "It was quite a while since we had a gangster-centric show to do with police, politicians and the gangster stuff. The star cast of course had something to do with it (we laugh out loud)."

Fantastic! He describes his experience working with Kay Kay Menon. Though they did not have many scenes together, however, the scenes they had together were no less than a breeze to shoot. "He comes well prepared. He is very giving as an actor. I've seen many actors give their shot and just go away. But he is always present physically and mentally on set. He wants to give the best of his shot every time. Even if he is not in the frame, just by delivering the line, our performance gets better. So he is not just thinking about his character but for the rest as well," shares the *Inside Edge* star with great enthusiasm and regards. Taking us through a day in the shoot of *Murshid*, he went on to share, "We were shooting in live locations and we used to rehearse on sets and go shoot on these locations. It felt like we were making a really big-budget short film just as we used to make during college. Here with the time that we had, we had to make the best use of it."

Tanuj's main criteria when it comes to ticking off a project is quality over quantity. He emphasizes the importance of sharing. "You would end up burned out and then every actor has a fixed bag of tricks. Overexposing yourself gets very monotonous. You as a performer and audience, both wouldn't be enjoying it." Readers, get ready for his upcoming project because there's *DAU Mumbai*, a cop-based Mumbai thriller by Applause, where he will be seen playing an ACP, *Johnny Jumper* and also reveals completing the shoot of *Rana Naidu* season 2.

what's brewing?

Seerat Kapoor and Domik

Pooja

Actresses Seerat Kapoor and Prantika Das, along with other fashion lovers, inaugurated the Hille exhibition at HICC-Novotel in HITEC City. The expo, which will end on September 6, showcases the tempting collection of creative fashion wear, lifestyle wear, bridal wear and a lot more.

Katyayani

Siripapa and Bramaramba

Aishwarya

Seerat Kapoor

Monika

PARTY
Photos by- SV Chary

Tamannaah

Hyderabad has taken a giant leap in its journey to becoming India's next designer hub with the grand opening of three flagship stores by renowned designers: Rahul Mishra, Abraham & Thakore and Satya Paul. These stores were inaugurated by Tollywood's biggest celebrities including Tamannaah Bhatia, Sobhita Dhulipala, Sudha Reddy, Niharika Konidela and Pinky Reddy.

Sobhita Dhulipala

Pinky Reddy

Sudha Reddy

Niharika

Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) along with Sanofi India Limited (SIL) have shared that their social impact program on Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) is delivering positive outcomes to reduce hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, resulting in improved care and diagnosis. The program has helped to create a universal standard-of-care to allow diagnosis and management of this autoimmune chronic condition which impacts the pediatric population and young adults, as per standard guidelines.

Interarch Building Products Limited inaugurated its 5th state-of-the-art PEB manufacturing plant, 4th fully integrated unit in Attivaram, Andhra Pradesh. The manufacturing facility, equipped with the latest technology, will manufacture Pre-engineered steel (PEB) structures and pre-engineered metal roofing and cladding systems.

JPOD Hotels Pvt Ltd, India's first-of-its-kind pod hotel announced the launch of its new Pod Hotel at GMR's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad. The Pod Hotel is located near the city side check-in facility at the car park level. As a part of RGIA's continuous efforts to enhance passenger travel experience, the facility introduces a modern airport accommodation solution, setting a new benchmark in convenience and comfort for passengers travelling from Hyderabad Airport.

In a significant step towards promoting oral health, Dabur Red Paste, has joined forces with Saathi Cares and Reliance India Limited to organise free dental check-up camps at selected Reliance stores in Hyderabad and Chennai. This initiative comes in response to the alarming reality that oral health often takes a backseat in India.

FUN

ARCHIE

MAN! ALL THAT STUDYING, AND I STILL ONLY GOT A 65 ON THE TEST!
HAR-HAR!

FACE IT, ARCH! YOU'LL NEVER MEASURE UP TO THE GREAT REGGIE!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! YOU GOT A 65, TOO!

YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T STUDY!
HENRY (SCARABELLA) CRINGE BOORROW!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

I DIDN'T MEAN TO BREAK YOUR BINOCULARS, DAD. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

(SNIFF) I'M REALLY SORRY. I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO BARF ALL AFTERNOON!

WELL, I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU LIKE I DID. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO ANGRY.

AFTER ALL, IT WAS JUST A PAIR OF BINOCULARS. IN THE BIG SCHEME OF THINGS, THAT'S REALLY NOT SO BAD.

(SNIFF) REALLY?

SURE... IN ANOTHER TEN YEARS, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE WRECKING MY CAR.

GARFIELD

I'M NOT GOING TO SWAT YOU

YOU'RE NOT?

ON ONE CONDITION

SURE! WHAT IS IT?

STOP BEING CREEPY

SWAT ME

REALITY CHECK

UH-OH- ANOTHER HOT FLASH, HON?

SPEED BUMP

BALANCE BOAM MEDAL CEREMONY

CROSSWORD

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

NANCY

I'M NANCY— I KNOW WHO YOU ARE

YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO'S ALWAYS HANGING OUT WITH SLUGGO

WHY IS THAT THE REASON YOU KNOW ME?

EARLIER: STAY AWAY FROM HIS MUM

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- Expecting a baby
- Scraps of material
- Weigh yourself with these
- Frequently
- A row of metal rings fastened together
- Jumble together (3,2)
- Sneak
- Baby's toy
- A stinging insect
- A newspaper employee

DOWN

- Actor or singer
- An octagon's number of sides
- As well
- Instructor

SOLUTION

A	H	P	R	I
O	C	C	P	A
O	P	E	R	A
N	O	J	H	C
D	I	S	O	B
E	T	T	E	N
R	O	A	S	T
R	O	A	S	T
U	N	I	V	E
L	O	D	D	E

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

GINGER MEGGS

THE UNIVERSE IS ENDLESS...

...IT JUST GOES ON AND ON AND ON AND ON...

I FEEL LIKE YOU AND THE UNIVERSE WOULD GET ON WELL...

Shilpa Rao on sweet symphony of Chuttamalle

THE MUCH-CELEBRATED SINGER SHILPA RAO, WHO HAS YET AGAIN CAPTIVATED THE AUDIENCE WITH HER LATEST TRACK CHUTTAMALLE, SPEAKS TO THE PIONEER, SHARING HER EXCITEMENT OF SINGING THIS SONG IN HER MOTHER TONGUE AND SOME BEHIND THE MAKING OF THIS TRACK FROM DEVARA

AARTI SREENATH

Shilpa Rao is a name that resonates deeply in the world of music, known for her rich, distinctive voice that has captivated listeners across genres. With her husky, textured voice that effortlessly traverses the realms of Bollywood ballads and indie compositions, her talent also reached international heights, earning her a Grammy nomination for collaboration on the globally acclaimed album *Love Letters*, highlighting her artistry and global appeal.

From the moment she debuted, her voice resonated with a raw, unfiltered emotion, capturing the hearts of millions. Whether she's delivering heart-felt Bollywood ballads or exploring the nuances of indie music, her versatility is unmistakable.

Hailing from Jamshedpur and mentored by the iconic Hariharan, Shilpa's journey from her hometown to becoming a leading playback singer is truly remarkable. With hits, the *Abacha* singer has carved a niche for herself, combining classical sensibilities with a contemporary edge. Her voice, often described as both powerful and comforting, has become the emotional core of many beloved tracks.

Beyond her success, she remains deeply dedicated to her art, always striving to push the boundaries of her vocal capabilities and explore new musical avenues. For her, singing is more than just a career; it's a lifelong passion, a way of connecting with people through the universal language of music.

When she lent her voice to the song *Chuttamalle* for the much-anticipated film *Devara*, she found herself embarking on a musical journey that was as refreshing as it was nostalgic. "Working on the song

Chuttamalle was a completely new experience for me," she shared.

"The song has such a sweet and fresh vibe, with bouncy words that capture the slow dance feel of Telugu music so smoothly. Collaborating with Anirudh was fantastic; it felt more like a jam session than just recording. I loved every moment and learned a lot during the process."

The song, set to be a highlight in *Devara*, struck a chord with the singer the moment she first heard it. "When I first heard *Chuttamalle*, I was struck by its beautiful, flowing nature melody. Anirudh's ability to create something so seamless and lovely was impressive," she reflected.

"The song has a slow dance bounce to it, which is a good combination that

I love. Also, Anirudh imagines my voice in ways I wouldn't. It is always a pleasure working with him."

The *Oh my baby* singer, known for her versatile repertoire, approached *Chuttamalle* with a careful blend of respect for tradition and her unique vocal style. "I paid close attention to the emotions and story behind the song, which helped me choose the right vocal style and delivery. It was about finding the right balance between respecting the traditional roots and bringing my own touch to the mix," she explained.

Having had the opportunity to glimpse parts of *Devara*, she believes that *Chuttamalle* fits seamlessly within the film's context. "Janhvi Kapoor and Jr NTR look amazing and their dance is quite mesmerising and smooth. The song's blend of traditional and modern elements really matches the film's vibe," she said.

Recording *Chuttamalle*

was not just a professional milestone for her, but also a personal one. She recalled a memorable moment from the studio: "During the recording sessions, we discovered that we both are huge fans of Tennis, which made the process even more enjoyable. What we have in common is our dedication to making the song sound amazing. The song is above all. And like I mentioned, as a com-

poser, Anirudh's ability to imagine my voice in these songs is impeccable and definitely pushes my horizons too. Telugu is my mother tongue and it was quite nostalgic to finally sing in my mother tongue."

The fan reaction to the snippets of *Chuttamalle* has been nothing short of overwhelming. "It's amazing to see people dancing and enjoying the song. The comments they leave are heartwarming. I'm grateful for all the love," the *Naa Nijam Rangu* singer expressed.

As an artist with a strong background in music, she is acutely aware of the evolving landscape of Indian cinema. "I feel you will be left out if you don't grow constantly. I love challenging myself and I need music every day. I put in an effort to learn something new, even if it is just by trying to do technical stuff or even aesthetic stuff. Both are important. So yes, evolution is very important and if you don't evolve, you will be left behind. It is as simple as that," she asserted.

Looking ahead, she has several exciting projects on the horizon. "Along with *Chuttamalle*, my Bollywood song *Tumhare Hi Rahenge* from the movie *Stree 2* is out with composers Sachin - Jigar. There is also an independent single, *Aisa Tera Pyaar*, set to release on 16th August. Look forward to that as well and many more yet to come," she hinted.

As for exploring new musical terrains, her curiosity knows no bounds. "There are so many genres and the list is endless. I would love to explore more of South Indian music definitely," she said, leaving her fans eagerly anticipating what she will delve into next.

With *Chuttamalle* continuing to captivate audiences, the *Egire Egire* singer continues to push the boundaries of her craft, blending tradition with her distinct voice to create music that resonates with both the past and the future.

Janhvi & Jr NTR drop their dance magic in Daavudi

The third single from

the high-octane action drama *Devara: Part 1*, titled *Daavudi*, has finally dropped, and it has all the right elements to become a massive hit. Choreographed by Sekhar VJ, this energetic dance number will have you on your feet, grooving along.

Shot against a stunning water backdrop with over 200 dancers, the song features Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor, who light up the screen with their electrifying moves. Sung by Nakash Aziz and Akasa in Hindi, *Daavudi* is sure to be a chartbuster, offering yet another opportunity to watch our favorite Jr. NTR dazzle the world with his dance skills.

Daavudi is the third single from *Devara*, following the release of the intense *Fear Song* and the romantic track *Dheere Dheere*. With its release set for 27th September, the film is poised to set a new benchmark in Indian cinema. Directed by Koratala Siva, *Devara* is produced by NTR Arts and Yuvasudha Arts, and presented by Nandamuri Kalyan Ram.



Mega donations from Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu, Sonu Sood and more

Megastar Chiranjeevi has once again stepped forward to aid those in need, this time extending a helping hand to the flood-stricken people of the Telugu states. The recent devastating floods in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have left a trail of destruction and hardship, with countless lives affected. In a heartfelt gesture, Chiranjeevi announced a generous donation of Rs. 50 lakhs each to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of both states. This significant contribution reflects his deep concern for the well-being of the people and his desire to alleviate their suffering. In an emotional message shared on social media, he expressed his pain over the devastation caused by the floods, particularly the tragic loss of innocent lives. He praised the proactive efforts of both state governments in addressing the crisis and called on the public to contribute to the relief efforts in whatever way possible.

Superstar Mahesh Babu has also stepped up in response to the devastating floods affecting the Telugu states, pledging a total of Rs 1 crore—Rs 50 lakh each—to the CM Relief Funds of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In his announcement, he expressed his appreciation for the swift actions taken by both governments to assist those impacted and called on the public to contribute to the relief efforts.

Additionally, in the wake of devastating floods that have ravaged parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood has stepped up to offer much-needed assistance. In a video, Sonu Sood expressed his deep concern for the victims of the floods and emphasised the importance of collective action in times of crisis. The actor's relief initiative includes essential supplies such as food, clean water, medical kits and temporary shelter for the affected individuals. He said his team has been working tirelessly to ensure that aid reaches the most vulnerable populations.

Not too far behind, even Sri Akkineni Nageswara Rao always came forward to support at times of need. He encouraged civil society to contribute and stand by people especially during natural calamities. Fifty lakh rupees each are donated to the Chief Ministers Relief Funds of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The donation is made by Alulofluride Ltd., Visakhapatnam and Annapurna Studios, Hyderabad, group companies of the Akkineni family!

Known for his philanthropic endeavours, Allu Arjun has consistently demonstrated his compassion for those in need. As someone who has made liberal donations in the past, he has once again done it. This time, he has made a timely donation to the victims of the devastating floods. In response to the heavy rains that have affected the Telugu states, Allu Arjun has also donated a sum of Rs 1 Cr to aid those who have lost their homes and belongings. He expressed deep sorrow for the hardship caused by the floods and wished for a recovery from the situation.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister, Panchayat Raj Minister and Janasena Party President, Pawan Kalyan has also decided to make a massive donation looking at the drastic devastation caused by heavy rains and floods in both Telugu States. He donated Rs.1 crore to Telangana CM Relief Fund and Rs.1 crore Andhra Pradesh CM Relief Fund. Being Panchayat Raj Minister, he also decided to donate Rs.1 lakh each to 400 Panchayats (Rs 4 Cr) in Andhra Pradesh state. In total, he donated a huge Rs.6 crores amount, personally, to both Telugu states, while he is overlooking the relief activities at each Panchayat and every affected area in Andhra Pradesh state, staying true to his ideals.

Dil Raju and Vijay Deverakonda's film is all set to go on floors this April

Vijay Deverakonda, known for his powerful performances like *Arjun Reddy*, is set to collaborate once again with renowned Telugu producer Dil Raju on a new project. Announced on Vijay's 35th birthday earlier this year, this upcoming film is an untitled action drama scheduled for a pan-Indian release in 2025. It will be directed and written by the talented Ravi Kiran Kola.

At the Moscow International Film Week, Dil Raju shared that shooting will begin in April next year in conversation with a leading portal. He expressed his excitement about working with Deverakonda again, emphasising their strong professional relationship and the actor's widespread appeal. "We share a very good equation. He's very close to me," Raju said.

Raju praised Deverakonda for his recent choices of scripts, highlighting his dedication to tackling diverse and challenging roles. "He's working really hard these days. He's focusing on proper commercial scripts now. The film he's currently working on is a full-blown commercial film. My next script is also a mainstream film set against the backdrop of the 1980s. It's heavy on action," Raju remarked. As Deverakonda transitions from his popular loverboy roles to more intense and dramatic parts, fans are keen to see how his new films will merge action with engaging storytelling. Currently, Deverakonda is engaged in a project with *Jersey* director Gowtam Tinnanuri. Despite earlier budgetary concerns, the film is progressing smoothly.



Roti Kapda Romance to be released worldwide in theatres on October 4

Roti Kapda Romance, the coming-of-age bro-mantic and romantic comedy, is produced by Bekkem Venugopal and Srujan Kumar Bojjam. Lucky Media of Hushaaru, Cinema Choopistha Mama, Mem Vayasuku Vaccham, Prema Ishq Kadhal and Paagal fame is poised to score a hit at the box office. The film will hit the screens worldwide on October 4.

Producers said that this is a youthful entertainer made with the intention of conveying a new message to the audience. Director Vikram



Reddy has made a very impressive film. Recently, a show was held for young people, and their feedback made the makers more confident. Harshvardhan Rameshwar's music is a big plus for the film.

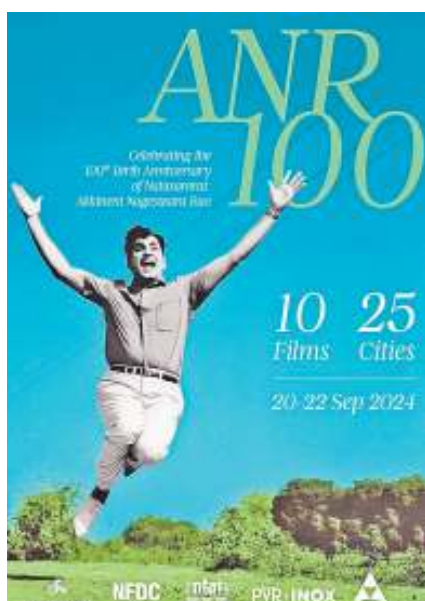
Director Vikram Reddy said, "We are very confident about the film's success. We have a vision to promote new talent, we have no doubt about its success. The box office performance is ultimately in the hands of the audience. It's an emotional ride with love, emotion, and all kinds of emotions present in the film."

Ragini Dwivedi takes center stage in Maharshi's Shloka

Shloka is a Sanskrit film directed by renowned writer and director Janardhana Maharshi. Produced by his daughters Sravani and Sharvani under the banner of Sarvejanah Sukhinobhavantu Films, the film stars actress Ragini Dwivedi in the lead role. The talented Ragini will be seen portraying a distinctive young woman who ventures into the Rudhra Bhoomi (cemetery) and engages in conversations with Nature. To commemorate Teacher's Day on September 5, the film's director, Maharshi, has dedicated *Shloka* to Sanskrit teachers.



FHF announces film festival in honour of Akkineni Nageswara Rao



To mark the 100th birth anniversary of Natasamrat Akkineni Nageswara Rao which falls on 20th September this year, Film Heritage Foundation announces a retrospective film festival titled 'ANR 100 - King Of The Silver Screen' that pays tribute to legendary doyen of Indian cinema.

The festival will feature a compilation of 10 restored classics of ANR that will be screened from September 20 - 22, 2024 across 25 cities, including major metros like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru and smaller cities like Vadodara, Jalandhar, Rourkela, Warangal, Kakinada and Tumkur.

Film aficionados across the country will have the exclusive opportunity to witness the remarkable versatility and powerful performances of the South Indian icon once again on the big screen in a

curated festival of landmark Telugu films including *Devadasu* (1953), *Missamma* (1955), *Mayabazar* (1957), *Bharya Bharthalu* (1961), *Gundamma Katha* (1962), *Doctor Chakravarthi* (1964), *Sudigundalu* (1968), *Prem Nagar* (1971), *Premabhishekam* (1981) and *Manam* (2014).

Film Heritage Foundation and Akkineni Nageswara Rao family is presenting the countrywide festival in association with the NFDC - National Film Archive Of India and PVR-Inox.

Akkineni Nagarjuna states, "I am delighted that the Film Heritage Foundation is celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of my father with a festival of his landmark films across the country. He was rightfully called Natasamrat for his amazing ability to play a range of roles from a saint to an alcoholic to a romantic hero in a way that has stayed in people's hearts and minds

for decades. His performance in *Devadasu* has been acknowledged as one of the best across all versions of the film over the years and his films like *Premabhishekam*, *Doctor Chakravarthi* and *Sudigundalu* are loved even today. He was a pioneer who established Annapurna Studios, laying the first foundation for the Telugu film industry in our state. We are very proud of his legacy and through this festival audiences across the country will remember an icon not just of Telugu cinema but of Indian cinema. We would like to preserve this legacy so that people will remember him for another hundred years. The entire Akkineni family would like to thank the NFDC-NFAI and PVR-Inox for partnering with us to make this festival possible."

Versatility, humility and a powerhouse of talent. These are some of the words often used to describe Akkineni Nageswara Rao, or ANR

or Nata Samrat, as he was fondly called. An actor and producer who worked in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil cinema, ANR was most famous for his work in Telugu cinema. In a career spanning 71 years and more than 250 movies, he was best known for his diversity of roles. He acted in mainstream movies and offbeat films, in mythologies, dramas and comedies. The trailblazer was the recipient of the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Raghupati Venkaiah Award, Filmfare Awards, amongst others. ANR established Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad that grew as a hub for the Telugu film industry ANR passed away on January 22, 2014 leaving behind two generations of actors, including his son the superstar Nagarjuna and grandsons Naga Chaitanya and Akhil Akkineni to carry forward his legacy.

PANT IN FOCUS ON RED BALL RETURN; SELECTORS EYE BACKUP OPTIONS

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Rishabh Pant's red-ball return will be closely monitored but the national selectors will also trace suitable backup options to frontline stars when Duleep Trophy, which precludes an important Test season, begins across Bengaluru and Anantapur on Thursday. Pant, who returned to white-ball formats after that horrific car crash, is yet to play in a longer-duration match. His last red-ball outing was against Bangladesh in December 2022. Now, he will turn out for Abhimanyu Easwaran-led Team B against Shubman Gill-captained Team A at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. Satisfying his outings in the shorter versions were, but this four-day tournament offers him a unique challenge - batting and "keeping for an undefined number of overs. Pant is the designated stumper in Team B, and it is evident that the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel is intending to take a deep look into his role as the wicketkeeper-batter in a season that will culminate with the World Test Championship Final at the Lord's next June. But that is just one piece of the puzzle as other worthy

contenders are there for the wicketkeeper-batter's slot. The front-runner is Dhruv Jurel (Team A), who was impressive in his debut series against England earlier this year. Then there's Ishan Kishan, who will play for Team D which is marshalled by Shreyas Iyer at Anantapur. Kishan, though a long shot, will be eager to use Duleep Trophy as a platform to stake his claim for an India return after an unsavoury train of incidents saw him losing the BCCI central contract in the current cycle. The return of veterans Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma for the Bangladesh series will gobble up two batting slots along with Gill at No. 3. Hence, there will be a jostle between KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Sarfaraz Khan, who impressed all with an excellent Test debut against England, for settling into the available middle-order space. It's imperative for Rahul, who is in Team A as a pure batter, and Shreyas to come good in Duleep Trophy as they missed a large chunk of the home matches against England - the former with an injury and the latter was dropped after the second Test at Visakhapatnam.



BOWLING BACK-UP: India have been well-served by the troika of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami in Tests for a while now, but it's unwise to enter a long Test season without sufficient alternates. More so because Siraj will miss the first round of Duleep

Trophy with an illness and Shami, whose last competitive outing was the 2023 50-over World Cup final, is still recuperating after a surgery. The selectors will keep a close eye on Bengal duo of Mukesh Kumar and Akash Deep, both of whom had bright initiations into traditional format, along

with Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Vidwath Kaverappa, Vysakh Vijayakumar and Harshit Rana. While the pace department needs some urgent solutions, the spin has a slightly different landscape. Ravichandran Ashwin,

Ravindra Jadeja, who was released from Team B, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel form a formidable Indian spin unit. While there is no pressing demand for the support cast, the selectors would like to be ready with instant supply in case of an eventuality.

In that context, spinners such as Washington Sundar, also a capable batter, R Sai Kishore, top wicket-taker in the previous Ranji season with 53 scalps, Manav Suthar and Saurabh Kumar will be hoping to be in the range of the five wisemen's radar. **DARK HORSES:** There is a litany of fringe players who would want to give a further fillip to their career after showcasing talent at various levels. Karnataka's Devdutt Padikkal had a roaring Ranji season in 2023-24, which earned him a Test debut against England at Dharamsala. Baba Indrajith of Tamil Nadu is a consistent domestic performer and he once again underlined his prowess making 767 runs in the last Ranji season, and Musheer Khan, younger brother of Sarfaraz, smoothly graduated to First-Class cricket for Mumbai after blazing the Under-19 circuit. B Sai Sudharsan of Tamil Nadu, who made white ball debut for India, too has given an early indication of his readiness for red-ball cricket with a hundred for Surrey in English county cricket. He will play for Team C under Rituraj Gaikwad.

SQUADS:
India A: Shubman Gill (C), Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel (WK), KL Rahul, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Vidwath Kaverappa, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat.
India B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy (subject to fitness), Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Yash Dayal, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK).
India C: Rituraj Gaikwad (C), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (WK), Suryakumar Yadav, B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (WK), Sandeep Warrier.
India D: Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Tushtar Deshpande, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar.

I've worked on my defence against spinners: Gill eyes improvement in Test performance



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Shubman Gill understands that his Test career has not touched the expected peaks yet, but the right-hander is banking on an improved defence against spinners to make a mark in the upcoming season that will feature 10 traditional format matches. Gill made close to 500 runs in the home series against England this year in, perhaps, his best sustained outing in Test cricket so far, and now he wants to build on that from the two-match series against Bangladesh, starting from September 19, where he will be challenged by a set of experienced visiting spinners. "I worked on my defence a little bit more against spinners. You should be able to defend a lot more when you are playing on a turning track against spinners, then you can play the scoring shots," Gill, who will lead Team A in the Duleep Trophy, said here on Wednesday. "With more T20s being played...I won't say on flat tracks but on batting-friendly tracks, I think it takes away a little bit of your defensive game. So, that was my focus in the England series," he added.

Unlike in white ball formats where Gill is a storm force, the 24-year-old is yet to blaze the Test arena, and he hoped for a turnaround sooner than later. "In Test cricket, my performance has not matched my expectations so far. But we are going to play 10 Test matches this season, and when I look back after those 10 Tests, hopefully, my expectations will be matched," he said. Gill also emphasised on his growing maturity as a person and cricketer, which he directly linked to the captaincy stints of India and in the IPL with the Gujarat Titans. "Every match or tournament that you play, you look to learn more about yourself irrespective of whether you are captain or not the captain. More so because of the captain you will get to know about other players too. It's important for the captain to have a connect with the players. You should know their strength and weaknesses. Yeah, there are some changes in me especially when you are captain or vice-captain and having those conversations," he elaborated. But does being a part of the

leadership group add an extra layer of pressure on him? "Not really extra pressure (being part of the leadership group). My role as a batsman does not really change, even if I am the captain or vice-captain. It's all about scoring runs for the team," he said. In that context, Gill termed the Duleep Trophy, beginning here and at Anantapur from Thursday, as a fine opportunity to tune himself to the demands of red ball cricket. "This (Duleep Trophy) is a big tournament as every match is important for us. We are playing against some players whom we generally play with in the Indian team. So, we will get to see a good competition," he noted. Gill, who is set to open against Team B here, also said there have been some early talks between players and management about workload allocation considering the long duration of the season. "There is definitely talk among the selectors and players about the workload. But I think everyone has playing the match, more so for the bowlers I would say. "I am sure the bowlers had a conversation with the selectors about how they are going to manage their workload," he said. Meanwhile, Gill confirmed that India pacer Prasidh Krishna will not be available for the first round of the Duleep Trophy. "Prasidh Krishna is not ready for this match," he said. The Karnataka pacer has been recuperating from surgery that he had in February this year and did not play in the recently concluded KSCA Maharaja Trophy T20 despite being roped in by eventual champions Mysuru Warriors.

Pakistan drop to 8th in Test rankings following loss to Bangladesh

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan's first-ever series loss to Bangladesh has resulted in Shan Masood's team slipping down to the eighth position in the ICC Test rankings besides hitting a historic low of lowest rating points since 1965. Pakistan were thrashed by 10 wickets in the first Test while the hosts lost the second by six wickets with Rawalpindi hosting both the matches. "Pakistan dropped two places in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings to go to eighth position after suffering a shock series loss at home to Bangladesh," the ICC said on its website. "The hosts were sixth in the rankings table before the series, but back-to-back losses



have seen them drop below West Indies to eighth with 76 rating points. "This is the lowest rating points Pakistan have had in the Test rankings table since 1965, barring a brief period where they did not have a place in the rankings due to an

insufficient number of matches." Bangladesh's chase in the second Test of 185 was also the third highest successful chase in Pakistan for any visiting side, but there was a little in terms of promotion for the 'Tigers'.

Bangladesh remained in ninth position and behind Pakistan despite gaining 13 rating points. However, the 2-0 series win has bolstered Bangladesh in the points table for the World Test Championship cycle 2023-25 as they are now placed fourth behind table-toppers India, Australia at second and New Zealand at third. Bangladesh, who will now focus their attention on a two-Test series against India starting in Chennai on September 19, have 45.83 percentage points and 33 points with three wins and as many defeats in six Tests. In WTC, teams get 12 points for a Test win, four for a draw and six for a tie while being ranked according to percentage of points won.



Rahul Dravid set to be appointed Rajasthan Royals head coach for IPL 2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rahul Dravid, who has been named India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph, is set to take over Rajasthan Royals' head coach role in the IPL 2025. Dravid, who is currently on a short career-break since India's victory at Barbados in June, will soon start working with the franchise on important issues such as player retention ahead of the auction later this year. "The talks have reached the final stages and he will soon step into the head coach job," a source close to the development told PTI. Kumar Sangakkara, who has been Royals' Director of Cricket since 2021, will continue in his role and is likely to be more hands-on with Barbados Royals (CPL) and Paarl Royals (SA20). Dravid has a long-standing association with Royals as their captain for two seasons in 2012 and 2013 before serving as mentor for two more years. Dravid then moved to Delhi Capitals in a similar role in 2016 and continued with the team till he assumed the role of the head of National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. In 2021, he moved on from NCA to take up India's head coach role from Ravi Shastri. Now at Royals, Dravid will reunite with Sanju Samson, who is all set to be retained as RR captain for another season. Samson blossomed first under the 52-year-old.

Accidental chess player Vidit Gujrathi says it's worked out well for him

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A self-proclaimed accidental chess player, Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi says he thought of sports as a more "stable" career option after watching his doctor parents being called to work at odd hours, an "error of judgement" that has ultimately "worked out well" for him. The 29-year-old from Nashik will be turning up for Mumbai Masters in the second season of the Global Chess League, a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and FIDE, from October 3 to 12 in London. Gujrathi was around six when he was advised to put his ambition of playing cricket on hold till he was older by a local club. He decided to pursue chess instead as he was already familiar with the sport after spending considerable time playing with his father. "I saw it as a good opportunity to learn and beat him. It was a complete accident, but a happy one," Gujrathi recalled in a press release issued by the event organisers.



Having seen his doctor parents work at odd hours due to late-night emergencies, Gujrathi said he wanted a relatively easy-going life and thought of sports as the right option. "I did not realise then that sports can be more volatile. I made a judgment error, but it worked out well," he quipped, referring to long hours he has to devote to training. In 2017, he became the fourth Indian after Viswanathan Anand, Krishnan Sasikiran, and Pentala Harikrishna, to cross the 2700 Elo rating. Gujrathi, who still holds a rating of over 2700, was among three Indians who competed in this year's Candidates

Tournament, an eight-man competition held to determine the Challenger for the World Chess Championship slated for November. He did log some impressive results but could not win the tournament. Talking about the upcoming league and his team Mumbai Masters, Gujrathi said, "Definitely, our eyes are on the trophy this year. But I wish to improve my performance." Mumbai Masters retained most of their squad from the first season, with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave returning as the Icon Player while Gujrathi and Alexander Grischuk came back as Superstar Men players. Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli have joined once again as Superstar Women, with Raunak Sadhwani as the Prodigy for the franchise in the second season. "Last year, we got along well with each other, and the team had a great atmosphere. We will be there for around a couple of weeks, and hence, it is important to also have a good time," Gujrathi said.

Sharath, Manika headline India's TT squad for Asian Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran Sharath Kamal and star female player Manika Batra were on Wednesday named in the India squad for the 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships, scheduled to be held in Astana, from October 7 to 13. Sharath, the 42-year-old who recently featured in his fifth and last Olympics, is the captain of the men's team comprising Manav Thakkar, Harmeet Desai, G Sathyan and Manush Shah. Manika will lead the women's team which also has Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, Diya Chital and Sutirtha Mukherjee. "The selection process was rigorous, with the TTFI giving precedence to the world ranking, international experience, and performance at the national level as key criteria for the final squad," said the TTFI in a statement. The Indian team has been under



the guidance of foreign expert Massimo Constantini, who has been working to fine-tune the players' skills and strategies since

his return to India in June. "I am hopeful they will put their best foot forward in the Astana championships," Constantini said.

The squad, especially the women, had done well in the Paris Olympics, reaching the quarterfinals. The men's team had lost to the mighty China in the round of 16. It was the first time that India qualified for team events at the Olympics. As a crucial qualification event for the World Table Tennis Championships and the Asian Games, the Asian Championships hold significant importance for the Indian team.

SQUAD

Men's Team: A. Sharath Kamal (captain), Manav Thakkar, Harmeet Desai, G. Sathyan, Manush Shah; Reserve Players: SFR Snehit and Jeet Chandra.
Women's Team: Sreeja Akula, Manika Batra (captain), Ayhika Mukherjee, Diya Chital, Sutirtha Mukherjee; Reserve Players: Yashaswini Ghorpade and Poymante Baisya.

Karunakaran, Subramanian reach Taipei Open quarterfinals

PTI ■ TAIPEI

India's Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Sankar Subramanian reached the men's singles quarterfinals of the Taipei Open badminton tournament but women's singles players had to deal with disappointment here on Wednesday. In men's singles, Karunakaran was made to work hard for a win but he eventually prevailed over Kantaphon Wangcharoen from Thailand 24-22, 23-21 to make the quarterfinals. Subramanian also had to toil but the Indian shuttler got the better of his Finnish opponent Joakim Oldorff, winning his round of 16 match 21-12, 19-21, 21-11. In another round of 16 men's singles contest, Kiran George was in the lead when he won the first set against Indonesia's Yohanes Saut Marcellyno but the latter fought back to win the contest 15-21, 21-8, 21-16 in his round of 16 contest. Meanwhile, Indian players had to deal with disappointment in



women's singles as three of them lost in the quarterfinals to crash out of the tournament. Aakarshi Kashyap was defeated in straight sets 19-21, 18-21 by Thailand's Pornpicha Choeikewong while the world No 3 Tai Tzu Ying from Chinese Taipei brushed aside the challenge from Taniya Hemant 21-11, 21-10 in a mere 27 minutes. Anupama Upadhyaya began well when she won the first set against

her Lauren Lam, but the American shuttler bounced back to win the next two and the contest 17-21, 21-19, 21-11. Later on Wednesday, Indian women's doubles pair of Rituparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda will be in action against Hong Kong's Lok Lok Lui and Hiu Yan Tsang while Rakshitha Ramaraj will take on Japan's Asuka Takahashi in women's singles quarterfinals.