

Women Welfare Minister Seethakka should apologise to tribals for saying that the Jainoor survivor was only physically attacked and not raped. Seethakka's comments are outrageous. Bangladeshi Rohingyas are entering tribal agency areas and are attacking Adivasis.  
 - Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, BJP

India wants to create 'many Singapores' of its own: PM

TARGET 500 MILLION TONNES OF STEEL PRODUCTION BY 2047: GOYAL

GOAT: Falls short of EXPECTATIONS

DON'T MISS...

AI to contribute 15.7 trillion to...

Addressing the keynote of 'The Future of India and India AI @ 2047', at the Day-1 of Global AI Summit 2024 on Thursday, NASSCOM president Debjani Ghosh shared her vision for India in 2027 as a leader in frontier technology. She said that AI and other advanced technologies as central to the country's development, not only driving economic growth but also promoting inclusive progress. Ghosh stressed that most importantly, India offers a global blueprint for technology that leaves no one behind. She cited...

-PAGE: 3

'Armed forces need to be...

The armed forces need to be prepared for war in order to preserve peace, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday while addressing the top commanders of the Army, Navy and the Air Force. In his remarks at the maiden joint commanders conference here, Singh, touching upon the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza as well as the situation in Bangladesh, exhorted the military to analyse these 'episodes' and stay prepared to deal with the 'unexpected'. India is a peace loving...

-PAGE: 5

Gig hiring to soar by 20 pc this festival...

As festival season is about to begin, seasonal hiring is projected to surge by 20 per cent over last year, with the e-commerce industry leading the trend amid increased demand, according to the data by job site Indeed. The top gig roles that have been witnessing increased hiring are delivery executives, warehouse workers, logistics coordinators, in-store sales executives, and customer care executives, the data showed. Several industries are reporting a marked increase in demand for seasonal...

-PAGE: 8

India's focus will be on self...

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant warned against taking Bangladesh lightly in the upcoming two-Test series, and stressed on the need for India to keep improving themselves to stay ahead of the competition. Bangladesh, who recently blanked Pakistan 2-0 at Rawalpindi, will face Rohit Sharma's side in the first Test at Chennai from September 19 before moving to Kanpur. India will play a total of 10 Tests within the next five months as the series against Bangladesh will be followed by three...

-SPORTS

TG heralds AI regime

Govt to deliver AI services to 1 crore people across the state  
 CM Revanth releases roadmap titled 'AI-powered Telangana'

NAVEENA GHANATE  
 naveena.ghanate@gmail.com  
 ■ HYDERABAD

With ambitious plans to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its departments, the Telangana Government on Thursday said that it has set a target to deliver AI-driven services to around one crore citizens and to enhance the productivity of government employees by more than 20 per cent by 2027.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy released the roadmap titled 'AI-powered Telangana' at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day Global AI Summit.

AI technologies will be embedded into core government operations to boost efficiency, he said, adding that the government will enhance its operations and services through AI, enable AI support in policy-making, and integrate AI solutions in welfare delivery schemes.

The goal has been set in the strategy document and implementation roadmap unveiled at the Global AI



26 MoUs signed in sectors like compute infrastructure, centre of excellence, Skilling, impact assessment, start-up innovation, Generative AI, Research & Collaboration and Data Annotation.

AI technologies will be embedded into core government operations to boost efficiency, he said, adding that the government will enhance its operations and services through AI, enable AI support in policy-making, and integrate AI solutions in welfare delivery schemes.

Summit 2024, which began on Thursday.

The document said generative AI will be used to power interventions aimed at solving the most critical governance challenges across domains like education, healthcare, agriculture, and service delivery.

The government will work closely with the private sector to fuel impact-oriented innovations and subsequently invest in solutions that have been proven successful through pilots.

5

WTC-H Centre Phase-1 to start ops in 2025

The World Trade Centre's Phase-1 in Shamshabad is slated for completion in 2025. Y. Varaprasad, the chairman of the World Trade Centre (WTC), Shamshabad, has confirmed that the project is on track and the building is expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2025.

Continued on Page 5

Free power for all govt edu institutions

Govt issues order for implementation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has issued an order providing free electricity supply to government educational institutions in the state.

The scheme, detailed in GO: 20 dated September 5, 2024, will be implemented immediately. As per the order, Telangana DISCOMS will create an online portal to manage the scheme. This portal will provide login access to departments overseeing government educational institutions.

The secretaries of the departments concerned are tasked with finalising the list of institutions eligible for the scheme and uploading their details on to the portal. Monthly billing for each institution will be conducted through the portal, where the bill will be available for viewing by the institution's in-charge.

The system will display con-



sumption in units and the billed value. The portal will also generate reports on power consumption, bill amounts, historical usage, payments and remaining balances, offering insights at the institution, mandal and district levels.

The portal will be integrated with the Finance Department to facilitate the payment of bills by the respective departments to TG DISCOMS through the allocated budget.

This order was issued with the concurrence of the Finance Department as per a communication dated August 22.

An eerie silence prevails in violence-hit Jainoor



P4

FINMIN TO PSU INSURERS

Ensure swift claim settlement in flood-hit TG, AP



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Thursday said PSU insurance companies have been directed to ensure swift claim settlements by organising special camps and easing claim processes for those affected by heavy rains and floods in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The insurance companies have been also instructed to widely advertise the names and contact numbers of nodal officers to whom the policyholders can contact.

In a statement, the ministry said in view of the heavy rains and floods in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Department of Financial Services issued directions, on Thursday, to the public sector insurance companies to extend and provide full support to the people affected by floods.

5

Short tenders soon for repairing breached tanks: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Uttam Kumar Reddy, directed Irrigation Department officials to issue notifications for short tenders immediately for restoring breached tank bunds and canals damaged due to heavy rains. He said that all administrative approvals should be completed by Thursday evening.

Once the approvals are obtained, the short tender process must be updated online by Friday morning, he added.

The minister held a video conference with Irrigation Department officials from his Jal Soudha office in Erramanzil Colony on Thursday to review the damage caused by heavy rains across the state.

The meeting was attended by the Special Secretary of Irrigation, Rahul

Bojja, Special Secretary Prashant Jivan Patil, ENC Anil Kumar, Nagender Rao, Hareram, Advisor Aditya Das, Deputy ENC K. Srinivas and chief engineers of the Irrigation Department. Uttam emphasized that damage assessment due to the floods must be completed in full and that the government is ready to allocate funds accordingly.

5



'Ordinance Raj' in TG

BRS slams govt for merger of municipalities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KP Vivekanand raised concerns over the Congress government's decision to expand Hyderabad city's boundaries without consulting the public or elected representatives.

Vivekanand was addressing a press conference at the BRS Bhavan in the city on Thursday.

Strongly criticising the move he said, "The Congress government is ruling through ordinances ignoring public opinion. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is taking unilateral decisions and turning Telangana into a state where public interests have taken the backseat."

"Before expanding Hyderabad city's boundaries, the government didn't bother to consult MLAs. Instead, it relied on the opinions of defeated Congress leaders which is



an insult to the people of the city," he added.

Expressing disappointment over the government's failure to hold discussions Vivekanand said, "Why was there a need to bring in an ordinance without a discussion in the Assembly after the tenure of village sarpanches ended? The urgency behind this move raises serious questions."

5

HC to govt: Frame guidelines for determining 'local' status

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The High Court directed the state government to frame appropriate guidelines for determining local status for MBBS admissions for candidates who qualify in NEET.

The HC directed the government to give admissions in medical and dental colleges to candidates who

have permanent addresses in Telangana and to consider them as locals.

The court directed the Kaloji Narayana Rao Health University (KNRUHS) to give admissions to students as per government guidelines.

5

PM should apologise for note-ban, anti-farmer laws: Rahul

P2

Ensure success of membership drive

Bansal tells BJP leaders in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP General Secretary Sunil Bansal, who is also the party's Telangana in-charge, gave directions to Telangana leaders on the party's membership enrolment drive.



A meeting was held at the BJP state office with district presidents and membership coordinators on Thursday. State General Secretaries and members of the Membership Committee attended the programme. After the meeting with State General Secretaries, a special session was conducted on

the membership enrolment programme.

Sunil Bansal directed district, mandal and booth committees to ensure the success of the membership drive.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, state BJP General Secretary Kasam Venkateshwarlu said that under the leadership of Union Minister

Kishan Reddy, the party will launch a state-wide membership program on September 8.

5

EMI-income ratio up to 61% as house prices soar in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is witnessing a sharp rise in the financial burden on homebuyers, says a report of Magicbricks on housing affordability. The EMI-to-monthly income ratio in the city has surged to 61% in 2024, marking a significant increase from 46% in 2020. This steep rise indicates that a larger portion of a homebuyer's monthly income is now required to service home loan EMIs, presenting new challenges to those who are purchasing residences in the city.

Hyderabad, which has been witnessing increasing demand for residential properties, is now facing a scenario where the growth in property prices is outpacing the rise in

household incomes. Between 2020 and 2024, while household incomes across India's top cities grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.4%, property prices grew at a faster pace, with a CAGR of 9.3%.

This widening gap has weakened the affordability of housing in the city. Compared to other metros, Hyderabad's EMI burden is relatively

high. Cities like Ahmedabad (41%) and Chennai (41%) have managed to maintain more affordable EMI-to-income ratios, offering a relatively more affordable residential investment climate.

However, in Hyderabad, along with other high-demand cities like New Delhi (82%) and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) (116%), the situation is becoming increasingly difficult for middle-income homebuyers.

5

ENCOUNTER IN KOTHAGUDEM  
 SIX NAXALS KILLED

Two commandos of the Greyhounds injured

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Six cadres of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) including two women were killed after an exchange of fire between the ultras and police in Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana on Thursday, police said.

Two commandos of the Greyhounds, the elite anti-naxal force of Telangana Police, were also injured in the exchange of fire and were shifted to a hospital and their condition is out of danger, they said.

The exchange of fire took place at around 6.45 am in the forest area of Mothe village under Karakagudem police station limits when the armed CPI (Maoist) cadres opened fire indiscriminately on the police party which was on patrol, a release from police said.

After warning the Maoist cadres to stop fire and in self-defence, as



the firing from the Maoists did not stop, the police party also returned fire. After the firing stopped from CPI (Maoist) armed cadres, the police party searched the area and found six bodies, clad in olive green clothes, it said.

The six dead were CPI (Maoist) cadres of Bhadradri Kothagudem-Alluri Sitharamaraju Divisional Committee, the release said.

The identities of the deceased is yet to be established, it said.

Based on inputs that a Maoist team crossed over to Telangana from neighbouring Chhattisgarh, special police parties took up combing in the area when the incident happened, a senior police official said.

# Union Ministers from TG useless: Aadi Demands Centre must give funds

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas said the two Union Ministers from Telangana are of no use to the flood-affected people of TG and that the Centre should respond to the situation and release funds.

Speaking to the media at the CLP Media Hall on Thursday, Aadi Srinivas said there is no response from the Centre even though the state sought an immediate assistance of Rs 2,000 crore. The Centre is telling cock and bull stories about the State having

old funds, he said. He said that BRS leaders are resorting to mud-slinging regarding the floods by criticising the government continuously. The Kalvakuntla family is seeing politics even in the floods, he added.

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is enjoying abroad and spitting venom on X. Nobody knows where the opposition leader is in Telangana. Is KCR in his farmhouse or in his Nandinagar house, he asked and added that KCR is so busy that he did not visit flood victims.



# Seethakka must apologise to tribals, demands BJP

## Rape being depicted as communal clash: Shilpa

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJPLP Leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy demanded that Women's Welfare Minister Seethakka should apologise to tribals for saying that the victim was only attacked and that she was not raped.

He termed Seethakka's comments as outrageous and demanded that the government should hang the culprit.

He said that Bangladeshi Rohingyas are entering tribal agency areas and are attacking Adivasis.

Speaking to the media after consoling Jainur rape victim (a

Adivasi woman) at the Gandhi Hospital here on Thursday, Maheshwar said that the Congress government is trying to protect the culprits.

He said the government is not taking the issue seriously even though a section of people attacked innocent Adivasi women and youth. Instead of taking action as the incident took place five days ago, the government is trying to play down the issue, he said.

He said that there is no safety for Adivasi women in agency areas now and that Adivasi women are being frequently raped due to the neg-



ligence of the state government. Addressing a press conference at the State BJP office, Adilabad MP Godem Nagesh demanded that Seethakka should apologise to Adivasis first as the government is trying to play down the incident

saying that there was no rape. He said the police filed a case only after dharnas by Adivasis and that it is shocking that the police did not care even though the victim clearly said that one Shaik Maqdhoom raped her. Meanwhile, Mahila Morcha activists blocked Minister Seethakka under the leadership of Telangana Mahila Morcha President Shilpa Reddy at the Gandhi Hospital.

The Mahila Morcha demanded that Seethakka should consider the incident as rape and attempt to murder and not depict it as a communal incident.

# 'Control your social media postings' Congress tells KTR & Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lashing out at the BRS's poster to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, "If we do everything ourselves, what will you do Revanth?" posted on its X account, the Congress warned BRS leaders KT Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao to keep their social media postings under control.

The Congress gave this advice to BRS leaders through its social media account X on Thursday.

"KTR garu and Harish Rao garu, control your social media postings. It is shameful

to make such comments about a Chief Minister. What did KCR do when he was in power for 10 years? What is there to do when a person has power? Even after KCR lost power...KCR did nothing. We can also say that. But our culture is not that. We are criticising democratically while protecting our party's values. It means what your party's policies are and what your leadership and your ideas are. Making such inappropriate comments about the state's Chief Minister on a political party's official social media account is shameful.



# Save power using AI plug: Exhibits at AI Summit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Now you can actually save power using AI plug. T-Hub startup Bharat Smart Services launched an intelligent plug named 'Bijli Smart plug'.

Normally, people tend to leave their laptop for charging or switch off TV with remote or geyser runs more than required. This intelligent smart plug will switch off the power supply after the laptop is charged, once the TV is switched off. It is a simple plug which costs about Rs 1,000. The plug was released in August and they have already got hundreds of orders, says Sikinder Reddy, Founder of Bharat Smart Services. He said that this not only saves energy but also reduces electricity bill.

Many such AI user cases and startups have exhibited at the Global AI summit. Another startup Garudalytics, which uses drone mapping, has shown a usecase for HYDRRAA.

# Modi to launch 'Jan Bhagidari' initiative in Guj

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" initiative in Gujarat's Surat on Friday, a step aimed at strengthening community involvement in water conservation.

The initiative aligns with the ongoing "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign,

reinforcing Modi's vision of collaborative water management to ensure long-term water security, according to an official statement.

The initiative seeks to mobilise citizens, local bodies, industries and stakeholders in Gujarat to imple-



ment rainwater-harvesting structures. These efforts are expected to serve as a model for other states, promoting sustainable water-management practices and enhancing water security across the country. The programme under-

scores Modi's call for a "whole-of-society" approach, urging for collective action towards turning every drop of rain into a valuable resource. The structures built under this initiative will play a pivotal role in rainwater harvesting, showcasing Gujarat's success in community-driven water conservation and encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) involvement.

# Cowin to become U-win soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cowin dashboard, which played a significant role in tracking vaccinations during the pandemic, is set to transform into 'U-Win,' a Universal Immunisation Tracker.

The Cowin dashboard still exists, however, this new system, expected to be available by year-end, will streamline the vaccination process and improve overall public health monitoring. Trigyn Technologies which developed the Cowin app, is working on the U-win app. Kiran, the Vice President of Trigyn Technologies, told 'The Pioneer' at the Global AI

Summit on Thursday that U-Win will serve as a comprehensive platform to track vaccinations, send timely reminders, and allow individuals to create new accounts for better access to their vaccination records.

"The missing vaccinations issue is going to be resolved with U-Win. It aims to integrate the health system with the vaccination process, ensuring that every individual, regardless of age, receives mandatory vaccines, while certain exemptions will also be accommodated," he explained.

It will be of help in tracking the immunisation of children, pregnant women and adults.

Pilot projects are being executed in some states. U-Win will not only send reminders but will also provide information about mandatory vaccinations across age groups, enhancing transparency and accessibility.

Hospitals will also have this information, ensuring people are well-informed about their vaccination schedules and necessary follow-ups.

It may be mentioned here that Trigyn announced the opening of its Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Delivery Centre in Hyderabad, after a meeting with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and IT Minister Sridhar Babu in the US.

# Congress, NC want to push J-K back into era of terrorism, unrest: Anurag Thakur

PNS ■ JAMMU

Former Union minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday criticised the Congress and National Conference for "derailing" peace and progress achieved after abrogation of Article 370 and accused them of attempting to push Jammu and Kashmir back towards terrorism, anarchy and unrest. "By advocating for the reinstatement of Article 370, the NC and Congress aim to return

J&K to an era of terrorism," Thakur said while addressing a roadshow in Padder-Nagseni assembly constituency in support of BJP candidate Sunil Sharma, a former minister in the BJP-PDP coalition government.

"Since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been peace in J&K, and development has progressed rapidly," the Lok Sabha MP from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh said.

# TDP MLA suspended from party after sexual assault charge

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A video circulating on social media has sparked a major scandal involving Koneti Adimulam, a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA representing the SC-reserved Sathyavedu Assembly constituency in Chittoor district. The video, which shows Adimulam in a compromising position with a woman, has gone viral, though the time and location of the recording

have not been confirmed. At a press conference in Hyderabad on Thursday, the woman, accompanied by her husband, publicly accused Adimulam of sexual assault. She detailed that the MLA had invited her to Bheema's hotel, where he allegedly raped her in Room No. 109. According to the woman, Adimulam had assaulted her on two previous occasions, prompting her to set up a hidden camera in an attempt to expose him.



# Ex-YSRC MP Nandigam Suresh arrested

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP leader and former MP from Bapatla, Nandigam Suresh, has been arrested by the police. He was apprehended in Hyderabad and brought to Guntur district in connection with an alleged attack on the TDP office in 2021.

Guntur district Superintendent of Police S. Satish confirmed that Suresh was arrested on the outskirts of Hyderabad around 1 AM on Thursday. "Suresh was taken into custody at Manchirevula near Narsingi. The arrest is related to the attack on the TDP office in 2021," Satish said.

# Bengal is going from wrong to wrong: Guv Bose

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Amid ongoing protests demanding justice for the young doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at state-run RG Kar hospital here last month, West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday criticised the state administration for its handling of the situation.

Bose remarked the state government is "going from wrong to wrong," emphasising that the public's "lack of trust in the system has led to the recent massive protests."

"What I see in West Bengal today, especially in administration, is going from wrong to wrong. They should realise that two wrongs, even if they are mutually contradictory, will not constitute one right. (The) government has to act and has to take people into confidence. Punishment should be given," he said.

The governor observed that the people of Bengal no longer feel they can expect justice

from the government, a sentiment reflected in the widespread protests, including a candlelight procession held late into the night on Wednesday.

"People should feel that they can expect justice from the government. Now, the feeling is not there. That is what was reflected in the massive protest that culminated yesterday," he said. In an apparent reference to the recently passed anti-rap bill in the West Bengal assembly, Bose said what is more important is its implementation.

"You know, passing legislation is one thing, implementing it is more important.



# Oppn demands Bengal-like law in Odisha for women safety

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Opposition BJD and Congress on Thursday demanded a stringent law in Odisha on the lines of the one passed recently in neighbouring West Bengal for women's safety. The West Bengal Assembly on September 3 unanimously passed the

'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024 that seeks capital punishment for rape convicts if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state and life sentence without parole for other perpetrators.

Other significant features of the proposed legislation include

the completion of probes into rape cases within 21 days of the initial report, a reduction from the previous two-month deadline, and a special task force where women officers will lead investigations.

During discussion in Odisha Assembly, both the opposition parties, the BJD and the Congress, alleged that the state's BJP government has no sensitivity

towards rape victims and none from the administration have met kin of the victims of rape-murder cases in Remuna in Balasore district, Naktideula in Sambalpur district, Patana in Keonjhar district and Bhubaneswar that took place after the BJP government formation in the state in June.

# PM should apologise for note-ban, anti-farmer laws : Rahul

PNS ■ SANGLI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise to every Maharashtra for the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue in Sindhudurg district, and also say sorry for demonetisation, anti-farmer bills and GST.

Gandhi was speaking at a public meeting here after inaugurating a statue of late party leader Patangrao Kadam.

"I want to ask the prime minister what he is sorry for, is it because the contract to make the Shivaji statue was given to an RSS person who



had no merit, or for the corruption in the process," he said. With the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP government in Maharashtra coming under

whose sentiments were hurt. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leaders Sushilkumar Shinde and Prithviraj Chavan, and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar attended the function in Sangli, a city in western Maharashtra and a traditional Congress bastion. But ally Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was conspicuous by his absence. Notably, Sena (UBT) candidate had lost to Congress rebel Vishal Patil in the Sangli Lok Sabha seat.

Modi should answer why all contracts are given only to "Adani and Ambani" and why he was running the government only for "two people", Gandhi further said.

# AAP benefited from funds collected through 'scam': CBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had a "preconceived" plan to privatise liquor business in the national capital and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) benefited from illicit funds it raised through the excise policy "scam", the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged before a special court here.

The CBI made the allegations before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja in its supplementary charge sheet filed against Kejriwal in the case recently. The court took cognisance of the charge sheet against Kejriwal, AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak and others on September 3.

According to sources, the CBI alleged that Kejriwal, who was the overall in-charge of the party as its national convener, was behind the criminal con-

spiracy to generate illicit funds. It alleged that in order to execute his preconceived plan, Kejriwal sought monetary support for AAP in March 2021, when the excise policy was being formulated by a Group of Ministers (GoM) led by co-accused Manish Sisodia. Sisodia was then the deputy chief minister and held the excise portfolio.

Kejriwal's close associate and AAP's former communication in-charge Vijay Nair, also an accused in the case, was alleged to have approached various stakeholders in the liquor business and demanded illegal gratification in exchange for "favourable adjustments" in the policy. The charge sheet claimed that Nair had no authority or reason to approach different stakeholders in the liquor business and that he could not have done so without Kejriwal's authorisation and direction.

# Yechury continues to be under treatment at AIIMS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury continues to be under treatment at AIIMS, where he was admitted for treatment of a lung infection, sources said on Thursday.

Yechury (72) was admitted to the emergency ward of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 19. He was later shifted to the intensive care unit, where he continues to be under treatment.

A team of doctors is monitoring his condition, the sources said. Yechury was admitted to AIIMS for treatment of a pneumonia-like infection. The exact nature of his ailment was not disclosed by the hospital.



# Attacks on Hindus in Bangla not communal, says Yunus

PNS ■ DHAKA

Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, Muhammad Yunus, has said the issue of attacks on minority Hindus in his country is "exaggerated", asserting that the incidents are "more political than communal". In an interview with PTI at his official residence here, Yunus said that India must abandon the narrative that Bangladesh will turn into another Afghanistan without Sheikh Hasina at the helm.

Yunus also questioned the manner in which India is projecting the attacks. He suggested that the attacks were not communal, but a fallout of a political upheaval as



there is a perception that most Hindus supported the now-deposed Awami League regime. "I have said this (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi also that this is exaggerated. This issue has several dimensions. When the country went through an upheaval following the atrocities by (Sheikh) Hasina and the

Awami League, those who were with them also faced attacks," the Nobel laureate told PTI. The minority Hindu population faced vandalism of their businesses and properties, as well as the destruction of Hindu temples, during the student-led violence that erupted following the ouster of Prime Minister



Hasina. After unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India. "Now, while beating up Awami League cadres, they had beaten up Hindus as there is a perception that Hindus in Bangladesh mean Awami League supporters.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Tritiya: Sep 05 12:21 PM to Sep 06 03:01 PM  
Chaturthi: Sep 06 03:01 PM to Sep 07 05:37 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
Hasta: Sep 05 06:14 AM to Sep 06 09:25 AM  
Chitra: Sep 06 09:25 AM to Sep 07 12:34 PM

**Rahukalam:** 10:42 AM to 12:14 PM  
**Yamagandam:** 3:18 PM to 4:50 PM  
**Varjyam:** 06:28 PM to 08:16 PM  
**Gulika:** 7:38 AM to 9:10 AM  
**Amritakalam:** None  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:49 AM to 12:38 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms  
Temp: 28°C  
Humidity: 80%  
Sunrise: 6:03 AM  
Sunset: 6:26 PM  
Updated: September 5, 2024 5:00 PM

**CITY EVENTS**

**Quambiant Developers**

7th Edition of Global Grace Cancer Run-2024 Launch of T-shirt and finisher medal  
**Chief Guest**  
 Shri Komatireddy Venkat Reddy  
 Minister of Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, Govt of Telangana

**Venue**

Rudra Pratap Hall, Daspalla Hotel, Madhapur, Hyderabad  
 Friday, September 6th, 3pm

**Kalyan Jewellers**

the launch of its new showroom at Charminar, in presence of Kalyan Jewellers' Brand Ambassador Akkineni Nagarjuna.

**Venue**

Kalyan Jewellers, 20-4-136/1/N, Grace Plaza, Ground & First floor, Shalibanda, Charminar, Hyderabad - 500065  
 September 6, 4:30 pm onwards

**Grand welcome**

To Deepthi Jeevan, para athlete who won bronze medal in 400 meters T20 Athletics at Paris.

**Venue**

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad  
 Flight Vistara (UK) 829, September 6, 9.30 am

**National Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities**

To be presided by Dr Himanshu Pathak - Secretary, DARE & Director General ICAR  
 Dr RC Aggarwal - Deputy Director General, Agricultural Education ICAR

In the divine presence of Rev. Daaji - Guide of Heartfulness & President of Shri Ram Chandra Mission

**Venue**

Kanha Shanti Vanam  
 September 6, 11 am

**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 Raghav and Mukhtar Ahmed Sardar.

**Venue**

State Art Gallery Hyderabad  
 September 1 to 8.

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

03

**Guv distributes eco-friendly Ganesh idols to staff**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma distributed eco-friendly clay Ganesh idols painted with natural organic colours to all officers and staff members on Thursday at the Raj Bhavan. The Governor extended his warm wishes for Ganesh Chaturthi to all employees and expressed the hope that Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, will eliminate all hurdles on the path to unity, peace, progress and prosperity for the State and nation.



**ENCROACHMENTS ON MULGUND PREMAVATIPET LAKE**

## Activist writes to CM over concerns

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

An environmental and social activist has written to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy raising serious concerns about encroachments on Mulgund Premavatipet Lake (Lake ID 2921) and the issuance of falsified Full Tank Level (FTL) maps. According to Dr Sarwath, the official maps have been manipulated to reduce the lake's area, accommodating encroachments and jeopardising the lake's ecosystem. She highlighted several key issues, stating that the lake was identified before 2014, but the FTL map was only verified in 2018. The lake was only notified on September 2, 2024, after complaints were filed on August 31 and September 1, 2024. She questioned the delay in notification and the fact that the lake was reportedly adopted by a private group before being officially notified. The activist also pointed out discrepancies between the official FTL boundary and satellite imagery from sources like NRSC and Google Earth, which show that the actual water spread of the lake is significantly larger than what is indicated in the official maps. Dr Sarwath claimed that the maps were falsified during a joint survey conducted in 2018 to accommodate encroachments. Further, Dr Sarwath alleged that the lake's inflow channels from Appa Cheruvu have been destroyed, leading to flooding and environmental degradation in the surrounding areas. She called for immediate restoration of the lake's hydrology and urged authorities to take stringent action against officials responsible for the falsified maps. She also appealed to the Telangana State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TSRERA) to de-register the project near the lake and requested the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Vigilance to investigate how environmental clearances were granted for the project.

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**CALL FOR MORE INCLUSIVE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

# AI to contribute 15.7 trillion to global economy by 2030

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Addressing the keynote of "The Future of India and India AI @ 2047", at the Day-1 of Global AI Summit 2024 on Thursday, NASSCOM president Debjani Ghosh shared her vision for India in 2027 as a leader in frontier technology. She said that AI and other advanced technologies as central to the country's development, not only driving economic growth but also promoting inclusive progress. Ghosh stressed that most importantly, India offers a global blueprint for growth that leaves no one behind. She cited a PWC study predicting that AI could contribute 15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, surpassing the combined output of China and India combine. However, over 70 per cent of this value is expected to go to the US and China, highlighting the urgent need for a more inclusive global development model, not just as a catalyst to growth but a driver to equitable progress. Stating that India is well-positioned to lead this effort, Ghosh said this is the vision for India in 2047 that she holds very dear and pictures India as a champion of human-centered, sustainable technologies. She emphasized that apart from bold action, the need for compassion and ethics in areas like RD, applied tech and talent development are very crucial to ensure AI benefits all nations, not just a few.

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NASSCOM president Debjani Ghosh presents the keynote address at the Global AI Summit on Thursday



**Save power using AI plug: Exhibits at AI Summit**

Now you can actually save power using AI plug. T-Hub startup Bharat Smart Services launched an intelligent plug named 'Bijli Smart plug'. Normally, people tend to leave their laptop for charging or switch off TV with remote or geyser runs more than required. This intelligent smart plug will switch off the power supply after the laptop is charged, once the TV is switched off. It is a simple plug which costs about Rs 1,000. The plug was released in August and they have already got hundreds of orders, says Sikinder Reddy, Founder of Bharat Smart Services. He said that this not only saves energy but also reduces electricity bill. Many such AI user cases and startups have exhibited at the Global AI summit. Another startup Garudalytics, which uses drone mapping, has shown a usecase for HYDRAA. The drones using satellite imagery are mapping the lake sizes over the past years. It will be able to detect if there are encroachments in the lake bed or the FTL. Another We-Hub startup AJNHAWK showcased how drones can be used for monitoring STP construction. They are monitoring the construction of STP at My Home Avatar. Students of CBIT Civil Engineering have showcased a 3D printed model of the Musi river. It took them four months to build the model.

## GHMC Commissioner Amrapali inspects Falakunuma ROB works

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Commissioner Amrapali Kata has instructed officials to expedite the completion of the Falakunuma ROB (Road-Over-Bridge) works. On Thursday, Commissioner Amrapali visited the Charminar zone to review the upcoming development projects. During her visit, she inspected the Bandlaguda flyover junction and reviewed several road-widening and flyover construction projects, including the stretch from Bandlaguda to Errakunta, Tulsi Nagar to Gaus Nagar via Mylar Devala Palli, the Katedan flyover, and the proposed road expansions from Tribunal to Tipu Khan Masjid.



Injan Bowli, Baba Bazar to Bhavani Nagar, and Sheikh Faiz Kaman to Dabirpura flyover. Commissioner Amrapali issued several directives, urging the officials to speed up the completion of the Falakunuma ROB works. She also emphasised the importance of accelerating land acquisition for the road-widening projects and instructed town planning officials to ensure timely progress.

## 18-year-old youths should enrol themselves for voting: CEO

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

"All 18-year old youths and those who are going to enter 18 years on January 1, 2025 can enroll themselves in the new voter list for voting", instructed Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy here on Thursday. Speaking to the media at Special Summary Revision 2025 in BRKR Bhawan, the CEO said youth should not miss to enroll themselves in the voting list. Elaborating on Special Summary Revision 2025, CEO Sudharshan Reddy said that they have already started a new voters enrolment programme on August 21 and it will continue it for four months. The final publication of the electoral rolls will be released on January 6, 2025, he said. "Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have started a voters verification programme. House-to-house verification will continue till October 28 and around 119 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are working in the State for the purpose. Those who want to change their photos, names, city name and other issues in Voter ID cards should inform the officials during the household survey, said the CEO. Answering to a query posed by the media regarding Voter ID and Aadhaar card link, the CEO clarified that it's not mandatory to link your Voter ID card with the Aadhaar card according to Election Commission of India (ECI). In some districts around 60-70 per cent of people have already linked their Voter ID and Aadhaar card till February 25, he said. People can enroll themselves for the new Voter ID card through online like voters.eci.gov.in and Voter Helpline Mobile App. On this occasion, CEO Sudharshan Reddy released Special Summary Revision 2025 posters.

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## Konatham Dileep detained by Cyber Crime Police

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Telangana Cyber Crime Police detained Konatham Dileep, who is heading BRS party's social media wing, here on Thursday. Dileep, known for his vocal criticism of the Congress government's actions, was picked up from his residence. According to the FIR copy received, a complaint has been lodged against Dileep for posting social media posts on X, that have potential to create religious tension and promote communal disharmony. These posts are circulating on Twitter and contain disturbing clips of lightning up public property showing religious disturbances, mentioned in the complaint copy. After shifting from CCS to Takforce Dileep Konatham was issued a Notice and has been released.

## Ex-MP Joginipally launches Seed Ganesha initiative

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Green India Challenge led by former Rajya Sabha member Joginipally Santosh Kumar launched a unique initiative-Seed Ganesha. With Ganesh Chaturthi round the corner, the TRS ex-MP came out with a novel idea to introduce eco-friendly idols. Green India Challenge, which believes in constantly raising the bar to make participation in environmental activities a daily habit, this time



launched 'Seed Ganesha' which were distributed in Erravalli. Designed in an utmost eco-friendly manner, these idols are made from pure mud, coco powder with various seeds

imbedded in them. After performing puja, these idols can be placed in the mud or in a big pot where the seeds after a few days will start sprouting and grow into small saplings. Once they are of certain size, they can be planted back into soil in apartment complexes, backyards or in parks, Green India Challenge (GIC) said. "With growing environment pollution, it is the need of hour to plant saplings and nurture them every minute."

## Our govt will fully support Swadeshi Mela: IT Minister

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

"Our government will fully support the Swadeshi Mela to be organised by the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch in the month of October", assured D Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT and Communications, Industry and Commerce and Legislative Affairs of Telangana here on Thursday. A pre-launch event for the 'Swadeshi Mela' organised by Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, took place at Haritha Plaza. The Swadeshi Mela is scheduled to be held from October 23rd to 27th at People's Plaza in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said that despite differing ideological views, he is impressed by the efforts of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch in promoting local products and businesses and



The brochure for the Swadeshi Mela being released by IT Minister Sridhar Babu and members of the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch at Haritha Plaza

spreading the message of self-reliance. The Minister also highlighted that the government is already running several programmes for rural development

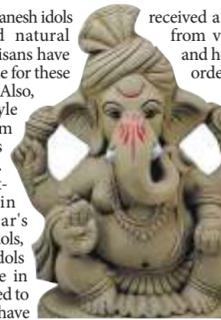
and women's empowerment, and a collaborative supply chain system between Swadeshi Jagaran Manch and the government could further boost the promotion of local products. During the event, the brochure for the Swadeshi Mela was released by the minister and members of the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. Dr Sattu Lingamurthy, speaking on behalf of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, emphasised that the organisation's clear mission is to protect Indian businesses while fostering economic self-reliance in every sector. He called upon every Indian to embrace self-reliance and contribute to the nation's transformation into a developed India (Viksit Bharat), underscoring that the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch remains dedicated to this cause.

## Small clay Ganesh idols in huge demand

**RASHMI BHUMIREDDY**  
 bhumireddyashmi@gmail.com  
 ■ HYDERABAD

With Ganesh Chaturthi round the corner, Ganesh idol-making and selling hubs across the city, especially Dhoolpet, are bustling with activity. Along with huge colourful and vibrant Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols, this year there has been a slight rise of small clay Ganesh idols, as a few residential colonies, some communities like Maharashtra and few households are preferring to purchase them due to environmental awareness. This year, to encourage the use of eco-friendly idols, a number of households

have opted for smaller Ganesh idols made from clay and natural colours. Even local artisans have received a good response for these sustainable alternatives. Also, this year Mumbai-style Ganesh idols and Ram Lalla-style Ganesh idols are in high demand. Many artisans have crafted Ram temple in Ayodhya as this year's theme. Also with PoP idols, even small Ganesh idols sized upto two feet are in high demand. "Compared to last year, this year I have



received a very good response; Most from various residential colonies and households we have received orders. Compared form PoP idols, clay idols are pocket-friendly, they start from Rs 50," said K Nagesh, Eco-friendly Ganesh idol manufacturer, Chaderghat. "For the past two consecutive years there has been a trend of Mumbai-style Ganesh idols and even this year there has been a surge in

demand, as the idols are draped in dhotis with a pattu kanduva/silk cloth or pagidus on top and embellished with multi-coloured kundans (artificial stones) and background frames bring a Mumbai touch," said Kamlesh, Ganesh idol manufacturer at Kompally. Kailash Singh Hazaris , president of Telangana Ganesh Idol Artisans Welfare Association, said, "Every year, we artisans patiently wait for Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja, as only during this span we earn profits and compared to last year, the response is pretty good but it would be better if the State government take a concrete decision on eliminating PoP idols."

## There should be no lapses in Ganesh immersion: Mayor

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi has directed the authorities concerned to ensure that there are no lapses in arrangements for Ganesh immersion. On Thursday, the Mayor inspected the readiness of ponds, baby ponds and arrangements for Ganesh immersion in LB Nagar, Kapra, Cherlapalli, Nagole and Tank Bund.



She has given suggestions to the officials regarding the arrangements for immersion.

She advised not to be lax in the immersion arrangements and to provide all accommodation facilities to the people without causing any problems. The officials were directed to install mobile toilets, cranes and take measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply and drinking water supply. The police department has been advised to deploy their officers of the respective departments.



## An eerie silence prevails in violence-hit Jainoor

Additional Director General of Police Mahesh Bhagwat urges people belonging to minorities and tribal communities to exercise restraint and help restore peace

PNS ■ KUMURAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

An eerie silence coupled with a tense undercurrent prevails at Jainoor village in the district after violent protests over attempted sexual assault on a tribal woman by an auto-rickshaw driver a few days ago.

The situation in the village remained peaceful on Thursday, a day after protests by tribal organisations against an auto-rickshaw driver's alleged attempt to rape and murder a tribal woman sparked communal tension prompting authorities to impose a curfew, the police claimed.

Additional Director General of Police Mahesh Bhagwat, along with District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre, visited the violence-ridden village and held talks with elders of various communities. He appealed to the elders of the communities to ensure that restraint is exercised. He urged the elders to rein in gang violence. The incident was painful, he said.

Mahesh Bhagwat expressed anger at District Superintendent of Police DV Srinivas Rao and Deputy Superintendent of Police

Yadaiah for failing to monitor the situation and prevent violence. The protest would not have escalated into full-blown violence had the police officer taken preventive measures, Bhagwat reportedly told the Superintendent of Police.

The Additional Director General of Police and the District Collector, besides the Superintendent of Police, held extensive talks with the elders of a minority community at Mandal Praja Parishad office in Jainoor. They also held discussions with the elders of the tribal community separately. Bhagwat urged the people of both communities to exercise restraint.

Meanwhile, additional forces were deployed along with Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel in the town, who conducted a flag march today.

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, imposed in Jainoor mandal, will continue, the district administration said.

Prohibitory orders were also enforced in four mandals of neighbouring Adilabad district today after some organisations gave a call for rallies



Additional Director General of Police Mahesh Bhagwat, along with District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre, holding discussions

to protest against the incident.

Senior police officials were monitoring the law and order situation.

It may be recalled that some agitated youth had burnt shops and commercial establishments besides hurling stones at a place of worship.

After the protesters began attacking properties of another community, there was retaliation leading to arson, stone pelting, and damage of properties.

The opposition BRS and

BJP hit out at the Congress government over the incident. The saffron party alleged that the government was trying to cover up the matter by projecting it as a communal issue. Slamming the Congress government for "failing" to prevent tension despite having information to the effect in advance, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao sought immediate steps to ensure peace at Jainoor town and provide advanced medical treatment to the victim.

## RGKUT students launch agitation demanding appointment of regular VC

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Students of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies (RGKUT)-Basar, continued their protests on the second day on Thursday demanding appointment of a regular vice-chancellor. The students launched agitation on Wednesday.

Agitating students carried displayed placards and staged a sit-in outside the administration office on the campus. Later, they took out a procession on the campus.

They demanded removal of existing in-charge Vice Chancellor S Venkata Ramana.

The students raised slogans like 'we want justice'. The students demanded that the government immediately appoint a regular vice chancellor. Around 500 students participated in the protest.

The RGKUT officials confirmed that the students had resorted to agitation demanding appointment of a regular vice chancellor. The authorities warned the students of stern action if they failed to mend their ways.

T SAS President Kadari Akash appealed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to appoint a regular vice chancellor for the university to ensure that students do not suffer.

The university has been rocked by one or other crisis.



Gangannaguda village submitting a memorandum to liquor merchants not to sell alcohol in the village

## Gangannaguda village youth launch anti-liquor campaign

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a bold initiative to curb alcohol abuse in their community, the youth of Gangannaguda village under Kondur mandal, have launched a campaign against alcohol consumption. Concerned over the growing impact of alcohol addiction on families and the village workforce, the youth have taken decisive action to rid the village of liquor.

In collaboration with the local Gram Panchayat secretary, the youth issued formal notices to the belt shop owners, warning them against

selling liquor within the village. A fine of Rs 50,000 will be imposed on those who sell alcohol, they warned. The youth issued a strict warning that if any shop is found violating the ban, appropriate action will be taken.

The youth leaders further warned that anyone found cooperating with these liquor sellers would face serious consequences.

The movement against alcohol was supported by a large number of village youths, reflecting a collective resolve to protect people from alcohol addiction.

## Komatireddy stresses need to nurture children

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that God created teachers to nurture children.

He was the chief guest at the Teachers Day celebrations organised by the District Education Department at Gandamoni Maisaiah Function Hall in Nalgonda on Thursday.

The Minister said that Gurus are like God and many who studied in government schools are now in high positions in the society. He said that when he visits government schools, he feels like visiting a temple. He said that in recent times, many changes have taken place in the government education system and in some schools the number of teachers is more than the students. Such a situation needs to be changed.

The Minister said that to strengthen the education system, teachers should teach students the same way they teach their own children. He called upon the teachers in the district



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking at Teachers' Day celebrations in Nalgonda on Thursday

to strive to make Nalgonda district to ensure that Nalgonda district stands top in the forthcoming SSC public examinations. As part of his efforts to develop the education system, steps are being taken to construct a new building for Komatireddy Pratheek Reddy Junior College. He also said that efforts are being made to develop various government schools in the constituency. He said that many programmes are being organised for the benefit of the students.

Poet, writer and Rajya Sabha member

Vishwajayendra Prasad, who was also present on the occasion, said that teachers need to instill confidence in the government education system. He said that students should be taught such a culture and traditions.

He said that schools in Delhi have been attracting an increasing number of students and if efforts are made by one all, the government schools in the state would attract more students. He said that it is the responsibility of the teachers to mould students as good citizens.

Member of Parliament from Nalgonda Kundur Raghuvver said that the government education system should be made on a par with the corporate education system.

Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresham said that the state government is working to bring changes in the education system of Telangana and urged the teachers to work towards strengthening the education system.

## RRR works apace

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The Regional Ring Road (RRR) works, a significant infrastructure project, is progressing at a fast pace. In preparation for construction, boundary stones are being installed in areas along the proposed route. These boundary stones are being linked to GPS technology, with precise markings applied to each.

The RRR project is divided into two segments, North and South. In the southern region, the road will stretch approximately 182 kilometers, passing through Kandi, Nawabpet, Chevella, Shabad, Shadnagar, Amangal, Margidda, Shivannapeta, Sansthan Narayanpur, and Chautuppal.

On Wednesday, GPS markings were completed in several villages, including Dilip Textile Industry, Bhairampally, UttaRaspalli, Mutpur, Tirmalapur, Mitta Kankal in Pudur Mandal, as well as Khanapur and Kishtapur in Chevella Mandal, and Tirmalapur in Shabad Mandal. The survey process is expected to begin once the marking phase is finalized, with points being established every five kilometers.

However, this development has triggered concerns among local farmers. Many are worried about the aging boundary stones in their fields, fearing that the construction of the road could lead to land loss.

They have voiced apprehensions over potentially losing their agricultural land to the RRR project as the road may cut through their farms.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar handing over Rs 1 lakh contribution by a Congress leader to Government College authorities

## MLA calls for contributions for development govt college

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar called for contributions from donors to support the expansion of the local government college. He made the appeal for donation at a function held on the occasion of Sarvepalli Radhakrishna birth anniversary.

At the event on Thursday, MLA Shankar handed over a donation of Rs 1.11 lakh from Congress leader Mohammed Ibrahim, to the college authorities. He praised Mohammed

Ibrahim for generous donation for the college.

Shankar emphasised that education is a great equaliser, stating that everyone is equal at the temple of learning. He highlighted the importance of donors in supporting educational institutions.

Former Shadnagar MLA Choulapalli Prathapareddy, former ZPTC Shyamunder Reddy, Tandra Vishala Shraavan Reddy, Venkatram Reddy, and Tirupathi Reddy were among the leaders and officials present at the event.

## Govt fails to provide relief to people in flood-affected areas

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Former minister and BRS leader T Harish Rao on Thursday accused the government of failing to help people in flood-affected districts. The government had failed in its primary responsibility of providing food and drinking water to people in the flood-affected areas, he said.

Harish Rao flagged vehicles transporting essential commodities for distribution to people in flood-affected areas.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the death toll would not have been high had the government woken up early. Incessant rains had caused heavy damage in Khammam, Mahabubabad district. The essential commodities collected from donors in Siddipet would be distributed to people in flood-affected areas.

The BRS MLAs and MLCs decided to contribute their one-month salary for relief and rehabilitation work. He urged legislators of other parties to contribute their salaries too for relief rehabilitation work.

Harish Rao expressed his unhappiness over the incident in Khammam a few days ago when a group of people, allegedly belonging to the Congress, hurled stones at his convoy. The former minister demanded that the government provide Rs 2 lakh to each family affected by floods.



## IAF chopper makes emergency landing

PNS ■ NALGONDA

An Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter made an emergency landing in an agricultural field in Nalgonda district of Telangana on Thursday owing to a technical snag.

No one was injured, police said. The chopper which was headed to Air Force Station, Hakimpet

in Hyderabad from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh made an emergency landing in the field due to some technical issues, a senior police official said.

Another helicopter with experts rushed to the spot and after the technical snag was fixed the chopper took off, the official said adding it was precautionary brief landing due to some "technical issue".

## Shivraj Singh Chouhan visiting Khammam today

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will visit flood-affected areas in Khammam district on Friday at 9 am.

BJP State President Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy set up two teams to visit the flood-affected areas in the state. The two teams will visit the flood-affected areas on Friday.

Union Minister of State for Home, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, BJP State Vice President Sankineni Venkateswara Rao,

BJP State General Secretary Gujjula Premender Reddy and MLAs Paidi Rakesh Reddy and others will visit Khammam and Kodad at 9 am and at 4 pm.



BJP National Executive Member and Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender will visit Mulugu and then Mahabubabad at 10 am.

BJP Legislature Party Leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, BJP State General Secretary Dr Kasam Venkateswarlu, MLA Rama Rao Patil and others will accompany Eatala Rajender.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (HOUSING) WARANGAL DIVISION, TELANGANA HOUSING BOARD #2-4-911, Circuit Guest House Road, Nakkalagutta, Hanamakonda - 506001			
Notification No. 114/2024/THB/EM/2024 Dated: 02-09-2024			
The Telangana Housing Board proposes to transfer the Houses / Flats / Plots as shown in the schedule below in the name of "Third Party / Purchaser" who have purchased the House / Flat / Plot from the original allottees through Agreement for Sale or Sale Deed either on White Paper or on Stamp Paper in Terms of G.O. Ms. No. 67 Housing (HB-II) Department, dated 08-09-2001.			
Sl. No.	Block / Plot No.	Name of the allottee	Name of the Third Party / Purchaser
<b>THB Colony, Waddepally, Hanamakonda (M), GWMC-Kazipet, Hanamakonda District</b>			
1	2	3	4
1	206 MIG-II, Waddepally	ZAREENA BANU W/o. CH. S.N. RAJU (As per application) D/o. MOHAMMED MAHAMOOD (As per third party Agreement)	SRI SANKINENI YETHIRAJA RAO S/o. NARAYANA RAO
2	64/5 MIG-I, Waddepally	LAKSHMI NARAYANA MURTHY GREERAMA S/o. VENKATESWARLU	1] KATIKA BALA RAJU S/o. RAMA SWAMY 2] K.N. JYOTHI D/o. YAKUB 3] PALLA SUMATHI DEVI W/o. SUBHASH REDDY
3	29/2 MIG-I, Waddepally	S. VIJAYA KUMARI D/o. S. PURUSHOTHAM SHARMA	BASANI SUBHASH S/o. RAMASWAMY
4	26/3 MIG-I, Waddepally	B. PADMA W/o. B. NARSING RAO	SRI JANKARAJU SRINIVAS RAO, S/o. J. KAMALAKAR RAO
5	73/3 MIG-I, Waddepally	P. MOHAN REDDY S/o. P. RAM KRISHNA REDDY	1] JALIPALLI CHARARAJAN S/o. BRAHMAIAH 2] DUSARI AROGYA MARY, D/o. D. BALAJAI
6	69/12 MIG-I, Waddepally	AMMIRAJU PURNACHANDRA RAO S/o. A. SOMBHAGYA RAO	V. SPANDANA D/o. JANAKI RAMULU
7	70/12 MIG-I, Waddepally	DAHAGAM BHOOJATHA W/o. DAHAGAM NARUTHY	SMT. AKOLA SAMPOORNA, W/o. A. RAJAVEERU
8	46/10 MIG-I, Waddepally	SMT. R. SARASWATHI W/o. B. LAXMAIAH	SMT. ARZA SEETHAYAMMA, W/o. (LATE) A. NOONA RAO
9	70/9 MIG-I, Waddepally	SYED KHAJA MOINUDDIN, S/o. S. S. HUSSAIN	SMT. AKOLA SAMPOORNA, W/o. AKOLA RAJAVEERU
10	67/4 MIG-I, Waddepally	CHIRRA SHASHIREDDHA, S/o. CHIRRA SOMIREDDY	SURYA DEVARA SUDRISHAN S/o. VISHWANADHAM
<b>THB Colony, Gorekurla (V), Geesugonda (M), GWMC-Kashibugga, Warangal District</b>			
11	233 MIG THB Colony, Gorekurla	Sri. CHIVUKULA ANJANEYULU S/o. VENKATA NARASIMHULU	MD. NAZEER HUSSAIN S/o. (LATE) MD. NAWAB HUSSAIN
12	257 MIG THB Colony, Gorekurla	Sri. D. MAURALIDHAR SHAMAY S/o. D. VENKATA RAMAIAH	Smt. AKA UMA RANI W/o. NARENDER KUMAR
13	326 MIG THB Colony, Gorekurla	KALLURI RAJESHWAR RAO S/o. K. VENKATAIAH	1] PULI LAXMINARAYANA S/o. DURGAIAH 2] KANDUKURI MAHENDER S/o. RAJA PAIPAAH
14	402 MIG THB Colony, Gorekurla	ZEENATH UNNISA BEGUM W/o. LATA KHAZA RIAZUDDIN	1] PODISHETTI KRISHAN S/o. LATE BIKSHAPATHY 2] KONDAPARTH KIRAN RAO S/o. ANANDAM
15	501 MIG THB Colony, Gorekurla	Sri. V. VENKATESWARA RAO S/o. NARAYANA SWAMY	1] Sri. MURDATHI MADHUSUDHAN S/o. Lata PARSARAMULU 2] Sri. DEVARAKONDA ANUSHA W/o. DEVARAKONDA ANVESH
16	545 MIG THB Colony, Gorekurla	SRI BABU JANGAIAH S/o. LAXMAIAH	1] SRI BARI MALLESAM S/o. NARSAIAH 2] SRI KAGITHALA BIKSHAPATHI CHARY S/o. SOMAIAH CHARY
17	37 LIG-1 THB Colony, Gorekurla	SMT. S. ANJANEI DEVI W/o. S. BHANU MURTHY	SMT. SHAHEEN SULTHANA W/o. MD. WAHED ALI
18	77 LIG-1 THB Colony, Gorekurla	SMT. SANGOLI PADMAWATHI W/o. VENKATA CHARY	SMT. SANGEEN MAMATHA W/o. S. NARESH
19	534 LIG-1 THB Colony, Gorekurla	SRI CHAKILELA RAMESH KUMAR S/o. CHILAKKI NARAYANA	SRI KOLIPAKA MALLESU S/o. BIKSHAPATHI
20	23 LIG-II THB Colony, Gorekurla	SMT. G. SUGUNA W/o. G. HANIKYAM	SRI THOTA RAGHUPATHI S/o. SARAYANA
21	5 LIG-II THB Colony, Gorekurla	SRI. PASIKANTI MALLAIAH S/o. PASIKANTI BHOGAIAH	SMT. GAJULA KAVITHA W/o. (LATE) G. RAMESH
<b>THB Colony, Jangon (V &amp; M), Jangon Municipality, Jangon District</b>			
22	7 MIG-I THB Colony, Jangon	SRI. PODICHETTI NARENDER S/o. P. BUCHAIAH	SRI MALLAM PRASAD S/o. LAXMAIAH
<b>THB Colony, Nasapur (V &amp; M), Nasapur Municipality, Mancherial District</b>			
23	13 LIG THB Colony, Nasapur	SMT. S. VIMALA W/o. ACHUTHA RAO	SRI. VADLAKONDA RAVI S/o. VADLAKONDA VENKATI
<b>THB Colony, Bellampally (V &amp; M), Bellampally Municipality, Mancherial District</b>			
24	11 LIG THB Colony, Bellampally	SMT. RAVIKANTI SHOBHA RANI W/o. (LATE) R. PRABHAKAR	SMT. SALMA SULTANA W/o. MD. MUSTAKIM
<b>THB Colony, Near Old Power House, Karimnagar (V &amp; M), Karimnagar Municipality, Karimnagar District</b>			
25	25/2 MIG-II THB Colony, Karimnagar	SRI CHINTHA KASHINATHAM S/o. CHINTHA PANCHAKSHARIAH	1] BHAGYANAGAR VENKATA RAMANA S/o. POCHIAH 2] MOHAMMED KHAJA MIYA S/o. SAHEB HUSSAIN 3] SRI GUDATI NARSINGA RAO S/o. YADAGIRI RAO
26	26/9 LIG-I THB Colony, Karimnagar	Sri YALAM NARASIMHA REDDY S/o. YALAM RAGHAWA REDDY	Sri AKULA RAVINDER S/o. PRAKASH
<b>THB Colony, Jammikunta (V &amp; M), Jammikunta Municipality, Karimnagar District</b>			
27	93 LIG-I THB Colony, Jammikunta	SRI MANCHALA RAJALINGAM S/o. LATE RAJESHAM	SRI KESHETTI SHIVA KUMAR S/o. LATE VISHWANADHAM

If any person or persons having any objection to the proposed transfer and registration of the above Houses/ Flats/ Plots as shown in the schedule in the name of Third party/Purchaser they may approach the office of the undersigned with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification. If no objections are received the Houses / Flats / Plots as shown in the schedule will be transferred and registered in the name of Third Party / Purchaser based on the Agreement for Sale or Sale Deed in terms of G.O. Ms. No. 67 dated 08/09/2001 or Sale Deed as per Regulation 27 (ii) of Telangana Housing Board (Allotment) Regulations 1997. No representation will be entertained after expiry of stipulated 15 days time.

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Warangal Division, THB, Hanamakonda

ACROSS THE STATES



EC notifies 3 phase of J&K Assembly elections

The Election Commission of India on Thursday issued a notification for the third and final phase of the Legislative Assembly polls for Jammu and Kashmir. The notification was issued for 40 assembly constituencies, spread across Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts, where polling will be held on October 1. In Kashmir Division, 16 assembly constituencies will go to polls, while in Jammu region voting will be held on 24 seats. The seats going to polls in Kashmir are Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara, Langate, Sopore, Rafiaband, Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg, Wagoor-Kreeri, Pattan, Sonawari, Bandipora, and Gurez (ST). In Jammu division, the constituencies going to polls are Udhampur West, Udhampur East, Chenani, Ramnagar (SC), Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jasrota, Kathua (SC), Hiranagar, Ramgarh (SC), Samba, and Vijaypur, Bishnah (SC), Suchetgarh (SC), R S Pura, Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnor (SC), and Chhamb are the other constituencies going to polls in the region.



NEET aspirant hangs self in Kota, father alleges 'scam'

A 21-year-old student preparing for NEET-UG in Kota allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of a rented room in a house on Wednesday night. This is the 14th case of suicide by a student in the coaching hub Kota this year since January, while 26 cases of death by suicide were reported in the city in 2023. The father of the deceased held the alleged NEET-24 exam scam responsible for the extreme step taken by the youth. However, he did not level any allegation in the report to the police in the matter. No suicide note was recovered from the room in which the student stayed. The deceased, identified as Parshuram Jatav (21), a resident of Barsana in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh, last spoke to his father on Wednesday around 1.15 pm and expressed his wish to return home. His father, Khacharmal, asked him to come back home. However, the son did not attend to his calls after that.

India wants to create 'many Singapores' of its own: PM

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday touted Singapore as a model for developing nations and said India wanted to create "several Singapores" of its own.

During his talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Modi expressed confidence in the city-state's fourth generation leadership.

He said Singapore is not merely a partner country, it serves as an inspiration for every developing nation.

"We also aim to create several Singapores within India. I am pleased that we are collaborating towards this goal. The ministerial roundtable we have established is a path-breaking mechanism," the prime minister said.

Congratulating the prosperous nation's premier, Modi said, "This is our first meeting since you assumed the office as prime minister. My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you. I am confident that under the leadership of 4G, Singapore will achieve progress

Hails nation as global inspiration



even more rapidly."

Wong was sworn in as the new prime minister of Singapore in May. The 51-year-old economist-turned-politician succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, 72, who relinquished his position after two decades; both belonging to the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) that has been driving Singapore's economic progress for more than

five decades. Wong, who was the deputy prime minister, is leading the fourth generation PAP politicians' government as the prime minister and the finance minister.

Modi flew to Singapore on Wednesday after wrapping his visit to Brunei, the first bilateral visit there by an Indian prime minister.

"Collaborative initiatives have

been identified in areas such as skilling, digitalisation, mobility, advanced manufacturing, semiconductors and AI, healthcare, sustainability and cybersecurity," said the prime minister, who is on a two-day visit to the Asian financial centre with the global business network.

Singapore is also an important facilitator of India's Act East policy, Modi said.

"Our shared belief in democratic values connects us. I am delighted to have the opportunity to visit Singapore at the beginning of my third term," he said.

Underlining the strategic partnership between India and Singapore, Prime Minister Modi said, "Over the past 10 years, our trade has more than doubled. Mutual investment has increased almost threefold to cross USD 150 billion. Singapore was the first country with which we launched the UPI Person-to-Person payment facility."

'Armed forces need to be prepared for war to preserve peace'

India is a peace loving nation and the armed forces need to be prepared for war in order to preserve peace, he said stressing upon the significance of evolving joint military vision to deal with future security challenges



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The armed forces need to be prepared for war in order to preserve peace, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday while addressing the top commanders of the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

In his remarks at the maiden joint commanders conference here, Singh, touching upon the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza as well as the situation in Bangladesh, exhorted the military to analyse these "episodes" and stay prepared to deal with the "unexpected".

India is a peace loving nation

and the armed forces need to be prepared for war in order to preserve peace, he said stressing upon the significance of evolving joint military vision to deal with future security challenges.

The defence minister also referred to the over four-year border row with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and pitched for deeper analysis of the situation.

"Despite global volatility, India is enjoying a rare peace dividend and it is developing peacefully. However, due to the increasing number of challenges, we need to remain alert," he said.

Swachh Bharat's toilets helped slash infant deaths: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Toilets constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission — India's national cleanliness programme — may have helped avert roughly 60,000-70,000 infant deaths every year, according to a study.

A team, including researchers from the International Food Policy Research Institute, US, looked at data from nationally representative surveys covering 35 states/Union territories and over 600 districts over 20 years. The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, investigated the link between an increase in access to toilet, built under the Swachh Bharat Mission, and drop in deaths among infants and children aged under five from 2000 to 2020. The results suggested that on average, improving district-level toilet access by 10 percentage points corresponded to a lowering of death rates in infants by 0.9 points and those in under-5 by 1.1 points.

DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST RAHUL UP court again defers hearing as plaintiff ill

PNS ■ SULTANPUR

The MP-MLA court in Sultanpur on Thursday once again deferred the hearing till September 19 in a defamation case filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as the plaintiff did not appear citing ill health, a lawyer said.

Earlier on August 23 also, the court had deferred the matter and set September 5 as the date for hearing. Prior to that, on August 12, the matter could not be heard as the special judge of the court was on leave. Plaintiff Vijay Mishra's lawyer Santosh Kumar Pandey said the plaintiff did not appear in court on Thursday due to ill health. "An application was filed in the court to present evidence, which was accepted and the MP-MLA court has given the next date in the case as September 19," Pandey said.

"On September 19, the plaintiff will have to present

evidence in the court through the lawyer," he added.

During the Karnataka elections in 2018, Gandhi allegedly made objectionable remarks against senior BJP leader Amit Shah. In August 2018, Mishra, a local BJP leader and former cooperative chairman, had filed a complaint in the court leading to the defamation case.

Gandhi surrendered in the court on February 20 during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. He got bail on two personal bonds of Rs 25,000 each, after which he was called to record his statement by issuing notices several times by the court.

During the Lok Sabha elections, Gandhi could not reach the court citing poll engagements. Subsequently, the court ordered him in a strict tone to appear.

On July 26, the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha came to the Sultanpur court and recorded his statement.

Om Birla underscores need to excel in AI, biotech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday stressed on the need to keep India ahead in the field of artificial intelligence, biotechnology and other modern fields as these will play a key role in the fourth industrial revolution where the country has a crucial part cut out for itself.

He also said that educational institutions determine the direction and future of the country.

Birla said the contribution of teachers is not limited to just imparting education but also in shaping personality, beliefs and skills of a generation.

Addressing the students of a Delhi University college here to mark the Teachers' Day, he highlighted the role of teachers for their valuable contribution to the society.

Referring to the role of teachers in nation building, Birla observed the place of a guru is at the top in the Indian

Birla said the contribution of teachers is not limited to just imparting education but also in shaping personality, beliefs and skills of a generation.



knowledge tradition.

He noted that in the ancient Indian philosophy, guru is not just a source of education but is the architect of character building, personality development, society building and nation building.

The Lok Sabha speaker said that in today's rapidly changing world, the role of teachers has become even more important.

The responsibility of preparing the youth for the challenges and opportunities of the future

rests on the shoulders of teachers, he added.

It is only under the guidance of the teachers that our students will not only learn to adapt themselves to the changes taking place but will also lead this revolution of change, Birla was quoted as saying in an official statement.

He said that India is developed today because of the emphasis on education since ancient times. At present, the youth of India are leading in almost all fields, he added.

HC to govt: Frame guidelines for..

Continued from page 1

The court also questioned the state government about how it can consider as non-locals people who came to TG from other states and became locals. The HC also directed the state government to frame guidelines defining locals and non-locals.

The High Court delivered its verdict after hearing all arguments. The Bench comprising the Chief Justice said that locals are eligible for local quota. However, there are no

clear guidelines to determine who are locals.

The court directed the state government to frame guidelines for determining local resident status and said that admissions would be decided as per government guidelines.

The state government issued GO: No: 33 adding Rule 3A while amending guidelines for MBBS and BDS admissions. However, many petitions were filed in court challenging GO: No: 33.

The High Court Bench comprising Chief Justice Alok

Aradhe and Justice J. Srinivasa Rao heard the petitions. Senior advocates B. Mayur Reddy and DV Seetharamurthy argued for the petitioners. They said that locals have been experiencing heavy losses due to the amendments made by the state government.

Candidates who are from other states and expatriate Indians who were educated in TG continuously for four years will become locals and will get admissions under the 85 per cent local quota.

Short tenders soon for..

Continued from page 1

He praised Irrigation Department staff for remaining alert during the crisis but warned that negligence would not be tolerated.

He directed officials to maintain greater vigilance and to immediately report any danger signals to higher authorities. He also called for regular monitoring of both irrigation projects and reservoirs, stressing the need for close observation of all shutters and regulators.

'Ordinance Raj' in..

Continued from page 1

He pointed out that the real estate sector has been severely affected by the Congress government's decisions.

"In the last eight months, the real estate sector in Hyderabad has become paralysed. Occupancy certificates are hard to come by and people are cancelling registrations due to government restrictions. This chaos is entirely due to the government's mishandling of the situation," he added. "The government's reckless expansion of Hyderabad city's boundaries without proper planning will create more hardships for the people," Vivekanand warned.

HWT Centre Phase-1 to..

Continued from page 1

Spread over a massive 2.5 million square feet, the Hyderabad WTC will be the world's largest, surpassing existing centres which typically don't exceed 1.7 million square feet. "By Q4 2025, office spaces will be ready for occupation and the building will be in shape by Q1 2025," Varaprasad said.

He said that MNCs, especially those setting up Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and some defence companies, have already expressed interest in starting operations at the new facility.

The WTC of Hyderabad, promoted by the Kapil Group, is designed to accommodate

80,000 to 100,000 direct employees, with an additional 300,000 indirect jobs expected to be generated.

With four levels of parking and a built-up area of 3.5 million square feet, the centre aims to become a commercial hub. Varaprasad also highlighted that based on current trends, the WTC is expected to contribute approximately USD 5 billion in revenue to Telangana through export and trade services. "We have followed all audits, and the World Trade Centre checks ensure compliance with global standards," he added. The vision behind the Hyderabad WTC is to bring global branding to the city, something that currently exists only in the US and Bengaluru.

Ensure swift claim..

Continued from page 1

"The insurance companies have been instructed to ensure swift claim settlements by organising special camps and easing claim processes and thereby provide relief to those affected," the ministry said in a post on X. The central government and finance ministry are committed to supporting those affected by this calamity and ensuring they receive the necessary assistance at the earliest, it added.

EMI-income..

Continued from page 1

Sudhir Pai, the CEO of Magicbricks, highlighted the affordability challenges faced by residents in metros like Hyderabad, stating, "The rapid increase in property prices, combined with homebuyers' strong demand for ownership, has resulted in an unprecedented surge in the cost of residences. With household incomes unable to keep pace, many potential buyers are being priced out of the market or finding it harder to maintain their monthly commitments."

Hyderabad's position as an emerging IT hub, coupled with ongoing infrastructure development, has fuelled its real estate boom. However, the downside is that the fast-paced development has significantly pushed up housing prices, and with the EMI burden crossing 60% of monthly income, affordable housing options in the city are becoming harder to find.

TG heralds AI..

Continued from page 1

The strategic direction for Telangana's AI ecosystem will be set by the AI Advisory Council, which will bring together leaders from the government, industry, and academia and define investment and policy priorities surrounding AI. The AI Research & Collaboration Network, operating through a hub and spoke model, will power socially conscious innovations in AI by converging research and development in academic institutions and corporations.

The government intends to promote the development of datasets and models that allow AI to account for state-specific nuances including language and culture.

In addition to improved dataset quality across the state, data annotation hubs will be established to cater to the annotation needs of not just the state but the country at large.

In order to fuel AI innovation sustainably, Telangana will facilitate access to computer

capacity through hyperscalers. Government departments and selected early-stage start-ups will be provided subsidised access to compute capacity to level the playing field for innovation, especially for socially conscious solutions.

The government will launch the Telangana Data Exchange Platform (TGDex), enabling access to quality data for innovators in the ecosystem and fuelling AI-powered innovation through a collaborative approach. All demographic groups within Telangana will be empowered with AI and generative AI-powered solutions to improve their quality of living.

The state will train 5 lakh professionals in AI specialisations by 2027 through a mix of formal education and digital initiatives to cater to the growing demand for AI professionals. AI curriculum will be

introduced in senior secondary public schools to democratise access to AI skills and careers from an early age. In his remarks, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy termed AI the greatest of technology innovations. "When any new technology comes, it brings both hope and fear. Hope of how it will make our life better and fear of job losses," he said.

He said the Telangana AI Mission, or T-AIM, in partnership with NASSCOM, will help the state government to implement the AI framework in Telangana. "We will continue to bring government and industry experts together to drive innovation," he said.

The Government of Telangana signed 26 MoUs with reputed players in the private ecosystem including academic institutions, big-tech companies, start-ups, and not-

for-profit organisations to achieve the goals set out under 'AI-Powered Telangana.'

These MoUs were signed across various dimensions to make Telangana an AI superpower in the country. The MoUs were signed mainly in the seven areas of Compute Infrastructure, Centre of Excellence, Skilling, impact assessment, Start-up Innovation, Generative AI, Research & Collaboration and Data Annotation.

Minister Sridhar Babu also emphasized the importance of ethical governance in AI development. He said the state would prepare an AI framework that is innovative and also ethically sound so that AI serves a greater goal while safeguarding individual rights and societal values. At the heart of Telangana's AI strategy is the establishment of the AI City, a

200-acre hub near Hyderabad, dedicated to AI research, development and application.

This project is poised to place Telangana at the epicentre of global AI innovation, offering cutting-edge computing facilities, expansive data lakes and robust connectivity.

"This AI City will be the cradle of ground-breaking advancements, solidifying our status as a technological powerhouse. We also plan to launch an AI school in our AI city," the minister declared. "We will implement stringent regulations to prevent misuse of AI technology like deep fakes and AI-driven misinformation," he said.

The government signed two MoUs with Yotta and C-DAC to enhance the computational resources in the state, required for AI systems. Yotta will design and construct a specialized AI-Data Centre in Hyderabad.

The government is partnering with PATH and Nazara Technologies to build Centres of Excellence to focus on promoting AI in crucial as well as emerging areas.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## India shines at Paralympics

### India puts up best-ever show at Paralympics; PM Modi lauds athletes' perseverance and talent

India's performance at the 2024 Paralympics will be etched in the annals of sporting history, as the country witnessed its best-ever showing at the Games. With a record-breaking tally of medals, the athletes' determination, grit, and sheer willpower resonated deeply with millions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, visibly elated, interacted with the Paralympic contingent, hailing their indomitable spirit as an inspiration to the nation. India sent its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes to the 2024 Paralympics, competing across various disciplines like archery, athletics, and shooting. Among the many standout performances, Indian archer Sheetal Devi captured the world's attention, competing without hands and displaying an extraordinary level of precision and resilience. Her triumphs, alongside other athletes, served as a testament to the extraordinary abilities of differently-abled individuals who continue to defy the odds and break barriers. PM Modi, in his conversation with the athletes, expressed his deep admiration, stating, "Your hard work and dedication have brought glory to the nation... You have shown that challenges, no matter how daunting, can be overcome with perseverance."



The success of Indian Paralympians is not merely a result of their training, but a culmination of years of battling personal and societal obstacles. These athletes have defied their disabilities, proving that with determination, no hurdle is insurmountable. Each medal won at the Paralympics tells a story of immense struggle, dedication, and the refusal to accept limitations. Take, for instance, the journey of Bhavina Patel, a para table tennis player who became a beacon of hope after her exceptional performances on the global stage. Diagnosed with polio at a young age, Bhavina's journey from rehabilitation to becoming a Paralympian exemplifies the strength of human willpower. Such athletes embody the essence of perseverance, redefining success not by their victories alone but by their unwavering resolve to overcome challenges. As India celebrates its best-ever Paralympics performance, the spotlight on para-athletes has intensified, garnering widespread support from all sections of society. What makes these athletes stand apart is their ability to transform adversity into strength. Despite the physical and emotional challenges, they face, they continue to push boundaries, proving that talent knows no bounds. For every medal India wins at the Paralympics, there are countless hours of practice, numerous setbacks, and a tireless pursuit of excellence. As India celebrates the achievements of its Paralympic athletes, their stories remind us that greatness is often born out of struggle. Their success is a beacon of hope for millions, showcasing that with determination, talent, and an unbreakable spirit, anything is possible. India's Paralympians have made the nation proud, and their stories will inspire generations to come. As they continue to rise and break records, their message is clear: Perseverance, dedication, and talent can overcome even the greatest of challenges.

Each medal won at the Paralympics tells a story of immense struggle, dedication, and the refusal to accept limitations. Take, for instance, the journey of Bhavina Patel, a para table tennis player who became a beacon of hope after her exceptional performances on the global stage. Diagnosed with polio at a young age, Bhavina's journey from rehabilitation to becoming a Paralympian exemplifies the strength of human willpower. Such athletes embody the essence of perseverance, redefining success not by their victories alone but by their unwavering resolve to overcome challenges. As India celebrates its best-ever Paralympics performance, the spotlight on para-athletes has intensified, garnering widespread support from all sections of society. What makes these athletes stand apart is their ability to transform adversity into strength. Despite the physical and emotional challenges, they face, they continue to push boundaries, proving that talent knows no bounds. For every medal India wins at the Paralympics, there are countless hours of practice, numerous setbacks, and a tireless pursuit of excellence. As India celebrates the achievements of its Paralympic athletes, their stories remind us that greatness is often born out of struggle. Their success is a beacon of hope for millions, showcasing that with determination, talent, and an unbreakable spirit, anything is possible. India's Paralympians have made the nation proud, and their stories will inspire generations to come. As they continue to rise and break records, their message is clear: Perseverance, dedication, and talent can overcome even the greatest of challenges.

## PICTALK



Nuns offer prayers during observance of the death anniversary of Mother Teresa, in Kolkata

## Childhood trauma and its lasting impact on adult relationships

Recognising the impact of childhood trauma on adult relationships is crucial. By seeking therapy individuals can heal emotional wounds and foster healthier relations

Childhood trauma, a deeply distressing experience that occurs before the age of 18, can have a profound and lasting impact on an individual's life. One of the most significant areas where this influence is felt is in adult relationships. Understanding the connection between childhood trauma and adult relationships can help individuals recognize the patterns that may be affecting their lives and seek appropriate support. When a child experiences trauma, it can disrupt their development and create a sense of insecurity and fear. This can lead to difficulties in forming and maintaining healthy relationships in adulthood. Individuals who have experienced childhood trauma may struggle with trust, communication, and emotional intimacy. They may also be more prone to attracting or engaging in toxic relationships. One of the most common ways that childhood trauma can manifest in adult relationships is through difficulties with trust. Individuals who have been betrayed or abused as children may find it chal-



lenging to trust others, even in seemingly harmless situations. This can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness, as well as difficulties forming deep connections with others. Communication can also be a challenge for individuals who have experienced childhood trauma. They may struggle to express their emotions or be overly sensitive to criticism. This can lead to misunderstandings and conflict in relationships. Additionally, individuals who have been traumatized may be more likely to engage in unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as substance abuse or avoidance, which can further hinder their ability to communicate effectively.

Emotional intimacy is another area where childhood trauma can have a significant impact. Individuals who have been traumatized may find it difficult to open up to others and share their feelings. They may fear rejection or abandonment, and may instead withdraw from relationships. This can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness, as well as difficulties forming deep and meaningful connections with others. Another way that childhood trauma can manifest in adult relationships is through the attraction to or engagement in toxic relationships. Individuals who have been traumatized may be more likely to attract or engage in relationships that replicate the abusive or neglectful dynamics of their childhood. This can be a way of unconsciously reliving past trauma and seeking to resolve it. It is important to note that not everyone who experiences childhood trauma will develop these patterns in their adult relationships. However, understanding the connection between childhood trauma and adult rela-

tionships can help individuals recognize the patterns that may be affecting their lives and seek appropriate support. If you are struggling with the impact of childhood trauma on your adult relationships, it is important to seek help. Therapy can be a valuable tool for understanding and addressing the underlying issues affecting your relationships. A therapist can help you develop healthy coping mechanisms, improve communication skills, and build stronger, more fulfilling relationships. Additionally, support groups can provide a safe and supportive space to connect with others who have experienced similar challenges. By understanding the connection between childhood trauma and adult relationships, individuals can take steps to heal from past wounds and build healthier, more fulfilling relationships. (The author is Dubai-based award-winning Poet, Novelist, Writing Retreat Curator and Founder of TheWriteScene.com. Views expressed are personal)



DEEBA SALIM IRFAN

# IC-814: Lessons beyond the binary

## The web series 'IC-184: The Kandahar Hijack' has reignited debate over the moral and strategic dilemmas faced during hostage crises



BHOPINDER SINGH

Web series IC-184: The Kandahar Hijack, has triggered debate on the complexities and 'greys' that accompany such incidents. Beyond obvious things like the lack of coordination, responsiveness or even allowing the flight to take off from Amritsar – one important query is if India did wrong in negotiating with terrorists. Given the handiwork of these released terrorists in the subsequent terror attacks, the question acquires even gravity. However, beyond the simplistic and binary 'yes' or 'no' position that is often postulated in the argument, lies the necessity of nuance in attempting to answer the same. It is universally agreed that negotiations with terrorists are a bad idea, however, sometimes, the consequences of not negotiating can have far more debilitating and costly consequences. Sifting the wheat from the chaff of the supposed 'no-negotiation' stance of some countries (as often banded) is important. It is frequently argued that countries like Israel or the United States of America do not negotiate with terrorists. It is further claimed that because of such an unbending posture, the Israelis and Americans avoided being taken as hostages. But such beliefs are untrue, misplaced, and belie the wheels-within-wheels of the American or Israeli reality, beyond the publicly stated position of 'no-negotiation'. It is the worst-kept secret that such countries have funnelled money through proxies, 'friendly countries', or even masked the same as 'aid' to secure their citizens, whilst maintaining the official stance. The Iran-Contra affair (1981-86) during the Reagan era wherein American hostages held by the Lebanese group, Hezbollah, were exchanged for weapons for Hezbollah itself, exemplifying the deals cut beyond the public gaze. As recently as 2014, the Americans had released five Taliban prisoners from Guantanamo, to secure an American hostage. Last August, the United States is believed to have unfrozen \$6 bil-



lion of Iranian funds in South Korean banks to secure the release of five US citizens. It is now argued that the same money could have been invaluable for the cash-strapped Iranians (widely believed benefactors of Hamas) in launching the subsequent '7th Oct' attack on Israel. Israelis themselves are the masters of the backdoor negotiations, irrespective of the belligerent stand adopted for public consumption. In the Gilat Shalit (Israeli prisoner) exchange of 2011, it is believed that Israelis released 1027 prisoners who were held in jails. Even now as the bludgeoning of the Gaza Strip continues, the Israelis in parallel (and in support of the Biden administration) are still negotiating with Hamas for the release of their citizens held hostage. Often, the aggrieved government can end up losing a lot of leverage and lives when they refuse to engage with bad actors. Negotiations help immediate outcomes, buy crucial time for alternate reactions, and most importantly, help establish critical information and 'leads' about the captors that could be invoked, productively. Lastly, a well-managed ransom payoff (with 'marked' bills and telltale trails) can also lead to discovering broader networks and bases to take down the terror infrastructure, subsequent-



THE CALCULATION AND OPPORTUNITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE CREATIVE WITH POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, HAD IC-814 BEEN HELD UP IN AMRITSAR, AS OPPOSED TO KANDAHAR

ly. Negotiations or engagement does not have to be tantamount to surrender or even a 'bad deal', necessarily. From the post-released activities of the three terrorists in the IC-814 case, it was a costly 'deal' – but was there an alternative? The hijacked plane was parked in the backyard of Pakistani ISI's supported Afghan base (at least then) with 158 precious lives (not including the 5 terrorists). The terrorists in this case (under the direct supervision of the ISI and Taliban) were not exactly known to be reasonable, and if anything, had given a glimpse of their intent with the brutal and fatal stabbing of passenger, Rupin Katyal. Even an Entebbe-like commando operation using Indian Special Forces was impractical and fraught with additional risks. With the clear intention of harming Indian interests without an iota of any fear of getting caught (given the location) – the risk to the lives of all passengers and crew of IC-814 was not possible, but imminent. The calculation and opportunities would have been far more creative with possible solutions, had IC-814 been held up in Amritsar, as opposed to Kandahar. Could India have forsaken the lives of its citizens? Has any other country ever forsaken lives in similar circumstances? Did the USA attempt negotiating with the Iranian

authorities when its Embassy staff was held hostage or did it steadfastly hold to the 'no-negotiation' posture? The 'no-negotiation' is more of an ideal, but a fuzzy line, practically. It is a deterring policy but has never been an ironclad law, anywhere in the world. However, countries like Israel (or even India) do convey behaviorally is the guarantee of serious reprisals and redeeming their losses. For example, 'Operation Hot Pursuit', the cross-border operation against NSCN-IM's insurgents in Myanmar 'normalised' the expectation for bad actors, hereinafter – this, when done systematically, surgically and purposefully conveys solid sovereign intent. So, there is no silver bullet or inviolable guardrails in tackling terror, except adapting and responding according to the situation, whilst ensuring the overall objectives are not lost to inflexibility, weakness, or indecision. IC-814 was indeed a lapse of immense proportion but the complexities of the eight-day ordeal necessitated negotiations in that specific case, as insisting any other way is easier said than done, as instructed by history anywhere in the world. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SOCIETAL ATTITUDE CHANGE A MUST

Madam — Nirbaya's case and Abhaya's cases caught the attention of the public and attracted stir. The Mollywood case got the importance of retired judge's involvement and submission of a report which, with four year's dust got released last week and the different associations rather than taking action on the perpetrators crime abdicated their responsibility and resigned. A woman from Hyderabad came out in to the streets and complained that she was sexually assaulted promising her roles in movies. The exploitation of the fairer sex has been happening every where and every day. The fast track courts which PM was talking about in the SC's 75th year celebrations is not a solution to the problem and President calling it "enough is enough" is not an answer. It is not long ago when the then CJI in 2019 was accused of sexual torture and victimization by a staff member. Since then four CJI's have changed. Still there has been neither an institutional response nor a fair investigation and due process in case of a sexual-harassment allegation against a CJI. These allegations illustrate a structural issue with the judiciary; the question of sexual harassment should not be dismissed as harming judicial independence. Similarly when there was a similar complaint against a sitting Governor, police was not allowed to investigate in the matter citing the immunity enjoyed by the constitutional head. The same logic or the thought process goes in the minds of the people who are decision makers in these cases for they try to protect the image of the household or the institution where the exploitation is reported. Law and judiciary can come in to play only when the matter is brought out but when the same is suppressed for whatever reason the women who are addressed as fair sex suffers with an unfair treatment. We need an attitudinal change to address the problem!

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

### Bengal passes Aparajita bill



As per news report "WB Government passes anti-rape Aparajita bill" published on 4th September, here is my response. West Bengal government must be applauded for passing Anti rape bill and seeking death penal-

ty for rape convicts. Hope Governor and President of India give their go ahead to this bill. It is also a welcome step for creating a special task force which is expected to complete the probe in 21 days. This horrific rape and murder case must become a watershed moment to turn things around for women for the better in future in our society. But merely having a law to award death penalty to rape convicts may not suffice as unfortunately rapes incidents both in West Bengal and elsewhere in the country have not stopped even after this tragic RG Kar Hospital rape and murder case on 9th August. What is required is strict and unbiased implementation of the rule and law at the ground level. Because we have had tough laws in our country but what we lack is serious implementation which defies the whole purpose of framing a law.

Bal Govind | Noida

### TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION

Madam—As we celebrate yet another teachers day to commemorate the birth anniversary of our great teacher president Dr S Radhakrishnan and to honour the architects, the creators and producers of tomorrow's citizens a look into the world's noblest profession goes to show that it's not all well in the teaching field in the present fast paced global scenario. According to the 2018 Global Teacher Status Index India ranks eight in the top ten countries where teachers are held in the highest esteem. Though it is a matter of pride it is not all smiles for the teaching community. Exploitations, coercion and threats loom above the teaching fraternity. Thousands of teachers get very poor salaries in spite of the hard work they do. Poor working conditions, continuous work, discrimination, pressure from the higher ups and regulatory bodies have driven many teachers to leave the profession. Time has changed and this is not a society that once not long ago revered the Guru next to the father and the mother.

M Pradyu | Kannur

### J&K ELECTIONS

Madam — In Jammu & Kashmir, political parties must prioritize growth and avoid revisiting the legacy of Article 370, as its abrogation is irreversible. They should instead highlight how this move will drive development, curb terrorism, and strengthen national security along the Pakistan and China borders, where POK, Aksai Chin, and Shaksgam Valley remain under illegal control. Avoiding conflicts with the Central Government is crucial, given J&K's strategic location and heavy reliance on central financial aid. Campaigns focused on regional, caste, or religious divides will only harm Kashmir's political future. The era of the 1990s must not return, and a Pakistan-centric approach will be disastrous, as seen in POK's decline. Parties should honestly work for unification and the betterment of the state.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### INDIA BOLSTERS 'ACT EAST' POLICY

PM Modi's Brunei visit highlights India's commitment to strengthening ties in Southeast Asia



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Modi is wasting no time in walking the talk as far as his foreign policy goals are concerned. This week, with a clear focus on Look East policy the Indian PM was in Brunei and Singapore. The Brunei visit was the first state visit by an Indian PM, after establishing diplomatic relations in 1984. The Indian Mission in Brunei came nearly a decade later in 1993. PM Manmohan Singh had visited Brunei Darussalam in 2013 to attend multilateral meetings of ASEAN and East Asia Summit. Highlighting the importance of the first bilateral visit to Brunei, India's High Commissioner Alok Amitabh Dimri, told news agency ANI "In our four decades of diplomatic relationship, this is the first bilateral official visit by the Prime Minister of India to Brunei Darussalam. It is a historic moment in our bilateral relationship and also for the Indian community in Brunei Darussalam that high-level bilateral engagement between Prime Minister Shri Modi and His Majesty the King is going to take place. This visit is historic in many ways that Brunei and India have been civilizational neighbours as you know that India shares deep historical roots and bonds with Southeast Asia. The Malayan tradition of this geography which is located in the Borneo Island of Southeast Asian Seas derives deep linkages be it, linguistic, anthropological, ethnic, architectural, religious motives, customs and traditions, norms from India, South India." Defence relations between the two countries have been on an upward trajectory since the establishment of formal diplomatic ties.



There have been several official-level defence exchanges and visits of navy, coast guard ships and joint exercises. India has MoU in in defence sector with Brunei till 2026. Several Indian Navy ships and coast guard ships such as INS Rana, INS Airavat, INS Shivalik & INS Kadmat, and Samudra Pahereda to name a few, have been in Brunei waters, given the maritime security concerns. The trade relations between the two countries are not what one can boast of, however, it is of strategic importance.

The recently concluded Brunei trip by the Indian PM has enhanced and deepened the partnership between the two countries. The joint statement issued after the leader's meeting stated "Both leaders held discussions for enhancing cooperation on a wide range of issues including defence, connectivity, trade and investment, energy including renewables, space, ICT, health and pharmaceuticals, education and capacity building, culture, tourism, youth and people-to-people exchanges, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest." However, the real area of cooperation would be in maintaining international rules of law deep in the Indian Ocean. Brunei is located in the South China Sea region, where China has a significant presence and has been increasingly threatening the bordering countries with its coercive tactics. These issues were raised by the Indian PM in his meeting with his Counterpart on Darussalam. The joint statement read, "Both leaders reiterated their commitment to work closely together in mutually beneficial areas to further strengthen the ASEAN - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. 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 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. The leaders also urged all parties to resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, particularly UNCLOS 1982."

The first state visit by an Indian PM to Brunei just months after taking charge for a third time is a long-term strategic move to secure India's interests for the future.

*(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)*

# Unified pension scheme: Balancing the old and new



UTTAM GUPTA

Modi Government unveils unified pension scheme to bridge old and new, aiming to satisfy Central and State employees



On August 24, 2024, the Union government announced the new Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for central government employees. In fact, what looked like a well-orchestrated action plan, on the following day the BJP-led government in Maharashtra approved the implementation of the Scheme for its employees. Madhya Pradesh government is likely to implement the UPS soon. The above announcements are in response to the earlier decisions of Opposition-ruled States, including Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh (before the November 2023 elections), Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh (HP) and Punjab to revert to the old pension system (OPS) which it felt tilted the electoral pendulum towards those parties, particularly in HP. Fearing a repeat during the upcoming elections and Congress having already announced its intent to revert to OPS in Maharashtra, Modi seems to have gone for a preemptory move. Generally, employees of both the central and State governments who joined service after January 1, 2004, and are covered under the national pension scheme (NPS) have been uncomfortable with it. They have been demanding the restoration of the OPS which opposition-ruled states promised. Now, the Centre and BJP-ruled states have come up with the UPS hoping this will satisfy them. Will it? Under the OPS, retired employees received 50 per cent of their last drawn salary as a monthly pension. Just as the government offers its employees an adjustment in dearness allowance or DA to offset the increase in the cost of living, the monthly payouts of pensioners also increase to provide for DA. A government employee under OPS could not have got anything better. He was entitled to a decent 'pre-determined' monthly amount; the pension was fully protected against inflation and got it as long as he lived. After death, his wife gets the same amount for seven years and thereafter the family pension is around 60 per cent of this amount till she is alive. However, from the perspective of the government, the arrangement could not have been worse. Under OPS, there was an inherent tendency for pension liabilities to balloon



A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE UNDER OPS COULD NOT HAVE GOT ANYTHING BETTER. HE WAS ENTITLED TO A DECENT 'PRE-DETERMINED' MONTHLY AMOUNT; THE PENSION WAS FULLY PROTECTED AGAINST INFLATION AND GOT IT AS LONG AS HE LIVED

due to the addition to the pensioners' club every year, higher salaries of those joining, inflation indexation, increased longevity and so on. In 1990-91, the Centre's pension bill was Rs 3,272 crore. By 2020-21, it had jumped 58 times to Rs 190,886 crore. For all states, it shot up from Rs 3,131 crore in 1990-91 to Rs 386,001 crore in 2020-21 or 125 times. Financial prudence requires that every year, the government set aside capital which together with return accruing thereon would create a growing corpus sufficient to pay for the pension liabilities on a sustainable basis thus avoiding any stress on the budget. But, that was never done. Instead, both the Centre and states have followed what in jargon is known as 'pay-as-you-go'. This has made the present generation of taxpayers bear the continuously rising burden of pensioners. To deal with these pitfalls, the then UPA dispensation introduced the NPS for government employees joining service from January 1, 2004. Unlike OPS where the employee doesn't contribute anything, NPS is a contributory pension scheme under which employees contribute 10 per cent of their salary (Basic + DA). The government also contributes 14 per cent towards the employees' NPS accounts. The money is invested in multiple investment avenues i.e. equity, government bonds etc where it grows into a sizeable corpus by the time an employee reaches retirement age. On retirement, she is allowed to withdraw 60 per cent of the corpus (this is tax-free), and buy an annuity from the remaining 40 per cent. NPS offers a self-financing and fully funded arrangement for discharging pension liabilities in which the state knows 'how much it has to contribute'. There won't be any major stress on the budget even as the employ-

ee gets a good pension depending on the contribution made, the age of joining, the type of investment, and the income accruing from that investment. The NPS is good for the fiscal health of the government. However, from the pensioner's angle, it doesn't match the OPS. Modi has brought a new UPS to bridge the gap between the two. Does it? Under UPS, which kicks in from April 1, 2025, employees who joined the service after January 1, 2004, and have worked for 25 years or more, after retirement, will be given 50 per cent of their basic average salary of the last 12 months as pension every month. However, employees who have served less than 25 years will get proportionately less or Rs. 10,000 per month minimum pension to employees who have served for a minimum of 10 years. If an employee dies on or before retirement, then the husband or wife will be given a pension, but the pension amount will be 60 per cent of the pension received by the employee immediately before her or his demise. Employees who have already retired or retiring on or before 31 March 2025, with arrears, will be eligible under UPS. The Scheme offers an adjustment in DA on assured pension, assured family pension and assured minimum pension. The DA will be calculated based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW) as in the case of service employees. How will the government fund it? It will build a pension corpus out of the employee contribution of 10 per cent (of basic pay plus DA) and the government's contribution of 18.5 per cent. The pension corpus will be divided into two portions: an individual pension fund (IPF) to which the employee's contribution of 10 per cent and matching government contribution will be credited; and a pool corpus created out of the

remaining 8.5 per cent contribution of the government. The employee can exercise an investment choice for the IPF alone. The employees looking for higher pensions will have the option to get their pension monies (from IPF alone) invested in high-risk instruments for better returns. However, they will have to forego the UPS guarantees viz. monthly pension payouts of 50 per cent of the final service year's monthly pay, with full inflation adjustment. UPS guarantees will only be for those who opt for the "default investment option" which means an employee should leave it entirely to the government to manage the IPF besides the 'pool corpus'. The former has anyway no claim. Needless to say, the 'pool corpus' will be used to make up for the shortfall in the returns generated from the investment of the IPF to ensure a 50 per cent pension. Under UPS, there is no provision for the return of capital to the heirs of the pensioner in the event of her death. This makes perfect sense as one can't have the cake and eat it too. The shift to UPS is a good move. It gives what the OPS gave even while preserving the good features of NPS like self-financing for discharging pension liabilities. It puts a little extra burden on the taxpayers being the extra 4.5 per cent of the government's contribution (18.5 per cent under UPS against 14 per cent under NPS). One wonders whether this will fully satisfy the employees. The answer is 'Yes' if they see reason. It will be 'No' if they don't. For instance, they could still argue under OPS, they were getting a 50 per cent pension without having to contribute even a Rupee whereas under UPS, an employee has to contribute 10 per cent of basic pay plus DA every month. *(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)*

# Cloud seeding, climate change, and agriculture: A call to action

While cloud seeding holds promise for supporting agricultural livelihood, this intervention also raises questions about its sustainability

The increasing severity of climate change makes it all the more urgent to consider creative ways to lessen its effect, particularly in vulnerable sectors like agriculture. One of the current alternatives is cloud seeding, a technical intervention designed to increase precipitation. While cloud seeding has the potential to alleviate drought, it also raises important considerations about sustainability, effectiveness, and long-term influence on agriculture. It is now up to us to investigate this developing practice and decide whether or not to incorporate it into our fight against climate change. Cloud seeding, which involves introducing compounds such as silver iodide or even plain salt into the sky



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

to increase cloud condensation and thus precipitation, is becoming a more popular practice in water-scarce places. The highest ideal that cloud seeding can achieve is increasing rainfall to replenish reservoirs and rivers, as well as soil moisture, all of which feed agriculture. However, cloud seeding has shown to be a vital weapon in combatting long-term droughts, rescuing crops, and

sustaining livelihoods in agriculture-dependent countries such as the United States, China, and the United Arab Emirates. Yet, cloud seeding will provide short relief, so climate change and its far-reaching effects on agriculture require a comprehensive adaptation and resilience strategy. Climate change is more than just a temperature rise; it includes changes in precipitation patterns, increasing frequency and severity of meteorological events, and variations in growing seasons. These changes pose serious threats to global food security, necessitating an integrated approach to adaptation and resilience building. This is where the challenge of relying on cloud seeding for

a solution arises. Though it seems like a quick answer for severe water shortages, its long-term viability and environmental impact are unknown. If not properly managed, the chemicals used in cloud seeding can hurt soil fertility, water quality, and even human health. This approach is unpredictable and dependent on meteorological circumstances, therefore it is not a fixed cure. Furthermore, cloud seeding doesn't address the underlying reasons for climate change. Agriculture is one area that is deeply connected with climate systems and cannot be solved just through technological means. Other key modalities for achieving climate change resistance



include sustainable farming, which can be improved by effective irrigation systems, soil conservation, crop diversification, and the introduction of drought-resistant crop types. Furthermore, the topic of cloud seeding must address a variety of ethical concerns. Who gets to pick where and when the clouds are seeded? What are the geopolitical consequences of influencing the weather? Seeding clouds over one location may inadvertently create adverse circumstances in another. Determining these multifar-

ious problems will necessitate a free and open worldwide conversation to ensure that this technology is used equally and by justice values. Negotiating the tumultuous currents of climate change, and cloud seeding serves as both a beacon of hope and a warning lesson. It demonstrates our ingenuity—the ability to think up something new when confronted with a challenge—while also conveying a message about our need to proceed with caution and planning. Agriculture is the lifeline of many communities around the world, particularly in developing countries, and its resilience is crucial to our shared future. While cloud seeding may serve as a temporary solution

to the impending problem of water scarcity and its impact on agriculture, it cannot replace truly effective techniques for combating the bigger challenge posed by global warming. If we want to ensure a future in which the Earth and all of its people thrive, we must make prudent investments in long-term mitigation methods centred on resilience, sustainability, and international collaboration. Let it be viewed as a severe challenge that requires immediate attention; it should raise consciousness and move us beyond symptomatic solutions to create a world that is robust and sustainable. *(The author is a freelance writer and a motivator; views are personal)*

IN BRIEF



**Alembic Pharma gets USFDA nod for generic product**

Alembic Pharmaceuticals on Thursday said it has received approval from the US health regulator to market a generic drug used to treat infections caused by worms. The company has received approval from the US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) for its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) Albendazole Tablets USP (200 mg), the drug maker said in a statement. The approved ANDA is therapeutically equivalent to Impax Laboratories, Inc.'s LAlbenza tablets, it added. Albendazole tablets are indicated for the treatment of parenchymal neurocysticercosis due to active lesions caused by larval forms of the pork tapeworm, Taenia solium. It is also indicated for the treatment of cystic hydatid disease of the liver, lung, and peritoneum, caused by the larval form of the dog tapeworm, Echinococcus granulosus. Alembic Pharma shares on Thursday ended 2.79 per cent higher at Rs 1,145.80 apiece on the BSE.



**Gold up Rs 74,100 per 10 gms; silver rallies at Rs 1,000**

Gold prices climbed by Rs 500 to Rs 74,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday due to fresh demand by jewellers amid a strong trend in the overseas markets. The precious metal had closed at Rs 73,600 per 10 grams in the previous close on Wednesday. Tracking gold, silver also rallied by Rs 1,000 to Rs 84,600 per kilogram on Thursday due to increased offtake from industrial units and coin makers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. It had finished at Rs 83,600 per kg in the previous trade. In addition, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 500 to Rs 73,750 per 10 grams from Rs 73,250. Domestically, traders attributed the rise in gold prices to a strong trend in the international markets, which influenced the market sentiment to an increased buying from local jewellers.



**Suresh Prabhu nominated to World Agriculture Forum**

Former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha member Suresh Prabhu on Thursday nominated to the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) Board. In a communication, Rudy Rabbinge, Chairman of WAF Board, said that Prabhu's expertise would be invaluable to the discussions that shape the future of the agri sector. "Given your role and respected position in the global food and agriculture arena, I believe you would be invaluable to the WAF Board. Your insights and experience could greatly contribute to the forum's objectives," he said. The forum aims to function as a global body dedicated to advancing agricultural development on a worldwide scale. This initiative aims to bring together prominent thought leaders, innovators, policy-makers, business CEOs and heads of global institutions in the agricultural sector to address critical issues related to food and nutrition security, sustainable practices, and policy and trade agenda.

**Target 500 million tonnes of steel production by 2047: Goyal**

Suggests talks on carbon tax issue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday suggested discussions on carbon border adjustment tax with top steel industry leaders to promote sustainable manufacturing in the sector.

He also asked the industry to target 500 million tonnes of steel production by 2047. At present, the industry is eyeing 300 million tonnes by 2030.

The minister suggested the industry find newer and better ways on lowering carbon emission and promoting high productivity and quality steel in the country.

"Let's try and utilise AI (artificial intelligence) to optimise our production, reduce waste, and improve efficiency across the value chain and work towards a circle economy in a bigger way," he said, while addressing a steel conclave virtually.

On carbon tax, he suggested that 4-5 top leaders of the steel industry can sit with him on this important subject

for deliberations.

The minister added that the government was not able to extend the benefits of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme to the sector due to shortage of funds.

"Let's make one more effort on the border adjustment tax... Imported steel which comes into India does not have to pay all these taxes (like coal cess and electricity duty). Border adjustment tax is a WTO (World Trade Organisation) complaint mechanism.

"Electricity duty, any additional state levies or taxes that you are not getting remitted, which are not being charged in other countries can be adjusted through a border adjustment tax. So let 4-5 us sit down and take this dialogue forward," Goyal said.

Goyal also asked the industry to inform the government of any unfair trade practices in other countries so that India can also take retaliatory measures against those.

He asked the domestic industry to consume Made in



India steel like in Korea and Japan. "Sadly, we don't have a similar approach," he said.

He further noted that the industry should come forward and suggest how free trade agreements can be made more beneficial for them.

India has not signed any FTA without 100 per cent concurrence from the steel industry and India has always included stringent rules of origin norms so that the domestic players are not discriminated against.

In July, the European Union (EU) suggested that India can devise its own mechanism instead of paying the carbon tax to the European Union.

**'Singapore plans to invest in India'**

Singapore has already invested about USD 150 billion in India (about Rs 12 lakh crore) and the island country is ready to invest probably five times that amount in the coming years, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. He also said that India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA have signed a free trade agreement under which New Delhi has received an investment commitment of USD 100 billion over the next 15 years. These investments will come in states and they have to take advantage of this, Goyal said here while addressing state industry ministers and senior officials. "Today the world wants to invest in India. Everybody wants to come to India. Singapore has already invested about USD 150 billion (about Rs 12 lakh crore) in India.

**Electric vehicle makers no longer need subsidy: Gadkari**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said there is no need to provide subsidy to electric vehicle makers as consumers are now choosing EVs or CNG vehicles on their own.

Addressing BNEF Summit, Gadkari said initially costs of manufacturing electric vehicles were high, but as demand has increased, production costs have dropped, making further subsidies unnecessary.

"Consumers are now choosing electric and compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles on their own and I do not think we need to provide much subsidy for electric vehicles," the road transport and highways minister said.

The minister pointed out that GST on electric vehicle is lower than petrol and diesel vehicles. "In my opinion, manufacturing of electric vehicles no longer needs to be subsidised by the government. "The ask for subsidies isn't justified anymore," he said.

At present, 28 per cent GST is levied on vehicles powered by internal combustion engines, including hybrids, and 5 per cent on electric vehicles.

While ruling out additional taxes on petrol and diesel vehicles, Gadkari said the overall shift away from fossil fuels to alternative fuels would be a gradual process, given the size of India's economy and energy needs.

The minister also opined that further reduction in cost of lithium-ion battery will bring down the cost of electric vehicles.

"Within 2 years, the cost of diesel, petrol and electric vehicles will be same...at the starting time, cost of EVs were very high, so we needed to subsidise EV manufacturers," he said.

Asked whether the government will extend FAME scheme, the minister said, "FAME scheme subsidy is a good subject and it is not related to my ministry."

**Average household spending on food falls to less than half since 1947**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's average household spending on food has fallen to less than half for the first time since 1947, according to a recent working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

The paper titled 'Changes in India's Food Consumption and Policy Implications: A Comprehensive Analysis of Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 and 2011-12 further said significant changes are unfolding in India's food consumption pattern.

According to the paper, the share of total household expenditure on food has declined substantially in rural and urban areas across all states and UTs.

"It is the first time in modern India (post-independence) that average household spending on food is less than half the overall monthly spending of households and is a marker of significant progress," it said.

The paper is a comprehensive analysis of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 and comparison with 2011-12.

"Overall, there has been a significant increase in households' average monthly per capita expenditure across rural and urban India across all states and UTs," the paper said,

adding that the magnitude of the rise is substantial and varies across states and regions.

For example, the paper said among rural areas, West Bengal has seen a consumption expenditure growth of 151 per cent in the period between 2011-12 and 2022-23, while Tamil Nadu witnessed a growth of approximately 214 per cent.

Sikkim witnessed a consumption expenditure growth of a massive 394 per cent.

"Overall, we find that growth for rural households was higher than for urban households, 164 per cent for rural households versus 146 per cent for urban households," it said.

According to the paper, within food items, the share of expenditure on cereal has declined significantly across rural and urban areas.

However, it pointed out that this decline was more substantial for the bottom 20 per cent of the households in rural and urban areas.

"In all likelihood, this reflects the effectiveness of the government's food security policies, which provide free foodgrains to large numbers of beneficiaries across all states of the country, with a particular focus on the vulnerable bottom 20 per cent of households," the report noted.

**Reliance board approves 1:1 bonus issue**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The board of Reliance Industries Ltd on Thursday approved issuing 1:1 bonus shares -- the first bonus issue in seven years.

Reliance, the nation's most valuable company, had last issued bonus shares in September 2017. In a regulatory filing, the company said its board recommended to shareholders for their approval "issue of bonus shares in the ratio of 1:1 ie 1 (one) new fully paid-up equity share of Rs 10 each for every 1 (one) existing full paid-up equity share". The record date for such issuances will be intimated separately, it said. Prior to the 1:1 bonus issue in 2017, Reliance had in 2009 issued 1:1 bonus share.

The company board also approved and sought shareholder nod for increase in authorised share capital of the company from Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 50,000 crore

**Sensex, Nifty extend losses into 2<sup>nd</sup> session as Reliance, Airtel drag**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surrendered early gains to close lower for the second straight day on Thursday, tracking losses in the most valuable firm Reliance Industries, Bharati Airtel and L&T amid a sluggish trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex failed to hold on to initial gains and declined 151.48 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at 82,201.16. During the day, it dropped 222.2 points or 0.26 per cent to 82,130.44.

The NSE Nifty dipped 53.60 points or 0.21 per cent to 25,145.10 despite a positive beginning of the trade.

"Markets ended weak in a volatile trading session led by profit-taking in Reliance Industries. Globally, most of the equity indices were sluggish to mixed and are awaiting key US data on Friday, which would provide some hint on the Federal Reserve chief's likely stance on the interest rate in this month's policy announcement," Prashant Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Reliance Industries declined over 1 per cent. Tata Motors, Nestle, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were other big laggards.

**'Renewable energy sector to provide momentum to economy'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said the rapidly growing renewable energy sector will provide momentum to the Indian economy in the years to come.

Addressing the BNEF Summit here, the New & Renewable Energy Minister highlighted the steps being taken by the Modi government to promote the renewable sector.

"A sector growing so rapidly will definitely provide momentum to India's growing economy. India has created a competitive industry structure in renewables," the minister said. He noted that the cost of solar

power in India is among the cheapest in the world, saying that this is also because we get a good number of sunny days.

The key to the decarbonisation of India's electricity sector lies in being able to meet all incremental demand from non-fossil fuel sources.

For this to happen, success in creating large-scale grid storage is essential, he pointed out.

A policy to promote pumped storage projects in India is being planned to store excess electricity, facilitate the integration of renewable energy into India's energy mix, and accelerate the development of PSP projects.



**Govt to soon launch INDIAsize initiative, says Textiles Minister Giriraj**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government will soon roll out the much-awaited 'INDIAsize' initiative, which aims to establish standardized measurements designed to better suit the Indian body types, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh said on Thursday.

Presently, international and domestic brands available in India use measurements from the US or the UK for garments, having 'small', 'medium' and 'large' sizes.

However, Western body types differ from Indians in terms of height, weight or specific measurements of body parts, which sometimes causes fitting issues. The Ministry of Textiles sanc-



tioned the INDIAsize project to develop standard body sizes for the Indian apparel sector to address the prevailing disparities and inconsistencies in provided fits. "On INDIAsize, I'm trying to get the Prime Minister to inaugurate it, it should be launched soon," Singh told reporters here on the sidelines of the launch of VisioNxt. VisioNxt is India's

first-ever initiative that combines Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI) to generate fashion trend insights and forecasts. Its mission is to identify, map, and analyze geo-specific trends, reflecting the positive plurality, cultural diversity, and socio-economic nuances of India while collating comprehensive trends and insights.

"In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, this VisioNxt portal has been launched. Earlier America and Europe used to do fashion design forecasting, but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for the first time, the Textiles Ministry in collaboration with NIFT... have launched this historic initiative," Singh said.

**E-COMMERCE IN THE FOREFRONT: INDEED**  
**Gig hiring to soar by 20 pc this festival season**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As festival season is about to begin, seasonal hiring is projected to surge by 20 per cent over last year, with the e-commerce industry leading the trend amid increased demand, according to the data by job site Indeed.

The top gig roles that have been witnessing increased hiring are delivery executives, warehouse workers, logistics coordinators, in-store sales executives, and customer care executives, the data showed.

Several industries are reporting a marked increase in demand for seasonal workers, with e-commerce leading the trend with a 35 per cent rise in demand, followed by logistics (15 per cent), retail (14 per cent), and quick commerce (11 per cent).

"The festive season is a crucial period for businesses across India, and we're seeing a significant uptick in hiring for seasonal roles as companies prepare to meet heightened consumer demand."

"The industries that are growing -- e-commerce, logis-

tics, quick commerce -- are doing so because they're aligned with the needs and behaviours of today's consumers. This is where the future of India's job market could be heading," Sashi Kumar, Head of Sales, Indeed India, said.

The increased demand in e-commerce is driven by the rapid expansion of the industry and the requirement for additional warehouse workers and delivery executives to handle larger order quantities and guarantee on-time deliveries, Indeed said.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR, MULUGU  
MULUGU DISTRICT GAZETTE NO. 81/GIA/ (2024. DATE: 4-2024  
COLLECTOR, MULUGU.  
PROCDGS. NO. GIE/299/2024, DATE: 27-06-2024  
Collector, Mulugu. DATE: 29-06-2024

**FORM - VI**  
Notification (Under Section 11 of the Act, where 10A Exemption is given) (See rule 6(12))  
Revenue Divisional Officer Mulugu file No. EIG/LA/263/2024. Date: 23-06-2024.

Whereas it appears to the government of Telangana Collector, Mulugu that a total extent of Acres 3-20 3/4 gts land is required in the Patlipally Village of Mulugu Mandal of Mulugu District for public purpose. The Executive Engineer, I&CAD, Irrigation Division - 4, Mulugu has filed the request for acquisition of land to an extent of Ac. 3-20 3/4 gts for execution of Link Main Canal to Right Main Canal of JCR-DUIS Phase-II, Package-V (Rangash Chenuv & Ernah Chenuv) in the limits of Patlipally (V) of Mulugu Mandal.

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Patlipally Village of Mulugu Mandal of Mulugu District for public purpose namely for execution of Link Main Canal to Right Main Canal of JCR-DUIS Phase-II, Package-V (Rangash Chenuv & Ernah Chenuv) land measuring, more or less 3-20 3/4 gts acres of standard measurements, whose details description is as following is proposed for acquisition:

Sl. No.	S. No.	Type of the land	Area under acquisition (in Acre-gts)	Name of the Pattadar	Name of the Aushadavador	Name of the Employer / person interested
1	928/7	Cult. Land	0.12			Shukya Jagan, S/o Laju
			0.13			Shukya Jagan, S/o Laju
2	928/6	Cult. Land	0.01			Tajwarth Kishan, S/o Laju
			0.20			Tajwarth Dasharath, S/o Laju
3	928/5	Cult. Land	0.14%			Tajwarth Dasharath, S/o Laju
			0.03			Tajwarth Kishan, S/o Laju
4	925/4	Cult. Land	0.15	Pornaboku Meri Saramma, Toti Narsiah, S/o Saramma, Bina Ramulu.	Pornaboku Bhukya Laju, Harker Lechemmo Banoh Jayaram Banoh Agamma	Shukya Laema, W/o Mangga Shukya Laema, W/o Mangga Shukya Kommalu, S/o Sath Tajwarth Kishan, S/o Laju Tajwarth Kishan, S/o Laju
			0.02			Tajwarth Kishan, S/o Laju
5	928/3	Cult. Land	0.11			Shukya Kommalu, S/o Sath Shukya Kishan, S/o Laju
			0.01			Shukya Jagan, S/o Laju
6	928/2	Cult. Land	0.01			Tajwarth Kishan, S/o Laju
			0.06			Shukya Kishan, S/o Laju
7	928/1	Cult. Land	0.06			Shukya Jagan, S/o Laju
			0.01			Road
			0.02			Shukya Kishan, S/o Laju
			0.02			Shukya Jagan, S/o Laju
			0.02			Road
			0.04			Suvu Buchiah,
			<b>Total</b>			<b>3-20 3/4</b>

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Mulugu and Land Acquisition Officer/Revenue Divisional Officer, Mulugu on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Revenue Divisional Officer, Mulugu and his staff 1 workmen to enter on and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore in to the sub soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section-12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector, Mulugu.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section-15 of the Act, before District Collector, Mulugu or Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Mulugu. Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer / Sd/- Addl. Collector (Rev) Sd/- Collector, Revenue Divisional Officer, Mulugu. Mulugu. DIPP No. 23/LA/APP-Pub/2024-25

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
NIT No: E/5825/12/2024-25/157. Dt: 05-09-2024  
Name of the Work: For (2 Works) "Temporary restoration with stone dust in Ward Nos 12, Mansoorabad & 13, Hayathnagar of Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC". Estimate Amount: Rs. 14.80 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 05-09-2024 @ 3:00 PM.  
Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Sri K. Ramesh Babu, Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC, (M. 87903/4055 & 7331188613. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ <http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in/> Sd/- Executive Engineer  
S.O.No: 2784-PRC/LA/NT/10024-25 Dt: 05-09-2024 Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC.

## UNFORGETTABLE KURUKSHETRA SOJOURN

AARTI SREENATH

Priyanka Bajaj Sibal, a proud titleholder of Mrs. India 2022 and an award-winning actor, embarked on a memorable trip to Kurukshetra, a destination rich in history and spirituality.

Kurukshetra was also the place; she was honoured with her 6th Best Actress award for *Kathakaar* during the Haryana International Film Festival. "What I enjoyed the most was the deep sense of history and culture that the place embodies. The warmth and appreciation from the people there made the experience even more memorable," begins Priyanka in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*.

Kurukshetra, a city steeped in the lore of the Mahabharata, left a profound impression on her. Kurukshetra, she says, boasts a rich historical legacy, being the land of the Mahabharata. "It's where spirituality and history intertwine, creating an atmosphere that's both profound and inspiring," she observed, emphasising the city's unique blend of cultural and spiritual significance.

Her visit wasn't just about exploring the past; she also made sure to make a bold fashion statement. "I made sure to set the gram on fire! I wore a hand-painted red butterfly print blazer, inspired by the painting 'Butterfly Wings' and paired it with stunning accessories by E'clat Designer Jewellery. The look was bold, commanding attention and I was showered with compliments. It was like bringing the essence of the butterfly's transformation to life, turning heads everywhere."

Delving deeper into the cultural tapestry of Kurukshetra, she shared, "Kurukshetra is steeped in cultural richness, with its ancient temples and deep spiritual energy making a lasting impression. I explored historical sites that vividly tell the stories of the past." Her interactions with the locals added another layer to her experience, sharing fascinating

insights into their traditions and customs. At the Haryana International Film Festival, she had the pleasure of engaging with filmmakers and artists who are deeply connected to the region and its culture.

Among the hidden gems, she uncovered sites of immense spiritual importance. "In Kurukshetra, I explored a hidden gem called Jyotisar, believed to be where Lord Krishna delivered the Bhagavad Gita and the serene Brahma Sarovar, especially beautiful at sunset," she recalled, painting a vivid picture of the tranquil beauty she encountered.

When asked about a place in India that stands out to her, she said, "I find Varanasi truly unique. The city's blend of spirituality, tradition and life on the ghats is unmatched. Nowhere else in the world do life and death coexist so naturally, with rituals and celebrations happening side by side. The energy there is otherworldly, making it a place like no other."

Her accommodation in Kurukshetra was nothing short of luxurious. During her stay in Kurukshetra, she was welcomed into the hotel's biggest suite with an exquisite lobby that set the tone for luxury. The entire experience felt like a perfect blend of style and relaxation, making it much more than just a stay for her.

Beyond her recent travels, she shared where she finds solace when life gets overwhelming. "When under intense pressure, my go-to place for rejuvenation is the beach. The sound of waves, the salty breeze and the endless horizon have an instant calming effect on me." Walking barefoot on the sand, feeling the sun's warmth and simply soaking in the ocean's vastness helps her reset and recharge. It's the perfect place for her to find clarity and peace.

Her travel adventures haven't always been smooth sailing. She recounted a particularly thrilling and frightening experience. "It was during a paragliding flight that took a wild turn when strong winds suddenly swept in. For a few heart-pound-

ing moments, I was tossed around like a leaf in the air, not sure where I'd land! It was both terrifying and thrilling—a real rollercoaster of emotions that I'll never forget."

Travelling, for her, is not just about visiting new places but also about immersing herself in the culture and cuisine. "Travelling to this place was liberating because it offered the perfect mix of adventure, culture, and serenity. The open landscapes and deep connection to nature made

me feel truly free. As for the cuisine, I stumbled upon a hidden gem where the chef's passion shone through every bite of a traditional dish. The rich, authentic flavors made it an unforgettable culinary experience, capturing the essence of the region perfectly!"

Her travels are filled with activities that bring out both the thrill-seeker and the culture enthusiast in her. "During my trip, I engaged in a mix of activities that ranged from exploring local markets and trying traditional cuisine to outdoor adventures like paragliding. I also took time to visit historical landmarks and enjoy serene moments by the beach, soaking in the natural beauty. The combination of thrill, culture and relaxation made the experience truly fulfilling."

Her love for travel is deeply rooted in her childhood memories. "One of my fondest childhood travel memories is a beach vacation with my family. We spent hours building sandcastles, chasing waves and collecting seashells. I remember the pure joy of running barefoot on the sand and stopping at a roadside stall for hot Maggi noodles. The laughter and carefree moments made it a magical experience that still warms my heart."

Every journey for her is accompanied by the perfect soundtrack. She's always been passionate about curating playlists that align perfectly with the vibe of each travel destination. "My go-to soundtrack typically blends calming acoustic melodies, inspiring instrumentals and soulful tunes with a touch of upbeat Bollywood tracks to keep the energy vibrant. The playlist evolves with the mood of each trip, ultimately crafting the perfect backdrop to elevate the entire travel experience."

Even her travel mishaps are embraced with humour and grace. She goes on to share, "One of the funniest cultural

misunderstandings I had while traveling was when I attempted a local greeting but completely fumbled the process. The result was both awkward and hilarious, and everyone had a good laugh about it. It turned into a great way to connect and learn more about the culture in a lighthearted way!"

When it comes to travel, she swears by one particular hack: "My go-to travel hack is organising everything into neatly labelled packets. From outfits to toiletries, it's all sorted and easy to grab, which makes packing (and unpacking) a breeze."

As for her bucket list, it's filled with dream destinations, including staying in the overwater bungalows of Bora Bora, exploring the charming streets of Santorini and the historic sites of Athens in Greece and witnessing the magical Northern Lights in Norway. "I'd love to take a road trip through the stunning landscapes of New Zealand and dive into the art, history and culinary delights of Italy, exploring cities like Florence and Rome. These destinations combine natural beauty, adventure, and rich cultural experiences that I can't wait to explore."



Travelogue

**Award-winning actor and the titleholder of Mrs. India 2022, Priyanka Bajaj Sibal, takes *The Pioneer* through her memorable trip to Kurukshetra and more around her travels**

Review

## Call Me Bae: Ananya as 'bae,' is here to 'slay'

TEJAL SINHA

Ananya Panday-starrer *Call Me Bae* is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video. The series, directed by Collin D'Cunha, is presented by Karan Johar's Dharmatic Entertainment. *Call Me Bae* marks Ananya's digital debut!

### PLOT

The story of *Call Me Bae* focuses on the main character, Bella Chowdhary, aka Bae, whose life changes drastically when she goes from being a heiress to a hustler, leading her to find her authentic self beyond material possessions. Following financial difficulties and managing both her career and romantic relationships, Bae maneuvers through the newsrooms of Mumbai and embarks on a difficult journey. With all the dramas, chaos, heartbreaks and blings, *Call Me Bae* brings all of it together.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Ananya effortlessly maintains a stylish appearance despite trendy clothing, difficult colleagues and a rags-to-riches storyline. Despite being labelled a classic case of "Ananya Panday playing Ananya Panday" on the internet, we still notice the actress' efforts in this particular instance. You see her emoting her emotions so well and to be more specific, she's not the Ananya Panday we've ever seen before on screen. She's fun to watch, but this South Delhi girl is someone here simply to slay, which she has, beyond a doubt. What really wins ones heart during the entire watch is how, irrespective of being broken, her staff loves her. She's certainly the favourite of all except for her family and her close ones. While in the hierarchy, it's always expected the male actors to be on top, the director Collin and Ananya as the lead, break the ice.

Vihaan Samat, as Agastya, is

just like OH MY GOD! Seeing him in *Mismatched* as Harsh or Ray in *Eternally Confused and Eager for Love*, you just won't be able to believe your own

eyes if it actually is Vihaan. He pulls off his character so well. So basically, Agastya is Bae's darling hubby, who has actually got no time for her ever since they've got married. His character seemingly is a person, who makes you dream of a happily-

deserve in your life, after all. So twists and turns, but let me tell you, she's someone you just can't think of as a supporting actor this time.

Going ahead with the rest of the cast, Lisa Misra in her acting debut, Gurfateh Pirzada as Neel and Niharika Dutt, among the other ones, have also done quite a great job.



**Cast:** Ananya Panday, Vihaan Samat, Varun Sood, Vir Das, Mini Mathur, Gurfateh Pirzada, Muskkaan Jafari, Lisa Misra, Niharika Dutt and more

**Director:** Collin D'Cunha

**Producer:** Karan Johar's Dharmatic Entertainment

**Written by:** Ishita Moitra, Samina Motlekar and Rohit Nair

**Streaming on:** Amazon Prime Video

**Rating:** 3/5

ever-after but then the after never comes. But he was fabulous in his role. Well, Varun Sood, as in one of the interviews with us, revealed how we would be seeing him being this fun guy, so has he been as Prince. Prince is this hot guy with the amazing physique; one would certainly fall for him, and so did Bae too. He is this innocent, fun, charming guy who will certainly win hearts just with the way more than his dialogues, his eyes spoke. What really happens between Bae and Prince? Sorry, can't reveal!

Then comes Mini Mathur; she was a feast to watch on-screen. A typical mummy, who wants things to get on track, wants Bae to get married to Agastya and, of course, teaches her what it is like to be in these big parties. There's something about her character that would break one's heart, but after all, she's a mom! Vir Das, again, proves his diversity. Him, playing the character of Satyajit, the news anchor one is always worried about speaking to during an interview. But there's, of course, someone who can challenge him. Guess who's it? Keep guessing, readers. Just like Dimple's best friend and roommate in *Mismatched*, Muskkaan Jafari in *Call Me Bae* plays kind of a similar role. But she's the BFF you

### DRAWBACKS

Ananya, as this South Delhi rich brat, does get a little annoying here and there, but her true brilliance is much more evident as the plot progresses. *Call Me Bae* doesn't bring anything new to the picture—something we know that happens in the end eventually. But then, again, some scenes make you hooked up and relatable to the character.

### TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Each frame is meticulously crafted, with the lighting skillfully setting the tone of the show. The music is just the best part of the show. Every track showcases a variety of feelings, music styles and themes such as love, identity and personal growth.

### VERDICT

*Call Me Bae* does give you a vibe of *Schitt's Creek*, *Emily In Paris* and *Alia Bhatt from Student of the Year*, but there's a fair attempt to keep up the uniqueness about the series.

Initially, the series, which seems a little boring, catches up pretty well with a lot of emotions and dramas that come its way.

## Is hard water ruining your hair health?

Over 70% of India receive water that is classified as mild to very hard, understanding the effects of hard water on your hair is essential. While many people notice the white, scaly deposits it leaves on faucets, the real damage occurs on your scalp and hair. Here's how hard water is wreaking havoc on your hair and how Iuvia's hard water shampoo can help you combat these issues:

**Harsh metal ion buildup:** Hard water contains harsh metal ions like calcium and magnesium, which deposit on your hair and scalp. These deposits make the scalp oily and hair, limp and lifeless. Hard water deposits also clog pores which in turn leads to hair thinning and a dirty scalp. Additionally, hair also becomes oily, greasy and flat lacking bounce and volume. Iuvia's hard water shampoo gently but effectively removes the metal ion deposits, making hair feel cleaner, lighter and bouncier.

**Weakens hair and causes breakage:** The minerals in hard water weaken your hair structure, making it prone to hard water related breakage. This buildup can also cause hair to look and feel very thin and flat. Additionally, hard water can significantly affect hair strength, leading to increased damage over time. The hard water shampoo deep-cleanses all the nasties from your hair and scalp that helps reduce breakage, leaving your hair feeling better.

**Scalp issues: flaking and irritation:** Hard water disrupts your scalp's natural oil balance, leading to flakiness and itching, apart from making it dirty and oily. The accumulation of mineral deposits can cause your scalp to shed excess skin cells, resulting in visible flakes that can be quite uncomfortable. The hard water shampoo works to gently remove these deposits and restore your scalp's natural oil balance, helping to reduce flakiness and promote a cleaner scalp.

The harsh minerals in hard water can irritate your scalp, leading to itching, and discomfort. This irritation can

further hinder overall scalp health. This shampoo is formulated to soothe irritation by cleansing away mineral buildup and rebalancing your scalp's natural oils, providing relief and promoting a more comfortable scalp environment.

**Makes hair feel heavy and greasy:** Ever feel like your hair is greasy and sticky even after washing it? Hard water is to blame. The mineral deposits can weigh down your hair, making it feel heavy, greasy, and harder to manage, promoting an overall feeling of uncleanliness. This shampoo leaves your hair feeling lighter and cleaner, free from the heavy buildup of hard water minerals. Iuvia does this with naturally sourced chelating agents that bind to metal ions deposited from hard waters and gently removes them. The shampoo prevents further deposition of metal ions by neutralising charge on the hair with advanced water-soluble silicones.

**Fades your hair colour faster:** If you colour your hair, hard water can quickly diminish the vibrancy of your hues, leading to dull tones. This shampoo is vegan, sulfate free, paraben free and phthalate free making it suitable for colour-treated hair. By understanding how hard water affects your hair and with this shampoo, you can protect and rejuvenate your hair, keeping it clean and beautiful.



# what's brewing?

**Anushree**

**Sameer Bhasin**

Sameer Bhasin, CEO, Nando's India, inaugurated their new Nando's PERI-PERI at RMZ, Nexity, Hyderabad. This new restaurant marks its foray into the city of Nawabs. Their authentic flavours are born in Southern Africa but built for spice lovers in India. PERI-PERI – made with African Bird's Eye Chilli – is the heart and soul of the Nando's experience.

**Soni Sharma**

**Tanvi Jha**

Photos by - SV Chary

## Mad over Modak



Conrad Pune is delighted to introduce its exclusive Ganpati special menu, "Mad Over Modak" to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi at Pune Sugar Box. Offering a variety of handcrafted concoctions to satisfy both festival-goers and discriminating palates, this creative menu pays homage to the classic sweet of modak with a contemporary twist.

The menu offers an amazing assortment of expertly created modaks, which seamlessly blend traditional flavors with modern refinement. One of the standouts is the Coconut Raspberry Modak, which combines the vivid tartness of raspberry with the fresh, tropical taste of grated coconut. This modak offers a light and invigorating take on the classic dessert. The Pistachio Praline Modak is another noteworthy item. This indulgent dessert has a silky, green-hued shell that encases a creamy pistachio praline that delivers an opulent, nutty flavor. The Salted Caramel Modak offers a perfect blend of sweet and savoury, combining gooey salted caramel with a hint of sea salt for a rich and indulgent taste experience.

For those who appreciate traditional flavours with a modern edge, the homemade Gul kand Modak is an exceptional choice. Infused with homemade gulkand, this modak showcases aromatic rose petals, offering a beautifully elevated twist on a classic favorite. The Almond Chocolate Modak, with its creamy chocolate and nutty almond layers, provides a decadent treat for chocolate enthusiasts. The menu also features the 54% Dark Chocolate Hazelnut Modak, which pairs luscious dark chocolate ganache with crunchy hazelnuts, creating a sophisticated and intense flavor profile. Lastly, the Wild Berry & Gold Modak combines the tartness of wild berries with the luxury of edible gold leaf, making it a feast for the taste buds and the eyes.

PARTY

Photos by - SV Chary

The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board's roadshow on the theme of "Green, Clean and Safe Madhya Pradesh", was held in Hyderabad at the Radisson, aimed at showcasing the state's incredible tourism offerings and fostering collaboration between key industry stakeholders, concluded on a high note. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Madhya Pradesh's tourism sector and Hyderabad's local stakeholders, resulting in promising partnerships and greater prospects for tourism in the Heart of Incredible India.



In a groundbreaking move that redefines the luxury watch landscape in India, Bollywood's leading actor and Michael Kors watch ambassador Anushka Sharma unveiled her exclusive limited-edition timepiece. The collaboration marks a historic moment as it is the first time a female Indian celebrity has launched a commercially available signature watch.

### FUN

#### ARCHIE

#### CALVIN AND HOBBS

#### GARFIELD

#### REALITY CHECK

#### SPEED BUMP

#### CROSSWORD

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

#### NANCY

#### SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**ACROSS**

- Calm and quiet
- Sit on this
- Steam bath
- Oboe player
- Applaud
- An area of cut grass
- A box for a body
- Once more
- Heartbeat
- Practise something before doing it for an audience

**DOWN**

- A keyboard instrument
- From one side to the other
- Simple to do

**SOLUTION**

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



# GOAT: FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

SURESH KAVIRAYANI  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Since Tamil superstar Thalapaty Vijay has announced his entry into politics, he first intended to work on a few projects. *Goat: Greatest of All Time*, helmed by Venkat Prabhu,

is among them. While some claim this is Vijay's final movie, others speculate he might do another movie. That being said, there is absolutely no buzz about the Telugu version of this movie. Prashanth, Prabhu Deva, Mohan, Ajmal, Sneha, Meenakshi Chaudhary and numerous other celebrities are among the film's enormous star cast. The soundtrack was composed by Yuvan Shankar Raja and we'll find out how the Telugu movie is doing.

rescued his son from a gang and got him back to India. The family is back together. Here's where the crisis begins, when Nazir (played by Jayaram), the boss of the SATS squad and a few other members were also killed. Who put them to death? When Jeevan left Thailand at the age of five, what happened to him? For what reason does Jeevan wish to exact revenge on his own father? How come Menon (played by Mohan) desired Gandhi's death? If you want to know all these things, please watch this film.

Following this, attention turned to Vijay's family, which truly tested the audience's patience. The initial part wraps up with the friends and family exchanging corny jokes, but it isn't until young Vijay enters the scene just before the interval that things start to get interesting.

The director disclosed that young Vijay desired to seek revenge on his father by reuniting with his family. Therefore, the audience was interested in learning about how Vijay's battles with one another were engaging until the very end. The songs are dull and the movie is too long to endure. The latter half of the movie outshines the initial half. Venkat Prabhu becomes more careful with the plot and script when working with a major star like Vijay. While Vijay fans might enjoy some aspects of the movie, it may not be well received by the Telugu audience. Excessive use of technology can also be detrimental, as demonstrated by Venkat Prabhu in the sad state of late Vijaykanth through the use of AI technology. De-aging software also makes some parts of the younger Vijay appear pale. The climax is uninteresting and expected. The movie lacks emotional intelligence.

**Cast:** Thalapaty Vijay, Sneha, Prashanth, Prabhu Deva, Mohan, Jaiaram, Laila, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Ajmal, Vaibhav, Yogibabu and others  
**Cinematography:** Siddhartha Nuni  
**Producer:** Kalapathi S Agghoram, Kalapathi S Ganesh, Kalapathi S Suresh  
**Written by:** Venkat Prabhu  
**Release Date:** September 5, 2024  
**Rating:** 2/5



## STORY

Gandhi (played by Vijay) is working as an agent in the Special Anti-Terrorist Squad (SATS) along with Sunil (played by Prashanth), Kalyan (played by Prabhu Deva) and Ajay (played by Ajmal Ameer). Anu (played by Sneha), is the wife of Gandhi and is expecting their second child, although she is unaware that Gandhi works for SATS. The family suffers in Thailand, where he brought his wife and son on a mission. Jeevan, their five-year-old son, passes away. Gandhi, who was dissatisfied, departed from SATS and was put in a distance by his wife.

After fifteen years, Gandhi travelled to Russia regarding some work and found Jeevan (Vijay), who bore a striking resemblance to him. There, Gandhi

## ANALYSIS

Venkat Prabhu's previous film *Custody* starring Akkineni Naga Chaitanya was a major flop. He has now produced the big-budget movie *Greatest of All Time* starring Vijay. It's a huge movie featuring one of the top Tamil actors, so Venkat needed to focus on the script and pay special attention to the de-aging technology. However, the director told the story in a simple manner and was not quite engaging. While the concept of father-son revenge dramas is not a new one, the director presented it in a unique manner yet fails to deliver an engaging story or narrative.

After 15 years, a son who lost his parents as a child returned to seek revenge against his father. This is not just a spy thriller with unexpected twists and turns; you can easily anticipate every scene in the movie. The film begins with an intriguing scene in which the main character res-

utilised correctly when it comes to the younger Vijay and did not meet expectations. Prashanth and Prabhu Deva did a great job. Sneha and Meenakshi Chaudhary have very restricted roles. Ajmal performed adequately. Yogibabu is completely futile. Mohan from the famous movie *Mouna Ragam* portrays a villain; however, his character is badly developed and he is not the right fit for the role. Trisha and Siva Karthikeyan make cameo appearances, while other actors have brief roles. Siddharth Nuni's cinematography excels due to his well-choreographed action sequences and intriguing capture of them. Yuvan Shankar Raja's music is below expectations.

## VERDICT

The *Greatest of All Time* does not meet expectations and falls short of expectations. The film has been released at a time when Vijay has entered politics, which might generate interest but there is no excitement in Telugu. You might overlook it entirely and anticipate an OTT debut.

## Gajaanana featuring Varalaxmi released

It's already known that Sudarshan Paruchuri is making his debut as a hero with the upcoming movie *Mr Celebrity*. The film also stars Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Sri Deeksha, Nassar and Raghu Babu in pivotal roles. Meanwhile, a song from the movie was released and it's already making waves, with chants of Lord Vinayaka being heard everywhere. To celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi, the makers released a vibrant devotional song

titled *Gajaanana* from the movie. Composed by Vinod and written by Ganesh, the song brings an energetic vibe. Crooned with high pitch vocals by Mangli, the song is poised to become a hit during the Navaratri celebrations. Varalaxmi Sarathkumar has set the dance floor on fire with her graceful and appealing moves in the song. After a long time, she appears with such energy in a song. Watching the video feels like witnessing a real festival and it's sure to be a celebration on screen. The movie is produced by N. Panduranga Rao and Chinna Reddaiah under the RP Cinemas banner, with Chandina Ravi Kishore directing it. The teaser, which had released a few days ago, has garnered a lot of attention and the release date will be announced soon.



## Behind the scenes with Bench Life squad

AARTI SREENATH

As the much-anticipated release of SonyLiv's new series *Bench Life* approaches, *The Pioneer* sits down with some of the key players behind the show to dive deep into their experiences, character portrayals and the vision driving this corporate comedy-drama at Taj Krishna.

From the witty yet immature Ravi, played by the dynamic Charan Peri, to the creative force behind the project, producer Niharika Konidela and the talented director Manasa Sharma, we bring you exclusive insights into what makes *Bench Life* a series to watch this season. Charan Peri, portraying the role of Ravi, a young corporate employee on the verge of personal and professional conflicts, offered an exciting glimpse into his character. "Ravi is married, but he's mentally still stuck in his college days," Charan explained with a laugh. "He's immature, wants to go to Goa, chill with friends and live that carefree life, but now he's got a family, a wife—and that's a whole new dynamic. It's about how he mentally deals with this situation."

When asked how Ravi's journey unravels in *Bench Life*, he said, "He wants to go on this Goa trip without telling his wife, so you'll see him trying to navigate that. Does he find a mentor? How does he deal with these desires while balancing his responsibilities? That's the crux of the character."

Interestingly, he admitted that playing Ravi wasn't too much of a stretch for him. "I didn't need to do extensive corporate research because this character is very similar to my life," he shared, adding, "This guy is on the 'bench'—which means he's not assigned any tasks at work—so he's outside the office most of the time. I found that super relatable and I think many people will, too." Delving deeper into the character, he shared an amusing

anecdote about how Ravi's behaviour hits home. "I remember the days when I used to lie to my mom about where I was going or cover things up. Ravi does that a lot with his wife and it's hilarious. You'll definitely have a blast watching him squirm through these situations," he said, laughing.

Comparing his experience from his previous show *MAD* to *Bench Life*, Charan highlighted the shift in creative freedom. "In *MAD*, everything was more relaxed, even on set. We were free to experiment and improvise a lot. But in *Bench Life*, there's a proper structure to the characters. My director, Manasa Sharma, had a clear vision and I had to stay within that. There was no room for improvisation—just playing Ravi as she envisioned him."

One of the most exciting aspects of Charan's journey in *Bench Life* was working with veteran actors like Rajendra Prasad and Tanikella Bharani. Reflecting on the challenges of comedy, Charan admitted, "Comedy is tough. You can't just act—you have to feel it. It's definitely challenging, but that's what makes it so rewarding. I had a lot of fun navigating that balance between Ravi's immature antics and the more serious, emotional undertones of his story."

Niharika Konidela, who wears the hats of both actress and producer, opened up about her journey in production, starting from her first venture, *Muddapappu Avakai*. "I was a producer first and then I became an actor. I didn't even know I was producing when I did *Muddapappu Avakai*—I just thought I was putting money into something I believed in," she chuckled. "It was only later that I realised there was a term for it—production." *Bench Life* marks Niharika's seventh production under Pink Elephant Pictures and she explained what drew her to this particular story. "Manasa narrated the concept to me and I was hooked. I didn't even know what being 'on the bench' meant in corporate terms, but I was fascinated

by how the show portrayed it. It's about why these characters, who should be worried about losing their jobs, are actually happy to be benched. It's about how they use that free time to explore other avenues."

On the challenge of establishing her identity as a producer, Niharika said, "It's about baby steps for me. I don't have long-term goals of where I see myself in ten years. If people see our name associated with a project and immediately think, 'This is going to be good,' then I've done my job."

When asked about the challenges of producing *Bench Life*, she surprisingly said the process was quite breezy. "With big names like Rajendra Prasad and Tanikella Bharani on board, it wasn't difficult. They were all committed to the story, which made it easy for us. The real challenge was shooting in real IT offices—on weekdays, no less! We had to coordinate our shoots with actual employees working there. That was tricky." She also praised Charan Peri, who, despite not having an extensive acting background, stood out to her. "We chose Charan because he has this rare quality—he's got a serious face, but he does comedy so well. That's hard to find. Manasa herself has a great sense of humour and I think it's really funny," she admitted.

Director Manasa Sharma, known for her previous hit *Okachinna Family Story*, brings her unique narrative style to *Bench Life*. "This project is different from anything I've done before," she shared. "With *Okachinna Family Story*, we focused on a single family. But in *Bench Life*, we're juggling four distinct stories, which makes it more engaging. I wanted each episode to have that emotional punch, leaving the audience with something to think about."

Manasa's approach to directing *Bench Life* was driven by her desire to balance comedy with emotion. "Comedy is the foundation, but it's the emotional undertones that will stay with the audience. By the time you finish watching



**As the team of Bench Life begins with its promotion, The Pioneer interacts with the lead, Charan Peri, producer Niharika Konidela and director Manasa Sharma, bringing to you our exclusive tid-bits with them**

the series, I want viewers to feel both entertained and moved."

So, what can audiences take away from *Bench Life*? Charan summed it up best: "It's not just about software or corporate life. It's about relationships, emotions and how each character deals with their circumstances. You'll laugh, you'll cry and most importantly, you'll see a part of yourself in these characters."

## Hit 3: Arjun Sarkaar now takes charge

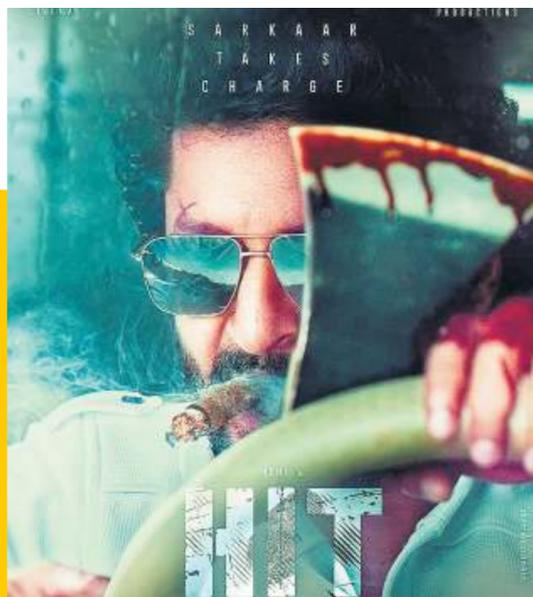
On Thursday, the poster and teaser for Telugu actor Nani's *Hit 3* were released. According to the teaser, Nani is a brutal police officer who will stop at nothing to accomplish his objectives.

Following the release of the teaser by PVR, Nani posted the poster for the film along with a caption which read, "Less of a cop, More of a criminal. Arjun Sarkaar takes charge. #Nani32 is #HITTheThirdCase. Blood gates

will open May 1st 2025 (sic)."

Director Dr. Sailesh Kolanu had already announced *Hit 3* a few years back. In May of next year, the movie will be released in theatres. Wall Poster Cinema and Unanimous Productions collaborated on its production.

Nani was last seen in *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram*, which was a box office success. Under Vivek Athreya's direction, Priyanka Mohan and SJ Suryah both had prominent roles.



## Pranitha Subhash & Nithin Raju welcome baby boy

Actress Pranitha Subhash and her husband Nithin Raju have welcomed their second child, a son, on September 5. After the news was announced, the couple received an abundance of well wishes and messages of congratulations. The couple recently had their first baby girl. She gave birth to the boy on September 5 at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

The stunning actress, who hails from South India, excitedly announced the happy news to her dedicated fans and the public through a fun post on July 25th. In a series of photos she posted to announce the news, the actress also showed off her pregnant belly.

In 2021, the actress tied the knot with her long-term partner Nithin Raju in a small, traditional

Hindu ceremony at her Bengaluru residence amid the COVID pandemic. The actress is famous not only for her portrayal as a heroine in the industry but also for her charitable acts and dedication to the community. The couple revealed news of their first pregnancy in 2022 and introduced a baby girl to their family. Her name was Arna.

## Janhvi shot for Daavudi 3-days post-her recovery

Janhvi Kapoor looks absolutely radiant in the newly released song *Daavudi* from the highly anticipated film *Devara*, where she stars alongside the charismatic Jr NTR. In this energetic track, Janhvi showcases her incredible dance prowess, effortlessly executing complex choreography with a level of dynamism and precision that is truly captivating. Her movements are technically impressive and brimming with energy, ensuring that she is the undeniable highlight of the performance. The chemistry between her and Jr NTR amplifies the overall appeal, making *Daavudi* a must-watch for dance and music enthusiasts alike. Beyond her striking beauty and flawless execution, Janhvi's dedication to her craft shines brightly in this performance. As per reports, a few months back it was reported that Janhvi was hospitalised for food poisoning, but Janhvi's commitment to her art is exemplified by her swift return to work. Just three days after being discharged from the hospital, she was back on set, diving into the rigorous



demands of the *Daavudi* shoot. This remarkable feat underscores her resilience and passion for her profession. According to reports, "Janhvi Kapoor shot for the song *Daavudi*, just three days after being discharged from the hospital. Her energy and dedication shine throughout the song as fans and audiences pour in praises for her transformation into a mass heroine for her first ever big commercial pan-India film!"

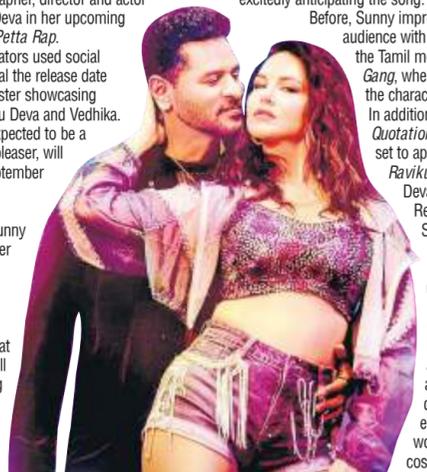
## Sunny Leone's Petta Rap to release on Sept 27

Sunny Leone will appear alongside renowned choreographer, director and actor Prabhu Deva in her upcoming Tamil movie *Petta Rap*. The film's creators used social media to reveal the release date and a new poster showcasing Sunny, Prabhu Deva and Vedhika. The movie, expected to be a great crowd-pleaser, will be out on September 27.

The poster showcases Sunny returning to her glamorous persona. It was previously announced that the actress will be performing a dance number with Prabhu Deva and ever

since the news broke, her fans have been excitedly anticipating the song.

Before, Sunny impressed her audience with her appearance in the Tamil movie *Quotation Gang*, where she portrayed the character of a killer. In addition to *Petta Rap* and *Quotation Gang*, Sunny is set to appear in *Badass Ravikumar* with Prabhu Deva and Himesh Reshammiya. She has also starred in the film *Shero* and has an untitled Malayalam movie. Apart from acting in movies, the actress is making a strong effort to disrupt the entrepreneurial world with her cosmetic brand.



# Dharambir smashes Asian record for gold, Pranav takes silver in Paralympic

PTI ■ PARIS

Dharambir shattered the Asian record to win the gold medal while compatriot Pranav Soorma clinched the silver as Indian club throwers dominated the men's F51 event at the Paralympics here. After four fouled attempts, the 35-year-old world champion's bronze medallist from Sonepat, Dharambir hurled the club to a distance of 34.92m in his fifth attempt to claim the top spot on the podium on Wednesday. Soorma, who injured his spinal chord at 16 when a cement sheet fell on his head, then produced a throw of 34.59m in his first attempt but the 29-year-old from Faridabad couldn't better and

get past Dharambir as India completed a one-two. The third Indian in the fray, 2017 world championship silver medallist, trailblazing Indian para-athlete and Dharambir's menton Amit Kumar Saroha, however, finished last with a best effort of 23.96m. Serbia's Filip Graovac bagged the bronze, courtesy a 34.18m throw in his second attempt. The F51 club throw event is for athletes who have movement affected to a high degree in the trunk, legs and hands. All the competitors compete while seated and rely on their shoulders and arm to generate power. From paralysis to Paralympic glory Dharambir faced a life-altering accident when a misjudged



dive into a canal left him paralyzed from the waist down. Para-sports gave him a new direction in life when he was introduced to it by fellow para-athlete Amit Kumar Saroha. Within two years, Dharambir qualified for the 2016 Rio Paralympics, marking the beginning of a successful career. He has since earned multiple medals for India, including a silver at the 2022 Asian Para Games. A cricket and roller hockey enthusiast, Soorma too was just another teenager when a cement sheet fell on his head when he was 16, leaving him paralyzed after causing a severe spinal cord injury. Support of his family and a

positive mindset helped him to turn to meditation and academics, where he excelled with 91.2 per cent in his 12th board exams. He then pursued a postgraduate degree from the Delhi School of Economics and secured a job as an Assistant Manager at the Bank of Baroda. Pranav rediscovered his love for sports through para-athletics and soon received success as he won a silver medal at the 2019 Beijing Grand Prix, a gold medal at the Serbia Open 2023, and both gold and silver medals at the Tunisia Grand Prix 2022. He also produced a record-setting throw at the Asian Para Games 2023, where he won gold in the men's club throw F51 event.

## India's focus will be on self improvement: Rishabh Pant



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant warned against taking Bangladesh lightly in the upcoming two-Test series, and stressed on the need for India to keep improving themselves to stay ahead of the competition. Bangladesh, who recently blanked Pakistan 2-0 at Rawalpindi, will face Rohit Sharma's side in the first Test at Chennai from September 19 before moving to Kanpur. India will play a total of 10 Tests within the next five months as the series against Bangladesh will be followed by three Tests against New Zealand at home in October-November before moving to Australia for the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy. "Asian countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka perform well in Asian conditions because they are accustomed to the wickets," Pant told Jio Cinema. "As the Indian cricket team, we focus solely on our own standards and how we can improve. Regardless of the opposition, we strive to play with the same intensity and give our 100 percent every single day," he said. Pant said no series can be taken lightly with the margins between the teams decreasing in international cricket. "Pressure will always be there because in international cricket, you can't take any series lightly. The margin between winning and losing is very small, and nowadays, the gap between international teams isn't much either," he said. Pant said playing in the

Duleep Trophy ahead of a long season of Test cricket will give the players quality match practice while young cricketers at domestic level will benefit from the presence of international stars. The opening round Duleep matches got underway here at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and Anantapur on Thursday. "It is very important for us to play domestic cricket because as a cricketer, match practice is always very important," he said. "Especially coming back to domestic cricket, the youngsters also learn a lot of things from us - they see you playing here even after playing international cricket. There is a lot to give back to domestic cricket." "It also gives us the opportunity to share all the learning and experiences from international cricket with our colleagues, especially with the young players and newcomers; it gives them a huge boost since we all have reached here from playing domestic cricket," Pant added. Pant, who is playing for Team B in Duleep Trophy, said he was looking forward to getting back into domestic cricket as this is his first red-ball game after December 2022. "It is an amazing feeling for me, also because when I met with the accident two years ago, I used to always think about when I will be able to play for India again," he said. "In the last six months I (have) played IPL and we (have) also won the World Cup. It's a great feeling as I had always dreamt of winning the World Cup since I was a kid.

## Jannik Sinner beats Daniil Medvedev to reach the semifinals

AP ■ NEW YORK

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner reached the U.S. Open semifinals for the first time by getting past 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 on Wednesday night. Sinner, who took over as the title favorite after Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz, is the only man remaining in the field with a Grand Slam trophy. He won his first at the Australian Open in January by beating Medvedev in the final in five sets after dropping the first two. As reflected by the accurate score, this matchup was unusually topsy-turvy as they took turns dominating a set at a time. First, it was Sinner who



was superior. Then that role was played Medvedev. Then Sinner regained the upper

hand in the third. In the fourth, from 3-all, Sinner surged, saving a pair of

break points, then breaking Medvedev to lead 5-3. Sinner - a 23-year-old from Italy who was cleared in a doping case less than a week before the U.S. Open started after testing positive twice for trace amounts of an anabolic steroid in March - will go up against No. 25 Jack Draper of Britain on Friday for a berth in the title match. That day's other semifinal will be No. 12 Taylor Fritz vs. No. 20 Frances Tiafoe in the first all-American men's matchup at this stage at a major in 19 years. The women's semifinals Thursday night are Jessica Pegula vs. Karolina Muchova, and Aryna Sabalenka vs. Emma Navarro. Pegula eliminated No. 1 Iga Swiatek 6-2, 6-4 on Wednesday. The 22-year-old

Draper reached his first Grand Slam semifinal - and became the first British man to get that far at Flushing Meadows since Andy Murray won the 2012 trophy - by overwhelming No. 10 Alex de Minaur 6-3, 7-5, 6-2. Draper has won all 15 sets he's played so far, but things figure to get tougher against Sinner. This is not kind of like an overnight thing for me. I've believed for a long time that I've been putting in the work and doing the right things, and I knew that my time would come," said Draper, whose upper right leg was taped by a trainer after he felt something at the end of the first set. "I didn't know when it would be, but hopefully from here, I can do a lot of amazing things.



## Buttler out of T20 series against Australia, could miss ODIs

AP ■ LONDON

England white-ball captain Jos Buttler was ruled out of the Twenty20 series against Australia because of a right calf injury on Thursday and might also miss the one-day series between the teams, too. Buttler has been replaced in the T20 squad by Jamie Overton, while Phil Salt will take over as captain. The three-match T20 series begins on Wednesday. "The five-match ODI series starts on Sept. 19 so Buttler has two weeks to recover. Batter Jordan Cox has been added to the ODI squad as cover in case Buttler doesn't make it. England T20 squad: Phil Salt (captain), Jofra Archer, Jacob Bethell, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Sam Curran, Josh Hull, Will Jacks, Liam Livingstone, Saqib Mahmood, Dan Mousley, Jamie Overton, Adil Rashid, Reece Topley, John Turner. England ODI Squad: Jos Buttler (captain), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Ben Duckett, Josh Hull, Will Jacks, Matthew Potts, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Jamie Smith, Reece Topley, John Turner.

## Kapil Parmar to compete for bronze in judo



PTI ■ PARIS

Iran's S Banitaba Khorram Abadi in the 60kg (J1) men's para judo semifinals of the Paralympics and will now compete for the bronze medal, here on Thursday. The 24-year-old Parmar was beaten 0-10 in semifinals A by his Iranian opponent here at the Champs-de-mart arena. The J1 class in para judo is for the athletes who suffer from no to very low visual activity. Athletes in this category wear red circles to indicate that they may need guided support before, during and after a contest. Parmar, who won the silver medal at the 2022 Asian Games in the same category, had ear-

lier beaten Venezuela's Marco Dennis Blanco 10-0 in the quarterfinal. Parmar was, however, handed a yellow card in each of the two contests on Thursday. Meanwhile, India's Kokila suffered a defeat to Kazakhstan's Akmaral Nauatbek 0-10 in her women's 48kg J2 class quarterfinals. Later, Kokila was beaten by Ukraine's Yuliya Ivanyska 0-10 in her J2 Final of Repechage A, a contest wherein she was handed three yellow cards while her opponent got two. Yellow cards in judo are given for minor violations such as passivity or using a technique that might hinder the opponent or cause injury. In J2 category, the competing athletes have partial eyesight.

## New Zealand arrive in India for one-off Test against Afghanistan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Zealand arrived here on Thursday ahead of their one-off Test against Afghanistan, scheduled to be played in Greater Noida from September 9. The one-off Test, the first red-ball fixture between the two nations, will be held at the Greater Noida Sports Complex Ground. The BlackCaps have named a strong side for the Test against Afghanistan. Veteran pacer Tim Southee will lead the team which includes the likes of former

skipper Kane Williamson, who opted out of a central contract earlier this year, Devon Conway, Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra, while Tom Latham continues to be the vice-captain. The BlackCaps have included five spin bowling options in Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner, Ajaz Patel and part-timers Phillips and Ravindra for the Test. They will hold their first practice session on Friday. The Test against Afghanistan will serve as a preparation for

a two-match series against Sri Lanka, which is part of the World Test Championship. After the tour of Sri Lanka, New Zealand will return to India as they take on Rohit Sharma and his men in a three-match Test series, also a part of the WTC calendar. The three games will be played in Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai in October and November. New Zealand currently occupy the third spot in the ICC WTC points table behind last edition's finalists, India and Australia.

## I was trying to play close to my body to counter swing and cut: Centurion Musheer

PTI ■ BENGALURU

After underscoring his talent with a robust hundred, Musheer Khan on Thursday said he centred his batting strategy around playing close to the body to nullify the pronounced movement of the ball in overcast conditions. Musheer's unbeaten 105 rescued India B after India A bowlers reduced them to 94 for seven on the first day of the Duleep Trophy match at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. India B finished the day at 202 for seven.

"I wanted to play as many balls as possible without thinking too much about runs. I wanted to bat the whole day, and I was taking it session by session. The ball was swinging and cutting when I came to bat," Musheer said in the post-day press meet. "So, I was trying to play the ball as close to my body as possible, and was looking to avoid those risky shots. I knew runs would eventually come," he added. But Musheer was not alone in his rescue mission as late-order batter Navdeep Saini helped him add 108 runs for the unbro-



ken eighth wicket alliance. "When wickets were falling at the other end, I told myself to play intelligently and look for a partnership. Then Saini bhai gave me a lot of confidence saying he will play whether it is two balls or six balls in an over, and just keep faith in him.

"He was also able to match my thinking and approach while batting. But generally, I was trying to defend the first three or four balls and then take a single," he elaborated. Another salient feature of his batting was the way he handled Kuldeep Yadav as five of his 10 fours came off the left-arm wrist spinner, including two successive biffs down the V. Musheer said conversations with senior batters in his side like Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant helped him prepare against Kuldeep.

## ONE ARROW AT A TIME

# Making of paralympic champion archer Harvinder Singh

PTI ■ PARIS

Dealing with the unexpected, whether in archery or life in general, is no big deal for Harvinder Singh. He has aced the anticipation game thanks to the hard lessons that came his way. The 33-year-old from Haryana, who scripted history by becoming the first Indian archer to win a Paralympic gold, has impaired legs owing to a dengue treatment gone wrong when he was just one year old but instead of lamenting his fate, he chose to become bigger than his circumstances. Harvinder's journey to Paralympic glory began with a bronze three years back in Tokyo, which made him the first Indian to finish on the Games podium. On Wednesday, he showed neither fatigue nor nerves to secure five back-to-back wins in a day to bag his second successive Paralympic medal in recurve open category,

bettering the previous performance by quite a margin. All his achievements are a first in Indian archery. And when he is not shooting down medals, Harvinder is busy pursuing a Ph.D in economics. "In the last few months, I was shooting very well in practice, more than the world record in qualification. Here, I finished ninth (in the ranking round), and my confidence went a little bit down. Anyway, I focused on the matches because anything could happen," Harvinder was quoted as saying by 'World Archery'. "Archery is a game of unexpected. Everything can happen. I focused on every arrow. Only the next arrow counts," said Harvinder, who reserved his best for the final, nailing three 10s in his last four arrows to knock out his 44-year-old opponent from Poland Lukasz Ciszek 6-0 (28-24, 28-27, 29-25). His was India's second medal in



archery at the ongoing Games after Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar combined for the compound mixed team bronze. Harvinder what works best for him is to stay in the moment and think too far ahead. "I was just focusing on my next match. Only that way, I could move to the next round, and one by one, I moved to the final. And eventually won gold," he broke down the process. Three years back in Tokyo, Harvinder who hails from Ajitnagar in Kaithal district of Haryana, could not realise his dream of a gold. He said his teammates had a role to play in instilling belief in him that he could aim for the top podium finish. "In Tokyo, I won bronze, so I'm happy I could change the colour of my medal. Before the (Paris) Games, everybody told me I had a chance to reach gold, and I'm happy I was

able to," said Harvinder, who comes from a farming family. Harvinder's consistency and his monk-like demeanour ensured that he lost no more than three points in each of his matches. The archer, who started taking interest in the sport after watching the action on TV during London Olympics, said that he felt "blessed". "It feels fantastic. I'm just blessed to achieve this fold for India," he said after the medal ceremony. Harvinder's mantra is to always aim for a '10' with his final arrow, something he says, helped him achieve his goal in Paris. If you have confidence, you can learn the arrow. Sometimes it can slip to nine, but you always have to finish with a 10, because it's your last arrow. In my matches and many situations, I landed my last arrow in a 10. I focused on my last arrow," he said.