

No one should worry about housing as the Congress government will make those deserving partners in Future City. The Fourth Estate will be part of the Future City. Let us all participate in the construction of the Fourth City, that is, the Future City. Quli Qutb Shah created Hyderabad City, Nizam and the British created Secunderabad, N. Chandrababu Naidu and YS Rajashekar Reddy created Cyberabad and we will create Fourth City

— A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister



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

Ready for talks with Pak if it stops terrorism in J-K  
**Rajnath**

**DECLINING**  
 BANK CREDIT TO HURT EXPORTERS



Big break for Rachakonda  
**VISHWADEV**



**DON'T MISS...**

**ACB records 55.5% conviction rate...**

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which has been actively conducting raids and catching officers asking for bribes over the last eight months, reported that 10 per cent of the cases booked in 2024 had a 55.5 per cent conviction rate, including 10 convictions and eight acquittals. Of approximately 1,450 complaints, 10 per cent (145 cases) led to booked cases. Comparing data from the last three years, 98 cases were booked in 2021, 116 in 2022, 92 in 2023, and 145 in 2024 until August 31. The highest number...

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**Low-carb diets meet nutrient...**

Low-carb diets can meet and sometimes even exceed one's nutrient needs, according to a study that examined the scepticism around the nutritional quality of such diets. Commonly recommended for diabetic patients to manage their sugar levels, low-carb diets restrict the intake of foods high in carbohydrates or added sugar, including sweets, starches, and refined grains. While low-carb diets have been shown to provide health benefits, including weight loss, researchers said scepticism remains...

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**India has potential to become chip...**

Due to the prevailing geopolitical situation, like-minded countries are collaborating with India to make it a major semiconductor manufacturing destination, a top Electronics and IT ministry official said on Sunday. In an interview with PTI, Ministry of Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan said pilot facilities of US storage semiconductor maker Micron and Tata Electronics have already rolled out chips, and their main plants in Gujarat will begin to produce made-in-India chips from the later part of 2025. "Globally..."

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**Indian cricket powerful, talent...**

The legendary Rahul Dravid on Sunday said that Indian cricket has evolved into an "extremely powerful" force, thanks to the growing talent pool that now extends to even the remotest corners of the country. Dravid, who masterminded India's triumph in the T20 World Cup, said a strong club cricket culture has a lot to do with bucking the old trend of city cricketers dominating the passage to the national team. "If you look at Indian cricket today, it's extremely powerful..."

-SPORTS

**HYDRAA reclaims 50 acres**

DEMOLISHES ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS AT 3 PLACES IN HYDERABAD



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) demolished illegal buildings in the city at the Sunnam Cheruvu in Madhapur, the Kothwa Cheruvu in Dundigal and the Pedda Cheruvu in Ameenpur early on Sunday. As HYDRAA demolished buildings many people cried and broke down.

The HYDRAA said that they had demolished four-storey buildings, two-storey buildings, 30 sheds and recovered 10 acres in the Full Tank Level (FTL) area of Sunnam Cheruvu. 11 duplex villas were demolished on two acres at the Kothwa Cheruvu in Dundigal.

The Commissioner said that encroachers had grabbed 51 acres in the FTL area and buffer zone of Pedda Cheruvu in Ameenpur. Officials removed a compound wall and two security rooms.

**The Commissioner said that encroachers had grabbed 51 acres in the FTL area and buffer zone of Pedda Cheruvu in Ameenpur. Officials removed a compound wall and two security rooms**

When HYDRAA started demolitions at Sunnam Cheruvu, the people who were living there tried to prevent them from razing the structures. Some people tried to self-immolate themselves. However, local people and the police saved them. Pregnant women, widows, labourers and children looked on as the sheds in which they were living were demolished. Lakshmi said that HYDRAA

demolished buildings without giving any prior intimation. "We have lost even our clothes. We came here around five years back after the police expelled us from Bharath Nagar. We have been staying here for the last five years. We have nothing but these small rooms."

"My husband was an alcoholic and died a few years ago. I have two children. I do not have anything other than this small room. If I lose this also how can I raise my children? If they want to demolish homes, they must demolish big buildings."

**Will raze only new constructions**

HYDRAA chief clarifies on demolitions in FTL or buffer zone areas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner of HYDRAA Ranganath said he issued some clarifications regarding the demolition drive.

No house/residence, even if built in the FTL area/buffer zone and occupied by people, will be demolished. Habitations and dwellings occupied by people will

NOT be demolished. New buildings coming up in the FTL area/buffer zone will be demolished. The buildings demolished on Sunday in the Madhapur Sunnam Cheruvu and the Mallampet Cheruvu of Dundigal were being constructed without permission and were coming up in FTL areas and buffer zones.

**FLOOD RELIEF**

**Cong MLAs, MPs, MLCs to donate 2 months' salary**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress said its MLAs, MLCs, MPs, Corporation Chairmen and Government Advisors have decided to give their two months' salary to help flood victims. The decision was taken as per the advice of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (HYSEA) donated 10,000 kits worth Rs 3000 each containing rice, dal, oil packets, sugar, salt, mirchi power etc.



Ministers Tummala Nageshwar Rao and D. Sridhar Babu flagged off the vehicles carrying the kits to Khammam. CREDAI representatives donated Rs 1 crore. CREDAI delegates presented the cheque to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence.

**TG tops in Ease of Doing Business**

Minister Sridhar Babu says State stands out among top achievers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Making it clear that Telangana is among the top achievers in 'Ease of Doing Business', the Minister for IT, E & C, Industry & Commerce and Legislative Affairs, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, condemned the statements of opposition leaders which tarnished the state's image.

Posting on X regarding this on Sunday, he said, "The Ease of Doing Business index indicates that Telangana is among the top achievers. I condemn the statements made by opposition leaders that tarnish the state's reputation, even though Telangana is one of the states which



performed exceptionally well in the Business Reforms Action Plan. Telangana is among the 17 states

**No policy was norm in BRS govt: CM**

'Our govt striving to increase public confidence in systems'

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

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that Telangana had no policy during the last 10 years. The CM ridiculed the BRS government saying that 'no policy was the BRS government's policy'. He said the Congress government's policy is to increase public confidence in government systems.

"No one should worry about housing as the Congress government will make deserving people partners in Future City. The Fourth Estate will be part of the Fourth City, that is, Future City. Let us all participate in the construction of the Fourth City or Future City. Quli Qutb Shah created Hyderabad city, the Nizam and the British created Secunderabad, N. Chandrababu Naidu and YS Rajashekar Reddy created Cyberabad and we will create the Fourth City now," the CM said.

Addressing the Jawaharlal Nehru Journalists Housing Society's (JNJHS) meeting at which the Chief Minister handed over the Pet Basheerabad



land's Memo to JNJHS at the Ravindra Bharati on Sunday, the CM said that earlier political parties used to establish newspapers to spread their ideologies, but nowadays the media is dealing with frenzy.

The CM said that all journalists are getting a bad name because of what some people do. "Some journalists are changing the meaning of the word 'journalist'. It is your responsibility to control such people. It is our government's responsibility to ensure that bonafide journalists are not harmed. Some newspapers cross the line regarding the language they use."

**Bangla to take steps to bring back Hasina from India**

PNS ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh will take necessary steps to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led mass movement against her government, the newly-appointed chief prosecutor of the country's International Crimes Tribunal said on Sunday. Following unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India.



**Vijay Kumar takes charge as ACB DG**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) got a new Director General on Sunday. Vijay Kumar took over charge from CV Anand as the Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Telangana.

Vijay Kumar belongs to the 1997 IPS batch and was the Additional Director General of Police (Personnel).



**Congress rule a curse on farmers: Harish**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister T. Harish Rao said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy claimed that the loans of all farmers were waived, however, a farmer committed suicide as his loan was not waived.

He asked the Chief Minister to explain why the farmer committed suicide if his loans had been waived. He said that farmers are now undergoing severe tension as their loans have not been waived. The nine-month rule of the Congress has

become a curse on farmers, he said and added that the Congress government had said that it would waive loans without linking ration cards. The government did not extend the loan waiver even though the BRS gave a list of farmers whose loans had not been waived. Harish said the government waived only loans amounting to Rs 15,000 crore. The loan waiver scheme has not been implemented for non-tribal farmers, Harish said and asked the government to apologise to farmers at least now and waive their loans.

**TG govt must speed up flood relief operations: Kishan**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government should speed up relief operations for flood victims, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said.

He said that after receiving the report of the Telangana Government, Central teams will visit flood-hit areas and estimate losses. Later, the Centre will help the flood victims.

Kishan visited the flood-hit areas of Khammam district on Sunday and assured people that the Modi government would fully support those affected in every possible way. He said the Centre told the Telangana government to first use



the Rs 1,345 crore available in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to help flood-hit people. The amount is available with the state as an advance from the Centre, he said.

"Soon after the havoc caused by the floods, Prime Minister Modi spoke to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The PM asked him (Revanth) to use the Rs 1,345 crore in the SDRF. There should be no politics over flood relief," Kishan said, after visiting Munneru flood victims in Khammam district on Sunday. Around 29 people lost their lives in the flooding in Telangana.

The state government has urged the Centre to declare the recent heavy rains and floods as a national calamity and to release Rs 2,000 crore as immediate help. The TG government has put the losses at Rs 5,438 crore as per preliminary estimates.

**'Teachers' unions kept mum as they were afraid of KCR'**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that teachers' unions remained silent all these years as they were afraid of KCR.

Even then teachers did not get a PRC and there is no pension for teachers who retire, he pointed out. Some unions did not care about the problems of teachers and made themselves sycophants of KCR, the Union Minister said.

Addressing a 'Guru Vandana' programme at Karimnagar organised by the Telangana Prantha Upadhyaya Sangam (TPUS) on Sunday, Sanjay said that DAs and promotions would not have stopped if the BJP had come to power. The

Centre giving pending DAs to its employees is the best example of that, he said. Sanjay said that teachers will lose if they ignore political parties that fight for their rights. He said that teachers are going to get a chance to elect a leader, who fights for the rights of teachers during of Teachers MLC elections.

Sanjay said that teachers must elect a BJP-supported candidate in the coming elections so that the BJP can have two MLCs.

He said that the issue of granting promotions only to teachers who have DED and BEB has come to his notice. He said that he will try to change NCTE guidelines by bringing the issue to the attention of the Union HRD Minister.

**Suspected mpox case under watch; no cause for alarm: Govt**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A man who recently travelled from a country experiencing mpox transmission has been identified as a suspected case of the disease, the Union health ministry said on Sunday.

The patient has been isolated at a designated hospital and is currently stable, it said, adding that there is no cause for concern.

Samples have been collected from the man and are being tested to confirm the presence of mpox.

"The case is being managed in line with established protocols, and contact tracing is ongoing to identify potential sources and assess the impact within the country," the ministry said. The development of



**The patient has been isolated at a designated hospital and is currently stable, it said, adding that there is no cause for concern**

this case is consistent with the earlier risk assessment conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and there is no cause of any undue concern, it said.

The country is fully prepared to deal with such isolated travel-related cases and has robust measures in place to manage and mitigate any potential risk, the ministry added.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) for the second time last month in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

Since the 2022 declaration of PHEIC by WHO, 30 mpox cases have been reported in India.

**Rains drench many places, downpours likely till Sept 13**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana experienced moderate to heavy rainfall, with many districts receiving significant downpours due to a depression.

Mahbubabad recorded the highest rainfall at 182.5 mm, followed by Khammam with 122 mm and Bhadradi with 100 mm. Vikarabad and Rangareddy also experienced heavy rains, according to Telangana Weatherman.

Hyderabad saw sudden moderate rain in the afternoon and cloudy weather throughout the day. Mancherial, Asifabad, Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Pedapalli

and Bhadradi also saw heavy rains all on Sunday evening.

The IMD has issued Orange and Yellow Alerts till September 13, predicting heavy to very heavy rain in Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam and Mahbubabad districts. Isolated heavy rain is likely in Adilabad, Jagityal, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Suryapet, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri districts. Isolated thunderstorms and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph are likely to occur in all Telangana districts.



# Monday Mirchi

**LAIKBACK BABUS NO MATCH FOR QUICK-THINKING REVANTH**

The famous line "The speed of the boss is the speed of the team" is attributed to former president of Ford Company Lee Iacocca. There are mounting challenges beneath the surface calm of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's administration. Nine months down the line, it is not his political acumen that is being questioned, but whether his team would ever measure up to his habit of thinking on the feet. While his sharpness is undisputed, the whippers in the corridors of power suggest that his team of officers is struggling to keep pace with the Chief Minister's quick thinking. A seasoned bureaucrat conceded that this disconnect is causing unnecessary issues within the administration. The logical question that follows is: Will Revanth initiate another reshuffle within his team? Some insiders argue that a rejig again and that too soon could send the wrong message, raising questions of stability of the administration. Others nevertheless suggest it is better to make the requisite changes sooner than later. Interestingly, a senior bureaucrat hinted that while Revanth's loyalists in politics excel, their counterparts in the administration may leave a lot to be desired.

**CAN NETAS SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT AND GET AWAY WITH IT?**

Support of fraternal colleagues is vital for ensuring esprit de corps, be it in babudom or any other circle. Sometimes, silence in the face of serious assault on the dignity of bureaucrats by loudmouthed netas can whet curiosity as to whether associations AIS officers are dysfunctional. The latest whippers in the corridors of power are over the inexcusable and inexplicable silence of IAS officers over the outbursts of MLC Teenmaar Mallanna, also known as Chintapandu Naveen, who vented his ire at two women IAS officers, Alagu Varshini and Pamela Sathpathy, allegedly because they did not take his calls. "If you are unable to do the work; resign and sleep at home," he snapped, leaving many wondering why no one with spine has come out yet in their defense. The unusual silence among IAS circles has raised eyebrows, with insiders hinting at underlying tensions and dissensions as well as a pervasive fear of drawing unwanted attention among all sections of bureaucrats. With even IAS officers' associations choosing to stay silent, the larger question is: Is there more to it than meets the eye?

**AN ELEVATION OR PRIMING?**

A reshuffle of officials, particularly khaki-clad ones, in apparent disregard of their seniority can spark concerns over the state government's intentions and cause heartburn among those directly affected. The recent reshuffling of top police officials in Telangana has sparked animated conversations across the corridors of power, with 1992 batch IPS officer Jitender stepping in as the Director-General of Police and his senior, 1991-batch officer CV Anand, being brought back as Commissioner of Hyderabad City Police. Parallels are being drawn between this rare scenario and the one that prevailed when former top cops Anurag Sharma and AK Khan found themselves in comparable situations. For the unversed, CV Anand had been a strong contender for the DGP post. Now, with his return to the helm in Hyderabad,

his role has become even more noteworthy. While Anand's appointment sends a strong message about the administration's intent to tighten its grip over law and order, there are other questions that linger: Is this a sign of his eventual elevation? Does it leave room for corrective reshuffle in the police brass? The intrigue is palpable, with insiders speculating about what this move signals for the state's police leadership.

**VARSHINI UPSETS CM**

Mending matters to fix specific wrongs is one thing and effecting systemic changes for cleaning the Augean stables is quite another. Dr Alagu Varshini has found herself in hot water following her contentious decision to sack 2,000 teachers from SC Gurusukh Schools. A little bird told us that the move has not gone down well with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who is upset over the backlash it has generated. The Opposition has quickly seized on the issue, amplifying the sacking as part of a deeper malaise affecting the government's handling of educational policies. Insiders are now whispering that Varshini could be eased out once the varsham abates and the political dust settles.

**CHANDRABABU NAIDU LEADS FROM THE FRONT**

Since the onset of torrential rains and resultant flash floods in Vijayawada a week ago, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been a ball of energy, wetting his feet and overseeing relief efforts with his hands on all aspects of the disaster. Defying the odds of age at 75, Naidu has unclogging bureaucratic rigmarole to provide timely assistance to the affected families, many of whom had been without power for over three days.

As he had promised during the recent Collector's Conference, he proved to be the 'Chandrababu of 1995', leaving many IAS and IPS officers on his team scrambling to keep pace with him. His swift and dynamic leadership has shaken the bureaucracy of all vestige of lethargy. Officers who had failed to deliver and who were 'caught in the act' were warned of serious consequences. Naidu is no mood to listen to excuses: it's action now or 'Get lost'.

**AP BUREAUCRATS ON A STICKY WICKET**

The recent flash floods in Vijayawada have landed Andhra Pradesh's bureaucrats on a sticky wicket. Amid the blame game, only one seasoned IAS officer conceded that they had an inkling of the impending floods full 24 hours in advance. It is a different matter that still they could not do much to mitigate the impact of the disaster. The Collector of NTR District had her own version of the chain of events, claiming there was no warning about the flood. The water 'regulator' at Budameru appears to have been a misnomer; the canal, designed to handle 15,000 cusecs of water, had to tackle over 40,000 cusecs. So, flooding across parts of the city became inevitable. Irrigation officials insist that they had done their job by notifying the state machinery about the release of water a day before the flood. Now that we know that over two lakh families had been hit due to mess-up by officials, it is difficult to pinpoint shirkers among babus.

--Yours truly

## BRS govt suppressed media with an iron hand: Ponguleti

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The BRS government suppressed the media with an iron hand, Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations (I & PR) Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said. He said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao used to answer only questions which he liked.

"KCR used to question media personnel saying, 'Sit down. Which is your newspaper? However, there is full freedom under the Congress government. The government is not troubling journalists even if they write reports criticising the Chief Minister and Ministers even if they are false. Freedom prevails in Indiramma Rajyam. During BRS rule, journalists used to wait for the Chief Minister. Now there is no such situation.



The media should project what the people want. We are seeing how Yellow papers and Pink friends are projecting news," Ponguleti said.

Addressing the Jawaharlal Nehru Journalists Housing Society's (JNHS) meeting at which Chief Minister Revanth Reddy handed over the Pet Basheerabad land's memo to JNHS at the Ravindra Bharati on Sunday, the I&PR Minister said that Indiramma Rajyam

has been established by the people of Telangana with the support of media friends.

He said that the 18-year-old dream of journalists has been achieved and that he had discussed with the Chief Minister about journalists' house sites. He said 1105 journalists have become crorepatris now after the allotment of sites. Ponguleti said that HYDRAA is a wonderful programme, however, the people are seeing how they (Pink Friends) are projecting it. BRS leaders are politicking using the floods. However, the CM has not filed a single case against anyone and there would not be any such situation in future either. However, some are engaged in mudslinging, he said and added that they have not realised their mistake even though the people taught them a lesson.

**RATION CARDS ISSUES**

## Govt whip seeks Harish's explanation

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Asking former BRS Minister T. Harish Rao to explain why the BRS government did not issue ration cards during the last 10 years, Government Whip Aadi Srinivas said the Congress government would certainly waive the loans of farmers even if they do not have ration cards. He said that there would not have been any problem while implementing the farm loan waiver scheme if the BRS government had issued ration cards.

Lashing out at Harish's statement regarding the farm loan waiver scheme, he said the government has no way to identify farmers' families except through ration cards.

Harish's government had not implemented the Rs 1

lakh farm loan waiver scheme and therefore he has no right to criticise the Congress government, Aadi said.

He said the Congress government has already waived loans amounting to Rs 18,000 crore and will waive loans amounting to Rs 31,000 crore soon. He said the Congress government will not avoid waiving loans like the BRS government.

He said that farmers are happy, however, Harish and BRS leaders are not happy with the implementation of the Rs 2 lakh loan waiver scheme and so they are inciting farmers.

Harish's uncle KCR is in his farmhouse and his cousin KTR is in the US enjoying himself but Harish is spitting venom at the Congress government, Aadi said.



## Will win each battle with people's blessings

**Phogat says as she starts poll campaign**

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

Wrestler and Congress candidate Vinesh Phogat on Sunday said she expects to win each battle with the blessings of people as she kicks off her campaign for the upcoming assembly election.

Phogat (30) has been fielded from the Julana assembly segment for the upcoming assembly poll.

Polling in Haryana will take place on October 5 while the counting of votes for the elections to the 90-member assembly will take place on October 8. Phogat was accorded a warm welcome when she reached Julana as her supporters, including elderly people and women and members of various 'Khaps', greeted her with garlands and gave their

blessings. The Congress had on Friday released its first list of 32 candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls, naming her among the party candidates. Olympians Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, who were at the forefront of the wrestlers' protest against then WFI chief and former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, entered the political arena on Friday by joining the Congress.

Standing atop a car, Phogat took the blessings of people who surrounded her four wheeler to get a glimpse of her. Amid beats of a dhol, her supporters chanted 'Vinesh Phogat zindabad.'

Replying to a question on former BJP MP and then Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

## Congress govt demolished houses of the poor: KTR

**Asks Govt to allot double-bedroom houses to poor people**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said that Revanth Reddy's Congress government demolished the houses of the poor.

He said that Revanth Reddy says that his government is a 'people's government' but he demolished the houses of the poor. KTR demanded that the government allot double-bedroom houses to the poor

who lost their houses in the demolitions.

Posting regarding this on X on Sunday KTR said, "These are the poor whose houses were demolished by the Revanth Sarkar on Sunday. In the heavy rain...a ruthless government...If the nest is destroyed harshly...the unfortunate are hiding. People's government in name but demolishing the houses

of the poor. About 40,000 double-bedroom houses built by the BRS admin are available for allocation to the poor in Hyderabad. I request @TelanganaCS Garu to kindly ensure all these people are allotted houses immediately so that we don't have to witness such painful images. Come out with a humane rehabilitation policy and follow due process for all citizens."

## 'Parsis made silent but immense contribution to India's development'

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

Union minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Parsis have made silent but immense contribution to India's development, and lauded the role of Gujarati newspaper Mumbai Samachar in that journey. Speaking after releasing the documentary film "Mumbai Samachar- 200 Not Out", which chronicles the remarkable 200-year journey of Asia's oldest newspaper, Shah said the Camas, who run it exemplify journalism of trust.

Entering its 203rd year of publication, Mumbai Samachar has become an integral part

of Mumbai's identity.

"Dynasties don't last 200 years here but a newspaper has lasted for so long," Shah said.

Terming Mumbai Samachar as a trusted news organization, he recalled an old saying that everything printed in Mumbai Samachar is true. Hormusji N Cama, the managing director of the Mumbai Samachar, was present at the event.

"Mumbai Samachar- 200 Not Out" delves into the newspaper's pivotal role in the freedom movement, its unwavering commitment to unbiased reporting and the secrets behind its enduring success.



## Revanth will become hero if he razes Akbaruddin's colleges

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The BJP Goshamahala MLA, T. Raja Singh, said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will become a hero only if HYDRAA demolishes Akbaruddin Owaisi's colleges.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Raja Singh demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath should announce the date for demolishing Akbaruddin's colleges.

## 'Cooperative movement brought tremendous transformation in Indian socio-economy sphere'

**PNS ■ KOTA (RAJASTHAN)**

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday underscored the pivotal role played by cooperative institutions in the country and asserted that the cooperative movement has catalysed a remarkable metamorphosis in the socio-economic sphere of the nation.

The Kota-Bundi parliamentarian was interacting with media persons on the sidelines of the annual convention of Hitkari



Cooperative Shikshan Samiti here on Sunday. On this occasion, Birla also felicitated the senior citizens of the samiti. "The cooperative movement in the country

has ushered in a colossal transformation in the socio-economic fabric," Birla said, adding that the movement is unique, as it not only generates employment opportunities for the people but also catalyses a profound transformation in their social and economic conditions.

It is a public movement par excellence, wherein all individuals work in unison, and through which we can herald a new era of socio-economic change, he said.

## Low-carb diets meet nutrient needs: Study

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Low-carb diets can meet and sometimes even exceed one's nutrient needs, according to a study that examined the scepticism around the nutritional quality of such diets.

Commonly recommended for diabetic patients to manage their sugar levels, low-carb diets restrict the intake of foods high in carbohydrates or added sugar, including sweets, starches, and refined grains.

While low-carb diets have been shown to provide health benefits, including weight loss, researchers said scepticism remains around the nutritional quality of low-carb diets.

Some argue that cutting down on carbs leads to over-consuming protein or fat and



under-consuming essential nutrients, the team, including researchers at the University of Vermont, US, said.

For the study, published in the journal Frontiers in Nutrition, they assessed the

nutrient adequacy of three different seven-day low-carb meal plans. Two were ketogenic diets - one that averaged about 20 grams of net carbs per day, while the other averaged about 40 grams of

net carbs per day. The third was a more liberal meal plan that contained an average of around 100 grams of net carbs per day.

"All three low-carbohydrate meal plans exceeded recommendations (US) for vitamins A, C, D, E, K, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, B6, folate and B12 in males and females in the age group of 31-70 years and exceeded calcium recommendations for adults in the age group of 31-50 years," the authors wrote.

"Our findings suggest that, in addition to their well-established ability to support weight management, low-carb eating patterns can actually help promote better diet quality and close critical nutrient gaps," co-author Beth Bradley, from the University of Vermont, said.

## 'Political power can be inherited, but wisdom can't'

**UP CM Adityanath slams Akhilesh**

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Attacking Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav over dynastic politics, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said political power can be inherited but wisdom cannot.

Targeting the SP chief, CM Adityanath said those who previously viewed power as their "bapauti" (family property) are now resorting to "conspiracies and creating chaos" to regain power.

Adityanath said that during the SP's rule, criminal elements ran parallel governments and law enforcement



was under their control. Earlier goons used to chase police, but after the formation of the BJP government in 2017, the situation has changed, he

said, adding now swift action is taken against criminals and "unka 'Ram Naam Satya' ho jata hai (They are sent on their last journey)," he said.

## Centre should protect territorial integrity of Manipur: CM

**PNS ■ IMPHAL**

Amid a fresh bout of violence in anipur, Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday appealed to the Centre to take steps to protect territorial integrity of the state, according to an official.

Singh also urged the central government not to give in to the demand for a separate administration raised by Kuki Zo groups, said the official on

condition of anonymity.

The chief minister made these appeals in a memorandum submitted to Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya when he, along with a number of MLAs and the assembly Speaker, called on him at Raj Bhavan and held a meeting.

In the memorandum to Acharya, Singh said the Centre should ensure peace in Manipur and give adequate power to the elected state gov-

ernment, according to the official. Singh also called for revoking the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement.

The SoO pact was signed by the Centre, the Manipur government and two conglomerates of Kuki militant outfits - Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF). The pact was signed in 2008 and extended periodically thereafter.



**Mind Bowling Game**

Unleash your inner bowler at the most thrilling bowling event in town

**Venue**

SHOTT Hyderabad, SATTVA Knowledge City Rd, Shilpagram Craft Village, HYTEC City, Hyderabad

September 9 at 11:00 am to September 10, at 12:00 noon

**Events**

Gaurang's Kitchen Gaurang's maize and beans is unveiling a new pop up at Gaurang's Kitchen - A classy extension with coffee specialties and an interesting food menu .

**Venue**

Plot 1147, Road No 59, Jubilee Hills , Monday 9th September between 3-5 pm

**Landmark Circular Economy Initiative**

Re Sustainability Limited and Sharrp Ventures Capital Private Limited launch partnership of circular economy initiative

Harsh Mariwala, Founder and Chairman, Marico Ltd., Director, Sharrp Ventures Capital Pvt. Ltd & Masood Mallick, Chief Executive Officer, Re Sustainability Limited, to speak

**Venue**

Synergy, Taj Deccan Tuesday, 10th September, Time: 2pm onwards

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

03

**Constable ends life**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A police constable who was working in Gopalpuram traffic police station, committed suicide on a railway track on Sunday. Ghatkesar police station received a call that an unknown male body was found on the railway track at pole number 216 Ghatkesar at 7.30 am. Ghatkesar Police rushed to the spot and came to know that the deceased person was working as police constable in Gopalapuram traffic police station. The constable has been identified as Narsimha Raju (PC 9782-2009 batch) and he parked his bike beside the railway track and committed suicide.

## ACB records 55.5% conviction rate in eight months, says outgoing DG

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which has been actively conducting raids and catching officers asking for bribes over the last eight months, reported that 10 per cent of the cases booked in 2024 had a 55.5 per cent conviction rate, including 10 convictions and eight acquittals.

Of approximately 1,450 complaints, 10 per cent (145 cases) led to booked cases. Comparing data from the last three years, 98 cases were booked in 2021, 116 in 2022, 92 in 2023, and 145 in 2024 until August 31. The highest number of cases registered was in the Revenue Department (30), which includes Land Revenue, Commercial Taxes, Survey, Prohibition and Excise, Endowments, followed by the Home Department (21) and Municipal Administration and Urban Development (18). The Transport, Roads, and Buildings Department saw 15 cases.

Zero cases were registered in the Finance Department, while single-digit numbers were recorded in the Environment, Forest, Science, and Technology; Education; Housing; Industries and Commerce; Irrigation; Labour;



Vijay Kumar taking charge from CV Anand as Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Telangana

and Employment departments with just one case each.

"All officers during our Superintendent of Police days were fearful of it, but when I took charge of the ACB, it was almost dying. My observation is that I have sent a proposal worth seven to eight crores, including staffing 550 officers, as we currently have 280, and also for vehicles. The current vehicles were given in 2015, and we need replacements. If my proposal is accepted, the staff will be supported, and the wing can function promptly,"

said outgoing Director General of ACB CV Anand, who has been transferred and posted as Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City Police.

The fear of the ACB is seen and often the accused are also heard asking the complainant if they are recording video to raise concern with the ACB. Recently, the wing has stopped including complainant names because one of them has received a threat, he added.

The data shows that 109 officers were arrested, including 85 government officers and 24 private individuals.

The final report sent to the

government by the ACB detailed a total of 103 cases and 280 persons until August 31, 2024, which is lower compared to previous years: 123 cases involving 354 persons in 2023, 145 cases involving 404 persons in 2022 and 119 cases involving 328 persons in 2021.

Government departments have given prosecution sanction orders for 72 cases, covering 86 persons.

Top cop Anand explained that the conviction rate is expected to reach 70% by the end of the year, surpassing the last two years: 69.23% in 2023 and 50% in 2022.

## CV Anand backs HYDRAA, calls for action against lake encroachments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The establishment of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) is a welcome move, and encroachers must face stringent actions because "everybody's house and office will get inundated during rains if lakes are encroached," said CV Anand, Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

During the presentation of

the ACB's eight-month performance report, the officer was asked for his opinion on HYDRAA. He immediately responded, "It is a very good move that one department is dedicated to looking after our lakes; if not, all the lakes will be encroached, and we will be flooded with a small rain."

When asked about people contributing to the government through property tax and various bills, he stated, "Don't the people living there

know it is the lake land they are living on illegally? How can anybody encroach lake land? Everybody must be treated equally."

Recalling a specific case when he was in another position, Anand said, "We received complaints about the construction of ORO Sports Village in a prominent location. When we visited the site along with other departments, it was clearly encroaching on a lake's land."

## YouTuber booked for defaming actor Vishnu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime unit has filed a case against a YouTuber identified as Vijay Chandrahasan Deverakonda for allegedly targeting, trolling and defaming actor Vishnu Manchu and his production house.

Police have arrested the YouTuber based on the complaint given by Siva Balaji, a movie artist and treasurer of the Movie Artists Association (MAA), Hyderabad. During the investigation, Inspector K Madhulatha and her team made efforts to apprehend the accused, Vijay

Chandrahasan, and served him a notice.

Vijay Chandrahasan has been continuously targeting, trolling, harassing and defaming actor Vishnu Manchu and his movie production house. He has been spreading hate and derogatory statements against Vishnu Manchu on his YouTube channel and other social media platforms, using false and fictitious subject matters to intentionally derogate Manchu's name and fame, as well as that of the MAA.

The accused person's intentions appear to be to increase his channel views and achieving other unknown goals.

## T-Consult launched to simplify teleconsultation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Simplifying teleconsultation and international business expansion with AI technology, T-Consult has been launched in the city. This Artificial Intelligence integrated T-Consult connects professionals across various fields, such as healthcare and law and helps businesses navigate international markets effortlessly. The platform not only supports global business growth but also attracts

investments into India, contributing to economic progress.

Telangana IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu also unveiled the T-Consult AI icon, appreciating the initiative for transforming industries and boosting India's global business presence.

T-Consult Chairman, Sundeeep Kumar Makthala noted that T-Consult's AI systems are revolutionizing access to expertise and international business expansion.

## SHE Teams rescue girl trapped in a hotel room for 20 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The SHE Teams on Sunday rescued a victim, who was locked in a hotel room for 20 days in Narayanaguda. With this, the SHE Teams continue to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to protecting women in Hyderabad in a series of cases involving harassment, attempted molestation and other forms of abuse.



A complaint was received by the SHE Teams Hyderabad from the parents of a student from Bhainsa, Nizamabad district, stating that their daughter had called them, informing that she had been trapped by a friend on Instagram, who threatened and forced her to come to Hyderabad and she had been locked in a hotel room for 20 days.

She shared her current location via WhatsApp. The distressed parents rushed to Hyderabad and approached the SHE Teams for immediate assistance. With a quick response, the SHE Teams tracked and located the girl in a locked hotel room at Narayanaguda, from where she was rescued within a short time. Upon rescue, the victim girl embraced her parents, expressing both fear and relief. A criminal case has been registered against the culprit at Narayanaguda police station.

## Rachakonda CP inspects Ganesh immersion arrangements

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudhir Babu on Sunday visited Edulabad and Capra ponds as part of the inspection of Ganesh immersion arrangements. After that, he spoke to the officials and gave them directions. Speaking to the media, the Rachakonda CP said that like every year, this year too, all kinds of measures

are being taken to ensure that Ganesh Navratri celebrations run smoothly in Rachakonda Commissionerate limits.

Facilities such as cranes, barricades, fresh water facilities, yard swimming pools and lighting are being provided at ponds where Ganesh immersion takes place. The Commissioner said that a coordination meeting was held with the officials of all government departments related to



Rachakonda CP Sudhir Babu visits Edulabad and Capra ponds as part of the inspection of Ganesh immersion arrangements on Sunday

the immersion and this time the immersion will be conducted peacefully with stricter security measures.



TG NAB and Excise Police conducting raids on Pubs in the city to nab drug users

## Five pubs raided in city; four people test positive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TG-NAB) Police and the Excise Police jointly conducted raids on five pubs in Hyderabad city on Friday night and four people tested positive for drug intake.

The raids were conducted by the officials of TG NAB and Excise Enforcement in the areas of Jubilee Hills, Banjara Hills, Madhapur and Gachibowli in the city. The raids were conducted at the same time on all these five pubs

and around 33 suspected people were tested by a drugs detection kit on the spot. Among them four people were found to have taken drugs.

Two people were caught in Babylon pub and the remaining two were caught in Quorum pub in the city, officials said. Out of the four, one is a minor and the other is a DJ manager. They have been identified as Chinna Nigesh of Warangal, Nartha Ravikumara of Srikakulam, TVS Keshav Rao of Moosapet and Abdul Raheem of Charminar.

## CSIR-NGRI, GSI sign MoA for ground gravity and magnetic studies



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute (Geophysics) of GSI Southern Region, signed the agreement. It marks a significant step towards advancing geophysical research and exploration in India. This collaboration aims to strengthen the geological understanding of the southern region by generating a new geophysical database of

for 2024-26. Dr Prakash Kumar, Director of CSIR-NGRI and Dr Syntai Manick Syiem, Deputy Director General (Geophysics) of GSI Southern Region, signed the agreement. It marks a significant step towards advancing geophysical research and exploration in India. This collaboration aims to strengthen the geological understanding of the southern region by generating a new geophysical database of

high quality and resolution in order to promote mineral prospecting.

Under this MoA, CSIR-NGRI will leverage its expertise in geophysical research and will provide a comprehensive approach to data acquisition and interpretation. The outcomes of this project are expected to have a wide range of applications, including natural resource exploration, tectonic studies, and improved

## IIT Hyd inaugurates SATHI Centre in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT) inaugurated the Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI) on its campus on Sunday. The event was attended by Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. IIT Hyderabad has been awarded a grant by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) that recognises outstanding performance and the cluster's commitment to advancing research and development initiatives to establish a centre on in-situ and correlative microscopy.

This centre will focus on cutting-edge microscopy characterisation to enable real-time characterisation across multiple length scales for both fundamental and industrial R&D.

This initiative aims to bring together scientists from a broad range of scientific disciplines, including physical sciences, chemistry, biology, and pharmaceutical studies, to address common scientific goals that can only be addressed by using such sophisticated microscopy techniques.

Led by Prof B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad and a team of researchers with Dr Sai Rama Krishna Malladi as the Principal Investigator, the cluster at IIT Hyderabad received a funding of Rs 60 crore from DST and has the support of 17 academic, research, and industrial organisations contributing to the tune of Rs 20 crore, namely, University of Hyderabad, Telangana State Council for Higher Education, VNIT Nagpur, NIT Raipur, NIT Warangal, NIT Andhra Pradesh, CBIT, IICT, CCMB, Bharat Biotech, Amara Raja Group and TATA Steel and others.

## 21,505 candidates secure seats of TGCPGET first phase



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 21,505 (Male : 5811 Female : 15694) candidates were allotted seats in the first phase for Telangana State-Level Common Post Graduate Entrance Tests (TGCPGET) - 2024 for admissions into PG (MA, M.Sc., M.Com, M.Li.Sc.) courses, PG Diploma and five years integrated programmes of campus, constituent and affiliated colleges of Osmania, Kakatiya, Telangana, Palamuru, Mahatma Gandhi, Satavahana, Telangana Mahila Vishwavidyalayam and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological Universities for the academic year 2024-25 which were released on Sunday.

The number of candidates who exercised web options are 28,323 out of whom 21,505 (Male : 5811 Female : 15694) candidates were allotted seats in the first phase.

The students have to pay the prescribed fee of the course/college through online. If satisfied with allotted course/college, report at respective college by submitting original transfer certificate (TC) on or before September 13. The candidate has to submit only the original TC at the allotted college, the other original certificates like SSC memo, degree memo, caste, EWS and income, are for physical verification purposes only.

The principals of the respective colleges are instructed to verify all the original certificates as per eligibility conditions from the candidate.

## Housing prices in Hyd surged 80% in 4 years

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Housing prices in Hyderabad have surged by 80% over four years, reflecting a broader trend in the Indian real estate market, which is currently experiencing a bull run.

This information was revealed by Magicbricks' flagship report on Housing Affordability in Major Indian Cities. The report highlights that the property price to annual household income ratio (P/I Ratio) in India has increased from 6.6 in 2020 to 7.5 in 2024, exceeding the globally accepted benchmark of 5.

The report also identifies Chennai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata as the most affordable cities for residential

investments in 2024, with a P/I Ratio of 5. In contrast, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Delhi are the least affordable, with P/I Ratios of 14.3 and 10.1, respectively.

Additionally, the EMI-to-monthly income ratio in India rose from 46% in 2020 to 61% in 2024, indicating a growing burden on home buyers. MMR, Delhi and Hyderabad are particularly affected, while Ahmedabad, Chennai, and Kolkata remain more affordable.

The report concluded that the current situation is likely to hit equilibrium conditions with market trends indicating a deceleration in price growth due to an anticipated increase in residential supply.

## Rules for JNTU PhD admissions draw flak from aspirants

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY bhumireddyashmi@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Securing a PhD has become a challenge for students at the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) due to inconsistencies in the rules and execution of exams, interviews and counselling.

Speaking to the Pioneer Correspondent, Jagan, a PhD Scholar, said, "The universities across Telangana follow the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines. However, JNTU doesn't organise a common entrance exam. Irrespective of the candidates qualifying, the PhD seats still remain vacant. We urged the officials to release a second list of candidates who achieved scores near the passing threshold or meet the PhD requirements, to allow them an opportunity to pursue a PhD. However, the officials are refusing to do this."

He stated that at Kakatiya University, candidates who passed the exams were selected in a 1:2 ratio (the first and second lists of eligible students were declared). However, JNTU does not even follow a 1:1 ratio to fill the PhD vacancies.

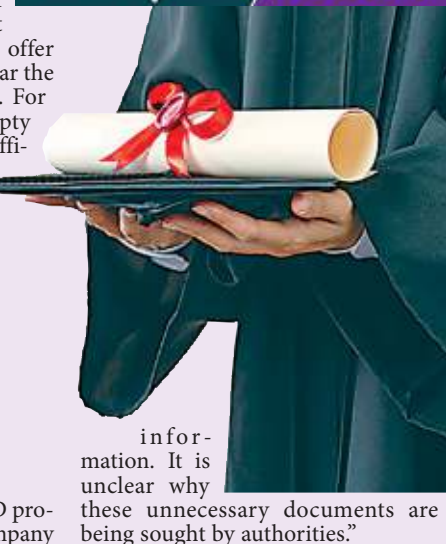
He says, "If a candidate scored 40 marks and was within five or ten marks of the qualifying cutoff, officials could determine eligibility for an interview to assess his suitability for a PhD. However, this is no longer the situation. We urged the officials to provide an opportunity for the PhD candidates."

According to UGC guidelines, the university is required to conduct PhD exams twice a year; however, this is not happening. Additionally, students are being requested by the authorities to bring in payslips and other relevant documents not specified in the notification.

"JNTU organises internal PHD exams, unlike the common entrance

exams," explains Bhanuprakash, another PhD scholar. He went on to share, "These exams require qualifying or cutoff marks. If the seats are vacant post-counselling, officials can offer them to students who scored near the cutoff marks on the result list. For example, if there are still empty seats after the initial round, the officials may release a second list of qualified students for research based on their grades."

The notification did not mention the need to bring payslips or appointment orders for PhD exam qualifiers but had asked the qualified candidates to bring them. Sometimes officials require students to present a letter from their employer confirming eligibility for PhD programs, salary details and company



information. It is unclear why these unnecessary documents are being sought by authorities."



## Harish seeks resolution of RGUKT students's demands

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Former Minister T Harish Rao took to 'X' on Saturday stating that Congress government has brought disrepute to education system. While on one hand, Gurukul students are protesting demanding resolution of their issues, the students of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies (RGUKT)-Basar took to the path of agitation. The students put forward 17 demands and they sought resolution of their demands.

He stated that the RGUKT students have been staging protests for four days, but the government ignored them.

"As per the Congress manifesto, four IITs would be set up in the state as soon as it came to power. What does Revanth Reddy do? There are no new ones. Do you have any education system in your nine-month rule from the primary level to the highest triple IT? 1,800 schools were closed. Food poison cases have increased. The BRS party is demanding that the state-level review be carried out immediately to address the problems of Basara IIT issues and the problems in the education sector", he alleged.

# Amid downpour, Bhatti visits rehabilitation centres

The Deputy Chief Minister, who arrived in Khammam at 11.30 pm on Saturday, continued to inspect shelters till the early hours of Sunday

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Braving a downpour, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday went round various rehabilitation centres in the city till 1 am on Sunday. He interacted with the people in the rehabilitation centres and enquired about the amenities.

He left the State capital at 7.30 pm and reached Khammam at 11.30 pm on Saturday, visiting the city for the fourth time to assess the condition in the flood-hit city.

The people's government, led by Congress in Telangana is committed to the welfare of the people. He appealed to the people not to get disheartened and said that the government would come to their rescue.

The flood threat to the city from Munneru Vagu is not yet over with the Met Office predicting more rains on Sunday.

On the way to Khammam from Hyderabad, there was heavy rain. He reached the Kalva Vaddu in the affected area of the city. He asked the people to go to safer places or take shelter in the rehabilitation



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka interacting with people at a rehabilitation centre in Khammam in the early hours of Sunday

centres provided by the government. Later, he inspected the flood level near Munneru Road over bridge at Kalva Vaddu.

Around midnight, he visited the Swarna Bharati rehabilitation centre and interacted with people. Over 100 families have been taking shelter in the rehabilitation centre.

He enquired about the relief they received from the government and supervised food arrangements. He asked the officials to provide blankets to people.

From there, the Deputy Chief Minister proceeded to the rehabilitation centre at Women's Degree College in the city and enquired

about the amenities at the centre. He spoke with 50 families belonging to Bokkalgadda taking shelter there.

Around 1 am on Sunday, he visited the rehabilitation centre established at a government school in Dhamsalapuram in Khammam urban mandal. He inspected the food and other facilities being provided to them there. To a question, the people taking shelter said that the officials have been responding immediately and giving them medicines even for minor ailments.

Later, he spoke with collector Muzammil Khan who is alerting the affected people and personally supervising their relief and rehabilitation in government shelters and asked him to focus first on the evacuation of people living in and around Munneru Vagu area as the flood level in the stream is on the rise.

Congress party district president Puvvalla Durga Prasad, Collector Muzammil Khan, Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, local medical and health, revenue and other officials were present.

## Collector asks people to celebrate festivals with harmony

PNS ■ ASIFABAD

Collector Venkatesh Dhotre on Sunday asked the residents of the district to celebrate the festivals of Ganesh Navaratri and Milad-un-Nabi in an atmosphere of communal harmony and in a peaceful and responsibly.

He inspected the arrangements made for immersion of Ganesh idols in Peddavagu in the town, along with Municipal Commissioner Bhujanga Rao, Assistant Engineer of the Electricity Department Sadasivan and Sub Inspector Rajeshwar. He asked the officials to make arrangements for the immersion of the Ganesh idols at the end of the Navaratri cel-



Asifabad Collector Venkatesh Dhotre visiting Peddavagu in Asifabad on Sunday

ebrations and clear the roadside hedges and undertake repairs to roads to enable the vehicles carrying the Ganesh idols for immersion reach the Peddavgu without any problems.

A crane should be made available for the immersion of

the idols and other amenities should be provided. The organisers of the Ganesh mantaps should follow the rules without fail. Later, he visited the Ganesh Mantap installed by Samardha Sai Ganesh Mandali in the town.

## Mystery shrouds death of BSF jawan from TG

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Mystery shrouds death of BSF jawan Ganga Bhavani, who hailed from Telangana, in Gujarat. She was deployed in Gujarat. She was found dead in her official quarters in Gandhi Nagar on Saturday, the BSF officials informed her family members on Sunday.

The exact cause of her death could not be ascertained immediately. The family members await her post-mortem report to know the truth.

She hailed from Godavari in



Peddapalli district. She joined the BSF four years ago. First she was posted in North Bengal and later she was transferred to Gujarat.

Ganga Bhavani visited her home in Godavari on September 1 for Rakhi festival celebrations.

According to reliable sources, her body was flown in to Shamsabad by a special flight on Sunday. She will be cremated in her native village. Her parents have been weeping inconsolably for their dear daughter.

## Two youths from Bidar arrested for chain-snatching

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Two youths, who hailed from Bidar, were arrested on a charge of snatching a gold chain from a woman at Khaleepur village under Nyalkal mandal in the district on Sunday. The youth allegedly committed the crime on Friday.

Based on a complaint by a woman that two youths had snatched her gold chain and fled, Haddanur police investigated the case and apprehended the alleged offenders.

The two alleged offenders followed woman, K Rumini when she was the pillion passenger on the motorcycle dri-

ven by her husband. The couple were on their way to Rajinal from Zaheerabad town.

The alleged offenders sped past the couple and stopped them. The accused, identified as Sayyed Mohammad and Sheikh Nadiyahal snatched the gold chain from the woman and fled, the police said.

## Officials told to assess damage caused by rains, floods

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Anita Ramachandran, Commissioner of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department and District Nodal Officer, Relief and Permanent Reconstruction, on Sunday directed the officials to prepare the estimates of the damage caused by the heavy rains and floods in the last week of last month and the first week of this month with full care.

On Sunday, she held a review meeting at the District collector's Office, along with District Collector C Narayana Reddy, on the various types of damage caused by the recent heavy rains in the district.

She said that heavy rains and floods occurred across the State, causing loss of life and property, and the State government has directed all the districts to prepare damage estimates. She said that Nalgonda is also one of the districts affected by heavy rains and as part of this, if there is any death of people and cattle, as well as complete collapse of pachyderms, kutcha houses, partial damage to huts in Nalgonda district due to heavy rains, then



Commissioner of Panchayat Raj Anita Ramachandran, along with Collector C Narayana Reddy, visiting flood-affected areas in Nalgonda on Sunday

estimates should be prepared as per government rules and submitted immediately. He said that the details of damage assessment including photos and proofs should be submitted. Similarly, if the crops, fisheries, irrigation tanks, R & B, Panchayati Raj roads, drinking water sources, electricity, Anganwadi centres, school buildings and other government buildings have been damaged or fallen due to rains, then they should submit the details in the form prescribed by the government along with

the details of the damage. She was instructed to prepare all the evidence and submit it immediately.

As soon as the meeting began, District Collector C Narayana Reddy explained the damage caused by the recent heavy rains and floods in the district through a power point presentation including figures and photos.

Additional Collector of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Gangadhar, and Additional Collector of Revenue, P.S. reviewed by Salon.



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy at Vinayaka mantapam in Nalgonda on Sunday

## Komatireddy urged people to celebrate festival peacefully

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy greeted the people of Telangana on the occasion of Vinayaka Chavithi. The Minister said that Vinayaka said the festivities should be held in a grand manner this year in Nalgonda district, which is a symbol of communal harmony.

On Sunday, the Minister visited various Vinayaka mandapams in Nalgonda district centre and performed special pujas. The Minister said that the nine-day long Vinayaka festivities should be celebrated peacefully and all precautions should be taken to avoid even minor incident anywhere in the dis-

trict, especially the youth should celebrate the festivities peacefully and responsibly. He prayed to Lord Ganesha to bless the poor, unemployed, farmers and all sections of the society to get higher positions. He said that he was happy to perform puja at various Vinayaka mandapams in Nalgonda again after seven years. He said that all the officials of the police, Revenue, Electricity, Municipal and other departments should take precautions to prevent any untoward incident. He directed the municipal authorities to take up sanitation works at the mandapams from time to time.

Municipal Chairman Burri Srinivas Reddy and other public representatives were

## Heavy vehicles asked to take diversion

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

City police commissioner Sunil Dutt has asked the vehicle users to use the alternative routes till the repairs were completed to Munneru road bridge in Prakash Nagar in the city.

In a statement on Saturday, the city police chief has said that the Roads and Building officials have undertaken

construction of a wall on either side of the road bridge. Till further orders have been issued, he asked all heavy vehicles, including buses, lorries and goods carriers, to take the traffic diversion.

All heavy vehicles are allowed to travel from Sri Sri Circle to Warangal X roads via bypass road and Karunagiri road bridge.

## Three fiends arrested for assault on Class 9 girl



Dubbaka Circle Inspector Srinivas and Sub Inspector Gangaraju announcing the arrest of 3 alleged sex offenders in Dubbaka on Sunday

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

A shocking incident of three alleged sex offenders luring a Class 9 girl with false promises and impregnating her in Dubbaka mandal in the district came to light on Sunday.

The horrific incident came to light when the girl's mother took her to hospital as she complained of abdominal pain. When the doctor examined, it was found that the girl was pregnant. The girl's mother was left aghast and appalled over the fate of the little girl.

The girl's father, according to neighbours, died after a pro-

longed illness. Despite financial difficulties, the girl's mother worked as a farm labourer and ensured that her daughter did not drop out of school.

Meanwhile, three predators, the mother said, had lured the girl with false promises and subjected her to sexual assault. The girl revealed the identity of the three predators upon being questioned.

Based on the complaint by the girl's mother, the police registered a case against the three persons under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). The police arrested three persons

## CM officially to inaugurate Yellampalli project soon: Minister

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Foundation stone was laid for the Sripada Sagar Yellampalli project by late chief minister Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy. But formal inauguration of the project did not take place though the project was completed and an ayacut was brought under irrigation. Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu said on Sunday that a formal inauguration of the project would be

The Rs 6,400-crore project was completed within eight years. The BRS that ruled the state for 10 years, for reasons best known to it, did not dedicate it to the nation officially.

However, the present Congress regime has plans to inaugurate it officially soon.

In view of heavy rains in the district, Sridhar Babu visited the project. In this connection, he stated that the project would be inaugurated officially soon. Arrangements are underway to inaugurate it officially by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The IT Minister said that the Bandalavagu project would also be ready for inauguration by completing the pending works.

The project, which has been named after former speaker and senior Congress leader late D Sripada Rao, is conceived to provide irrigation and drinking water to Telangana region in undivided AP.

After the death of Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy, it was decided to get the project inaugurated by the



then CM of united AP N Kiran Kumar Reddy in 2012. At that time, the Telangana movement was at its peak. Protests and demonstrations were going on all over the state.

The storage capacity of project is 20 tmc ft. It has 62 crest gates. It supplies 6.5 tmc ft of water to the NTPC power project at Ramagundam. The projects irrigates 20,000 acres in the Minister's constituency of Manthani by supplying two tmc ft of water by lifting water from Gundaram reservoir through Manthani LI scheme. Similarly, it supplies 10 tmc ft to Hyderabad under Abdul Kalam Sujala Sravanti scheme.

The towns and villages in Peddapalli district get drinking water from the project and also to Ramagundam Assembly constituency through Mission Bhagiradha scheme. Further, the project wets 2 lakh acres in Karimnagar.

## Prohibitory orders relaxed in Jainoor in view of festivals

PNS ■ KOMURAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

The district administration has relaxed the prohibitory orders in the trouble-torn Jainoor village in view of the Ganesh festival. The situation is now under control. On Saturday and Sunday, the prohibitory orders were relaxed from 8 am to 11 am and again from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Meanwhile, normalcy is returning to the town ravaged by clashes between tribals

and minorities. With the relaxation of Section 144, the people came out of their homes and purchased essential commodities. The people heaved a big sigh of relief as no untoward incident was reported on Saturday and Sunday.

District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre appealed to the people to celebrate Ganesh festival and Milad-un-Nabi peacefully and responsibly. For the benefit of the people, relaxation was given in enforcement of pro-

hibitory orders.

Law and order DG Mahesh Bhagawat and IG Chandrasekhara Reddy, who visited Jainoor on Thursday, reviewed the law and order situation on Saturday evening and left the place.

Asifabad SP Srinivasa Rao has been monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, the district administration restored the Internet services in the district, barring six mandals, on Saturday evening.

## Not all farmers benefited from farm loan waiver



Former minister G Jagadish Reddy speaking to the media in Suryapet on Sunday

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Former minister and Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy demanded that the government fulfil its promise to waive farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh for all farmers. A section of farmers are yet to get the loan waiver benefit, he said.

Addressing a press conference at the MLA camp office

in Suryapet on Sunday, Jagadish Reddy demanded a clarity on what the government intended to do in the matter of farm loan waiver. There is confusion over the matter. Cabinet Ministers are not able to give answers. The Chief Minister has been making different statement day after day.

He said that Rs 26,000 crore has been allocated in the bud-

get and Rs 18,000 crore has been released so far.

He said that the farmers in the State are being harassed. He said that the government made false promises to farmers ahead of the elections is now trying to cheat them again. He said that this government should take a clear stand on the issue of loan waiver, give clarity to farmers.



ACROSS THE STATES



Govt promotes pulses production in tribal & Naxal-affected areas

The government is encouraging pulse cultivation, particularly arhar and urad, in Naxal-affected districts and tribal areas of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh to boost national production and increase farmers' income, according to a government official. The initiative, focusing on non-traditional pulse-growing regions, is a pilot project that could be expanded nationwide if successful, potentially reducing India's reliance on imports. The National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd (NCCF), tasked with piloting the project, has identified four districts in Jharkhand and five in Chhattisgarh for implementation. "We're promoting arhar and urad production this kharif season in selected Naxal-affected and tribal areas of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, including women farmers," NCCF Managing Director Anice Joseph Chandra said. Target districts include Rajnandgaon, Jashpur, Bastar, and Mohla Manpur in Chhattisgarh, and Palamu, Katihar, Dumka, and Garwa in Jharkhand.

Ready for talks with Pak if it stops terrorism in J-K: Rajnath

PNS ■ BANIHAL (J-K)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India is ready to start dialogue with Pakistan if it stops terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing an election rally in this assembly segment of Ramban district in support of BJP candidate Mohd Saleem Bhat, Singh said Article 370 of the Constitution that granted special status to J-K was revoked to end the misery of the people and make the region prosperous.

"Pakistan do one thing that is stop taking support of terrorism. Who would not like to improve relations with neighbouring countries? Because I know the reality that you can change a friend but not your neighbour. We want improved relations with Pakistan but first of all they should stop terrorism," Singh told a well-attended gathering here.

The defence minister said when Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and



Kashmir, India will start dialogue with them.

"Among those who fell to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, 85 percent were Muslims. Terror incidents used

to be a routine affair in Kashmir. Were Hindus being killed in the terror acts? I have been a home minister and I know the highest number of Muslims lost their lives in the

incidents of terror," Singh said. Earlier in the day, the defence minister addressed an election rally in nearby Ramban in support of party candidate Rakesh Singh Thakur and said more than 40,000 people lost their lives in terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP's Bhat is pitted against former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and ex-minister Vikar Rasool Wani who is looking for a hat-trick of wins from the Banihal seat.

'Join India, we consider you our own'

PNS ■ JAMMU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asked the residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to come and join India as "we consider you our own unlike Pakistan which treats you as foreigners".

Addressing an election rally in the Ramban assembly constituency in support of BJP candidate Rakesh Singh Thakur, the Union minister asserted there is a sea change in the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

The senior BJP leader came down heavily on the National Conference-Congress alliance

over its poll promise of restoring Article 370 and said it is impossible as long as the BJP is there. He said the "sea change" witnessed in the overall security situation in J-K since August 2019 means that youths now carry laptops and computers in their hands instead of pistols and revolvers.

Rahul to 'further strengthen' bond between India and US



PNS ■ HOUSTON

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday arrived in the US on a three-day visit during which he will hold "meaningful discussions and insightful conversations" to further strengthen the bond between India and America.

"I am truly delighted by the warm welcome I've received in Dallas, Texas, USA, from the Indian Diaspora and members of the Indian Overseas Congress," Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said in a Facebook post.

"I eagerly look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions and insightful conversations that will further strengthen the bond between our two nations during this visit," he said, sharing some

photographs of his arrival.

In a post on X, the Congress party said that Gandhi received a "warm and enthusiastic" welcome at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport.

Indian Overseas Congress chairperson Sam Pitroda said last week that the Opposition leader is not coming to the US in his official capacity but will have a chance to interact with a variety of people on Capitol Hill at an "individual level".

"He (Gandhi) will have interactions with the press at the national press club, he will meet with the think tank people and will also have interaction at Georgetown University which is equally important in Washington DC," Pitroda said of Gandhi's first visit to the US since assuming the mantle of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.



Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Al Nahyan arrives in Delhi

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived here to a warm welcome on Sunday as he kick-started a two-day maiden visit to India to further boost bilateral ties in a range of areas, including energy and connectivity, amid escalating tensions in West Asia. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal received the Crown Prince at the airport following which he was accorded a ceremonial welcome, in reflection of the importance India has attached to the visit. "A new milestone in a historic relationship. His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in Delhi on his first official visit to India," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X. "Warmly received by @CimGOI @piyushgoyal and accorded a ceremonial welcome," he said.



Man hangs self after killing daughters in Prayagraj

A man allegedly killed his two minor daughters with a sharp weapon before hanging himself here on Sunday afternoon, police said. Additional Commissioner of Police N Kolanchi said they got information that a man has hanged himself in his house in Dhoomanganj and the bodies of his two daughters are lying nearby. The police along with the field unit reached the spot and opened the door of the room which was locked from inside and found the bodies of Manish Prajapati (30) and his daughters Nancy (5) and Khushboo (3), he said. The daughters have been stabbed in the stomach, he said. "On Sunday afternoon when his wife had gone out to the market he allegedly took the extreme step. Manish also called his wife before the incident." He said that the reasons for murder and suicide will be known after investigating this case.

MEDIC'S RAPE-MURDER

SC to hear RG Kar hospital incident case today



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the case related to the murder and alleged rape of a junior doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

According to the cause list uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is slated to hear on September 9 the case, which was initiated by the top court on its own.

The Centre has recently

filed an application in the apex court alleging "unpardonable" non-cooperation by the West Bengal government in extending logistical support to the CISF, tasked with providing security at the hospital.

In its application, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has termed the alleged non-cooperation of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government as an example "symptomatic of a systemic malaise" and sought a direction to the state authorities to extend full cooperation to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

NSA AJIT DOVAL TO ATTEND BRICS MEET

Ukraine conflict likely to figure in discussions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

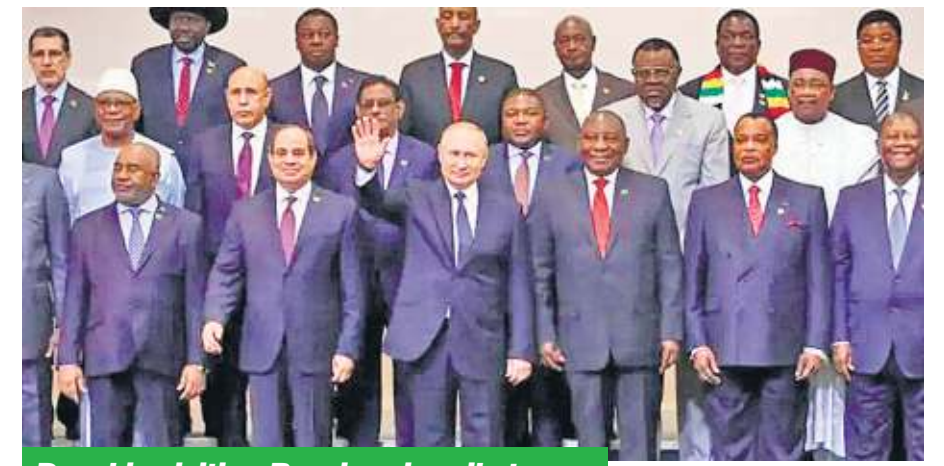
National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is travelling to Russia this week against the backdrop of calls for India's possible role in finding a solution to the Ukraine conflict following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv.

Doval is visiting Russia primarily to attend a conclave of national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) grouping that is taking place amid a renewed push for peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv to end the conflict.

NSA Doval is travelling to Russia for the BRICS meet, official sources said. He is also expected to hold talks with his Russian counterpart and is likely to discuss ways to bring peace to the region.

Doval's visit to Russia comes two-and-a-half weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile trip to the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

On Saturday, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, following her talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said



Doval is visiting Russia primarily to attend a conclave of national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) grouping that is taking place amid a renewed push for peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv to end the conflict

India and China can play a role in finding a solution to the dragging conflict.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking at a panel discussion

at the Eastern Economic Forum in the Russian city of Vladivostok on Thursday, named India, Brazil and China as possible

intermediaries that could play a role in resolving the conflict

"First of all, it is the Chinese People's Republic, Brazil and India -- I am in contact with my partners and I have no doubt that the leaders of these countries, and we have relations of trust and confidence with one another, will be really interested and provide a helping hand," he said.

His remarks came in response to a question on possible countries that can act as a mediator between Russia and Ukraine.

Will raze only ...

Continued from page 1

Buildings demolished in Ameenpur were mainly compound walls/ rooms/sheds built on encroached/grabbed land by former MLA Panyam Katanani Ram Bhoopal Reddy. Some sheds/hotels constructed in Sunnam Cheruvu were being used for commercial purposes. They were located in the FTL area and were demolished.

No house or residence occupied by any person has been demolished.

Seven villas demolished in the Mallampeta Cheruvu of Dundigal were being constructed (not occupied by any family) and were in the FTL area. They were being constructed without any statutory permissions. The builder is one Vijay Lakshmi (called Lady Don locally) who faces many criminal cases and is also connected to local political leaders.

Buildings in Sunnam Cheruvu were demolished earlier too, but they again came up and so they were demolished on Sunday. Criminal cases/complaints were booked in local police stations against the builder Vijay Lakshmi and former MLA Panyam Katanani Ram Bhoopal Reddy, etc.

We would like to assure the people of Hyderabad that no house which is occupied will be demolished under any circumstance. However, we request the public not to purchase any house/flat/ land which falls in the FTL area or buffer zone of any lake.

If any individual has doubts regarding FTL areas or buffer zones of lakes they must check HMDA lakes (website) or approach us, the Commissioner of HYDRAA said.

HYDRAA reclaims ...

Continued from page 1

How can we live without a place to stay," Neela said.

After HYDRAA demolished their homes, they now have nowhere to go to shelter from the rains. After the demolition in the Madhapur area rains lashed the locality. The people who lost their homes shielded themselves from the rain under a polythene cover and Ganesh Pandals.

HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath said, "The structures demolished on Sunday in the Madhapur Sunnam

Cheruvu and the Mallampet Cheruvu of Dundigal were being built without permission in FTL areas and buffer zones. Structures in the Sunnam Cheruvu were demolished earlier also, but they again came up. So we demolished them on Sunday. Some sheds in Sunnam Cheruvu were being used for commercial purposes and were demolished."

"The structures demolished at Ameenpur are mainly compound walls, rooms and sheds built on lands grabbed by former MLA Katanani Ram Bhoopal Reddy of Andhra

Pradesh," Ranganath said.

He said that the seven villas demolished in the Mallampeta Cheruvu of Dundigal were being constructed (not occupied by any families), in the FTL area and had no permissions. The builder is one Vijay Lakshmi (called Lady Don locally). She faces many criminal cases and is also connected to some local politicians.

"Criminal cases were booked in local police stations against builder Vijay Lakshmi and former MLA Katanani Ram Bhoopal Reddy," he added.

Suspected ...

Continued from page 1

The last case of mpox was detected in March this year.

According to WHO's earlier statement, 99,176 mpox cases and 208 deaths have been reported from 116 countries since 2022. Last year, the reported cases increased significantly.

The number of mpox cases reported so far this year has exceeded last year's total, with more than 15,600 cases and 537 deaths. Mpox is a viral zoonosis with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although clinically less severe.

According to officials, mpox infections are generally self-limiting lasting between two and four weeks. Mpox patients usually recover with supportive medical care and management.

Transmission of the disease happens through prolonged and close contact with an infected person. It happens largely through the sexual route, direct contact with the body/lesion fluid of the patient, or through the contaminated clothing/linen of an infected person.

TG Govt must ...

Continued from page 1

Kishan, who assessed the damage in the flood-affected areas of Dhamsalapuram and Thirumalalem in Khammam, said he had interacted with people affected by the floods and inquired with them about the flood relief and rehabilitation efforts.

In a post on X he said, "Learnt that the victims were not receiving adequate support from the state government." Khammam witnessed heavy floods, rendering a lot of people home-

less. Both the state and the central governments would stand with the victims, the Union Minister said. Kishan also promised to build a retaining wall along the Munneru stream to prevent flooding in future.

He visited the relief camp at Agraharam Colony and interacted with the displaced. He also distributed relief materials and blankets to them. Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, BJP MPs Eatala Rajender, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy and officials were present.

'Teachers' unions ...

Continued from page 1

He said that once again a conspiracy is going on to include lessons about the Naxalite movement and Communism and that persons who want to destroy the education system are entering it. Teachers must

face them, Sanjay added. He said that he fought for teachers against GO No: 317, went to jail and that he is the MP who has the maximum of 109 cases against him. He said that only the TPUS extended support for his fight against the BRS government.

Bangla to take steps...

Continued from page 1

Necessary steps will be taken to bring former prime minister Hasina back under the extradition treaty with India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led protests in July and August, International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper. "We will file an application with the International Crimes Tribunal, when it resumes functions, to issue arrest warrants against all the absconding accused including Sheikh Hasina in connection with the cases filed for mass killing and crimes against humanity," he said at a press briefing on the ICT premises in Dhaka.

Replying to a question, he said a decision would be taken after consulting with the government about amendments to the existing International Crimes Tribunal Act for holding trial of the new cases filed with IT. "Information, documents and evidence against the accused persons will have to be collected from across the country and those will have to be compiled, examined and placed properly before the tribunal, which is very much challenging and huge task," Islam added.

According to the interim government's Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, more than 1,000 people have been killed and hundreds injured during the protests against the Hasina-led government.

Vijay Kumar takes ...

Continued from page 1

"Anti-corruption initiatives try to eliminate dishonest practices, ensuring transparency, accountability and ethical governance to build confidence in public institutions," a message posted by Vijay Kumar on the Anti-Corruption Bureau's (ACB) website said.

TG tops in Ease ...

Continued from page 1

Instead of congratulating the officials of the Industries Department for winning the award, making disheartening comments is neither appropriate nor admirable."

Earlier in the day, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao congratulated Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by reposting Vijayan's post. Pinarayi Vijayan@pinarayivijayan, "Proud that Kerala has come first in the Ease of Doing Business reforms in the country, with Top Achiever status in nine reform areas. Our investment-friendly ecosystem and entrepreneurs' growing confidence in Kerala's potential has truly been captured. This is a time like no other to invest in and grow from #Kerala." KTR@KTRBRS "Congratulations Sir, to you and the state of Kerala." Pinarayi Vijayan@pinarayivijayan "Thank you so much. @KTRBRS, for your kind words! BRS, your support lifts our spirits." KTR@KTRBRS "Always been a big fan of your beautiful state Kerala, God's own country."





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Admission of guilt

After being in a state of denial for 25-odd years, Pakistan admits its army's role in the Kargil war for the first time

Pakistan has, for the first time, officially acknowledged the role of its army in the Kargil War of 1999. Speaking at an event to commemorate Defence Day, Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir said several Pak soldiers died in the 1999 Kargil War against India. This is the first time that Pakistan acknowledged active role in the war in a surprising departure from its elusive stance. Previously, Pakistan had maintained that the Kargil operation was carried out by mujahedeen or "freedom fighters" and local insurgents, distancing its military establishment from the war. However, this newfound candour could potentially reshape not only the country's internal discourse but also its relations with India and the broader international community. Indeed, India and the world knew it all along and there was not an iota of doubt about the role the Pakistan army under General Musharraf played in the Kargil war. It was orchestrated by the then Pakistan army chief General Musharraf who went ahead with his machinations without even taking the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif.



The Kargil War, fought between India and Pakistan from May to July 1999, erupted after Pakistani soldiers and militants infiltrated the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir. Their goal was to seize strategic heights, from where they could disrupt supply routes to India's northern military outposts, including the Siachen Glacier. India was initially caught by surprise but responded with full-scale military operations to reclaim the territory. Indian forces mounted a determined counter-offensive, which eventually forced Pakistan to retreat. Multiple independent sources, including captured Pakistani soldiers and intelligence reports, indicated that regular units of the Pakistani Army were deeply involved. But the big question is why now? This change is likely driven by internal and external factors, including evolving political dynamics, growing transparency within the military establishment, and changing geopolitical realities. By acknowledging its role, Pakistan may be seeking to rewrite its narrative, demonstrating a willingness to confront uncomfortable truths in its military history. This admission could have several important implications for Pakistan, India, and the region as a whole. The official acknowledgement could prompt a deeper examination of the internal decision-making processes that led to the Kargil War. By owning up to its role, Pakistan could potentially build trust in future diplomatic engagements. This admission could further influence Pakistan's military strategy, possibly encouraging more caution and restraint in future operations. Pakistan's recognition of its army's involvement could alter its approach to the Kashmir dispute, leading to more diplomatic, rather than military, efforts to resolve the issue. While the scars of Kargil will not heal overnight, this acknowledgement opens up the possibility for greater introspection and, potentially, reconciliation in the future.

to retreat. Multiple independent sources, including captured Pakistani soldiers and intelligence reports, indicated that regular units of the Pakistani Army were deeply involved. But the big question is why now? This change is likely driven by internal and external factors, including evolving political dynamics, growing transparency within the military establishment, and changing geopolitical realities. By acknowledging its role, Pakistan may be seeking to rewrite its narrative, demonstrating a willingness to confront uncomfortable truths in its military history. This admission could have several important implications for Pakistan, India, and the region as a whole. The official acknowledgement could prompt a deeper examination of the internal decision-making processes that led to the Kargil War. By owning up to its role, Pakistan could potentially build trust in future diplomatic engagements. This admission could further influence Pakistan's military strategy, possibly encouraging more caution and restraint in future operations. Pakistan's recognition of its army's involvement could alter its approach to the Kashmir dispute, leading to more diplomatic, rather than military, efforts to resolve the issue. While the scars of Kargil will not heal overnight, this acknowledgement opens up the possibility for greater introspection and, potentially, reconciliation in the future.

## PICTALK



Indian Air Force aerobatics team Surya Kiran performs at exercise 'Tarang Shakti,' in Jodhpur

## Indian economy thrives amid global challenges



SUDHIR HINDWAN

While global powers struggle with economic slowdowns, India's strategic reforms, thriving startup ecosystem, and growing middle class continue to fuel its growth

India's economic landscape remains one of remarkable resilience and potential, despite the challenges it faces. Although the recent GDP data for the last quarter of the current year indicates a decline from the anticipated 8% growth to 6.7%, the country continues to lead among the fastest-growing global economies. This achievement is an indicator of India's gradual economic aggrandizement, positioning it as a global player in economic growth and development. While major economies around the world experience slowdowns, India's economic growth has remained robust.

However, one of the key challenges facing the Indian government is the growing need to create more employment opportunities. The number of unemployed and underemployed citizens has increased over the years, and the problem has been exacerbated by rapid globalization. This has introduced a new era marked by the principle of 'perform or perish,' impacting public sector enterprises and businesses worldwide. India's public sector has not been immune to this trend, but the abundance of cheap labor and a proactive push towards Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have given the country a promising future.

Despite India's initially cautious approach to economic reforms, the government has gradually implemented a range of confidence-building measures. These initiatives not only promote economic growth but also aim to ensure the equitable development of various societal sectors. The framework of socio-economic justice that India has developed has helped build trust within the country and abroad, as has its progress with export-oriented special economic zones (SEZs). The share of India's global trade was just 0.7% in the early stages, but efforts to strengthen the country's medium-term export strategy between 2002 and 2007 have yielded positive results.

Additionally, the economic reforms of 1991 gave India a significant boost, marking the beginning of its economic liberaliza-



tion. Although some East Asian economies and China receive higher levels of foreign direct investment, India's superior corporate governance and the high quality of its commercially driven companies have allowed it to achieve better returns on investment. India's success has also been driven by its business experts and investors, who have made their mark overseas, particularly in fields like information technology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare. These sectors have become areas in which even advanced economies must catch up. Additionally, India's indigenous entrepreneurship and industries have provided the country with a significant advantage over other economies that rely heavily on foreign direct investment. A prime example of this is China, where the export-led manufacturing boom is largely fueled by FDI, which is not a substitute for home-grown entrepreneurship. India, on the other hand, has focused on building strong internal markets. The complexities of financial dealings are another challenge that India has handled well. For instance, Japan has faced severe economic issues due to a malfunctioning financial system in recent years, highlighting the importance of constant monitoring by competent authorities. India's mature financial markets and the robust regulations govern-



A PARTICULARLY PROMISING DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA'S ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE IS THE RECENT RISE OF STARTUPS. IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE COUNTRY HAS SEEN MORE THAN 10,000 STARTUPS EMERGE, CREATING OVER 100,000 JOBS, BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY

ing them have provided investors with confidence and stability. Additionally, while China may lead in savings rates, infrastructure, and manufacturing, India's services-driven growth and institutional stability, rooted in democracy and pluralism, set it apart.

A particularly promising development in India's economic landscape is the recent rise of startups. In the last five years, the country has seen more than 10,000 startups emerge, creating over 100,000 jobs, both directly and indirectly. This success has been attributed to a robust strategy that has expanded operational and support networks from rural to urban areas. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) reported that these startups have significantly contributed to employment generation, further solidifying India's economic prospects.

Foreign investors have also recognized India's potential. Over the past two decades, more than \$60 billion has been invested in Indian stock markets. Additionally, over 600 investors have been granted permission to trade on Indian stock exchanges. This influx of investment has resulted in a 125% growth in the Sensex and a 148% rise in the Bombay Stock Exchange. India's remarkable progress in the IT industry has opened

new doors for Indian companies, which are now aggressively expanding into overseas markets. The country's compliance and regulatory authorities have ensured that foreign investments are secure and that economic transactions are monitored thoroughly. Despite the challenges posed by a tough global economic climate, India's G20 Presidency has provided an opportunity to position itself as a key player in global manufacturing and as a reliable partner in various sectors. The cooperation among G20 nations has also fostered the development of new strategies to meet the needs of vulnerable countries, fostering a more inclusive global society. This cooperation could lead to a positive shift in international relations, promoting greater harmony and collaboration. India's impressive progress is largely attributed to its immense talent and strategic foresight. However, the country must continue to navigate social and political pressures to maintain its growth momentum. By addressing these challenges, India can further solidify its position as a global economic powerhouse, capable of driving growth not only within its borders but also across the world.

(The author, recipient of Bharat Gaurav award, is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## THE US ELECTIONS

Madam — A section of media has reported Hindu groups support for Donald Trump against Kamala Harris which sends mixed signals as both Republicans and Democrats have sizable strength cadres of expats from India. How far does the support call for Donald Trump go, there is a distant possibility that Hindus will be benefitted by such a skewed political approach.

In earlier US elections also, Hindu Americans' support has never been so explicit publicly. US collaborations, trade and technology, defence ties and agreements and its support in geopolitical challenges from China in South Asia and the Indian Ocean are very crucial for India. Therefore, a restrictive narrative of Hindu support may turnaround the US policies for immigrants as Hindus or at large Indian expats in the US are entirely different community absolutely loyal to US or any other countries where they have settled.

The most powerful country US must be credited for giving opportunity to Indians to achieve the highest positions in their ruling, governance, business, corporate ladder and society. I hope wisdom will prevail on American Indians and particularly Hindus to play their significant role in the Presidential elections.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

## COURTS AS THE LAST RESORT

Madam — There are two things which are to no one's liking, one is inflation and the other is litigation.

Indian courts are piling up with cases for reasons that one can state that every household has got a case or the other. The most complicated creatures are human beings and reason why there are two extremes as the behavioral scientist often recorded. No animals ending up in suicides than humans is an undisputed fact. When the top most court's advocacy from various legal luminaries is that there is nothing to substitute an out of the court settlement, the litigants never

## Ambulance in traffic jam



I am writing in reference to the article, 'When Golden Hour is Lost in a Stuck Ambulance' (September 7). The scenario of an ambulance caught in a traffic jam is a grave concern with potentially life-threatening consequences. Every minute of delay reduces a patient's chances of survival, highlighting the critical need for prompt medical intervention.

Urban traffic congestion, particularly in metro cities, often obstructs the swift movement of emergency vehicles. Compounding this issue is the lack of awareness and compliance from other drivers,

who frequently fail to yield the right of way. Inadequate road infrastructure, such as narrow lanes and poorly designed intersections, further intensifies the challenge.

To address this, dedicated ambulance lanes or corridors should be established to provide emergency vehicles with a clear path. Implementing intelligent traffic management systems, such as smart traffic signals and real-time monitoring, could optimize traffic flow during emergencies. Public awareness campaigns and driver education initiatives would also be instrumental in fostering a culture of giving priority to emergency vehicles.

Additionally, modern technology like GPS tracking and intelligent traffic signal prioritization could ensure ambulances are directed along the fastest routes, minimizing delays at intersections. Such systems would allow for more efficient routing, taking real-time traffic conditions into account.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

## THE REBEL TROUBLE

Madam — This refers to the news, Rebel trouble for the BJP in Haryana and BJP MLA in tears after being denied ticket (Sept 6/7). After the issuance of 67 BJP candidates in Haryana and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's clarification for not changing the tickets, the rebel leaders should now set aside their differences and work in the interest of the party. Instead they are adopting the Aya Ram Gaya Ram approach.

There can be many other reasons behind ticket denial viz low chances of winning, counter allegations against senior leaders, neglect of some areas development, condemning the internal matters of the party outside, lack of discipline within the party and decreasing popularity at the ground level. No party is untouched by casteism and nepotism. It is a tough task for the ruling and opposition parties to appease all communities.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Bihar's special land survey: A step towards resolving land disputes

This ambitious project aims to digitise and map land records, addressing longstanding issues of land disputes and enhancing transparency in land dealings

Bihar is undergoing a significant transition with the commencement of a Special Land Survey covering 45,000 villages across the state. To expedite this process, the government has deployed 10,000 officials, aiming to complete the survey by August 2025.

The Department of Revenue and Land Reforms has already digitized 64 million revenue documents. The digitisation of an additional 160 to 200 million documents is expected to be completed within the next year. These documents will be available to the public for a nominal fee.

The primary goal of the survey is to digitize and map the state's land data to enhance transparency in land dealings and address the persistent land disputes that overwhelm Bihar's courts. "Our main focus is to prepare accurate land records, including Kistwar (Plotting) and Khanapuri, to ensure legitimate land ownership," states Vinod Kumar Singh, Additional District Magistrate of Vaishali district.



Singh emphasizes the importance of this initiative, noting that 60% of land-related crimes in Bihar arise from missing or inaccessible Record of Rights (RoR) documents. Fraudulent claims on land titles have also contributed to the problem. Regarding the Vanshavali (Pedigree) Form, Singh clarifies that approval is not required from the Sarpanch (Panchayat Head). Individuals can certify and submit the form themselves along with Self-Declaration Form-2 (Prapatra 2). This form is particularly crucial for ancestral properties, regardless of the type of ownership, such as Khatiyani or Property Sale Deed. Vipin Kumar Yadav,

Settlement Officer (Bandobust Adhikari) of Vaishali, adds that if land is in the father's name and agricultural rent is being paid, a Vanshavali form is not necessary. However, if the father wishes to distribute the property among his children, the form must be completed along with Self-Declaration Form-2. Khatiyani is a legal document that records rights related to Khata (Account) number, Kheasara (Plot) number, Mouza (area), tenant's name, and land area. It specifically pertains to ancestral immovable property. The digitization and mapping efforts through the Special Land Survey are commendable. By reducing

land disputes, these measures will enable farmers to focus on enhancing agricultural productivity instead of engaging in protracted legal battles. Given that agriculture contributes 18% to India's GDP, improving land record management is crucial for the sector's growth. In conclusion, Bihar's Special Land Survey represents a crucial step towards modernizing land management and resolving persistent land disputes.

By digitizing and mapping extensive land records, the initiative aims to enhance transparency, reduce legal conflicts, and empower farmers to focus on agricultural productivity. With the goal of completing the survey by August 2025, this project underscores the state's commitment to improving land administration and supporting the agricultural sector, which is vital for Bihar's economy. As digitization progresses, stakeholders can look forward to a more efficient and equitable land management system.

(The author is a columnist, views are personal)



GYAN BHADRA





## FIRST COLUMN

### GANESHA: THE MASTER OF RIDDHI AND SIDDDHI

As the first deity, Ganesha guides the soul toward deeper spiritual experiences



ASHWINI GURUJI

Lord Ganesha is the swami of Riddhi and Siddhi. Riddhi is the force responsible for prosperity and abundance – material riches and luxury pertaining to the five senses. Siddhi refers to spiritual powers, like extra-sensory perception, clairvoyance, clairaudience, premonition, thought manifestation etc. Ganesha was born of the dirt of Mata Adi Shakti, as she took a bath indicating that all the riddhi and siddhi in creation are nothing but a spec of dirt of the phenomenal force of the Mother. Ganesha is the deity closest to physical creation, the swami of riddhi and siddhi, which are nothing but Maya, unreality. They are temporary and bound to leave. The majority spend their life chasing these forgetting the temporary nature of these forces and oblivious to what lies beyond... Ganesha is the first deity, pratham puja, just the first step to the phenomenal experiences of the world of spirit. Ganesha manifested at a time when impurities started creeping into the society. In due course of time as worldly desires took precedence over spiritual pursuits in ordinary men, different mantras and sadhnas were prescribed to invoke different aspects of Ganesha, to fulfil specific desires in the realm of the physical, the grossest layer of creation. Uchchhishta Ganapati is invoked through specific mantras as a giver of boons, as a protector of the motherland or to develop mastery over the five senses. Heramba is the five-headed form of Ganapati, golden in colour and riding a lion. This ten-armed deity is invoked for fearlessness and to defeat one's enemies. Mahaganapati form corresponds to wealth and pleasures, the bestower of bliss. The red-golden Balaganapati is called upon for good health and a bright future. Haridra Ganapati with his turmeric complexion and yellow vestments is the harbinger of prosperity and protection.



Shwetark Ganapati is white and is said to exist in the root of the madar plant, a rare variety of madar that bears white flowers instead of the common purple flowers of Madar. Shwetark Ganapati brings vitality, vigour, strength when kept in the bedroom, intelligence, and concentration in the study room, spiritual powers when worshipped in the puja room, bring luck and prosperity and free the house from evil influences all the time. These sadhnas are extremely potent. They are given according to one's requirement and capacity by the Guru, who is himself a Siddha and does not charge you a fee. They are a personal relationship between the guru and shisha, not to be discussed and never taught en masse. When the Guru gives the mantra, blessings follow but then it's imperative to balance out that karma, since every action has an equal and opposite reaction, every pleasure has a pain attached to it, for which the Guru shows the way. Guru guides the practitioner on which mantra to practise, for how long, the correct charan and bhava and practices to complement the sadhana. After the mantra sadhana, a yagya is performed for the siddhi of the mantra. One of the safest mantras to practice for the manifestation of the shakti of Ganesha is 'gama ganpataye namah' but this too has to be channelized by the Guru for the desired effects. The success of the sadhana is indicated by the manifestation of the deity in the yagya agni. Sadhaks at Dhyana Ashram who have been seriously practising the various mantra siddhis have had physical manifestations of the multiple gods (see image). Ganesha Chaturthi is the night of Siddhi mantra and mantra diksha under the sandhya of a Guru. To experience the power of mantra sadhana and Vedic yagya for the manifestation of thought on Ganesha Chaturthi. (The writer is a spiritual Guru, a guiding light of Dhyana Ashram; views are personal)

# Soviet moves on the Afghan Chessboard



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

The Soviet Union's botched attempt to poison Afghan leader Hafizullah Amin in 1979 set off a chain of events that reshaped the geopolitical landscape of Afghanistan

The failure of the poisoning attempt to kill Hafizullah Amin led Soviet officials to reconsider their strategy. Soviet doctors, unaware of the assassination plot, treated Hafizullah Amin for food poisoning at his palace. The KGB did not report this failed attempt in their confidential records, deeming it an ineffective method for removing Amin. Consequently, Soviet authorities concluded that a military operation was the only viable option. Karmal and his allies were forced to return to the Soviet Union as the plan was re-evaluated. Ultimately, a decision was made to execute Amin through a carefully planned military assault. The operation on December 25, 1979, saw Soviet special forces, disguised as Afghan soldiers, storm Darul Aman Palace, resulting in significant Soviet casualties, including over 100 special forces personnel and their commanding officer, Colonel Grigory Boyarinov. The KGB concealed the death toll to protect its reputation, but Vasili Mitrokhin, a senior KGB archivist who defected to the UK in 1992, later exposed the grim details of the operation. His defection, revealing extensive Soviet espionage activities, marked a pivotal moment in the Cold War. The interplay of internal espionage and foreign intervention in Afghanistan, with ineffective Afghan intelligence and CIA-supported Mujahideen, highlighted the geopolitical manoeuvring that exacerbated Afghanistan's instability, including the assassination of Hafizullah Amin and the rise of Babrak Karmal, setting the stage for prolonged conflict. Karmal's rise to power after Amin's assassination marked a period of intensified Soviet control in Afghanistan. He sought to justify his regime by denouncing Amin as a CIA agent and framing himself as the rightful defender of the Soviet-backed revolution. Karmal's administration, supported by Soviet intelligence and military aid, aimed to stabilize the country but instead deepened its social and economic problems. This period underscored the broader geopolitical struggle and the impact of external powers on Afghanistan's turbulent history. Taraki's Stalinist purge of the Afghan political party led to widespread imprisonment and execution, with some members exiled or appointed to distant posts. Karmal, who had been the Afghan ambassador to Czechoslovakia, used his position to plot against Taraki. Faced with the threat of arrest or death if he returned to Afghanistan, Karmal sought asylum from the Czechoslovakian government. The Czechoslovak authorities, concerned about the diplomatic repercussions, consulted with the Soviet Union, which advised granting Karmal asylum and preventing his return to Afghanistan. This marked the start of Karmal's complex political manoeuvring. After being granted asylum, Karmal and his family were relocated to a secret location near Kreislitz, under constant surveillance by Czechoslovakia's STB. Despite a confirmed assassination plot against him, Karmal evaded capture by frequently relocating and maintaining Soviet contact. By December 1979, following Amin's assassination, Karmal became Afghanistan's leader with Soviet backing. His tenure, marked by increased instability and Soviet manipulation, saw him misinterpret domestic unrest as foreign interference and downplay Soviet military presence. Committed to Marxist ideologies, Karmal's conflicts with parliament over religious issues highlighted his dedication to communism. The Soviet intervention starting December



THIS POWER STRUGGLE CONTINUES TO HARM AFGHANISTAN. MAHMUD TARZI (1865-1933) NOTED THAT 'THE PROGRESS OF A NATION DEPENDS ON ITS ABILITY TO MOVE BEYOND IGNORANCE AND EMBRACE KNOWLEDGE AND REFORM'

28, 1979, under Karmal's regime, worsened Afghanistan's turmoil, leading to widespread devastation and secretive reporting of casualties, revealing internal KGB struggles. Karmal's leadership, heavily reliant on Soviet military support, ultimately proved ineffective in stabilising Afghanistan. The continuous conflict led to the rise of the Mujahideen, supported by the US and Pakistan, further destabilising the country. Karmal was replaced by Mohammad Najibullah in 1986, who continued to rule until 1992 when the Mujahideen took control of Kabul, marking the beginning of the first phase of Taliban rule. Karmal's life ended in 1996 in Moscow, and his tenure is remembered as a period of profound strife and political manipulation in Afghan history. This power struggle continues to harm Afghanistan. Mahmud Tarzi (1865-1933) noted that 'the progress of a nation depends on its ability to move beyond ignorance and embrace knowledge and reform.' He observed that while Europe advanced through education and modernization, the Muslim world remained entrenched in outdated traditions. Tarzi emphasized that intellectuals should guide their societies from darkness to modernity. This transition from enlightenment to darkness accentuates a deeper issue rooted in Afghanistan's turbulent political history. The events following the 1973 coup, which brought the foreign intelligence agencies of the KGB, CIA, and ISI into Afghanistan's political sphere, illustrate how external powers have long manipulated the country's fate, contributing to its ongoing strife. The overthrow of Mohammad Zahir Shah in 1973 marked the beginning of a period of significant destabilisation in

Afghanistan. Zahir Shah, who had a nuanced understanding of Afghanistan's needs and implemented substantial social reforms, was succeeded by Mohammad Daoud Khan. Despite Daoud Khan's attempts to seek American assistance, the refusal of support set the stage for Soviet intervention, exacerbating the country's instability. Zahir Shah's return to Afghanistan after the collapse of the Taliban in 2001 symbolised a nostalgic yearning for stability and unity. However, his exclusion from significant political decisions by Hamid Karzai highlights the challenges of integrating historical figures into contemporary politics without disrupting the prevailing power dynamics. The failure of both the Soviet Union's intervention and the subsequent U.S. involvement in Afghanistan underscores a profound lesson about the limitations of foreign military power in achieving lasting political stability. The Soviet Union's reliance on sheer military might and neglect of social and political trust is mirrored by the U.S. and its allies' inability to implement meaningful reforms. The eventual resurgence of the Taliban and the disgraceful withdrawal of foreign forces, leaving behind modern weapons, epitomises the failure to address Afghanistan's underlying issues. This pattern of short-term military solutions and inadequate attention to genuine structural reforms has led to repeated cycles of conflict and instability, reflecting a broader failure to understand and address the complex socio-political realities of Afghanistan. External influences, notably from China and powerful Arab states, crucially affected Afghan politics during the Soviet-Afghan War. Amid the China-Soviet ideological rift, Mujahideen groups led by

Ahmad Shah Massoud fiercely resisted both Soviet forces and the Pakistan-backed Taliban. Massoud's declaration, "We will not be pawns in someone else's game, we will always be Afghanistan," underlined his commitment to Afghan sovereignty. Henry Kissinger's covert 1971 visit to China, aimed at undermining Soviet influence, marked a significant Cold War strategy shift. Despite massive Soviet and U.S. investments, Afghanistan's political instability persisted due to the lack of a coherent strategy to address its complex social and administrative issues. Ultimately, the failure of both superpowers to grasp Afghanistan's intricate social fabric and implement effective governance solutions led to prolonged instability. The U.S. and its allies' focus on aligning with extremist factions, coupled with the Soviet Union's pursuit of a monolithic socialist state, failed to address the real needs of the Afghan people. The resulting chaos not only perpetuated a cycle of conflict but also laid the groundwork for the rise of the Taliban. This historical narrative accentuates the profound consequences of using small nations as pawns in geopolitical games, raising pressing questions about the future of Afghanistan's over forty-one million people under continued turmoil and social repression. The Taliban, ultimately, are not the sole symptom of the decades that Afghanistan plunged into an abyss. As a South Asian nation, Afghanistan's future depends on proactive collaboration with neighbouring countries and strategic efforts to establish strong people-to-people connections, rather than succumbing to isolationism. (The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal. Concluded)

# India ramps up preparedness against monkeypox amid global surge

WHO declares the outbreak of monkeypox as a public health emergency of global proportions, underscoring need for preparedness

India is enhancing its preparedness to tackle Monkeypox (Mpox) by raising awareness, strengthening surveillance, setting up isolated wards, and expanding diagnostic testing capacity. Although a pandemic-like situation has not emerged, all mechanisms are being put in place to curtail the spread of Mpox and its menace. Since January 2023, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has reported more than 27,000 suspect Mpox cases and more than 1,300 deaths. Clade I Mpox occurs regularly, or is endemic, in DRC. The current outbreak is more widespread than any previous DRC outbreak, and Clade I Mpox has spread to some neighbouring countries, including Burundi, the Central

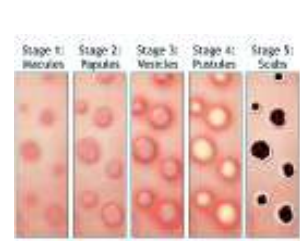


MANOJ VARGHESE

African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda, and a travel-associated case in Kenya. On August 14, 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). This is the WHO's highest level of global alert, and the decision recognizes the potential threat this virus poses to countries around the world.

The declaration focuses international attention on acute public health risks that require the coordinated mobilization of extraordinary resources by the international community for prevention and response. Monkeypox is a virus that transmits from animals to humans. Technically, it is known as a 'viral zoonosis'. Its symptoms are similar to smallpox and cowpox, but fortunately, Monkeypox is less severe. Cases have been emanated from Central Africa and are reported to be spreading fast across the globe. Common symptoms of Mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions which can last 2-4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.

So far, no cases have been reported from India. The Monkeypox virus was discovered in Denmark (1958) among monkeys kept for research. The first reported human case of Mpox was in a nine-month-old boy in the DRC in 1970. Following the eradication of smallpox in 1980, Mpox steadily emerged in central, east and west Africa. In 2003, an outbreak in the United States of America was linked to imported wild animals (Clade II). Since 2005, thousands of suspected cases have been reported in the DRC every year. In 2017, Mpox re-emerged in Nigeria and continues to spread among people across the country and travellers to other destinations. The natural reservoir of the virus is



unknown - various small mammals such as squirrels and monkeys are susceptible. In May 2022, an outbreak of Mpox appeared suddenly and rapidly spread across Europe, the Americas and then all six WHO regions, with 110 countries reporting about 87 thousand cases and 112 deaths. The global outbreak has affected primarily gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men and has spread person-to-person through sexual networks. The global Clade II

Monkeypox virus (MPXV) outbreak that began in 2022 demonstrated the pandemic potential of Mpox. Clade I MPXV is endemic in several Central African countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Clade I is generally associated with higher case fatality rates (CFRs) (1.4% to >10%) compared with Clade II MPXV (0.1% to 3.6%). MPXV can spread to persons from contact with infected wildlife, or through close, prolonged contact with persons infected with MPXV. During 2023-2024, DRC has reported an unprecedented number of suspected Clade I MPXV infections. Clade I MPXV transmission in DRC is more commonly reported among children. Widespread trans-

mission is reported because of zoonotic reservoirs, household occupants, and unhygienic resources. Diagnosis and reporting of Clade I MPXV infections to health officials are important for limiting onward transmission by aiding early containment measures, including contact tracing, isolating patients, offering the JYNNEOS vaccine to contacts, and strictly adhering to recommended infection prevention and control practices in health care settings. An additional benefit of vaccination is protection against Clade I MPXV infection. According to Dr A K Narula, Pharmacy expert of GGSIPU, Tecovirimat is typically the first therapeutic that should be considered for patients with Mpox other than supportive

care. In 2014, the West Africa Ebolavirus outbreak demonstrated the risks associated with a delayed global response to a serious pandemic threat. Identifying Mpox is a difficult task, as other infections and conditions look similar. It is important to distinguish Mpox from chickenpox, measles, bacterial skin infections, scabies, herpes, syphilis, other sexually transmissible infections, and medication-associated allergies. For these reasons, testing is key for people to get treatment as early as possible and prevent further spread. (The writer is former editor Free Press Journal and presently media advisor to GGSIPU; views are personal)



IN BRIEF



**Arkade Developers Rs 410-cr IPO to open on Sep 16**

Real estate developer Arkade Developers Ltd is set to float its Rs 410-crore initial public offering (IPO) on September 16. The initial share sale will conclude on September 19, and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on September 13, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP). The maiden public issue is entirely through a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 410 crore with no offer-for-sale (OFS) component. The company has already raised Rs 20 crore through a pre-IPO placement round. Proceeds from the issue will be used for the development of the company's ongoing as well as upcoming projects and funding the acquisition of future real estate projects and general corporate purposes. Arkade Developers is a fast-growing real estate development company with a significant presence in Mumbai. As of July 31, 2023, it has developed 1.80 million square feet of residential property, including through partnership entities in which Arkade holds the majority stake.



**Clearance for NIIF to get stake in Ather Energy**

The Competition Commission of India has approved the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) proposal to acquire an additional stake in Ather Energy. The deal was cleared by the competition watchdog under the green channel route. "The acquirer (India-Japan Fund) proposes to acquire certain Series G Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares of Ather," the regulator said in an order. India-Japan Fund (IJF) is a fund managed by NIIF. The fund focuses on investing in environmental sustainability, and low-carbon emission strategies and promoting investments by Japanese companies in India. The transaction will help IJF further its goals by creating value for the broader market for electric two-wheelers, clean mobility transport solutions, and technology-led last-mile transport vehicles, it added. Ather is engaged in the business of designing and developing electric scooters, while the India-Japan Fund (IJF) is a Sebi-registered alternative investment fund. It focuses on investing in environmental sustainability and low-carbon emission strategies and aims to enhance Japanese investments in India. The fund represents a strategic and economic partnership between the governments of Japan and India.



**Adani floats China subsidiary to provide services**

Adani Group has formed a subsidiary in China to carry out business of providing supply chain solutions and project management services, according to a regulatory filing. Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship firm, in the filing said a Singapore-based step-down subsidiary incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Adani Energy Resources (Shanghai) Co. (AERCL), domiciled in Shanghai, China on September 2, 2024. "AERCL is incorporated to carry out business of providing supply chain solutions and project management services," it said without providing details. The subsidiary was incorporated by Adani Global Pte (AGPTE), Singapore - a step-down subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL). AEL houses the conglomerate's mining, roads, airports, data center and water infrastructure businesses. "AERCL has been incorporated and registered under the laws of Company Law of the People's Republic of China on September 2, 2024," the filing said. AERCL is yet to commence its business operations. The new unit comes days after AEL set up a subsidiary in Kenya. Airports Infrastructure PLC (AIP) to take over, operate, maintain, develop, design, construct, upgrade, modernize and manage the airports in the African nation.

**India has potential to become chip manufacturing hub**

Like-minded nations collaborating with it: Krishnan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Due to the prevailing geopolitical situation, like-minded countries are collaborating with India to make it a major semiconductor manufacturing destination, a top Electronics and IT ministry official said on Sunday.

In an interview with PTI, Ministry of Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan said pilot facilities of US storage semiconductor maker Micron and Tata Electronics have already rolled out chips, and their main plants in Gujarat will begin to produce made-in-India chips from the later part of 2025.

"Globally, and thanks to geopolitical circumstances, there is an increasing realisation that semiconductors are a very important and strategic commodity, and therefore, we need substantial resilience in the production of semiconductors," Krishnan said.

The importance of resilience in semiconductors was underlined during the pandemic when many industries -- including the auto industries, medical devices industries and other electronics, and consumer electronics industries -- suffered because they did not have access to chips, which led to a belief that there should be greater diversification, especially for sourcing of semiconductors, he added.



"In order to build this resilience, many like-minded countries are collaborating with India to develop India as the next major destination, where semiconductor manufacturing can actually take place. This is fundamentally to build resilience in the global semiconductor value chain. We have an agreement with the United States, European Union, UK, Japan, and now, with Singapore as well," Krishnan noted.

The government has approved projects entailing investments of Rs 1.5 lakh crore to date. This excludes the

recently announced Adani Group-Tower Semiconductor's Rs 83,000 crore investment in setting up a new chip plant in Maharashtra.

"The government has cleared five projects under the India Semiconductor Mission. The construction of the main plant by Micron in Gujarat is at an advanced stage. They have completed their pilot facility. Likewise, Tata Electronics has also set up its pilot facility for ATMP in Karnataka. These two pilot facilities have already rolled out the first chips. From the main facilities, sometime towards the later half of 2025,

we should see the rollout of the first chips," Krishnan said.

He also pointed out that semiconductor ecosystem companies are showing huge interest in India, and there has been a four times increase in participation in the upcoming Semicon India event due to the potential that the country holds for the semiconductor ecosystem.

"Semi is a global association of all the semiconductor industries. They hold these global conferences in the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Kuala Lumpur and these kinds of other locations.

**Domestic formulations biz to grow 9-10 pc**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The drug formulations market in India is expected to grow at a CAGR of 9-10 per cent over the next decade with Jan Aushadhi outlets anticipated to emerge as a much stronger player in the country, according to Glenmark Pharmaceuticals.

The domestic formulations market is estimated to be at Rs 2 lakh crore, with a growth rate of 11 per cent over the past two decades.

"It is projected that the domestic formulations market will maintain a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9-10 per cent over the next decade," the Mumbai-based drug maker said in its Annual Report for 2023-24.

As the Trade Generics and Jan Aushadhi channels expand, it is anticipated that these channels could collectively contribute 30 per cent to the market volume in ten years, it stated.

The Jan Aushadhi initiative aims to enhance access to cost-effective, unbranded generics by scaling up to 25,000 franchise pharmacies by 2026, it said.

"It is estimated that Jan Aushadhi procurement could account for 3-5 per cent of the market share by volume and around Rs 40-50 billion (Rs 4,000-5,000 crore) in value

over the next decade," it added.

Glenmark stated that despite the increasing influence of Trade Generics and Jan Aushadhi, branded generics are expected to remain dominant, comprising 65-70 per cent of the market by value and anticipated to grow at a CAGR of over 8 per cent during this period.

There are more than 10,000 functional Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country. The government has set a target to open 25,000 such outlets across the country by March 2026.

The product basket of PMBJP (Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana) comprises 1,963 medicines and 293 surgical devices covering all major therapeutic groups.

The company noted that facing challenges in competing with the robust sales and marketing strategies of domestic firms, coupled with lower price realisations compared to their home markets, most multinational corporations have gradually scaled back their operations in the Indian market.

Informing its shareholders, the company said it has 52 product applications pending for approval in North America. As on March 31, 2024, it has 193 generic products authorised for distribution in the US market.

**IPO buzz as 13 companies to hit primary mkt to raise Rs 8,644-cr**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IPO market will be bustling next week, with four companies, including Bajaj Housing Finance, set to launch their initial share-sale to raise a total of Rs 8,390 crore.

Besides these four main-board IPOs, nine SMEs are preparing to debut with their maiden public issues next week, targeting to collect Rs 254 crore. Together, these 13 firms are looking to raise Rs 8,644 crore through IPO. Munish Aggarwal, Managing Director Head - Equity Capital Markets, Equirus, expects the next two weeks to be hectic in terms of issuance activity in IPO markets. "While this seems to indicate that the markets are overheating, we believe that this is more symptomatic of the attempt by most issuers who have valid Sebi observations and decent traction with investors to try and utilize their financials for Fiscal 2024 to launch IPOs," he said.

According to Sebi, financial



data in the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP) must be less than six months old at the time of the IPO. Therefore, September is the last month when companies can use their FY24 financials to launch IPOs, he added. The four main-board IPOs include that of Bajaj Housing Finance, which is expected to mobilise around Rs 6,560 crore, P N Gadgil Jewellers (Rs 1,100 crore), Kross Ltd (Rs 500 crore), and Tolins Tyres (Rs 230 crore). Of these, the initial share-sales of Bajaj Housing Finance, Kross Ltd, and Tolins Tyres will open for subscription on September 9 and conclude on September 11, while that of P N Gadgil Jewellers will open on September 10 and close on September 12.

**Declining bank credit to hurt exporters**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The declining bank credit to exporters will hurt the sector, and traders will flag the issue prominently during their meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on September 11, an industry official said on Sunday.

While exports grew by 15 per cent in the rupee terms between 2021-22 and 2023-24, the outstanding credit in March 2024 dropped by 5 per cent over the same month in 2022, according to exporters.

Apex exporters body Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) said the export credit growth is not keeping pace with rising exports of the country.

"We have seen a decline in export credit between March 2022 and March 2024 despite the need for more credit for longer duration due to hike in prices of commodities, sharp spurt in freight (both sea and air) and the Red Sea crisis, leading to longer voyage time and

Issue to figure in Sep 11 meeting with Goyal



delayed payment," FIEO Director General Ajay Sahai said.

According to FIEO, the value of export credit outstanding has come down to Rs 2,17,406 crore in the March 2024 quarter from Rs 2,27,452 crore in the same quarter last year.

"We will raise this issue during the meeting of the exporters community with the minister," Sahai said, adding that given a consistent decline in credit to exporters during recent times, the RBI should consider prescribing a sub-target for export credit within the existing 40 per cent target for priority sector lending (PSL).



**FPIs infuse Rs 11,000 cr in equities**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors infused nearly Rs 11,000 crore in domestic equities in the first week of the month owing to resilience of the Indian market and expectations of rate cut in the US.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been consistently buying equities since June. Before that, they had pulled out funds to the tune of Rs 34,252 crore in April-May.

The recent inflows are promising and could continue, supported by India's stable macroeconomic position. However, global factors like US interest rate and geopolitical scenario would continue to be the driving force, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director-Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

According to the data with the depositories, FPIs put in a net investment of Rs 10,978 crore into equities this month (till September 6).

FPIs have been on a buying spree in the Indian equity markets after the sentiments improved following comments from US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, who suggested that a rate cut might be on the horizon.

"The substantial net inflows this week can be attributed to enhanced speculation of the commencement of interest rate cut cycle soon, coupled with improved prospects for India's economic growth," Srivastava said.

Additionally, buying in few select large-cap stocks also contributed to the inflows, signalling foreign investors' eagerness to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the Indian equity markets, he said.

**SpiceJet's Ajay Singh may sell over 10 pc stake to raise funds**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

SpiceJet promoter and chairman Ajay Singh may offload more than 10 per cent stake in the struggling carrier as part of the latest funding round that is expected to close by the end of September, according to sources.

The budget carrier -- which is grappling with multiple woes, including financial challenges, legal battles and grounding of aircraft -- is looking to raise money that will help it meet various obligations.

One of the sources said that Singh could offload up to a 15 per cent stake in the airline if certain conditions are conducive.

Singh, who is the Chairman



and Managing Director, would be offloading around 10 per cent shareholding in the airline and the quantum could go up, the second source said.

For the proposed QIP (Qualified Institutional Placement), there is already a commitment for up to Rs 2,000 crore and the airline is in

discussions with potential investors. Meetings with investors have been held in India and overseas, the sources in the know said.

There was no official comment from SpiceJet.

The funding round is expected to be completed by the end of September.

**Inflation data, global trends to dictate trends**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Macroeconomic data announcements, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors would be the major driving factors for the equity markets this week, according to analysts.

"Crude oil prices has seen a meaningful correction over the few days with Brent crude now close to USD 73 per barrel. In India, investors will look forward to release of macro data this week, including CPI inflation. Globally, investors remain optimistic about the possibility of a rate cut by the US Fed and would keenly look forward to the US Fed meet scheduled later this month," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research, Kotak Securities, said.

Among macroeconomic



data announcements, industrial production for July and inflation data for August will be announced on Thursday.

Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 1,181.84 points, or 1.43 per cent, while the Nifty declined 383.75 points, or 1.52 per cent.

Falling for the third day running on Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points, or 1.24 per cent, to settle at 81,183.93.

PNS ■ ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan is facing an unprecedented financial crisis driven by a complex web of challenges, a prominent Pakistani-American economist has warned.

Princeton economist Atif Mian points to the convergence of skyrocketing domestic and external debts, unsustainable pension liabilities, and a failing power sector as critical factors plunging Pakistan into an economic abyss, the Dawn newspaper reported.

His assessment paints a grim

**Pakistan faces unprecedented financial crisis**



**Warns Princeton economist**

picture, suggesting that Pakistan's economic distress is uniquely severe, making it a stark example of fiscal mismanagement on the global stage.

"Pakistan's domestic and external debts, its unfunded pension liabilities, and the zombie power sector have pushed Pakistan into a deep fiscal crisis.

It is hard to think of another country in as bad a shape," Mian wrote in a comment posted on his official X account.

Reacting to Mian's analysis, former Treasury Head at Chase Manhattan Bank, Asad Rizvi, urged him to offer practical solutions to address these challenges and put the economy back

on track. Rizvi also requested Mian to explain how advanced economies with high debt-to-GDP ratios manage their situations.

Rizvi emphasised that without addressing critical issues such as the tax-to-GDP ratio (by documenting the economy), the bank advances-to-deposit ratio, and reducing open market operation (OMO) injections, which currently stand at Rs 11.974 trillion,

the economy will struggle to rebound. He also highlighted the need to stabilise the currency in circulation (Cic), which is Rs 9.12 trillion, and tackle the circular debt of Rs 2.5tr.

Another commentator noted that Pakistan heavily relies on the generosity of external benefactors and seems unwilling to make the tough decisions necessary to revive its economy.

Addressing these concerns,

Mian told Dawn that the debt-to-GDP issues faced by advanced economies like the United States and Japan differ fundamentally from those confronting Pakistan.

"These are countries with well-anchored inflation, a long history of credible monetary policy (and hence currency strength), a strong economy over the long run (as measured by productivity growth), and a well-run taxation system," he explained. "All of these give these countries a much larger fiscal space to play with -- and as a result, markets are very forgiving to these countries."



## TUNEFUL DUO BEHIND **VEKH SOHNEYAA** BETWIXT **CALL ME BAE**

SHIKHA DUGGAL

These two very gifted up-and-coming musicians are causing quite a stir in the music industry. Do you know Bombay The Artist or Charan? *Vekh Sohneyaa*, the highlight single from the hit series *Call Me Bae*, was created by these two young artists! The first song from Ananya Panday's digital debut, *Call Me Bae*, *Vekh Sohneyaa*, was released, adding to the frenzy that followed the release of the trailer. The song is the ideal prelude to Bae's colourful and complex journey, perfectly capturing the essence of *Call Me Bae*, where self-love meets romantic attraction. *Vekh Sohneyaa*, produced by Dishant and composed, written and performed by the dynamic pair Charan and Bombay The Artist—who are also making their musical debut on an OTT—won over listeners' hearts and playlists equally.

### Excerpts from the interview:

**Q** Many compliments have been given to *Vekh Sohneyaa*. What was the process of bringing the song to life?

**Bombay The Artist:** Since its creation almost two years ago, it hasn't always been a romantic song. It's about the uneasiness that arises when one's sentiments aren't returned, such as when self-doubt occurs during a romantic relationship. I was on the verge of putting the song on hold, but Raj and A&R helped it revive. Next, I spoke to Charan and he did his magic. In an instant, the song's uneasiness gave way to a pure declaration of love and confession!

**Charan:** I have a hypothesis that songs can write themselves on occasion. In my opinion, Bombay and I served more as conduits for the song's energy during its creation. We had never worked together before and had never previously met in a studio. However, from the first time I worked on this song, I had the impression that it was writing itself and I was just following its lead. Naturally, Bombay is an amazing songwriter and her verse sets up my verse such that it seems like they were created together.

**Q** Did the plot of the series affect how you approached the song?

**Bombay The Artist:** That was enjoyable! I have to admit that we were allowed a lot of creative leeway. I wouldn't say it had a direct effect on me. From a third-person viewpoint, I could relate to Ananya's character in a way similar to how you would to your best friend.

**Charan:** I suppose it was the overall tone of the show more so than the plot. Every image conveys a feeling and *Call Me Bae* has an air of adventure. *Vekh Sohneyaa* is a great song that fits in since it's upbeat, fearless and follows its own instincts.

**Q** Each of you have your own musical style. In what ways do you think your partnership with *Vekh Sohneyaa* highlights each of your unique strengths?

**Bombay The Artist:** Our greatest strength, despite the stark differences in our styles, is genuineness. Charan offered years of artistic sense and I brought my typical hardline Punjabi vernacular. And with that, the song felt finished! It succeeded because we both stayed true to ourselves.

**Charan:** As demonstrated in *Vekh Sohneyaa*, one of music's greatest assets, in my opinion, is the ability to blend several musical genres to create a unique whole. From one song to the next, I'd like to maintain some versatility in terms of the genre or production approach. The song is a fantastic blend of my fluidity and Bombay's urban-Punjabi flair and the two work well together.

**Q** When making *Vekh Sohneyaa*, what was the largest creative obstacle you had to overcome?

**Bombay The Artist:** Perhaps the most challenging thing was writing a song with individuals I didn't know at first. Having never been to another continent, I had no idea what to anticipate. However, it is the allure of working together. When Charan entered the stage with a masterful verse and lovely Punjabi words and vocals, I immediately felt that this song suited and felt complete.

**Charan:** The song naturally developed once I heard BTA's initial draft. I don't think there were any difficulties other than the fact that all three of the artists were located in different parts of the world, which is easily overcome when the desire to produce something truly amazing unites the collaborators. It was one of those moments where the music takes the lead and I just follow.

**Q** How did you choose the final sound and production elements of *Vekh Sohneyaa*?

**Bombay The Artist:** There weren't many revisions because from the start of this project, all of us had the same goals for the song. After locking down the last details over a Discord chat, we all came together. The hook was the only item that could have been altered! We eventually adjusted it to have a hook instead of the original intended drop.

**Q** As up-and-coming artists, what do you believe has contributed most to the public's awareness of your music?

**Bombay The Artist:** I'm open to working with others since I follow my heart when it comes to music. Since art is a collective endeavour, I would be irresponsible to place the entire burden of a track's development just on the music. It's crucial to view everything you release online as separate works of art that complement each other to create a creative whole out of a track, since in a world where music can become noticed in the most unexpected ways. Being able to rely on your team is, in my opinion, crucial. A solid song sonically is much easier to have now that bedroom producers have entered the scene and the song-writing process has evolved. Even yet, I still enjoy going back to the basics and playing the instruments myself in order to create the perfect sound that is uniquely ours.

**Q** Finally, what new music and forthcoming concerts can your fans anticipate from you going forward?

**Bombay The Artist:** Yes, a lot! In the next six months, a number of tracks—some on independent labels, others with labels—will be released.

**Charan:** In the upcoming months, you can anticipate seeing a lot more experiments from me. I've been working on my own music for some time and I'm quite eager to share it with all of my listeners at this point. Keep an eye out for show announcements, as I'm also hoping to get into performances and am working hard to assemble a solid band to elevate my live shows!

**Bombay The Artist:** For emerging artists like myself, consistency has been the key to getting our music noticed. In today's fast-paced industry, it's easy to get lost in the noise, but by continuously creating and releasing new content, engaging with our audience and staying true to our artistic vision, we've been able to build a loyal following and generate buzz around our music. It's not about going viral or having a one-hit wonder—it's about putting in the work and consistently delivering quality art that resonates with people.

**Charan:** To add to it, I'm also thinking more deeply about the narrative I want to tell with my music. I enjoy bringing individuals together. I have cherished experiencing love. That's what I learned from life. When they listen to my music, I want my audience to experience the same thing.

**Q** When working on projects related to famous shows, how do you handle the pressure of producing a hit?

**Charan:** The goal is to constantly prioritise the song. Rather than putting too much pressure on myself to produce a hit, I prefer to just toss out whatever permutations and combinations that occur to me and see what works. I think all you have to do is give it your all and let the art speak for itself, provided that the sound and the intent are correct.

**Q** How do you keep abreast of the most recent musical trends?

**Bombay The Artist:** I don't follow or take into account trends. I think trends have the potential to seriously harm a song or even an artist. I simply stay honest. Yes, social media has helped me stay informed about current events, as I enjoy seeing what my friends and colleagues are up to! I hear what everyone has to say, but I don't always edit my copy since I write music for myself first. I use feedback to improve my decision-making because I feel that my music tells a story and I have an opinion about how the public will react to it. However, I do give the fans my whole attention. I released *Baadalon Mein* in response to requests from my audience to revive that particular sound following *Baat Kar!*

**Q** Do you think collaborating with others brings out the best in your music?

**Charan:** I'm open to working with others since I follow my heart when it comes to music. Since art is a collective endeavour, I would be irresponsible to place the entire burden of a track's development just on the music. It's crucial to view everything you release online as separate works of art that complement each other to create a creative whole out of a track, since in a world where music can become noticed in the most unexpected ways. Being able to rely on your team is, in my opinion, crucial. A solid song sonically is much easier to have now that bedroom producers have entered the scene and the song-writing process has evolved. Even yet, I still enjoy going back to the basics and playing the instruments myself in order to create the perfect sound that is uniquely ours.

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## Harnessing astrology with Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi, an auspicious Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Ganesha, is celebrated with zeal and devotion, marking the birth of the beloved deity known as the remover of obstacles and the god of wisdom. This festival, which typically falls between August and September during the Hindu lunar month of *Bhadrapada*, specifically on the fourth day of the waxing moon, holds significant astrological importance. The timing of Ganesh Chaturthi aligns with various celestial influences and planetary positions, making it an opportune period for spiritual and material endeavors.

### Celestial alignments and timing

Ganesh Chaturthi occurs during the waxing phase of the moon, known as *Shukla Paksha*, which is considered a favorable period in Vedic astrology for initiating new projects and making positive changes. The waxing moon represents growth, increase, and enlightenment, aligning perfectly with the festival's purpose of celebrating new beginnings and overcoming obstacles.

The festival is also closely associated with the lunar constellation (nakshatra) of *Magha*. *Magha nakshatra*, symbolised by a royal throne or palanquin, is ruled by the deity *Pitrs*, or the ancestors. This *nakshatra* is connected with authority, grandeur and respect, which resonates with Lord Ganesha's attributes of wisdom and learning. The alignment of Ganesh Chaturthi with *Magha nakshatra* amplifies the festival's spiritual significance, making it a potent time for invoking divine blessings and seeking guidance.

### Planetary influences

Several planets are particularly relevant to the themes of wisdom, intellect, and overcoming obstacles:

• **Jupiter (Guru):** Jupiter, known as the planet of wisdom and higher knowledge, significantly influences the auspiciousness of Ganesh Chaturthi. When Jupiter is favourably positioned, it enhances spiritual growth, educational pursuits and overall prosperity. The festival's timing, aligned with Jupiter's favorable aspects, makes it an ideal period for seeking knowledge, undertaking educational ventures, and pursuing personal growth.

• **Mercury (Budh):** Mercury governs communication, intellect, and analytical abilities. During Ganesh Chaturthi, the alignment of Mercury can influence mental clarity and intellectual pursuits. A well-placed Mercury during this period can aid in overcoming mental blocks, improving communication skills, and enhancing cognitive functions. Given Lord Ganesha's association with intellect, this alignment supports efforts to gain clarity and insight.

• **Mars (Mangal):** Mars, the planet of energy and drive, plays a crucial role in overcoming challenges. A positive Mars influence during Ganesh Chaturthi can provide the necessary energy and determination to tackle obstacles and pursue goals with vigor. This planetary alignment aligns with Lord Ganesha's role as the remover of impediments, making it a propitious time for addressing challenges and pursuing new endeavours.

• **Saturn (Shani):** Saturn is associated with discipline, responsibility, and long-term efforts. While Saturn's influence can sometimes bring delays and challenges, its position during Ganesh Chaturthi can offer opportunities for addressing karmic issues and working through long-standing difficulties. This alignment encourages perseverance and disciplined efforts, aligning with Ganesha's role in helping devotees navigate life's trials.

### Rituals and spiritual practices

The rituals performed during Ganesh Chaturthi are deeply intertwined with astrological principles. These practices are designed to harness the celestial energies of the time and align with the festival's spiritual goals.

• **Installation of Ganesha idols:** The placement of Ganesha idols is done with careful consideration of astrological factors. The idol is often placed in the northeast direction (Ishaan), which is considered highly auspicious for invoking positive energies and prosperity. This placement aligns with the cosmic principle of harnessing favourable energies for growth and well-being.

• **Chanting of mantras:** Devotees chant specific mantras, such as the Ganesh Ashtakshara Mantra *Om Gan Ganapataye Namah*, to invoke the blessings of Lord Ganesha. These mantras are believed to resonate with the celestial vibrations of the time, enhancing their effectiveness. Chanting mantras during Ganesh Chaturthi aligns with the favourable planetary influences, amplifying their spiritual impact.

• **Immersion (Visarjan):** The immersion of the Ganesha idol at the end of the festival symbolises the release of negative energies and the cyclical nature of life. This ritual aligns with the astrological principle of letting go of obstacles and starting anew. The act of immersion signifies the return to the cosmic source, harmonising with the festival's themes of renewal and transformation.

### Personal and societal impacts

On a personal level, Ganesh Chaturthi offers individuals a chance to align their goals and aspirations with the favourable cosmic energies present during this period. Devotees perform rituals and engage in spiritual practices to harness the benefits of planetary influences and seek divine blessings for success and prosperity. On a societal level, Ganesh Chaturthi fosters a sense of community and collective harmony. The festival brings people together in celebration, promoting unity and shared spiritual alignments. The collective aspect of the festival aligns with broader cosmic principles of balance and well-being, contributing to societal cohesion and positive energy.

### Astrological remediation and benefits

These remedies are designed to mitigate the challenges posed by certain planetary positions and enhance overall well-being:

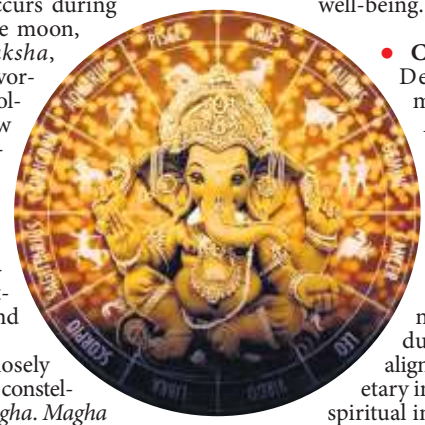
• **Jupiter's remedies:** For those facing challenges related to knowledge and growth, performing rituals or making donations during Ganesh Chaturthi can strengthen Jupiter's influence and promote wisdom and prosperity.

• **Mercury's remedies:** Individuals dealing with communication issues or mental blocks can perform specific prayers or rituals to appease Mercury and improve intellectual and communicative abilities.

• **Mars' remedies:** To address issues related to motivation or obstacles, devotees can seek Mars' favourable influence through dedicated worship and spiritual practices.

• **Saturn's remedies:** The festival provides an opportunity to address karmic challenges and work towards long-term goals with perseverance and discipline, aligning with Saturn's influence.

(The author, Dr. Gunja Mehta Ahuja, is a psychic reader on coto.)



## Tanaav 2: Intense revenge tale that lacks depth

AARTI SREENATH

The series, known for its sleek and gripping narrative, depicted Israeli intelligence agents targeting Hamas militants. This portrayal was criticised by some as overtly pro-Israeli and, by extension, as anti-Palestinian propaganda. In adapting *Faada* into *Tanaav* for an Indian audience, the setting was shifted to Kashmir, where the focus is on a counter-terrorism unit confronting local insurgents. The transition faced notable challenges due to the differing political dynamics in Kashmir compared to the West Bank. Despite these challenges, the series successfully engaged audiences with its high-energy action and emotionally charged drama.

**Plot:** The second season of *Tanaav* is inspired by the plot of *Faada*'s second season but takes a different approach. Unlike its predecessor, *Tanaav 2* does not deeply explore the evolving political landscape of Kashmir. Instead, it simplifies the narrative, concentrating on a singular mission to capture terrorists and focusing on action over political complexity. Although there is a brief mention of peace talks

between the Indian government and the separatist faction Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, this subplot quickly takes a backseat. The primary focus of the drama remains on the intense conflict between Kabir's team and Fared, emphasising high-stakes confrontations and relentless pursuit. Fared is portrayed with clear-cut motivations driven by revenge and power, lacking deeper ideological motivations. The series suggests that individuals like Fared thrive on ongoing conflict, with peace rendering them purposeless.

**Highlights:** The cast's performances, particularly those of Manav Vij, Rajat Kapoor and Ekta Kaul, are central to the series. Kapoor's composed yet menacing presence contrasts with Vij's intense and relentless portrayal, creating a compelling dynamic when they share the screen—a tension that simmers and threatens to explode. The second season continues to excel in casting, with many actors reprising their roles. Returning actors Satyadeep Dubey, Soni Razdan and Sukhmani Sadana join new additions like Gaurav Arora and Kabir Bedi. The well-developed characters and strong performances remain the show's strongest asset.

**Drawbacks:** For viewers not inclined towards action-packed thrillers and revenge dramas, *Tanaav 2* may not be as engaging, given its heavy focus on intense action

sequences and confrontations. Additionally, the series concludes on a cliffhanger, which can leave the story feeling incomplete and abruptly directed.

**Performance:** An intriguing element of the series is Rajat Kapoor's portrayal of Jagjit Malik, the intelligence officer. His character continues to navigate a complex web of espionage, including unexpectedly friendly interactions with his Pakistani counterpart, also named Jagjit Malik and played by Danish Husain. This portrayal offers a contrast to real-world tensions, subtly implying that amicable diplomatic ties could have resolved the Kashmir issue. Season two feels lighter compared to the more nuanced first season. Although the action sequences, crafted by Abbas Ali Moghul, are a highlight—demonstrating the devastating impact of hatred—the narrative depth seems reduced. Farah, played by Ekta Kaul, continues to evolve from her storyline in the first season, where she was manipulated into marriage by Junaid (Shashank Arora), adding emotional layers to the plot. The decision to split the second season into two parts, each with six episodes, results in a cliffhanger that leaves the story suspended, prompting viewers to eagerly await the next chapter.

**Technical aspects:** Cinematographer Quais Wasiq effectively captures the

tranquil landscapes and dynamic action scenes, maintaining the narrative's momentum. Sudhir Mishra and E Niwas, the co-directors, bring a sophisticated and realistic touch to the series. Their meticulous approach enhances the series beyond a typical thriller. The music and background score build upon the first season's success, while the cinematography features impressive close-ups and beautifully framed scenes that highlight Kashmir's complexity and beauty. Attention to diction is another standout aspect. Many actors have made an effort to master the local dialect, reflecting the unique linguistic characteristics of Kashmir.

**Verdict:** *Tanaav 2* delivers a thrilling continuation with intense action and high-stakes drama. Although it retains strong performances from Manav Vij, Rajat Kapoor, and Ekta Kaul, it shifts away from the political depth of the first season. The introduction of Fared as a new antagonist adds fresh intensity, but the series' focus on revenge and terrorism might not appeal to those seeking a more nuanced narrative. Overall, it remains an engaging action thriller, though it lacks the depth that distinguished its predecessor.



Directed by: Sudhir Mishra  
Produced by: Applause Entertainment  
Cinematography by: Quais Wasiq  
Cast: Manav Vij, Rajat Kapoor, Arbaaz Khan, Sahiba Babi, Ekta Kaul, Rocky Raina, Mir Sarwar, Arslan Goni, Satyadeep Dubey, Soni Razdan, Sukhmani Sadana, Gaurav Arora and Kabir Bedi.  
Streaming on: Sony LIV  
Rating: 3/5



# CELEBRATE 'BEAUTY'FUL YOU!



**Anastasia Beverly Hills glow-seeker highlighter**

The Anastasia Beverly Hills glow-seeker highlighter is designed to flatter all skin tones, providing a radiant glow with a smooth finish and intense luminosity.

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## Smart nail lacquer

Introducing Kiko Milano smart nail lacquer, revolutionising your nail care routine. This innovative, quick-drying formula ensures a mess-free application and a flawless finish.



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Bio-essence bio-VLift face lifting cream delivers an instant, dramatic lift—up to 6mm in just 10 minutes! Their exclusive Bio-Energy Complex works synergistically with exotic ingredients like black orchid and royal jelly to rejuvenate and protect your skin. MRP: 2299



It's time to celebrate the transformational power of makeup, creativity and self-expression on International Beauty Day. It's a chance to celebrate uniqueness, try out daring new styles and appreciate the artistic value that beauty has in the world. "Appearance is not everything," as the saying goes. *The Pioneer* is providing you with a list of reasons to enjoy this day with your loved ones and make them feel even more special as we commemorate the occasion



## Beat the day with no sebum range

With the relentless humidity, managing oily skin can be a daunting task. But worry no more! INNISFREE's No Sebum range emerges as the perfect solution to combat excessive sebum and achieve a matte, flawless complexion this season.

## GLOWING & HYDRATED LIPS

Craving juicy, fruity lip treats? LANEIGE's popular lip glossy balm is now available in four new fun flavours including vanilla, blueberry, sweet candy and mango. These lightweight, moisture-rich, subtly tinted glossy lip balms enriched with shea and murumuru seed butters ensure extra soft, hydrated, kissable lips throughout the day.



## PARTY



Faria Abdullah



Shamala and Shruthi



Dr. Fazal unissa

Tollywood star Faria Abdullah officially unveiled the new extension of Hira Fertility Center in Tolichowki, Hyderabad. Spearheaded by Dr. Fazalunnisa, the center offers a holistic approach to fertility with advanced services like IVF, IUI and personalised fertility care, bringing hope to aspiring parents.



Dr. Sunita



The Republic of Korea and the United States, through their development agency, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), have launched a new initiative to empower women entrepreneurs in India. This program, Capacity Strengthening for Women Social Entrepreneurs, marks a significant step in the ongoing collaboration between KOICA and USAID, following their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in February 2024.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



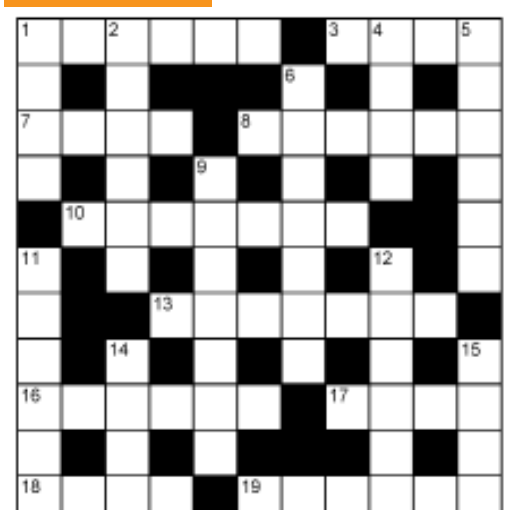
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



**Yesterday's solution**

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

**Rules**

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

**ACROSS**

- Thief
- Tidy your hair with this
- Young woman
- A dairy product
- To turn round and round
- Gleam
- Truthful
- Bitter-tasting
- Thick cord
- Defeated

**DOWN**

- Great anger
- A round wooden container with flat ends
- Above
- A light wind
- Trembles with cold
- Find north with this
- Book writer
- Nearly
- Cut something with scissors
- This metal goes rusty

**SOLUTION**

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



# BIG BREAK FOR Rachakonda Vishwadev

SURESH KAVIRAYANI  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Rachakonda Vishwadev made his debut in the film industry almost six years ago with *Pittagoda* and since then, he has portrayed numerous characters. His acting career received a major boost with the release of the latest film, *35-Chinna Kadha Kadu*. In an interview, he shares his happiness and also a little more about the film.

Actor Rachakonda Vishwadev is currently feeling content. The movie *35-Chinna Kadha Kadu* was released and is not only performing well at the box office but also receiving high praise from critics. Everyone is praising the performance given by Vishwadev in the film. He acted as the spouse of Nivetha Thomas and the parent of two children.

"I am overjoyed that I've finally gotten a good break after a long time. Now that I am receiving several roles, I feel assured," said an ecstatic Vishwadev.

He said that he has been putting in a lot of effort over the past few years and now it is finally starting to pay off for him. "To date, I've done many roles. However, everyone had appreciated my performance this time. My character Prasad in *35-Chinna Kadha Kadu* gave me complete satisfaction and I am getting a

lot of calls from many people. This is like my first success and my mother was almost in tears," he said. He feels that playing the role of a father at a young age is not going to be stereotyped. "Cinema is magical and you can do anything in two hours. You can change it from cinema to cinema. People after seeing my character in *35-Chinna Kadha Kadu* have been astonished because it's a completely different one. It depends on how we are using the characters," said Vishwadev.

Cinema, he says, is a strong medium and thus, one has to choose it differently. "Audience these days is very clever. It all depends on me to bring them something different on-screen," he shared, adding that this was what intrigued him to play the character.

Just like his co-stars, Vishwadev had also taken the training to proper his dialect based on the film. He further highlighted that discussing characters, the script and the dialect on the sets helps an actor to make it easy to play the character naturally.

Senior director and actor Bhagyaraj had also played an important role, along with senior actress Gautami. "I got to learn a lot from them. Gautami Garu spent most of the time on the set interacting with other actors. I thought it was great that she was being honest with them all and offering assistance." He further went on to praise all the actors who were a part of this project, including the children.

"Even the children performed very well and it is also because of them that I could give a good performance," said the actor, who went on to credit the director, Nanda Kishore, for coming up with a subject like this. "I am also glad to have been working with a star cinematographer like Niketh for this film," he said.

Not many are aware that Rachakonda Vishwadev is the grandson of popular Telugu writer Rachakonda Viswanatha Sastry (Ravi Shastry), whose name carries great weight in the Telugu literary community.



## I trust the director always: Tovino Thomas

Malayalam star Tovino Thomas is currently in Hyderabad, promoting his upcoming film *ARM* in Telugu, which will hit the cinemas on September 12. He discusses the movie and explains his process for selecting a project.

The Malayalam movie *Ajayante Randam Moshnam* starring Tovino Thomas is set to be released in Telugu as *ARM*. Tovino is portraying not one or two, but three characters in this movie, which is helmed by Jithin Lal. Mythri Movie Makers are handling the distribution of the Telugu version, so the actor wished to also promote it in Telugu. This film also happens to be his 50th release.

"I began with playing small characters, then later supporting characters; villains and later, I got to play comedy characters. Since 2016, I've had the opportunity to play lead characters. I have told my friends that I am living my dream. Being an actor is a dream," said Tovino Thomas.

While this film marks his 50th release, ironically, he wasn't aware of it. "I didn't know that it was my 50th release. This is the first time I am doing three characters and it's a huge challenge for me. I told my director I didn't want to mess it up. He trusted me and I have to fulfill his trust," said the talented actor.

The actor underwent extensive training for this film. "I wanted to do a workshop. I have been trained in Kalaripayattu for nearly six months to get into the basics," said the actor.

When asked about the difficult character he played, "I will even get the back story of each character from the director; all three characters are challenging," he said as he goes on to reveal that he is very fascinated by the thief character, among the three.

Speaking of his belief in a debutant director and that the film is made on a huge scale, he

shares, "He trusted me and waited for me for nearly eight years with this script, so I have to trust him. If you look at my career, I have done 80 percent of movies with newcomers."

Going ahead, speaking of his Telugu films, he shares that he is keen on learning Telugu. The actor stated that Telugu filmmakers have asked him to do a Telugu film directly, but he prefers to learn the language first before taking on the project.

"I have to finish some movies in Malayalam. I have so many commitments right now. If anything extraordinary comes up my way, then I shall definitely take it up. Even though I can't just come, by heart, to the dialogues and render them, I want to learn Telugu first," said the actor. He mentioned that he has witnessed several of his friends delivering extensive speeches in Telugu and believes he can also do the same. "Strangely, I notice that I understand Telugu very well. I have watched a lot of Telugu movies since my school days. The first movie I watched was of Chiranjeevi and Sridevi; *Jagadeka Veerudu Athiloka Sundari*."

When questioned about selecting diverse scripts, he mentioned that he is gaining knowledge from his co-stars and technicians in every way. "I don't consider myself a star. I have always been working towards being a good actor. I choose scripts that are different. I love doing different kinds of movies and playing different characters. I should have something new to offer the audience. As an actor, I am still exploring my potential. I love cinema and I keep learning from one cinema to another from everyone from directors to technicians," said Tovino.

"I have to do one film at a time. When one film is about to complete, I will start on my next film. I do not prefer doing multiple films because I want to concentrate and justify one character," he said.

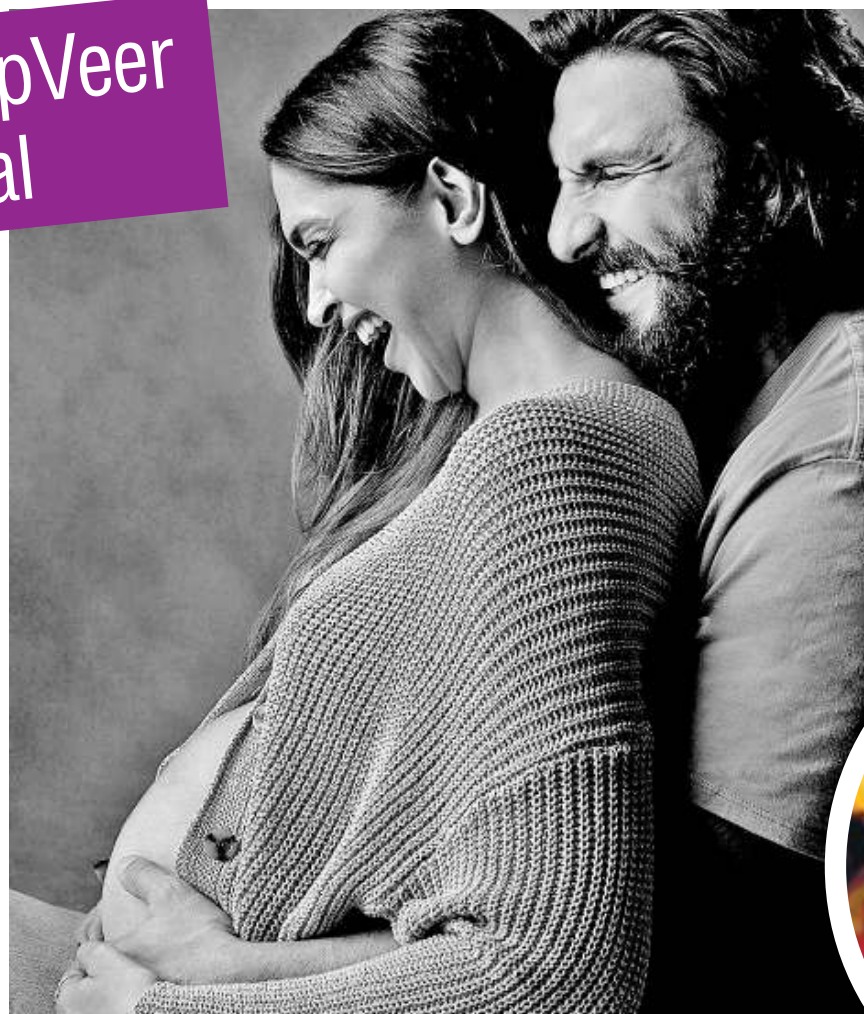
## It's a baby girl! DeepVeer makes it official

Bollywood star couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have officially announced that they have been blessed with a baby girl. Taking to Instagram on Sunday afternoon, the post shared by the stars read: "Welcome baby girl 8.9.2024... Deepika and Ranveer."

It was on Sunday that the news about the two welcoming their first bundle of joy went viral. On September 7, photographs and videos of Deepika going to the H. N. Reliance Hospital in the Girgaon area of Mumbai started doing the rounds, which raised speculations about her giving birth to their first child.

The couple and their families on September 6 had visited the Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai. It was in February 2024, when Deepika and Ranveer, fondly called DeepVeer by their fans, announced that they were set to become parents. The actress was said to be in her second trimester in February.

They took to Instagram to share a post announcing their pregnancy. The post read: "September 2024" with cute motifs of baby clothes, baby shoes and balloons. Ranveer and Deepika got married in November 2018 at a private and intimate ceremony at Lake Como and shared some pictures with fans on Instagram, and five years later on *Koffee With Karan*, fans got to see their stunning wedding video. Meanwhile, on the work front, both the husband and the wife will be seen in the upcoming Rohit Shetty directorial *Singham Again*. While Deepika is a new entrant into Shetty's cop universe, Ranveer will be seen in a cameo avatar as *Simmba*.



## Prabhas unveils trailer for *Mathu Vadalaru 2*

The film *Mathu Vadalaru 2* is receiving backing from major celebrities. On Sunday, the *Darling* star Prabhas released the trailer for the movie. This is a sequel to the previous *Mathu Vadalaru* and helmed by Ritesh Rana. In this sequel, Sri Simha Koduri and Satya play the main roles, with the addition of actress Faria Abdullah as another lead. Simha and Satya are now working as special agents for the HE Team in this follow-up.

It appears that the director, Ritesh Rana, main-

tains the same level of fun in the second part but alters the narration slightly. Sunil is also seen as the team's leader and he suspects Simha and Satya of being ruthless killers and is instructed to apprehend them. In order to evade them, Satya and Simha must engage in humorous actions to protect themselves. If you watch the trailer, you will see Rohini playing a different role as well. The director injected more humour and levity into this follow-up film. Mythri Movies is presenting the film produced by Cherry.

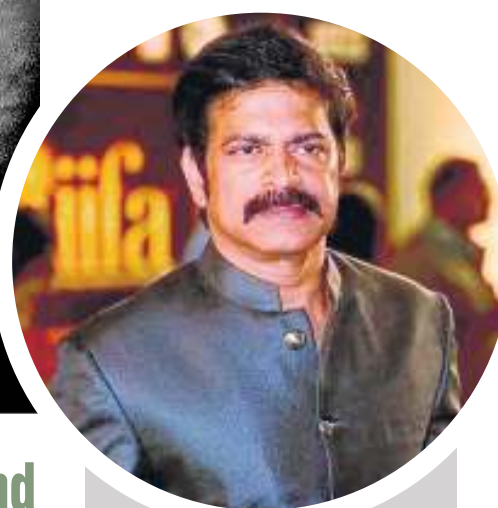
## Roshan Kanakala's second film titled *Mowgli*

Anchor Suma's son, Roshan Kanakala, entered the film industry with his first movie, *Bubblegum*, last year. Although the movie was not successful in terms of box office earnings, it still boosts his confidence in his acting abilities. He has now signed his second movie, which will be helmed by Sandeep Raaj and the title of the film has been revealed as *Mowgli*.

TG Vishwa Prasad from People Media Factory is the one financing this movie. Interestingly, the debut film of Roshan was also linked with the same production house.

Director Sandeep Raaj, who received a national award for his first film *Colour Photo*, is now working with Roshan on a modern love story set in a forest setting.

However, Roshan Kanakala has received numerous praises for his acting and elegant dance moves and will be appearing in a unique role in the upcoming film called *Mowgli*. The initial poster features Roshan Kanakala wearing a vest, showing off his muscles, and smiling charmingly. The new story features a forest setting, like *Jungle Book*, with the beloved character Mowgli. Kaala Bhairava is in charge of the music for this movie. The creators revealed that *Mowgli* will be released in the summer of 2025.



## VENKATESH AND ANIL RAVIPUDI COMBO CONTINUES TO GIVE LAUGHS

Actor Venkatesh and director Anil Ravipudi are collaborating for the third time on an untitled film, with filming progressing quickly. The makers stated that they finished a schedule in Pollachi and returned to Hyderabad. Dil Raju functions as the producer. Venky and Anil were previously involved in the movie *F2: Fun and Frustration* and then worked on the follow-up film *F3*.

This marks the third instance that they collaborate for this third movie. The schedule lasts for 30 days during which the producers shot important scenes with the main actors, songs and action sequences. To mark Vinayaka Chaturthi, the producers shared a brief video from the filming location. It indicates that this movie will be filled with humour and will also have the classic Anil Ravipudi comedic style.

In the behind-the-scenes video, Venkatesh is dressed in traditional clothing and wearing glasses, while Aishwarya Rajesh, playing his wife Bhagya, is wearing a traditional saree. Meenakshi Chaudhary, portraying his ex-girlfriend Meenakshi, flaunts a contemporary and fashionable appearance. The director discloses that a sequence during a break was shot close to Munnar. They also suggested that the movie will be coming out next year during the Sankranti festival.

The makers also disclosed that the plot revolves around an intense triangle of criminal activities. The music was provided by Bheems Ceciroleo.



## Brahmajji 'X' account hacked

Actor Brahmajji is gaining popularity on social media due to his political remarks. Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, made an extensive post on his social media 'X' regarding the current Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and the ongoing floods in Vijayawada. The former chief minister condemned the current administration for their inadequate handling of the situation, resulting in the loss of lives and homes for many people. Jagan stated in his post that it is the government's failure.

Actor Brahmajji responded to YS Jagan and said, "They (The Government) can't do it sir, we will do and first we will release Rs 1,000 crore and ask every party worker to help for the flood victims. Government is not important for us, people are important, so let's do it ourselves."

Later, Brahmajji once again posted on his social media regarding the above post and clarified saying, "It is not my post; my account has been hacked and the post is not mine. I complained about it also." This has become a major talking point among social media users. Brahmajji is currently occupied with the filming of *Pushpa 2*. Together with Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil, he is currently filming at RFC and is unaware of the incorrect post. After being alerted by someone, he became aware that his account had been hacked. He promptly reported, updated the password, and stated that he hadn't replied to YS Jagan's remark.





# NEW ZEALAND SEEKS TO EXPLOIT AFGHANISTAN'S RED-BALL INEXPERIENCE IN TEST

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

New Zealand will aim to exploit Afghanistan's relative inexperience in red-ball cricket, in the one-off Test starting here from Monday, and gather momentum ahead of their upcoming World Test Championship challenges in the sub continent. New Zealand's first-ever Test against Afghanistan will kick off a challenging couple of months for the Black Caps who play six long-format matches on the bounce in the subcontinent, something they haven't done in 40 years. With their underwhelming subcontinent record in mind (40 losses in 90 matches), New Zealand would want to hit the straps straightaway. Senior batter Kane Williamson has emphasised on the need to adapt to conditions and with three games under their belt, they would be well prepared for the marquee series against India next month. Spin is expected to dominate proceedings and New Zealand have come well prepared with five slow bowling options.

Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, who returns to India for the first time since his 10-wicket haul in Mumbai in 2021, is expected to make the playing XI. Rachin Ravindra, who has been sweating it out in CSK High Performance Centre in Chennai, is expected to be handy with bat and ball while all-rounders Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell are vying to fill the remaining spinners' spots. Matt Henry is New Zealand's best seamer at the moment but captain Tim Southee's dip in Test form will be a concern. Will O'Rourke, or express pacer Ben Sears may be given a go. New Zealand will need to shake off the rust as they haven't played Test cricket since early March and the tenacious Afghanistan side is poised to pose a strong challenge. For Afghanistan, who obtained Test status in 2017, this will be only their 10th ever outing in the traditional format. They head to the clash having



lost their last three Tests against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Ireland. But in their brief Test journey they have managed to beat Ireland, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Afghanistan have made significant strides in white-ball cricket, but some players will now need to swiftly make the transition from T20 to Test format. The disparity in Test experience between Afghanistan and New Zealand is substantial, but Hashmatullah Shahidi and his team will look to gain from familiarity with the Shahid Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida, where they have previously played five ODIs and six T20Is. Talismanic all-rounder Rashid Khan is not there to bowl his menacing leg-breaks, which is a huge blow for them, while T20 regulars Rahamnullah Gurbaz, Mohammad Nabi, Fazallaq Farooqui, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad and Naveen-ul-Haq are also not available. Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah and skipper Shahidi, who aver-

ages 44.09 in Tests, will burden the batting responsibilities. Seam-bowling all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai is likely to make his Test debut, while Zia-ur-Rehman, Zahir Khan, Khalil Ahmed, Qais Ahmad, Shahidullah Kamal and Bahir Shah are the spin options. With rain and thunderstorms forecast throughout the week, the match is likely to be affected. Teams (from): Afghanistan: Hashmatullah Shahidi (c), Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Abdul Malik, Riaz Hassan, Afsar Zazai (wk), Ikram Alikhil (wk), Bahir Shah, Shahidullah Kamal, Azmatullah Omarzai, Shams Ur Rahman, Zia-ur-Rehman, Zahir Khan, Qais Ahmad, Khalil Ahmad and Nijat Masood. New Zealand: Tim Southee (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Kane Williamson, Will Young.

## Shahidi calls for more Test cricket, dedicated home venue for Afghanistan



PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Greater Noida, (PTI) Hashmatullah Shahidi on Sunday called for more Test matches for his side and a dedicated home venue in India to improve training and gain a competitive edge over their opponents. Afghanistan cannot play in their home country due to ongoing security issues, instead they have hosted matches at three venues in India -- Greater Noida, Lucknow, Dehradun and the UAE. "India is our home, and when we host teams, other nations have played more cricket here," Shahidi said on the eve of the one-off Test against New Zealand.

"Hopefully, we will get a good venue here in India and if we restrict ourselves to one venue, it will be effective for us. Hopefully, the ACB and the BCCI will get us a good venue." "If you see our records in first-class, it's good because we play at our home ground. We know those conditions. Hopefully, in the future, there will be a time when the teams will travel to Afghanistan and our average will be higher," he added. Afghanistan have become a force to reckon with in the white-ball formats but since receiving the Test status in 2017, they have played just nine matches, most of them one-off fixtures. "In six years, nine games is not more. We are new in this for-

mat. We need more experience. If we get more chances on a regular basis, we will improve a lot. "It's in the hands of the ACB and ICC. When it comes to Test cricket, some players are different from those who play in the leagues." Shahidi, who has a Test double century, feels a longer run of red ball fixtures will help the Afghans hone their skills in format. "If we get three-four match series at a stretch, it will be helpful for us as a side. If you look at our past, we would prepare only 10 days ahead of a Test match. "It's not easy to come to red-ball cricket, by just playing in the nets. Only if you play matches, will you get better at judging the ball." The game against New Zealand is historic as it will be the first time these two side clash in the longest format. "It's a good opportunity for us to play against New Zealand, given their rankings. Hopefully, the ACB will try harder to give us opportunities against bigger teams in the future." Their inexperience cost them a historic win against Sri Lanka earlier this year and Shahidi feels it could hurt them against a vastly experienced side like New Zealand. "It will be a lack of experience, but when it comes to taking challenges, we are a nation that does not take a step backward." We have talented players and we can do well in every department - some of our players have hundreds in this format. It's tough, but if we play to our strength, we can beat any team," he said.

## Moeen Ali retires from international cricket



AP ■ LONDON

England all-rounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from international cricket after being overlooked for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia. The 37-year-old Ali said in an interview with British newspaper The Daily Mail that it was "time for the next generation." "It felt the time was right. I've done my part," Ali said. Ali played 68 Tests, 138 One-Day Internationals and 92 Twenty20 Internationals for England, winning the World Cup in both the shorter forms. He said he still feels like he can compete at the highest level, but was "trying to be

realistic" about his international future. "I could hold on and try to play for England again, but I know in reality I won't," Ali told the Mail. Matthew Mott was fired as head coach of England's limited-overs teams last month after disappointing title defences in the ODI and T20 World Cups and the appetite for change continued with the removal from the squad of Ali and Jonny Bairstow - two senior players sharing over 400 caps. Moeen had been an influential vice-captain to Jos Buttler in recent years. England host Australia in an eight-game white-ball tour beginning on Wednesday with a T20 in Southampton.

## Indian cricket powerful, talent comes from everywhere says Rahul Dravid

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The legendary Rahul Dravid on Sunday said that Indian cricket has evolved into an "extremely powerful" force, thanks to the growing talent pool that now extends to even the remotest corners of the country. Dravid, who masterminded India's triumph in the T20 World Cup, said a strong club cricket culture has a lot to do with bucking the old trend of city cricketers dominating the passage to the national team. "If you look at Indian cricket today, Indian cricket is extremely strong, it's extremely powerful. One of the big reasons for that is that talent comes from everywhere, from all over the country," said Dravid during the 50th year celebration of Mount Joy Cricket Club. "I think if you go back to the time of say GR Vishwanath or even when I was starting out my career, most of the talent came from the big cities or from few other states. "Even if they were talented boys in smaller places, they had to come to the big cities to play cricket. But today I think you see in Indian cricket that boys are coming from everywhere," he added. Dravid said it's getting reflected in the standards of domestic cricket in India. "You just look at the standard of the Ranji Trophy. In the old days when you played in the South Zone, other than playing Hyderabad or Tamil Nadu, I think it is fair to say, without being disrespectful, that a lot of other



teams you could take it not for granted but you could certainly take it a little bit more lightly. "I don't think there is any team in the South Zone today that you can walk in and say that you will comfortably beat," he added. "Hailing the club cricket structure in the country, particularly in Karnataka, Dravid said the system has allowed the sport to remain accessible to all. "We need clubs to be strong. We need cricket not to be concentrated in the hands of a few people. We need cricket to be egalitarian, we need it to be all over the place. "You cannot have talent or you cannot have facilities concentrated only in one or two places. To get the best out of talent,

we need to ensure that young boys and girls are getting access to good infrastructure in every part," he noted. "The 51-year-old former Indian captain then briefly revisited his club career when he was young to underscore the need for that system to thrive. "After the practice, HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) would give us two eggs and one small glass of milk. I would always stay back for that glass of milk and those eggs. Not because I wanted the milk and eggs. "But because I wanted to sit and listen to the likes of BK Kumar or Nandan talking about cricket. And it used to be great fun to listen to them and learn so much from them," said Dravid.

# Pacers shine as India B beat India A by 76 runs

PTI ■ BENGALURU

KL Rahul's gumption, which helped him pile a patient fifty, found no resonance among his colleagues as India B pacers led by Yash Dayal pushed India A to a 76-run defeat on the fourth and final day of their Duleep Trophy match here on Sunday. Chasing 275, India A were bundled out for 198 in their second innings as left-arm seamer Dayal (3/50), with able support from his colleagues Mukesh Kumar (2/50) and Navdeep Saini (2/41), led the India B attack. Rahul top-scored for 'A' with a 51. In the first session of the day, India B made 184 all out in their second essay to muster a handy overall lead of 274. The India A chase began on a shaky note as Mayank Agarwal departed in the second over itself, wafting Dayal away from his body to Nitish Kumar Reddy, who made a wonderful diving catch at second slip. That brought Rivan Parag to the middle and the right-hander followed the path set on Saturday by Rishabh Pant and Sarfaraz Khan. Parag took on the bowlers and pacer Mukesh bore the brunt of his aggression, getting



smoked for two sixes and the second maximum touched the roof of the Chinnaswamy Stadium over the mid-wicket region. Parag added 48 runs for the second with a rather subdued Shubman Gill, who was

dropped by Nitish Reddy to slips off Mukesh on 16, and 31 came off the former's bat in just 18 balls. But the approach was tough to sustain considering the kind of assistance the bowlers were getting here, and soon his

massive hoick off Dayal took an edge off Parag's bat en route to stumper Rishabh Pant. Gill (21) departed soon, falling to Saini for the second time in the match and on this occasion, he edged the pacer

to Pant. Dhruv Jurel poked Dayal well outside off-stump to Yashasvi Jaiswal at gully, as India batters perished to a combination of bowlers' persistence on that channel and their own carelessness.

They took the lunch at a queasy 76 for four that soon transpired into 99 for six after the dismissal of Shivam Dube and Tanush Kotian, an hour into the lunch. However, Rahul batted out 180 minutes 121 balls and

milked 42 runs for the seventh wicket with Kuldeep Yadav to delay the inevitable. The standout shot in an otherwise dour innings was a whistling on drive off Mukesh that fetched him a boundary. But Mukesh had his revenge soon when Rahul feathered a cut off him to Pant, who completed five catches in this innings, soon after reaching his fifty with a single off Saini. It effectively signalled the end of the road for India A, though Akash Deep (43, 42b, 3x4, 4x6) gave a few moments of fun with a cavalier innings. But beyond the entertainment value, it always was a case of when more than if. Earlier, resuming from their overnight score of 150 for six India B could only 34 runs more to the total before getting bundled out. Pacer Akash, whom Sarfaraz Khan carted around for five fours in a row the previous day, found his mojo to add the scalps of Washington Sundar and Saini to complete a five-wicket haul (5/56). The spell will keep his name floating among the contenders when the selectors sit together soon to pick up squad for two-match Test series against Bangladesh.

## India to bid for 2030 Youth Olympics: Minister Mandaviya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday said India is set to bid for the 2030 Youth Olympics, a precursor to the country's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics. The 2030 Youth Olympics will be the fifth edition of the international event. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi we are going to bid for the 2030 Youth Olympics but our focus remain on hosting the 2036 Olympics," Mandaviya said on the sidelines of the Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) 44th General Assembly here. "Under Modi's leadership we have been able to host multiple international sporting events, including cricket World Cups, football U-17 World Cup," BJP president JP Nadda, who was the chief guest for the event, added. "India will fight against Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Thailand, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina to get the hosting rights for the 2030 Youth Olympics."