

The historic judgement given by the High Court on defections is like a slap in the face to the Congress government. In the past, Congress party MLAs were accused of defection. The Congress party had fought against it. When Revanth Reddy was the chief of PCC, if MLAs switched parties, Revanth Reddy gave a call to play death knell in front of their houses. However, CM is now inducting MLAs of other parties into his party unethically. How reasonable is this..?



-BJLP Alleti Maheshwar Reddy

P2

Need to remove obstacles in research ecosystem: PM

DEEPENING INDO-UAE TIES WILL BE ENVY FOR REST OF WORLD: GOYAL

'Independent women would relate to my character in UTSAVAM'

DON'T MISS...

We can't put a ban on making PoP...

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday said that it cannot order a ban on manufacturing of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols. The PoP idols would be immersed in temporary baby ponds in the city. Advocate Mamidi Venu Madhav has filed a contempt petition before the court. He said that the previous orders of the High Court were not implemented. When the petitioner requested the court to mention the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) as a respondent to the case, the court refused it. The court...

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Rahul trying to set dangerous...

The BJP came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in the US about the Sikh community, saying the Congress leader is trying to create a 'dangerous narrative' by speaking on 'sensitive issues' abroad. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here that Gandhi's remarks were "sinister" in nature as he tried to spread falsehood among the members of the Sikh community living abroad to "eke out a living" and do not have much connection with India...

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IFFCO invested Rs 2k cr on nano...

Fertiliser major IFFCO has invested around Rs 2,000 crore since 2017 on its two new innovative products nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP and is hopeful that farmers will adopt these key nutrients in a big way over the next 2-3 years, its Managing Director U S Awasthi said. Cooperative IFFCO launched the world's first 'Nano Liquid Urea' fertiliser in June 2021. Thereafter, it came up with Nano-DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertiliser in April 2023. Nano urea is available at around Rs 240 per bottle of 500 ml while nano liquid...

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Rinku picked for second round as...

Majority of the players picked in the India squad for the first Test against Bangladesh, including Rishabh Pant, K L Rahul and Shubman Gill, were on Tuesday rested for the second round of Duleep Trophy beginning here on September 12. The others picked in the national squad on Sunday include Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel, who all have been exempted from the second round. Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Sarfaraz Khan, who too are part of India's 16-man...

-SPORTS



Centre approves 4 more medical colleges for TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central government has given its nod for four new medical colleges in Telangana. The districts permission granted are Yadadri, Medak, Maheswaram and Quthbullapur Medical Colleges.

With this approval, Telangana now has a total of eight government medical colleges. Each college will offer 50 MBBS seats, bringing the total number of available seats to 400.

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha expressed his gratitude to the Central government and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for their support in making this possible. He said that the government had worked diligently to address the issues raised by the National Medical Commission (NMC) and ensure that all necessary facilities were in place for the establishment of these colleges.

The National Medical Commission has already given permission to Mulugu, Narsampet, Gadwal and Narayanpet Medical Colleges this year. The total of seats in government colleges has

increased to 4,090.

"This year, the government has applied for a total of 8 colleges. The NMC officials who came to inspect these colleges in June expressed their displeasure that there are no necessary facilities for setting up colleges here. They instructed that permissions cannot be given without teaching staff and facilities. The new government allocated the necessary funds. The NMC went for the first appeal after correcting the errors raised by it. After this appeal, NMC gave permission to Mulugu, Narsampet, Gadwal and Narayanpet colleges, but did not give permission to the remaining 4 colleges," he added.

The Health Minister regularly monitored the permissions of these colleges and appointed staff to Yadadri, Medak, Maheswaram and Quthbullapur colleges. In the recent general transfers, the staff was transferred to the rest of the colleges only after filling up the vacancies in those four colleges. To overcome the shortage of professors, promotions were given to those who were eligible, said the Health Minister's release.

CM Revanth for augmenting RTC fleet

P2

MLAS DEFECTION CASE

Will announce decision soon: Speaker

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reacting to the High Court's directive in regard to MLAs' defections on Tuesday, Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasada Kumar said that his decision will be known in the coming days. The Speaker said that the court gave four weeks' time and will move as per the rules. The party defections issue is sub-judice, he said.

It may be recalled that the High Court directed the Speaker to announce a time schedule in regard to inquiry on the defected MLAs issue within four weeks. BRS MLAs Padi Kaushik Reddy and KP Vivekanand filed a petition in the High Court appealing it to make the Speaker to disqualify the defected MLAs - Danam Nagender, Kadiam Srihari and Tellam Venkat



Rao. BJP Leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy also lodged a complaint against Danam Nagender.

Don't insult Speaker: Min



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT, Electronics and Communications, Industry and Commerce and Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said that it is not right for the Opposition to speak insultingly Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasada Kumar.

Sridhar Babu said that the Speaker and Legislative Council Chairman

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TG'S STANCE AT SIXTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING

Help TG overcome debts

CM REVANTH SEEKS 50% SHARE IN CENTRAL TAXES

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At the Sixteenth Finance Commission meeting on Tuesday, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy made a strong case for increasing the share of allocation of central funds to states from the current 41% to 50%. In his speech, the TG Chief Minister emphasized the need for greater financial support from the Centre to help states manage growing debts and continue their developmental strides.

Telangana, the youngest state in India, faces a formidable debt burden of Rs. 6.85 lakh crore as of the last financial year, with a large portion of its revenues going towards debt repayment. Hence, Revanth reasoned, if the state's debt management issues were not addressed, the emerging situation could slow down Telangana's progress. He requested the Commission's assistance in restructuring the state's debt or providing additional financial aid. "If we don't manage our loans and interest payments, it will slow down our progress. We seek your support in helping us address this problem," Revanth said.



The Chief Minister also reaffirmed his commitment to contributing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a \$5 trillion economy, promising that if the Centre could increase the allocation to states, Telangana would work towards becoming a \$1 trillion economy.

In addition, Revanth highlighted Telangana's economic growth but acknowledged that the state was grappling with several challenges, particularly regarding revenue allocation and debt servicing.

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State is neither poor nor rich: Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka called for increased financial autonomy and assistance for Telangana, during a press conference, highlighting the State's challenges with debt and infrastructure development. Responding to a question, Bhatti said that the State is neither poor nor rich, but stated facts.



5

LOCAL BODIES' ELECTIONS

HC gives TG three months to implement BC quota

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday directed the state government to implement in three months reservations to Backward Communities in local self-government institutions.

A two-judge panel, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J Sreenivas Rao, heard a batch of petitions and ordered the respondents to submit a compliance report



to the Court within three months from Tuesday.

"The respondents are directed to implement the directions contained in para 13 of the judgment of the Supreme Court in Vikas Kishanrao Gawali (supra) within a period of three months from today and to submit a compliance report to this Court", the Court ordered.

The 13 para mentioned 12(2)(c) section of the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961. The section mentioned that out of 100 per cent seats, 27 per

cent should be reserved for BC citizens in the elections. The petitioners prayed to the court to declare Section 201 of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act 2018 in so far as empowering the Telangana Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited Hyderabad to gather the population figures of the Backward Classes by conducting a survey as illegal, arbitrary unreasonable and without any justification.

TPCC chief for Delhi today

CM likely to go to on 16 to discuss on cabinet expansion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president B Mahesh Kumar Goud is leaving for Delhi on Wednesday. He will meet leaders of the party high command and thank them for entrusting him with TPCC president position. Mahesh Kumar is likely to assume office on September 15. Mahesh Kumar Goud's followers have been erecting flexes across the city congratulating him in a big way.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is scheduled to go to Delhi on September 16. PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud may accompany him. It is learnt that the Chief Minister may discuss with the party high command the specifics of the long-



expected cabinet expansion, besides filling of 27 nominated posts.

The Chief Minister would also discuss with the party high command about PCC executive committee members. It is learnt that the Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers-N Uttam Kumar Reddy, D Sridhar Babu and others would also go to Delhi.

It's not a people's govt but Bulldozer govt, says KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K Tarakarama Rao told Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, "Your government is not a people's government but it is a bulldozer government."

On Tuesday, The Pioneer published a report that Madhapur police have registered a case against three persons. The complainant said that they have obstructed the work of HYDRAA at Sunnam Cheruvu in Madhapur.

On Tuesday, KTR took to Twitter and posted The Pioneer news report and said, "It is such a shame that Revanth Reddy's govt resorts to filing FIR on

5

RG KAR INCIDENT

Junior doctors defy SC order

Continue 'cease work' • Mamata invites protestors for talks

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Protesting junior doctors in West Bengal defied a Supreme Court order, asking them to resume work by 5 pm on Tuesday, and said they would continue with their protest till their demands were fulfilled and the rape and murder victim of the RG Kar Hospital was given justice.

As the medicos continued to protest for the 32nd day on Tuesday, demanding the removal of the Kolkata police commissioner and several top state health department officials, the state government said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to the protesters, inviting



them for a meeting at the secretariat to resolve the impasse over the incident. However, the protesting doctors said the mail for the meet-

ing was from the state health secretary, whose resignation they were seeking, and termed it as "insulting".

5

PAC ROW

Gandhi says he didn't join Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A day after being appointed as PAC Chariman, Serilingampally MLA Arikepudi Gandhi said that he is still a BRS MLA and didn't join the Congress.

He even went on to say that the scarf was that of the national flag. He said that it is not fair for the BRS to target him. He said that he is staying away from the BRS party affairs as he didn't like a few things. "I won as an BRS MLA. With 3 members, you nominated with PAC chairman, I met Speaker, CM and asked for chance since it is a big constituency. They gave an opportunity and I thank them," he said.

He even said that the scarf was not of Congress when he met the CM. However, there are social



media posts on his profile where he declared that he joined the Congress. He said that the BRS leaders are mudslinging him, which is not good. Defections were encouraged by the BRS, he added.

When asked if he will meet KCR, he said he will thank all those who facilitated him becoming PAC chairman. KCR overnight gave ministers to other party MLAs, he added.

PAC Chairman's appointment unconstitutional: Alleti P2

# Why appointment of TG PCC chief is as per CM's convenience

Going by the Congress' choice to fill Pradesh Congress Committee president post in the Telangana, it appears that the party high command prefers a person who will work in tandem with the Chief Minister, regardless of the pulls and pressures within the party unit concerned. The idea is to ensure that the Chief Minister will have full cooperation from the party unit at the state level.

The appointment of MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud as the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president is apparently in line the



wishes of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. When it comes to appointing PCC chief, the party's priorities change depending on the situation in the state and on whether it is the ruling party or part of the Opposition there.

Mahesh Kumar Goud is a prominent member of the Backward Castes (belonging to Goud community, many of whose members are toddy tapers). Goud is a close associate of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

The newly appointed PCC chief needs to strengthen the hands of the Chief Minister

**The appointment of MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud as the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president is apparently in line the wishes of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. When it comes to appointing PCC chief, the party's priorities change depending on the situation in the state and on whether it is the ruling party or part of the Opposition there.**



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chief chose to unfurl the flag, taking advantage of the slightly delayed arrival of the chief minister. As a result, VHR was replaced by another leader at the behest of NJR. VHR then accepted the Rajya Sabha seat on offer, instead of continuing in the state cabinet headed by NJR.

When Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy took the reins of the state in 2004, a cold war ensued between then PCC President D. Sreenivas and the chief minister. Peeved at the propaganda against his political interests, YSR got AICC president Sonia Gandhi to make her preferences publicly clear: she then gave an assurance that YSR

would be the chief minister if the party is voted to power and simultaneously DS was instructed not to come in YSR's way. However, YSR had to induct DS into his Cabinet on 14 May, 2004 at the behest of Sonia Gandhi despite his reluctance. DS held both positions of minister and PCC chief for some time and was eventually replaced by K. Keshava Rao. Although KK's working nature was by and large acceptable, his hobnobbing with then TRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao irked YSR. After becoming PCC chief, Keshava Rao pleaded the chief minister, but showed his individuality when it came to handling party matters at

the state level.

YSR himself served as PCC president twice during the 1985 and 1999 elections. In 2000, senior leader M. Satyanarayana Rao was made PCC president. Due to his controversial comments that widows of slain legislators should not be given party tickets, he lost face and could not go to Delhi for nine months.

All told, the priorities for the Congress high command when it comes to picking persons for filling PCC chief posts vary and are closely linked to the ground situation and on whether it is the ruling party or in the Opposition in any given state.

## Finance panel chief 'very impressed' with TG's growth plan

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission, has said that the Commission is 'very impressed' with Telangana's presentation and expressed his admiration for Telangana's focus on urban development.

During a press meet at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on his sixth state visit on Tuesday, Arvind said: "We had very frank discussions. The state was upfront about its finances. They very refreshingly briefed us on all the numbers and what have been the liabilities of budget and off budget borrowings and how they see finances going forward. They also briefed us on the plan for development of Telangana.

Certainly the Commission was very impressed with what it heard and the development plan."

He noted that, despite urbanization taking a back-seat in many parts of the country, Telangana had brought urban development to the forefront of its agenda, which he found particularly commendable. "Urbanization may have slowed down elsewhere, but Telangana is driving it forward without neglecting rural development," Panagariya remarked.

Panagariya addressed several key issues concerning state finances and resource division. A major point of discussion was the division of resources between the central government and the states.

# CM for augmenting RTC fleet

**● New buses to be operated across the state ● Possible new routes in focus**

**● Mahalakshmi scheme, offering free travel, has benefited 83.42 crore women, saving Rs 2,840.71 crore for passengers.**

**● Mahalakshmi scheme is currently applicable to 7,292 buses in Telangana.**

**● TGSRTC loans total Rs 6,322 crore, including those from banks and outstanding dues towards employee provident funds**

**● CM orders a study on reducing high interest rates and restructuring loans to gradually reduce TSRTC's debt burden.**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed the officials concerned to make preparations for the purchase of new buses to be operated



had availed of free travel so far, thus saving for them Rs. 2,840.71 crore, according to Minister for Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar. He mentioned that the Mahalakshmi scheme was applicable to 7,292 buses. After the introduction of the Mahalakshmi scheme, the number of women traveling from various districts to hospitals in Hyderabad had increased. Officials presented these statistics to the Chief Minister through a PowerPoint presentation, which included reports published in newspa-

## Megha Krishna Reddy meets CM, donates Rs 5cr

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The Chief Minister's Relief Fund continues to receive generous donations as several prominent personalities and companies have come forward to contribute towards flood relief efforts in Telangana.

Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) Managing Director PV Krishna Reddy has donated Rs 5 crore to the fund, while CYIENT Limited's management has contributed Rs 1 crore. Film



producer Dil Raju also made a donation of Rs 25 lakh, adding to the wave of support. Lalitha Jewellers Chairman Kiran has contributed Rs 1 crore, further strengthening the relief efforts. Directors of Mytrah Energy Group & Akshat Greentech Private Limited, Vikram Kailas and Ravi Kailas, also extended their support by donating Rs 1 crore to the CM Relief Fund. These donations will be crucial in providing relief to those affected by the recent floods in Telangana.

## Growth rate of paper industry in TG is 6-7%: Ganesh Bhadti

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Ganesh Bhadti, Chairman of PaperTech 2024 and Director-Operations at Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited stated that the growth rate of paper industry in Telangana is six to seven per cent and there will be 12 per cent rise for the industry in the upcoming years across India. He was speaking at the two-day Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) PaperTech conference at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) on Tuesday. Apart from the PaperTech conference, Green Sugar Summit 2024 and Powerplant Summit 2024 were also organised simultaneously.

The theme of the PaperTech conference is "Make Indian Pulp & Paper Industry World Class," and the event witnessed a large footfall of industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for elevating the sector to international standards.

Ganesh Bhadti said, "The paper industry is witnessing an unprecedented shift in magnitude and importance as we move away from fossil-based products and towards a low-carbon economy. The Indian paper and board industry has successfully reduced emissions by over 20 per cent in the last decade, showcasing its commitment to greener production methods."

Pawan Agarwal, President of the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) and Managing Director of Naini Papers Ltd., said, "The plantation-based paper industry holds immense potential, with the ability to grow plants within four-five years. With such a sustainable approach, the future of the paper industry looks brighter than ever."



Muralikrishnan Kannan, Principal Counsellor, CII-Godrej Green Business Centre, Gaurav Goel, Chairman of the Green Sugar Summit 2024 and Managing Director of Dhampur Sugar Mills Limited, Roshan Lal Tamak, Vice Chairman of the Green Sugar Summit 2024 and Executive Director & CEO - Sugar Business at DCM Shriram Ltd

## Sonia appoints office-bearers of CPP

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday appointed secretaries and a treasurer of the parliamentary party.

While Ranjit Ranjan was appointed secretary of the parliamentary party (Rajya Sabha), MK Raghavan and Amar Singh were appointed secretaries of the parliamentary party (Lok Sabha).

"Following a unanimous resolution passed by the general body, which entrusted the chairperson to appoint the office-bearers of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP), the chairperson has appointed office-bearers of the Congress Parliamentary Party with immediate effect," a party statement said.

It added, "Secretaries: Ranjeet Ranjan (Rajya Sabha); MK Raghavan (Lok Sabha) and Amar Singh (Lok Sabha). Treasurer: Vijay Vasanth."

## Sridhar Babu assures to cater skill set employees

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Emphasising the fast growth of pet adoption in Hyderabad, along with a 10 to 12 per cent increase across the country, Minister for IT, E&C, Industries & Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, D Sridhar Babu, inaugurated the Zoetis India Capability Centre (GCC) on the 8th floor of the Orwell block in Sattva Knowledge City on Tuesday.

Addressing the launch, Sridhar Babu highlighted Hyderabad's unmatched infrastructure, including ORR connectivity, high-end facilities and best human talent. He also mentioned that the city is home to leading institutions in animal science along with collaboration of colleges, globally recognised for their ability.

Citing back to the Global AI Summit, he noted the positive impact of AI on various sectors has been discussed, including veterinary science and R&D,



Minister D Sridhar Babu at the inauguration of the Zoetis India Capability Centre in Hyderabad on Tuesday

## Nigerian deported to prevent detrimental activities

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Task Force, apprehended a Nigerian national, and deported him to Nigeria to prevent his involvement in activities deemed detrimental to national security.

He is identified as Ikeji Innocent Nduka (53) native of Lagos, Nigeria and living in Bengaluru.

Ikeji Innocent Nduka arrived in India in 2009 on a tourist visa. Initially, he was involved in scarf trading in Surat, Gujarat, before moving to Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, where he sold T-shirts for four years. In 2014, he relocated to Bengaluru. In May 2024, he came to Hyderabad, where he was apprehended in the Panjagutta area.

Upon investigation, it was revealed that Nduka had overstayed his visa and passport validity.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Ashtami: Sep 10 11:12 PM to Sep 11 11:46 PM  
Navami: Sep 11 11:46 PM to Sep 12 11:33 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
Jyestha: Sep 10 08:04 PM to Sep 11 09:21 PM  
Moola: Sep 11 09:22 PM to Sep 12 09:52 PM

**Rahukalam:** 12:12 PM to 1:43 PM  
**Yamagandam:** 7:38 AM to 9:09 AM

**Variyam:** 08:14 PM to 09:52 PM  
**Gulika:** 10:41 AM to 12:12 PM  
**Amritakalam:** 12:05 PM to 01:46 PM  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** Nil

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy  
Temp: 29°  
Humidity: 70 %  
Sunrise: 6:04 AM  
Sunset: 6:21 PM

Updated: September 10, 2024 5:00 PM

## Women's varsity to be named after Chakali Ailamma: CM

**Says her grandchild to be made member of Women's Commission**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, speaking at the death anniversary event of freedom fighter Chakali Ailamma, announced the State government's decision to name the Women's University in Koti after her.

The Chief Minister paid rich tributes to Ailamma, highlighting her role in leading agrarian struggles and standing up against oppressive landlords for the rights of the poor. He further revealed that the government has decided to appoint Ailamma's granddaughter, Shwetha, as a member of the Women's Commission. "We

believe that Ailamma's family should continue to play an active role in the government, representing the spirit of her fight for justice," said Revanth Reddy.

During his address, the Chief Minister promised to uphold the legacy of Chakali Ailamma in Telangana. He drew parallels between her fight for land rights and the reforms introduced by Indra Gandhi. "Ailamma fought to ensure that thousands of acres held by landlords were distributed to the poor. Inspired by her, Indra Gandhi introduced land reforms, distributing lakhs of acres to the landless poor," he said. He also spoke of the current

challenges faced by the poor in retaining their lands. "Some are trying to usurp the lands of the poor under the guise of Dharani," Revanth Reddy stated, referring to the BRS gov't controversial land registration portal. He vowed to protect the land rights of the poor, invoking the spirit of Chakali Ailamma as a guiding force for his government.

"This is a government for the people, and we are here to protect their rights, just as Ailamma did in her time," he added. The event concluded with the Chief Minister reaffirming the government's commitment to social justice and the welfare of the marginalised sections of society.

## PAC Chairman's appointment unconstitutional: Alleti

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Bharatiya Janata Legislative Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy stated that the historic judgement given by the High Court is like a slap in the face to the Congress government. Maheshwar Reddy said that they welcome the judgment given by Telangana High Court on the disqualification petitions filed on party defection of MLAs.

Maheshwar Reddy said that the High Court Bench which heard the disqualification application of the MLAs filed by the BJP directed the Secretary of the Assembly Speaker's office to take a decision within four weeks. He said that earlier, they petitioned the Court to take action against the

MLAs who defected to the party.

Maheshwar Reddy said that it is a good development that Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar welcomed the High Court verdict. This matter should be brought to the attention of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge and a decision should be taken to respect the verdict.

He said that in a democratic system, everyone has the responsibility to respect the judgment given by the court, the Constitution and the laws of the land.

Maheshwar Reddy said, "In the past, when Congress party MLAs were accused of defection, the Congress party fought against it. When Revanth

Reddy was the PCC chief, if MLAs switched parties, Revanth Reddy gave a call to play a death drum beat in front of their houses. However, the CM is now inducting MLAs of other parties into his party unethically. How reasonable is this?" he asked.

Maheshwar Reddy said that the Congress has promised in its manifesto that MLAs who defect from the party will be disqualified from being members of the Assembly. However, why is action not being taken against MLAs who joined the Congress from other parties?

The decisions of the Indra Congress are not implemented here! The situation in the Congress party is like Indra Congress versus RR (Revanth Reddy) Congress'.

## BRS: How can Harish be sidelined from PAC?

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Former minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy has raised questions concerning the recent appointment of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman, which was announced during a press conference at Telangana Bhavan. He criticized the state government's decision to appoint A. Gandhi -- a turnout BRS MLA who had switched to the Congress -- to the PAC chairman post.

According to Prashanth Reddy, this move violates parliamentary traditions and democratic norms, considering that PAC chairmanship post is reserved for opposition leaders.

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Celebrate Onam

An exquisite feast! 2024, immerse yourself in the true essence of Kerala with special Onam Sadhya Thali. Delight in a vibrant selection of traditional dishes, thoughtfully crafted to honour this joyous festival. This limited-time feast is a celebration not to be missed.

Venue

Aidu Restaurant  
Plot no 1057/G, Road No. 45, beside SBI Bank, Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad,  
From September 9th to 15th

Free Homeo Camp

In the backdrop of the city being gripped with dengue, chikungunya, malaria and viral fevers. FTCCI is organising the camp. Top experts from Allopathy & AYUSH will address the prevention, treatment and post fever care. Free Homeopathic Consultation & Medicine distribution by the Experts from the Govt Medical College from 2 pm to 5 pm the same day.

Venue

Federation House ,Red Hills  
September 12th at 4 pm.

TG-SET kicks off across TG with 33,000 aspirants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Eligibility Test (TG-SET) 2024 began on Tuesday across 24 Computer-Based Test (CBT) centres in districts including Adilabad, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Siddipet, Mahabubnagar, Warangal and Khammam. A total of 33,764 candidates have enrolled for the exam, which will be held till September 12.

The test aims to qualify candidates for recruitment in higher education across various faculties in Telangana. The Chairman of the Telangana State Council for Higher Education (TSCHE), Prof. R Limbadri, along with TG-SET 2024 Member Secretary, Prof. G Naresh Reddy, released the test paper codes for the forenoon exams. The attendance percentage for the forenoon session stood at 75.5 per cent and 81.1 per cent for the afternoon session on Tuesday.

Planful launches R&D hub in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Driving global innovation gained momentum with financial performance management cloud software company Planful launching an R&D hub in Hyderabad. Headquartered in San Francisco, California, Planful announced the expansion of its operations in India. The new Hyderabad office, which serves as an expanded R&D centre, will accommodate a doubling of the company's headcount in the region.

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

03

## We can't put a ban on making PoP idols, says High Court

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday said that it cannot order a ban on manufacturing of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols. The PoP idols would be immersed in temporary baby ponds in the city.

Advocate Mamidi Venu Madhav has filed a contempt petition before the court. He said that the previous orders of the High Court were not implemented.

When the petitioner requested the court to mention the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) as a respondent to the case, the court refused it. The court said that the petition was filed at a wrong time as the Ganesh procession had already begun. The court said that every-one should follow the 2021 Court order.

The 2021 order says that the government should not allow Plaster of Paris idols to be immersed in Hussain Sagar and other lakes in the city. They should permit immersion of PoP Ganesh idols in baby ponds or separate ponds which do not result in spreading the water pollution into the main water body.

The government should not permit immersion of Ganesh idols from the Tank Bund side of the Hussain Sagar Lake.

Non-PoP idols which do not have synthetic paint would be immersed on the other side of the Hussain Sagar Lake, which are



Hyderabad City Commissioner of Police CV Anand reviews the arrangements at Khairatabad Ganesh mandap on Tuesday

PV Ghat, Secretariat Road and Sanjeevaiah Park road.

"Use of low height and eco-friendly idols shall be encouraged to avoid impact on the environ-

ment and also to carry out rituals in simple and easy manner without gathering of large crowds," the court had ordered in 2021.

The court said that the GHMC should provide masks free of cost to the people on the last day of immersion of Ganesh idols in the Hussain Sagar Lake.

### Hyd CP reviews steps for Ganesh immersion, Milad-un-Nabi

Hyderabad City Commissioner of Police CV Anand conducted a field review of the bandobast arrangements for the Ganesh and Milad-un-Nabi festivals, visiting the Central and South Zones. At Khairatabad, Anand urged the committee to follow last year's practice of completing all preparations by 6:30am and ensuring the 70-foot idol's immersion at Hussainsagar Lake by 1:30pm. The organisers assured their compliance. He also addressed officers from the law and order, traffic and security wings of the Central Zone, emphasising the duties for the upcoming days and the 40-hour bandobast on the final day. Later, at the South Zone DCP office, Anand met with officers from various departments including law and order, traffic, task force and special branch. He reviewed last year's issues, took suggestions and finalised the security plans for the Ganesh procession and Milad-un-Nabi celebrations.

### Transport dept suspends 6,916 driving licences

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Transport department had suspended 6,916 licences from April 1 to September 31 for over-speeding, drunken driving, carrying passengers in goods vehicles, wrong-side driving and overloading. The department said that they have suspended the licences in compliance with the Supreme Court Committee Directions on Road Safety and the Motor Vehicles Act 1988. The department said that over the last five years, fatal road accidents claimed 21,745 male and 13,308 female lives, averaging 20 deaths per day, mostly in the age group of 25 to 45 years.



### Mobile tanks for safe immersion in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mobile immersion tanks for safe, eco-friendly Ganesh immersion in the city have been launched. With Ganesha Chaturthi, traditional immersion practices have raised environmental concerns due to non-degradable waste left in water bodies. To address this, an initiative allowing worshippers to say goodbye to their idols in an environmentally-friendly way has been introduced by Vi (Vodafone).

The Specially designed Vi Vehicles will visit various housing societies in Hyderabad, including Kukatpally, Kushaiguda and AS Rao Nagar. These vehicles are equipped with immersion tanks, enabling residents to conduct a safe and sustainable Ganesh immersion. These tanks provide an opportunity for residents to immerse their idols at their doorstep, preventing pollution of lakes and ponds from toxic paints and other waste. This also reduces the need for citizens to travel to crowded immersion sites, minimising congestion and ensuring an organised, eco-friendly process.

Cluster Business Head- AP & Telangana, Karnataka, Vodafone Idea, Anand Dani said, "We understand the environmental impact of traditional immersion practices and are committed to supporting eco-conscious citizens. With this initiative, we aim to connect with the community and promote a cleaner and greener Hyderabad."

## AI ROBOTIC INTEGRATION FOR SEGREGATING PLASTICS Plastics circulatory initiative launched with SHGs

SAMUEL JOSHUA  
samueljoshuamjmc@gmail.com  
■ HYDERABAD

Partnering with SHGs and recognising ragpickers as a solution, along with AI robotic integration for segregating plastics, ReSustainability (ReSL), in collaboration with Sharrp Ventures, announced the launch of a plastics circulatory initiative with a capacity of 24,000 tonnes unit in Hyderabad.

Explaining the initiative at the Taj Deccan on Tuesday, MD & CEO of ReSustainability Massod Mallick said, "The challenge will not get easier, as the correlation between plastics and GDP is significant."

He stated that plastics are not going away and highlighted three main issues beyond the environmental challenge: First, the carbon dimension, where crude oil and fossil fuels are converted into plastic (since plastics come from drilling); and second, the carbon impact, which involves consuming and emitting more carbon. He also mentioned the third issue of importing crude oil, noting that India imports 18 per cent of its crude oil,



MD & CEO of ReSustainability (ReSL), Massod Mallick, exchanging collaboration with Chairman of Marico, Mariwala, at Taj Deccan on Tuesday

which has high costs and geopolitical impacts, leading to further carbon problems.

Mallick explained that through this collaboration, they have developed the 3 I's: Integration - Covering all elements of the waste ecosystem, starting at homes. Innovation - Using robotics and AI, in partnership with Marico and ReSustainability, to segregate and recycle sanitary pads. Inclusion - Starting with children for social change, involving informal sectors (like ragpickers) as part of the solution, and forming partnerships.

Massod said this will be the

first fully integrated, scalable initiative in the coming years. He mentioned the pilot unit in Hyderabad and another in Raipur, with plans to expand significantly with hundreds of crores in investment.

He also explained that recycled products are sold to aggregators who cannot always see the quality. SHG groups will collect waste and AI robotics will segregate plastics, which will then be sent to different plants. He noted that Hyderabad has 600 tonnes of plastics and announced plans to start with one large urban city like Hyderabad and, after

### TG tops in availability of human resources: Sridhar Babu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At a meeting with officials from the US Consulate at the Secretariat on Tuesday, IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu stated that Telangana has an abundance of skilled human resources. He mentioned that Hyderabad is the second in IT exports in India due to its technical experts.

Telangana holds a special place in rapidly developing India, he added. Sridhar Babu explained that the State has ample infrastructure for establishing businesses and industrial enterprises. He noted that permits are granted within two weeks through a single-window system.

Sridhar Babu also highlighted that the Central government has recently approved an industrial zone worth Rs 3,000 crore in Zaheerabad and assured that the State can provide uninterrupted water and electricity. The State's extensive connectivity via rail, road and air was also emphasised.

US Consulate officials and US government consultants, including Nelson Cunningham, Rebecca Drame, Frank Talluto and Akhil Bery participated in the meeting.

## Cong govt to make TG a Vrindavan: Konda Surekha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Konda Surekha, Minister for Forests, Environment and Endowments, said that if soldiers are sacrificing their lives fighting the enemies on the borders for the protection of the country, forest employees are sacrificing their lives fighting for the protection of the forests, which are the natural resources of the country.

On the occasion of National Forest Martyrs' Day (September 11), Minister Konda Surekha praised the efforts of forest employees for the preservation of forest wealth and wildlife while remembering the sacrifices of the martyrs who laid down their lives for the protection of forests.

She said, "Man's life began from forests. Forests bear witness to human evolution. In the process of man's transformation from primitive to modern man, the forests have become extinct. Man has developed a special bond with the motherly forests. That connection encouraged them to move for environmental protection."

She also said that many incidents have been recorded in history where nature lovers sacrificed their lives for the



protection of forests. The movement that started in the early 18th century of India's history with the rebellion of the Bishnoi tribe against the King of Jodhpur against the felling of trees in the village of Khejarli inspired the forest conservation movements like Silent Valley Movement, Appiko Movement, Jungle Bachao Andolan and Chipko Movement. Even today, many voluntary organisations and nature lovers are fighting for the protection of forest wealth and restoration of forests with great determination.

"The systems that recognised the importance of forests for human survival recognised the need to protect the forests by the government and the seed of the forest department

was planted. Many forest department employees and staff have laid down their lives for the protection of forests. It is very sad that 22 forest personnel lost their lives as part of their duty in the State. Their sacrifices for forest conservation are priceless. It is clear that the Congress people's government has succeeded in implementing activities to prevent such incidents from happening. The forest employees and staff who are participating in the Maha Yajna to increase the State's forest wealth from 24 per cent to 33 per cent through the Vana Mahotsavam program of the Congress government wished to work efficiently towards making Telangana State a Vrindavan", she added.

## Nehru Zoo Park celebrates Vulture Awareness Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nehru Zoological Park, in collaboration with World Wide Fund, India celebrated Vulture Awareness Day on Tuesday. Dr Elusing Meru, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, TG, was the chief guest. In all, 600 students from different schools across the city participated in the event.

Farida Tampil, Director of WWF, Telangana, spoke about the importance of the vultures. Later, Dr Elusing Meru stated that vultures play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad is housing



White Backed Vulture for conservation and breeding programme. Dr Percy Avari, Avian conservationist, explained the decline of vultures in nature is due to the deadly drug "Diclofenac." This drug is used as a painkiller in cattle. In nature, vultures live

for about 40-45 years but in conservation centres the longevity increases.

The park also organised a Nature Scavenger Hunt and people participated in it. Winners of the game were awarded with prizes by the zoo officials.

## Roshini raises awareness to bring down suicides

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Roshini Trust participated in creating awareness against suicides, at Ashoka public mall on Tuesday, to highlight the pressing issue of suicides and reduce the stigma associated with it.

Kondaveeti Sathyavathi, Founder of Bhumika Women's Collective and Editor of Bhumika Magazine, who was the chief guest, emphasised the need to shift the narrative surrounding suicides, and the importance of consciously loving oneself. She appreciated the invaluable work of the volunteers at Roshini Helpline.

"We get many calls of

elderly women who are feeling lonely and youth, adolescent who believe that there is no life if they have no one to love them in life. A few of them are focusing on luxuries and leading to addictions leading to committing suicides. If one can love nature around them and believe in self love, the suicide rate can be reduced."

Dr Sri Lakshmi Pingali, Psychiatrist at Roshini Counselling Centre, also underscored the importance of sharing fears and concerns with loved ones and highlighted the need to pay as much attention to mental health as one does to physical health.

## Cyber Security Bureau bags award for Crime Analysis Module

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana has been recognised for its role in developing the Crime Analysis Module under the Samanvaya Platform. The award was presented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, conferred by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the 1st Foundation Day celebration of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) on Tuesday in New Delhi.

Shikha Goel, Director of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau, received the award on behalf of the State. She highlighted Telangana's pivotal contributions to crime analysis, including integrating data, establishing crime links, and identifying criminal networks to enhance law enforcement coordi-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah conferring an award on Shikha Goel, Director of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau, in New Delhi on Tuesday

award across the nation. The award underscores the State's commitment to modernising crime detection and prevention. The recognition also applauds the efforts of the Cyber Security Bureau led by Goel, along with Devender Singh, SP, and their team, for elevating the Samanvaya

Platform and developing the Crime Analysis Module into a vital tool. The Director General of Police, Telangana, extended congratulations to Shikha Goel, SP Devender Singh and their entire team for their contribution to strengthening cybercrime coordination and analysis across India.

**POLICE CONSTABLE'S SUICIDE**

## Body found in neighbouring AP

PNS ■ KOTHAGUDEM

The body of a police constable, who allegedly committed suicide by jumping into River Godavari at Bhadrachalam, was found in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh at midnight on Monday.

According to reports reaching here, the body was washed ashore at Nellipaka under Alluri Sitarama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh.



Ramana Reddy

It may be recalled that a police constable, identified as Ramana Reddy, a member of the Clues Team of Bhadrachalam district, jumped into the Godavari river near Bhadrachalam town on Friday afternoon.

He made a selfie video just before jumping into the river. He cited the mental trauma caused by a road accident and the damage to his house in his native village under Thallada mandal in the recent spell of heavy rains as the reasons for taking the extreme step. He reportedly met with a car accident near Paloncha town a fortnight ago. He, however, survived the accident.

When the news of the constable jumping into the river emerged, the police took measures swiftly to rescue him by deploying swimmers to trace him. The swimmers continued their search till the body was traced to the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

In the selfie video, Ramana Reddy asked his wife and children to forgive him for taking the extreme step.

## Finance panel member hails rural development in TG



16th Finance Commission member Ajay Narayan Jha speaking at a meeting at Anantharam in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri on Tuesday

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

The 16th Finance Commission member Ajay Narayan Jha has appreciated developmental activities being implemented in village panchayats in the State. He stressed the need to ensure that the local bodies function as institutions of local self-government.

He, along with other members Manoj Panda, Joint Secretary KK Misra, Joint Director Davinder Choda, Deputy Director Abhishek Nandan and Assistant Director visited the Anantharam village under Bhongir mandal on Tuesday.

They first visited the village clinic and inspected the medical services being provided to patients, visited a photo exhibition on cleanliness drive, promotion of greenery and sanitation activities in the village. They also inspected the additional classrooms built in ZP High School. They interacted with the school children and later planted saplings on the school premises.

In a programme held on village panchayat office premises, they interacted with women from self-help groups. Ajay Narayana Jha said that the Telangana State set an example for other states to emulate in development. He appreciated the implementation of developmental works in village panchayats taken up with the funds provided under the 15th Finance Commission recommendations. He expressed the hope that more

developmental works would be implemented in villages the funds to be released under the 16th Finance Commission recommendations. He said that the services in the health and education sector should improve in the country. He stressed the need to improve Anganwadis further. He praised the functioning of the self-help groups in Telangana.

Collector Hanumanthu K Zendage highlighted the uniqueness of Pochampalli weavers and spiritual development centres in Yadagiri Gutta and Kolanupaka Jain temples. He said that the PHCs would be upgraded. A special officer has been appointed to each village panchayat to ensure sanitation and monitor drinking

water supply at the field level. Special initiatives would be taken to promote greenery in the villages.

Health and Family Welfare Secretary Christina Chongthu, Medical and Health Commissioner RV Karnan, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Commissioner Anita Ramachandran, district local bodies additional collector K Ganagadhar, ZP CEO Sobha Rani, district rural development agency official Nagireddy, District Medical and Health Officer Dr Yashoda, District Panchayat officer Sunanda, District Chief Planning officer Samuel, DEO Narasimha, former sarpanch, upa sarpanch, officials and elected people's representatives took part in the event.



Sangareddy Police showing the dry marijuana seized in Sangareddy district on Tuesday. The faces of two culprits are concealed by balaclavas

## Sangareddy Police seize 140 kg of dry marijuana

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Sangareddy police seized 140 kg of dry marijuana under Chiragapally police station limits near Zaheerabad on Monday. The police stumbled on the contraband during surprise checks. The consign- ment was being smuggled to Maharashtra from Karnataka, the police said.

Two persons, Lakhan (28), who hailed from Maharashtra and Siddiram (29) from Karnataka were arrested in connection with the seizure of the narcotic. District Superintendent of Police Chennuri Rupesh told the media that the accused spilled the beans. One Mallu Gonda, who hailed from Karnataka, procured marijuana from Malkangiri in Odisha.

Mallu Gonda engaged Lakhan, Siddiram, Sunil, Kiran and Mallesh Nayak to smuggle the contraband to Mumbai to sell it in Mumbai, Pune and Lathur. The superintendent of police appreciated Chiragapally sub inspector Rajender Reddy and his staff for seizing the marijuana. The sub-inspectors and his staff were rewarded for their efficient work.

## Father, son crushed under wheels of lorry

PNS ■ MEDAK

A father and son were killed on the spot when the two-wheeler on which they were travelling was hit by a lorry from behind in Masaipeta mandal on National Highway-44 in Medak district on Tuesday. The deceased were identi-

fied as Donti Budaiah (75) and his son Donti Mallesam (35). The incident happened when they were proceeding on a two-wheeler to a hospital as the Budaiah was indisposed. The lorry hit their two-wheeler at Ramanthapur village in Masaipeta mandal and threw them onto the road. They

were crushed by the speeding lorry. Mallesam died on the spot, the seriously injured Budaiah died on the way to hospital in 108 ambulance. The death of Mallesam orphaned his wife Mounika and two-year-old daughter. Chegunta police are investigating the case.

## NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY-2024

### Parents, teachers urged to take Asifabad to top



Asifabad Additional Collector Deepak Tiwari interacting with students at a zilla Parishad School at Tiryani in Asifabad district on Tuesday

PNS ■ KOMURAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

Additional Collector Deepak Tiwari has called upon the parents, teachers and students to strive to take the Asifabad district to top position in the National Achievement Survey 2024. He visited the Zilla Parishad High School at Tiryani on Tuesday and witnessed the mock test conducted at the school.

The National Achievement Survey is conducted across the nation. As part of it, three mock tests will be conducted, he said. Besides he wanted the teachers to conduct weekly tests to help the students fare well at the national achievement survey.

Special teaching methods should be adopted to train students of classes 6 and 9 who are taking part in the mock test-1 and the progress of the academic curriculum teaching for SSC students.

He asked the teachers to ensure that

the district achieve 100 per cent pass percentage in SSC public examinations. Further, he asked the schools to provide nutritious food to students as per the menu. The teachers should improve their understanding on the question papers.

Later, he visited the Primary Health Centre and went round various wards, went through registers, inspected the hospital surroundings and enquired about the patient services at the hospital. He asked the hospital medical officials to explain the precautions taken to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases. He laid stress on personal hygiene and advised the people to drink water after boiling and consume only freshly cooked food. He asked the hospital authorities and staff to be punctual for duty.

School Education academic supervising officer Uppuleti Srinivas, medical officers and others took part in the event.



Hanmakond Collector P Pravinya inspecting PV Vidyana Kendra works in Vangara on Tuesday

## PV Vidyana Kendra works at fast pace in Vangara

PNS ■ WARANGAL

District Collector P Pravinya has directed the officials and representatives of construction firms to speed up works on amphitheatre, science museum, gallery, meditation centre, sports grounds, installation of idols and other works related to PV Vidyana Kendra with quality. Officials said that the works are progressing at a fast pace.

She inspected the construction activity which is underway at the Vidyana Kendra in Vangara mandal in Hanamkonda district.

She enquired about the progress of the project. She asked them to complete these projects as early as possible and make the facility accessible to the people.

Later, she visited the Primary Health Centre at Vangara and examined the hospital records.

She visited all wards in the hospital and enquired about various aspects. She asked them to provide better health services to patients. She asked the medical officers to send proposals for undertaking repairs to the X-ray machine at the PHC.

Later, she visited the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Bheemavarapalle and went through the KGBV premises, classrooms, kitchen and so on. She enquired about the construction of toilets and other electric works carried out under Amma Adarsha Pathasala. She told the school authorities to submit proposals, if any, to implement developmental works in the school so that she would be able to take steps for development of the KGBV.

District Education Officer Vasanti, DMHO Dr Lalita Devi, RDO Venkatesh and other officials accompanied the Collector.

## FLOOD TO RIVER GODAVARI

### Road link between TG and Chhattisgarh cut off



PNS ■ MULUGU

Water level in River Godavari is rising rapidly in the district. Flooded waters have inundated the National Highway-163 at Tekulagudem disrupting road communication between Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

The flood level in Godavari river receded four days ago, but started rising again on Tuesday. The flood level in the river is fluctuating, giving the false impression that the flood threat to low-lying areas is averted.

However, the water level in the river is rising every hour leading to flooding of the NH-163 at Tekulagudem. Movement of vehicles on the highway became disrupted.

Peruru Sub-Inspector G Krishna Prasad with the help of the Revenue officials and the local people erected barricades on the NH-163, suspending movement of vehicles on the highway. The vehicles travelling towards Telangana from Chhattisgarh and Bhupalapatnam became stranded.

People were advised not to venture unless it was absolutely necessary. The SI suggested several precautions to villages.

On one side the heavy rains have been lashing the state and on the other the rains are triggering floods leading to the people caught in the bind. The rains have paralysed normal life. The people especially the farmers have been hit hard because of the floods.



Nalgonda Collector C Narayana Reddy inspecting a rivulet in which idol immersion will take place September 16

## Officials told to make arrangements for hassle-free idol immersion

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy on Tuesday directed the officials to make all arrangements for hassle-free immersion of Ganesh idols.

On Tuesday, he visited the Vallabharau tank located beside the national highway near the Nalgonda district headquarters. Like every year, this year too, the idols of Vinayaka will be immersed in Vallabharau tank.

He instructed the officials to make all the necessary arrangements for the Ganesh immersion on September 16. The Collector directed the Roads and Buildings Superintending Engineer to erect barricading and deploy cranes at the places where immersion of idols takes place across the district including Vallabharau Tank, 14th Milestone, under Nagarjunasagar Bridge and other

places. Nalgonda Municipal Chairman Burri Srinivas Reddy has appealed to the District Collector to take steps for traffic diversions and sanitation during the immersion of idols less than 9 feet above the Vallabharau tank, which will be held between 3 pm and 10 pm on September 16.

District Superintendent of Police Sarat Chandra Pawar was also present. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that the irrigation officials should take steps to ensure water required for the immersion of idols in Vallabharau tank.

Local bodies Additional Collector Purnachandra, Additional SP Ramulu Naik, R&B SE Satyanarayana Reddy, Irrigation EE Srinivas Reddy, DSP Sivaram Reddy, District Fire, Fisheries, Transco and other officials are there.

## Walk-in interview for doctors on September 12

PNS ■ KOMURAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

District Medical Health Officer Dr Tukaram has said that the vacant medical officer posts of PM Jan-Man MMU will be filled on contract basis.

In a statement on Tuesday, he said that applicants may attend a walk-in interview along with their applications on September 12 to fill the posts of the medical officers under the National Health Scheme-8.

Candidates should have qualified in MBBS and should have registered their names with the State Vaidya Parishad and should have completed the six-month sonology course.

They may report for an interview at district integrated offices' complex along with their original certificates, gazette officer certified copies between 10.20am and 4 pm on Sep 12. The venue is Block F1, first floor, Room No.25 of the district integrated offices' complex.

## Officials to expedite land acquisition for NTPC, SCCL projects

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

District Collector Koya Sree Harsha has directed the officials to expedite the problems related to land acquisition for the SCCL and NTPC projects in a transparent way.

He undertook a field visit on Tuesday with regard to land acquisition of 606 acres for the NTPC, Ramagundam project at Moghalpahad under Antargam mandal and pending land acquisition for the SCCL in Ramagirimandal area. He asked the officials as to why there was delay in acquiring land for the projects.



Peddapalli Collector Koya Sree Harsha examining a map during inspection at Moghalpahad in Peddapalli district on Tuesday

For the SCCL, 49 acres is to be acquired in RG-1 area. In

the area, 269 acres of government land was leased out to the SCCL. The Collector ordered the officials to conduct a survey of the enjoyment of the lands by the farmers.

He asked the officials to display the survey results in the notice board. If there are any objections to it, he asked the officials to receive them and resolve them.

Additional Collector Shyam Prasad Lal, Peddapalli Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) B Gangaiah, Mandhani RDO V Hanuma Naik, Antargam Tahsildar Ramesh and others were present.

ACROSS THE STATES



Over 900 people died by suicide in 10 yrs in Mizoram

Over 900 people, including 154 women, died by suicide in Mizoram during the past 10 years, a police officer said. Altogether 49 people have killed themselves this year, Aizawl Superintendent of Police Rahool Alwal said. During the observation of World Suicide Prevention Day in Aizawl on Tuesday, Alwal said that as many 948 people killed themselves between 2014 and July 2024. Of those 948 people, men accounted 84 per cent and women 16 per cent. The SP said that the highest number of suicide was recorded among people in the age group of 20-39 years (584 people), followed those in the age bracket of 40-59 years (201 people). While 117 people who died by suicide belonged to the age group of 1-19 years, 40 were above 60 years, he said. World Suicide Prevention Day is organised by the International Association for Suicide Prevention on September 10.



Former BARC scientist goes missing from his home

City police has formed a special team to trace a former scientist of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) who has gone missing from his Bandra residence, an official said on Tuesday. A reward of Rs 10,000 has been announced for any information about Vinayak Kolvankar, 76, he said. Kolvankar, who suffers from dementia, went missing from his house in New MIG Colony on September 5, said inspector Ramesh Khilare of Nirmal Nagar police station. As per the complaint lodged by his wife Vaishali, he left home to buy flowers but did not return. CCTV footage showed Kolvankar boarding a train at Bandra station and getting down at Santacruz, roaming in the area, then taking another train back to Bandra. He is last seen exiting the station from the Bandra West side. "We have formed a ten-member team to trace him and announced a Rs 10,000 reward for information. We are checking hospitals, railway stations and all other possible locations," said inspector Khilare.



Mpox patient stable, no need to panic: Delhi Min

The mpox patient admitted to the LNJP Hospital here is in stable condition, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said on Tuesday. Bharadwaj conducted a surprise inspection at the hospital earlier in the day to assess its preparations for dealing with cases of mpox and dengue. "There is one confirmed patient of mpox at LNJP hospital. He has a travel history and it is believed that he got infected during his travel abroad," the minister said. "The patient has been isolated in a separate ward. He is in a stable condition," he added. The 26-year-old patient, a resident of Haryana's Hisar, has only genital ulcers and skin rashes but no fever, a health department official said. The patient was kept in the disaster management ward of the hospital, according to a statement from the health department. Bharadwaj emphasised that there was no need to panic over mpox as it spreads through contact, not through the air.

Gram Panchayats can not impose tax on motor vehicles: MP HC



PNS ■ JABALPUR

Gram Panchayats -- elected village bodies -- have no power to levy a tax on motor vehicles, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has said. In an order passed on September 3, the court dismissed a petition on the issue, filed by Hargrah Gram Panchayat in Jabalpur district. The ruling became available on Tuesday. All vehicles driven by motors fall within the definition of "motor vehicles", and a Gram Panchayat does not have any power to impose tax on motor vehicles, said Justice

Vishal Dhagat. The Gram Panchayat of Hargrah, an industrial area, had challenged before the high court a letter sent by the state revenue department taking objection to the Panchayat collecting commercial tax from vehicles within its jurisdiction. During the hearing, the state government opposed the petition's maintainability. No resolution in accordance with law had been passed authorizing the sarpanch to file the petition as the said resolution did not have names and signatures of Panchayat members, the government lawyer said.

Need to remove obstacles in research ecosystem: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday stressed the need to identify and remove obstacles in the research ecosystem and focus on localised solution to global problems, as he chaired the first governing body meeting of the newly formed Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

Modi also talked about developing a dashboard where information related to research and development happening in the country could be easily tracked.

The meeting focussed on discussions about India's science and technology landscape and redesigning of research and development programmes, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

During the meeting, Modi said a new beginning had been made with the first meeting of the governing body of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). He stressed on the need to identify and remove obstacles in the country's research ecosystem.

Modi also talked about setting big targets, focusing on attaining them and conducting pathbreaking research. He said research should focus on finding new solutions to existing problems.

Modi also talked about developing a dashboard where information related to research and development happening in the country could be easily tracked.



No question of CM change at present

Asserts Karnataka Home Minister Parameshwara

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said that some Congress leaders are weighing in for the Chief Minister's post in the event of leadership change in Karnataka, as they are capable of holding the top position. He, however, said there is no question of changing the Chief Minister at this point of time.

As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's petition challenging the Governor's sanction for his prosecution in the MUDA site allotment case is

being heard in the High Court, Congress leaders seem to be preparing for a race to become CM, in case of leadership change, with several of them openly expressing their desire.

"Everyone is capable, so that is why they are talking about it, but where is the question of changing the Chief Minister at this point of time?" Parameshwara said when asked if there was a tussle for CM post in the party, with senior leaders making no secret of their aspiration. Fielding questions from

reporters here, he said: "All they (leaders) are saying is that if they get an opportunity, they will become (CM), if you want to take away that much independence also from them? ...but such things have to be expressed when the situation arises, not now."

Meanwhile, state Congress working president Manjunath Bhandary and MLC Dinesh Gooligowda on Monday wrote to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, asking him to curb speculation over the Chief Minister's tenure.

Rahul trying to set dangerous narrative: BJP

Terms his remarks about Sikhs sinister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in the US about the Sikh community, saying the Congress leader is trying to create a "dangerous narrative" by speaking on "sensitive issues" abroad.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here that Gandhi's remarks were "sinister" in nature as he tried to spread falsehood among the members of the Sikh community living abroad to "eke out a living" and do not have much connection with India.

With his remarks, the Congress leader has attacked the country, its legal system and electoral system, he said. "I condemn in the strongest terms the statement he has made about Sikhs not being able to wear turbans and

kadas," the BJP leader from the Sikh community said.

Referring to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that happened during the Congress rule, Puri said, "If there has been one time in our history when as a community we have felt anxiety, a sense of insecurity and existential threat, it has been the times when R a h u l G a n d h i ' s family has been in the seats of power."

"In 1984, a pogrom was carried out against the Sikh community. As many as 3,000 innocent people were killed. People were dragged out of their homes, tyres were put around them and burnt alive," he said.

That was the only time in history when Sikhs faced a problem for their turbans as they faced an existential threat after Rajiv Gandhi's statement that when a big tree falls, the earth shakes, Puri said.



Will there be no uncertainty if one govt brings a law & another repeals it?

Supreme Court asks Punjab government

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Punjab government whether there will be no uncertainty if one ruling dispensation comes out with a law for a university and the successor repeals it.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan posed this question while hearing arguments on a plea challenging a verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which had dismissed a petition seeking quashing of the Khalsa University (Repeal) Act, 2017.

"Will there not be uncertainty if one political party comes in power and brings a law for a university and when another political party comes in power, it repeals it (Act)?" the bench asked the counsel appearing for Punjab.

The bench reserved its verdict on the plea after hearing submissions of the lawyers appearing for the petitioners as well as the state.

Khalsa University and Khalsa College Charitable Society have approached the



top court challenging the high court's November 2017 judgement. In its verdict, the high court had noted that The Khalsa University Act, 2016 created Khalsa University and the college of pharmacy, college of education and college

During the submissions before the apex court, the counsel appearing for the petitioners said the Repeal Act was "arbitrary" and the entire action violated Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.

The counsel appearing for Punjab said there was nothing arbitrary about it. The state's counsel said the then state government in 2016 brought the law, and after the new government came to power in 2017, it repealed the Act. The Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP government had brought the Khalsa University Act in 2016 and the successor Congress dispensation led by Captain Amarinder Singh had repealed it.

He said neither any student nor any teacher of the university challenged the 2017 Act. The state's counsel said the interests of the students were not affected in any way.

"This is purely a question of law. We need not go into whether admissions were given or not," the bench observed, adding, "Close for orders".



BJP conspiring to topple AAP govt: Atishi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader and minister Atishi on Tuesday accused the BJP of conspiring to topple the Kejriwal government through "back door" by imposition of the President's rule in Delhi.

The accusation comes a day after the President's secretariat forwarded the assertions of opposition BJP that Delhi was facing a constitutional crisis to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for "proper attention". Atishi said that if the Kejriwal government is toppled, the Delhiites will give a befitting reply by giving zero seats to the BJP in the upcoming assembly polls and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will win all the 70 seats.

State is neither ...

Continued from page 1

He urged the Finance Commission to grant more flexibility to the states, particularly in relation to Centrally-Sponsored Schemes (CSS), which he said are limiting the State's ability to address its unique needs. Bhatti pointed out that the rigid, homogenous guidelines imposed by the Centre for CSS programmes are hindering Telangana's efforts to address its own diverse issues. "The harsh conditions for accessing these funds are stifling grassroots-level delivery. States should be able to tailor these programmes to meet specific regional demands," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern over Telangana's growing debt burden, which now exceeds Rs 6.85 lakh crore. He attributed this largely to significant

investments in infrastructure, which have diverted resources toward debt servicing. Bhatti called on the Finance Commission to offer support for debt restructuring and additional assistance to free up resources for further development. "Without such measures, the State's financial situation will only worsen, making it difficult to progress," he added. Another key proposal from the Deputy Chief Minister was the demand to increase the States' share in central taxes from the current 41% to 50%. He criticised the practice of imposing cess and surcharges that are not shared with states, effectively reducing their share of gross tax revenue. "This proposal benefits all states and fosters a cooperative federal structure," Bhatti noted. He also emphasised the need for the Finance

Commission to reconsider the use of per capita income as the primary indicator for determining fiscal transfers between states, citing significant inequalities in Telangana despite its high per capita income. Bhatti proposed that a greater focus should be placed on Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) contribution, which incentivizes productivity and investment, and better aligns with national economic goals. "A shift to this model will allow states like Telangana to bridge wealth disparities and drive local development," he said. Bhatti further defended Telangana's essential welfare programmes, often dismissed as "freebies." He said that schemes like Rythu Bhargosa, farm loan waivers, and food subsidies are crucial to ensuring economic stability for vulnerable communities.

Help TG overcome ...

Continued from page 1

He urged the Finance Commission to prioritize states' fiscal autonomy, allowing for more flexibility in managing financial responsibilities. "We look forward to your support in strengthening fiscal federalism," he said, expressing confidence that the Commission's recommendations would help Telangana overcome its current financial hurdles and continue on its path of growth. Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's speech echoed similar sentiments, while stressing the challenges posed by Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and their often-restrictive guidelines. He advocated for more autonomy in implementing CSS programs to meet state-specific needs, stating that such schemes, while well-meaning, often acted as a straight-jacket for states. "We respectfully urge the Finance Commission to

ensure that states are given the necessary autonomy to tailor CSS programs to their specific development needs," he remarked.

The Deputy Chief Minister elaborated on the state's debt crisis, noting that the debt burden had severely restricted Telangana's ability to invest in further development. He urged the Finance Commission to reconsider the current approach to debt servicing and to provide options for restructuring the debt to allow for more fiscal space.

Additionally, the Deputy Chief Minister called for an increase in the states' share of the central taxes from 41% to 50%, pointing out that the rise in cesses and surcharges not shared with states had reduced their share of the total gross tax revenues. This increase, he said, would not only benefit Telangana but all states, enabling them to better address infrastructure gaps and strengthen welfare programs.

In a pointed statement, the Deputy Chief Minister raised concerns about the use of per capita income as the primary metric for determining horizontal devolution. He argued that this metric put at disadvantage states like Telangana, which, despite having a higher per capita income, faced significant internal disparities. He proposed that the Finance Commission reduce the weightage given to per capita income and instead focus on a state's contribution to the national GDP. "A greater weight on GSDP would incentivize states to adopt reforms that improve productivity, attract investment, and create jobs, ultimately contributing to the national economy," he said. The speeches of both the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister underscored the need for financial reforms that would not only alleviate Telangana's immediate fiscal challenges but also contribute to India's broader economic growth goals.

Don't insult ...

Continued from page 1

run the Houses respecting the constitutional spirit and keeping rules and traditions in mind. It is not proper for the Opposition to speak insultingly to the Speaker. Everyone should respect the Chair though there is difference of opinion towards persons, Sridhar Babu said, explaining that the Speaker appointed Assembly committees as per the rules. No one should talk about the decision taken by the Speaker of the Assembly, Sridhar Babu added.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday at CLP Media Hall along with Government Whips adi Srinivas, Adhuri Laxman Kumar and Peddapalli MLA Chintakunta Vijayaramana Rao, Sridhar Babu alleged that the BRS leaders are speaking on Assembly Affairs as they wished. There is no change in

BRS leaders' attitude though 8 months are gone after people gave their verdict, Sridhar Babu said. The people gave verdict in favour of the Congress and made BRS party zero in Parliament elections. However, there is no change in BRS leaders, Sridhar Babu pointed out, commenting that the BRS leaders are criticising the government with the pain of losing power.

Sridhar Babu alleged that the BRS government destroyed democratic systems. The BRS government troubled the then opposition leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka by changing the system during their regime. Everyone saw that the BRS government gave the Public Accounts Committee chairmanship to whom, Sridhar Babu said.

Sridhar Babu said, "BRS leaders' attitude is like devils chanting scriptures. BRS lead-

ers ran the democratic and power systems as they wished. The Speaker of the Assembly has made the Opposition PAC as per the norms, traditions and Constitution. Everyone has seen how our Congress MLAs were inducted when BRS was in power. It is the BRS party that has destroyed the systems and encouraged defections. The Congress and our government believes in democracy. BRS leaders should speak controlling their tongue. If there are differences in the BRS party, it has nothing to do with us. PAC Chairman Gandhi clearly said that he is a BRS MLA. If KCR and PAC Chairman don't get, we have nothing to do with it. The rule book makes it clear that three BRS MLAs have a chance in PAC in terms of numerical strength".

It's not a ...

Continued from page 1

protestors who stood bravely in front of your draconian bulldozer government!"

"Where does this undemocratic system stop? How low will you stoop?" he questioned.

Also, I dare you to come in front of the media and tell the entire Telangana if your bulldozer went after your brother Tirupathi Reddy's house? Or your minister Ponguleti's farmhouse? Or any of your cronies' properties - or is this treatment reserved to only the poor who have nothing?", he questioned. He said that the BRS party will stand by the victims and our legal team will visit and provide assistance.

Junior doctors ...

Continued from page 1

They also said that restricting the number of representatives to attend the meeting to 10 was "humiliating". The top court on Monday directed the protesting resident doctors to resume work by 5 PM on Tuesday, observing that if "there is continued abstention from work, there may be a likelihood of adverse action".

Meanwhile, the RG Kar hospital authorities issued notices to 51 doctors, including to senior residents and professors, accusing them of fostering intimidation and disrupting the institution's democratic atmosphere, and summoned them to an inquiry committee on September 11. Asserting that their demands

were not met, the protesting doctors defied the apex court's order and said they would continue with their 'cease work' till their demands were fulfilled and the rape and murder victim of the RG Kar Hospital was given justice. "We had asked the state government to remove the Kolkata police commissioner, health secretary, director of health services, and the director of medical education by 5 pm (Tuesday). We are open to discussion," one of the protesting doctors said.

The junior doctors began their strike on August 9, hours after the body of the female trainee was found in the seminar room of the hospital. Since then, the protest has escalated, leading to disruptions in health-care services at state-run hospitals across West Bengal.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Strategic partnership

Following PM Modi and UAE Crown Prince Al Nahyan talks, India-UAE relations reach new heights with landmark energy pacts

Indian diplomacy is soaring to new heights. As nations around the world eagerly welcome Indian businesses and forge strategic alliances, India is experiencing an unprecedented wave of global goodwill and influence not seen in years. The recent UAE-India energy pact is yet another case in point. UAE crown prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is presently in India and had a meaningful dialogue with Prime Minister Modi. India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continue to strengthen their strategic partnership, with a significant boost in the energy sector, as both nations signed four major agreements aimed at deepening cooperation. The agreements span key sectors, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, petroleum supplies, nuclear plant operations, and production concessions, marking a pivotal moment in the bilateral relationship. As both leaders emphasised, the pacts signal a broadening of collaboration, particularly in emerging areas such as nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, and advanced technologies.



The signing of a long-term supply agreement for one million metric tonnes of LNG per annum between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) is among the most prominent developments. This is the third such deal in just over a year, reinforcing India's energy security while further consolidating ties with one of the world's leading energy producers. In addition, a groundbreaking production concession pact was signed between Urja Bharat and ADNOC for Abu Dhabi's Onshore Block One. This marks the first instance of an Indian company holding an energy production concession in the UAE. An equally crucial development is the agreement between the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). This pact is designed to enhance collaboration in the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, sourcing nuclear goods from India, and fostering mutual investments in the civil nuclear domain. During their discussions, PM Modi and Crown Prince Al Nahyan acknowledged the rapid progress made under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was first established during Modi's 2015 visit to the UAE. With about 3.5 million Indian expatriates forming the largest community in the UAE, the deepening of ties in key sectors like energy, nuclear cooperation, and trade will continue to be a cornerstone of this growing relationship. Crown Prince also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajhat, where he planted a sapling, continuing a tradition started by his grandfather in 1992. The crown prince's visit is more than just about pacts. It strengthens the historic ties between the two countries. The recent implementation of the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System, which facilitates cross-border transactions in Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams is yet another example of growing affinity between the two countries.

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## 9/11: The day that changed the world

As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance and mutual respect



SANTHOSH MATHEW

On September 11, 2001, the world stood still as a series of events unfolded that would forever alter the course of history. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 not only shook the United States to its core but also had profound repercussions globally, leaving an indelible mark on international politics, security frameworks, and societal attitudes. Now, 23 years later, the legacy of that day continues to influence the world in significant ways.

The attacks, orchestrated by 19 members of the extremist group Al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, were intended to instill fear and challenge American power. The immediate aftermath saw the U.S. respond swiftly with the launch of the "War on Terror." Just weeks later, in October 2001, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, targeting the Taliban regime that harbored Al-Qaeda operatives. The war, which initially focused on dismantling the Taliban, expanded in 2003 to include Iraq, resulting in the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime. The costs of these wars, however, were staggering. Over two million people lost their lives, and the financial toll was estimated at \$4.5 trillion. The Middle East was plunged into a state of instability, with extremist groups like ISIS rising in the wake of regime collapses. The U.S. intervention, initially framed as a campaign to liberate oppressed nations, came under heavy criticism due to incidents like the torture of detainees in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. These actions tarnished the U.S.'s reputation, fueling anti-American sentiment and exacerbating tensions between the West and the Islamic world.

Beyond military campaigns, 9/11 also had far-reaching societal impacts. In the U.S. and elsewhere, fear and suspicion of Muslims surged. Islamophobia became more entrenched, as communities and individuals were unfairly associated with terrorism. The "clash of civilizations" narrative, which framed Islam as inherently opposed to Western values, gained traction, deepening divisions and fueling prejudice. This legacy of suspicion and distrust continues to shape political discourse and societal attitudes today. The seeds of 9/11 were planted decades earlier during the Cold War, when the U.S. supported Islamist fighters in Afghanistan to counter Soviet influence. Figures like Osama bin Laden, initially seen as allies in the fight against communism, turned against the U.S. after the Soviet withdrawal. Bin Laden's growing resentment of U.S. involvement in the Middle East culminated in the deadly attacks on September 11, a day that redefined global security priorities.

In response to 9/11, the Bush administration implemented a range of measures to protect national security. The Department of Homeland Security was established, and stringent airport security protocols became the norm worldwide. The U.S. also adopted the Bush Doctrine, which justified preemptive strikes against nations that harbored or supported terrorists. This doctrine underpinned the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and marked a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy. However, the invasions, especially that of Iraq, became highly controversial. While the Bush administration ini-



cially claimed that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), none were found, leading to widespread skepticism about the true motives behind the war. The failure to uncover WMDs highlighted the dangers of misinformation and flawed intelligence, further eroding public trust in the government. In the years that followed, 9/11 and its aftermath shaped not only U.S. foreign policy but also the broader international order. Counterterrorism became a global priority, with governments implementing new laws to enhance surveillance and prevent further attacks. However, this focus on security often came at the expense of civil liberties, as governments expanded their powers to monitor citizens, raising concerns about privacy and individual freedoms. The physical site of the World Trade Center has since been rebuilt, with the One World Trade Center standing as a symbol of resilience. At the base of the original towers, a memorial and museum have been constructed to honor the victims. Yet for many, the emotional scars remain. Survivors, first responders, and the families of victims continue to grapple with the trauma of that fateful day. Health issues linked to expo-



THE PHYSICAL SITE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HAS SINCE BEEN REBUILT, WITH THE ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER STANDING AS A SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE. AT THE BASE OF THE ORIGINAL TOWERS, A MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO HONOR THE VICTIMS

sure to toxic debris have plagued many first responders, and the psychological toll remains deep. As we reflect on the 23rd anniversary of 9/11, it is clear that the world has changed in profound ways. The attacks prompted the U.S. and its allies to rethink their approach to security, while also creating new challenges, such as the rise of extremism and the erosion of trust between nations and communities. Today, as the global community faces new threats, including cyberterrorism and shifting geopolitical alliances, the lessons of 9/11 remain relevant. The need for global unity, cooperation, and understanding is as pressing as ever.

Ultimately, 9/11 is not just a moment in American history—it is a moment that transformed the world. As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance, and mutual respect. The resilience shown in the face of adversity on that day offers hope for a better world, one where such tragedies are prevented and where humanity comes together to heal, rebuild, and move forward.

(The writer is an associate professor; views expressed are personal)

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(The writer is an associate professor; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WARRIORS OF INDIA

Madam — Apropos to "Paralympics: Warriors of India write history and victory" published on 9th September-24, here is my response. Kudos to Indian Paralympics athletes for winning the best medal haul in the history of games. Each of these 29 medal winners in the Paris Paralympics games have an inspiring story of resilience, grit and perseverance. Avani, Preethi, Nitesh, Sumit, Kapil, Parnav, Dharmabir and Kapil all have shown what one can achieve through sheer will power. They need to be given the same grand welcome, recognition and honor that we bestowed upon the likes of Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra and other Olympics medal winners.

What is really incredible is the fact that not only these Paralympics athletes have won medals but few of them broke their personal best and Paralympics games records in the process. In a few events we even won two out of three medals to be won, which itself is historic.

Some accident or tragedy may have taken some of these athlete's limbs but their steely resolve remained intact. And if ever God needed any reason to increase the budgetary allocation to disability rights groups, the ever highest medal tally achieved by our Paralympics medalists is that reason. And the least local civic authorities and local administration across the cities can do is to create infrastructure sensitive to the needs of differently abled people. It is the least we can do as a society to make them feel better and equal, so that they do not look upon themselves without any complex or inferiority.

Bal Govind | Noida

## PHOGAT JOINS CONGRESS

Madam — Apropos news item, "Will win each battle with people's blessings: Vinesh Phogat", published on Sep. 9, this is my response. With wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining Congress, the party's fortunes in the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections have brightened. Congress can present itself as the party

## India's efforts to foster peace



Today India's role on the global stage continues to grow. India could play a role of a peacemaker in facilitating dialogue with both Russia and Ukraine in bringing to an end this two years old conflict. India enjoys good ties with both Russia and Ukraine's PM Modi can "freely communicate with Putin, Zelenskyy, and the Americans who are supporting Ukraine with weapons and money". In his meeting with

Zelenskyy, the prime minister expressed his willingness to contribute personally to finding a peaceful resolution. After Putin, now Italian PM Meloni has suggested that India can play a role of mediator in resolving this two years old Russia-Ukraine conflict; this conflict, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, till there is no clear end in sight.

The visit by India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to Russia which is followed the prime minister's summit with Putin six weeks ago and with Ukraine president Zelenskyy is a step forward to discuss and take forward peace efforts in resolving this two years old ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

for the aspirational and successful youth. Importantly, the party aims to capitalise on the popularity of these two wrestlers, especially Vinesh Phogat, who really caught the nation's attention after she missed her Olympics medal by a whisker. Apart from all these factors, Congress banks on consolidating the decisive Jat vote bank in the state through these wrestlers as they come from the same community. Lastly, that there is a revolt within the BJP, with senior leaders have resigned over the denial of tickets, stacks are loaded in favour of Congress to wrest the power back in Haryana.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

—are important risk factors that drive a person to pain and hopelessness. Having access to kill oneself—guns and poisons—is also a huge risk factor. Substance abuse disorder (SAD) is a cause.

## SUICIDAL IDEATION RISING

Madam — Approximately seventy per cent of those who commit suicide provide some clues about their intention. Also referred to as "suicidal ideation", reference to suicidal tendency can range from a mere mention to open admission. Family history, long-standing illness, repeated stress, bereavement in family-

—are important risk factors that drive a person to pain and hopelessness. Having access to kill oneself—guns and poisons—is also a huge risk factor. Substance abuse disorder (SAD) is a cause.

A sustained campaign is needed to thwart suicide attempts, and bring lives back on track. World Suicide Prevention Day falls on September 10. Everything in this mankind can be prevented, and suicide is not an exception.

There are many "foundations", easily accessible through internet, to come to the rescue of the suicide attempter. It is always good to directly start a conversation with those contemplating suicide with compassion and empathy taking care not to further push them to the brink. "Talk with them; don't argue with them" is the familiar refrain in the international community of experts. The mountains of problems men and women carry with them are only supposed to be climbed.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## PICTALK



Migratory birds rest on a tamarind tree during the monsoon season in Birbhumi district

PTI

## Fintech: Paving the way for sustainable development

As India's fintech landscape continues to experience unprecedented growth, it is not only transforming the financial sector but also advancing sustainability

Fintech, or financial technology, is revolutionising the financial sector by expanding accessibility, reducing costs, and boosting efficiency while fostering an equitable financial environment. It has assisted in overcoming the shortcomings of traditional financial services. India is presently witnessing a fintech transformation marked by an impressive growth trajectory. With a market size of \$50 billion in 2021, it is expected to surge to \$150 billion by 2025. It boasts 17 Fintech Unicorns, making it the third largest fintech ecosystem globally.



The regulatory landscape is robust, with the government's initiatives and support in mobile connectivity; policies like Direct Benefit Transfer and Atal Pension Yojna have accelerated the digital revolution, bringing citizens, especially in rural areas within the digital financial services domain. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Payments Vision 2025 outlines ambitious goals including a substantial increase in digital and payment transactions. The fast expansion of Fintech puts forth optimistic growth num-

bers, it can also be pivotal in advancing sustainability by leveraging digital innovations to promote environmentally and socially responsible financial practices.

India's fintech ecosystem per se has seen significant growth initiatives that support sustainable development goals, enhance financial inclusion and foster green economic activities. The path of Green Financial Measures encompassing green investment tax credits, mandatory environmental disclosure and reporting, and development of sustainable financial standards has experienced a steady and robust expansion from 188 to 784 Measures and a Year-to-Year growth from 40 per cent to 100 per cent between 2015 and 2022. Financial institutions adopt environmental and social governance (ESG) criteria in their investment

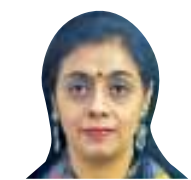
and provision of Sustainable Finance such as Green Bonds to encourage allocating funds to environmentally friendly projects. Fintech has the potential to support the transition to a circular economy by providing innovative financial solutions. This includes circular supply chains by offering financing based on the value of their Recovered and Reuse materials; business models that facilitate leasing and sharing of goods rather than ownership; and providing them data analytics to track the life-cycle of their products from production to disposal to reduce waste.

Furthermore, there is also provision of crowdfunding for renewable and green projects particularly solar and wind energy initiatives. The banking sector, which plays an instrumental role in funds dispersion is increasingly incorporating green investment policies, such as providing sustainable loans and adopting environmentally friendly banking practices. Similarly, insurance companies are integrating environmental risk assessment into their underwriting processes

and product development. The government has launched several schemes and initiatives to promote green financing such as the Green Energy Finance Scheme and the National Clean Energy Fund. The RBI has also issued guidelines for green bonds, which are designed to finance environmentally sustainable projects. The SEBI has issued guidelines for sustainability reporting by listed companies, where companies must disclose their ESG performance for greater transparency and accountability.

India's fintech sector is leading the way in advancing sustainability through the development of novel financial services that promote social and environmental objectives. Given the favourable regulatory environments and ongoing technical progress, the fintech industry is in a strong position to increase its influence on sustainable development in India.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, DU; views are personal)



KAJLEEN KAUR





## FIRST COLUMN

### TRANSFORMING DISLIKE INTO COMPASSION

By viewing people positively, we can create a more harmonious fulfilling life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

All of us are born with strong feelings of likes and dislikes. These feelings shape our personality from childhood itself. That's why today, we see new mothers making statements like, "My child doesn't like green colour, he gets irritated if he sees yellow dal, he doesn't like his scout uniform," etc. It won't be an exaggeration to say that one of the greatest causes of tension, burden, and conflict in our lives is the feeling of dislike for others.

The question is, why do we allow ourselves to collapse into such an ultimately unwanted experience? Is it mandatory for us to dislike someone because they are wrong or perhaps because they are of a displeasing disposition? Why can't we change our perspective in such a way that our inner reaction changes from negative to positive? For this, we need to wear the right kind of glasses that would enable us to maintain a positive vision for all. By doing so, we would be able to see good traits and positive virtues in others rather than their defects and weaknesses. Once we learn this technique of seeing only virtues in others, life will become easier on both sides.

The technique is very simple, and it begins with self. If we reflect over the years, we can easily make out that the periods in which we have been most unhappy with others were the times when we were dissatisfied with ourselves. When we are dissatisfied from within, we will be inclined to be dissatisfied with just about everyone and everything, without knowing that this dissatisfaction is directly related to the perspective or vision we hold of ourselves.



So, we must first begin by asking ourselves, "What is the perspective I have of myself?" or "How do I see myself in the mirror?" These introspective questions can reveal a lot about our inner state. Modern-day psychologists have proven that people who are unhappy with themselves are often unable to find peace with those around them. It means that they project their inner unhappiness onto others, making relationships and interactions more difficult than they need to be. So, if we are not positive about ourselves, then on what basis can we be positive about others?

The only way out of this problem is to ensure that we have a positive vision of ourselves first. Learning to appreciate who we are—our strengths, talents, and positive qualities—creates a ripple effect in our lives. It becomes easier to extend the same kindness and understanding to those around us. Moreover, when we foster a healthy relationship with ourselves, we also develop the emotional strength needed to accept and navigate the imperfections in others without being weighed down by judgment or negativity. So, start by liking yourself first, enjoy others, and develop new and desirable qualities within yourself. This inner work creates a foundation for healthier relationships and a more peaceful life. Remember! Dislikes and grudges drain our energy, while positivity and understanding elevate us, giving us the power to approach others with compassion and love. As we focus on cultivating a positive self-view, our interactions with the world will naturally transform. We must remember that our perspective shapes our reality.

So, by consciously choosing to view ourselves and others positively, we can create a more harmonious, fulfilling life. The key lies in the ability to see beyond faults and embrace the goodness that exists in all of us. So come on let's commit to wearing the 'right glasses'—ones that allow us to see virtues rather than weaknesses, strengths rather than flaws. It's time to replace our inner dissatisfaction with inner contentment, paving the way for a more compassionate and peaceful existence.

*(The writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist; views are personal)*

# India needs to excel in 'Olympics of skilling'



DINESH SOOD

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel as the standardised competition environment guarantees a level playing field



The 47th edition of the biannual WorldSkills Competition-2024 is set to begin in Lyon, France. The competition featured a 60-member young contingent from the WorldSkills India Team competing in 52 skill categories against participants from over 70 countries. Often considered the "Olympics of Skilling", this international skilling competition is expected to attract over 2.5 lakh participants and will take place from September 10-15. It will include more than 1,400 competitors and 1,300 experts. The WorldSkills Competition is a platform that celebrates excellence in a wide range of skills, from construction and manufacturing to information technology and creative arts.

The 60-member India team, with 20 per cent women, is a breakthrough in this edition as they will compete in traditionally male-dominated fields like welding, plumbing, and heating. They have received rigorous training supported by leading corporations in the manufacturing sector and expertise from industry leaders and institutions across the country. Unfortunately, the same approach is missing in the female-dominated (67%) beauty and wellness sector, as its skills potential still needs to be appropriately recognised in the current contingent in the WorldSkills Competition.

It would be a significant step forward if the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and CSR funds could rigorously support these skills also in the India Skills competition, the country's most important competition aiming to demonstrate the highest skilling standards, offers a platform for young people to showcase their talent in various skills.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises the importance of skill development, allotting 40% of credits to this area. It is essential to ensure that



THERE IS A NEED TO PROVIDE MORE EXPOSURE AND HIGH-STANDARD TRAINING FOR OUR BOYS AND GIRLS IN GLOBAL SKILL COMPETITIONS SO THAT THEY CAN LEAVE THEIR MARK

financial constraints do not hinder access to skill development. Models for financial aid, scholarships, and low-interest loans must be explored to support individuals in pursuing skilling programs, particularly in the beauty and wellness sector, which plays a significant role in shaping India's future. The regulatory framework for skill development needs refinement to adapt to changing industry needs and technological advancements.

Streamlining and simplifying the accreditation and certification processes are areas that require attention. However, the true power lies in collaboration. The involvement of academia, industry, and training providers is crucial to achieving India's skilling objectives. Together, we can significantly impact the future of skill development. To make India a global skill capital, we must focus on eleven major paradigms and enablers: aspiration and advocacy, capacity, quality, synergy, mobilisation and engagement, and international partnerships.

Each stakeholder has a unique role to play in this collaborative effort. Together, we can shape a skilled workforce at a global level that meets the world's evolving needs and could be a game-changer for India. Currently, India's performance in the beauty and wellness sector in global skill competitions is not at par with that of other countries.

There is a need to provide more exposure and high-standard training for our boys and girls in global skill competitions so that they can leave their mark. Beauty

contests such as Miss World or Miss Universe have created a differentiator, diluting earlier misconceptions about the fashion industry and fueling a unique recognition. Similarly, the beauty and wellness sector has unlimited potential and can showcase skilled talent globally. However, our approach towards honing the skills of our beauty and wellness skilled individuals needs focused improvement so that they can leave their indelible mark in international competitions.

WorldSkills Competition hosts global championships of skills every two years, attracting young people worldwide to compete and win medals in their chosen skill. Competitions span various industries, from joinery to floristry, hairdressing to electronics, auto-body repair to bakery, beauty and wellness, and more. Competitors are selected from skills competitions held in WorldSkills member countries and regions, representing the best of their peers. The increased visibility of skilled professional education is one of the legacies of WorldSkills competitions, serving as a social and economic transformation tool.

At the global level, one key deterrent to India's dominance in global skill competitions is the need for a more international approach to our various skill sets. This crucial aspect needs immediate attention and action, as it could significantly enhance India's standing in the global skill development arena. In the WorldSkills Competition 2022, the 50-member Indian contingent

received only 13 medallions for appreciation and was positioned 11th, while China was top-ranked with 11 gold, eight silver, and nine bronze medals.

Although India has never won any gold medals, young professionals have immense potential to excel in various skill sets and win medals in global competitions, fostering international exposure and instilling optimism about India's future in skill development. Need to revisit strategy: An enabling atmosphere has to be created in the training institutes, where there is an uninterrupted exchange of information and best practices regarding industry and professional education.

New ideas and processes inspire school-aged youth to dedicate themselves to technical and creative careers to build a better future. If our skilled participants are not winning medals in the 'Olympics of Skills,' it's a clear sign that we must revisit our strategy.

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel, as the standardised competition environment guarantees that participants from across the globe compete on a level playing field. This reiteration of the need for continuous improvement and adaptation should make the audience feel the importance of these aspects in skill development.

*(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI. The views are personal)*

# The silent crisis: Rising suicide cases demand urgent attention

As mental health continues to be overshadowed by the pursuit of success, it is crucial to provide support to those who need it most

The rising number of suicides in India, especially among young people and businessmen, is an alarming and heart-wrenching issue that demands serious attention. News about students and entrepreneurs ending their lives after facing failure or distress has become all too frequent. It is high time that society, including teachers, psychiatrists, and responsible citizens, reflects on why these individuals are so prone to taking such extreme measures in moments of despair.

In recent years, the suicide epidemic has gained prominence, particularly among students preparing for competitive exams. The pressure to succeed, exacerbated by societal expectations and the fear of failure, has devastating conse-



VIVEK SHUKLA

quences on the mental health of young individuals. The city of Kota in Rajasthan, famous for its coaching institutes, has become a hub for student suicides. Thousands of students flock to the city each year with the singular goal of cracking entrance exams for top medical and engineering colleges. Yet, under the immense weight of academic expectations, many crumble. According to data presented in

the Lok Sabha, over 35,000 students in India committed suicide between 2019 and 2021. In 2019, the number of student suicides stood at 10,335, which increased to 12,526 in 2020 and further to 13,089 in 2021. These figures paint a grim picture of the pressures that students face. The constant comparison to peers, the relentless competition, and the desire to meet the high expectations of parents, teachers, and society often leave young individuals feeling trapped, hopeless, and unable to cope with failure. Former president of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, emphasizes that merely expressing concern over the rising number of suicides is insufficient. He argues that there is an urgent need to identify solutions to this crisis.

On World Suicide Prevention Day, which falls on September 10th, a seminar will be held in New Delhi to discuss the causes behind youth, businessman, and other suicides. The event will bring together psychiatrists, journalists, and social workers who will share their experiences and insights. Following this, strategies will be developed to curb the rising suicide rates.

In the realm of student suicides, efforts are being made by some coaching centers to ease the pressure on students. Counseling services have been introduced, and parents are being engaged in the process to ensure students' well-being. These initiatives aim to reduce the intense stress associated with high-stakes examinations. However, more compre-



hensive measures are required at both institutional and societal levels to alleviate the crushing burden placed on students.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports that in 2020, a student committed suicide every 42 minutes. This statistic is both shocking and indicative of the mental health crisis that young people are facing. It underscores the need for parents, teachers, and society to create an environment

that allows students to pursue their academic goals without undue pressure. Social worker Brother Solomon George of the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) echoes this sentiment. He stresses that students should not be subjected to unnecessary comparisons or interrogations about their family background, income, or caste. Such actions, often unwittingly, can weaken a child's self-esteem and lead to despair. George advocates for a holistic approach to education that nurtures the child's mental health alongside academic success. He also emphasizes that children should have the freedom to choose careers that align with their interests and abilities, rather than being forced into predefined molds of success.

The suicide epidemic is not limited to students. Businessmen, too, have been increasingly taking their lives due to financial losses. The NCRB also reveals that in 2020, during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, 11,716 businessmen in India committed suicide. This marked a 29% increase from 2019 when 9,052 business-related suicides were recorded. The economic turmoil brought on by the pandemic dealt a severe blow to businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These enterprises, already vulnerable to financial shocks, were further burdened by debt and losses. Karnataka recorded the highest number of suicides by businessmen in 2020, with 1,772 deaths—a staggering 103% increase from

the previous year. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also reported significant increases in suicides by businessmen, with 1,610 and 1,447 cases, respectively. The plight of India's business community, especially SMEs, is often overlooked in discussions about mental health. The issue of suicide among students, businessmen, and others cannot be ignored any longer.

It is imperative that both the government and society at large take concerted action to address the mental health challenges facing these vulnerable groups. Preventive measures, including counseling, mental health awareness, and creating supportive environments, must be prioritised.

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

IN BRIEF



Gold rallies Rs 600 to Rs 74,100 per 10 grams

Gold prices rallied by Rs 600 to Rs 74,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday on the back of fresh buying from jewellers. In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 73,500 per 10 grams on Monday. Silver prices, too, jumped Rs 700 to Rs 84,500 per kilogram from Rs 83,800 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity bounced Rs 400 to Rs 73,750 per 10 grams. It had settled at Rs 73,350 per 10 grams in the previous session. Traders said gold prices saw an uptrend due to rise in domestic demand. However, a weak trend overseas capped the gains. In the overseas markets, comex gold is trading lower at USD 2,532.10 per ounce. "Gold prices have held above USD 2,500-mark through the start of the European session on Tuesday as traders seemed reluctant to place directional bets ahead of the US Inflation reports due to be published in the days ahead," Maneesh



Tata Motors cuts price of EV range by up to Rs 3 lakh

Tata Motors on Tuesday said it has reduced prices of its electric vehicle model range by up to Rs 3 lakh. The Mumbai-based automaker said it has reduced the price of Nexon EV by up to Rs 3 lakh, Punch EV by 1.2 lakh, and Tiago EV by Rs 40,000. "With these special, limited period prices, we are breaking the high acquisition cost barrier for EVs, and bringing EV prices closer to similar petrol and/or diesel-powered vehicles," Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Chief Commercial Officer Vivek Srivatsa said. The company's singular purpose is to mainstream EVs, by breaking barriers and making EVs more accessible to regular car buyers, he added. Tata Motors has already announced a price cut ranging between Rs 65,000 and Rs 1.8 lakh on its internal combustion engine, power range which includes models like Tiago, Nexon, Harrier and Safari.



RBI slaps penalty on Axis Bank, HDFC Bank

The RBI has imposed penalties totalling Rs 2.91 crore on Axis Bank and HDFC Bank for certain deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance. In a statement on Tuesday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said a penalty of Rs 1.91 crore has been imposed on Axis Bank for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, and non-compliance with certain directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits', 'Know Your Customer (KYC)' and 'Credit Flow to Agriculture-Collateral free agricultural loans'. A penalty of Rs 1 crore has been imposed on HDFC Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'interest rate on deposits', 'recovery agents engaged by banks' and 'customer service in banks', it said in another release. The RBI also said the penalties are based on deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.

'Govt gets investment proposal worth Rs 75k cr under auto PLI scheme'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has received investment proposals worth around Rs 75,000 crore under the auto PLI scheme of which close to Rs 18,000 crore has already been invested, Union heavy industries minister H D Kumaraswamy said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the 64th Annual SIAM convention here, the minister said the scheme has helped create around 30,000 jobs in the country.

"Since its launch, the scheme (Auto PLI) has been instrumental in attracting Rs 74,850 crore in proposed investments. Of this Rs 17,896 crore has been actually invested by March 2024," Kumaraswamy said.

He noted that in order to ensure continuous growth in electric mobility, the ministry is now focusing on charging infrastructure.

"While developing the charging infrastructure, we are conscious that integrating this infrastructure with renewable energy sources is essential for maximising the environmental benefits of electric mobility," the minister said.



Since its launch, the scheme (Auto PLI) has been instrumental in attracting Rs 74,850 crore in proposed investments. Of this Rs 17,896 crore has been actually invested by March 2024

He noted that the government and the industry need to make dedicated efforts to help India achieve its sustainability goals while maintaining the desired growth path.

"I can assure all of you that the government will continue to take initiatives to make the business ecosystem more industry-friendly," he added.

Govt working on policy for decarbonisation of steel sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is working on developing a policy framework for formulating strategy, roadmap and action plan for decarbonisation of the steel sector, a top official said on Tuesday.

Speaking at an event here steel secretary Sandeep Poundrik said, "The ministry of steel is working on developing a policy framework...while covering solutions ranging from minimisation to carbon avoidance to carbon utilisation."

Towards this, the ministry has constituted 14 high-powered task forces to carry out discussions, deliberations and

brainstorming on various enablers for decarbonisation, with the involvement of experts and the industry stakeholders.

These task forces consisted of members from industry, academia, think tanks innovators, various ministries and government departments.

The inputs of the task forces have been compiled into a comprehensive document. "I am proud to present the report 'Greening the steel sector in India-Roadmap and Action Plan' as a critical milestone in our efforts to decarbonise the steel sector," he said.

Deepening Indo-UAE ties will be envy for rest of world: Goyal

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the deepening ties between India and the UAE is a matter of pride, which will make the rest of the world envious.

Speaking at the UAE-India Business Forum meet held during the visit of crown prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan here, Goyal said the partnership between the two countries will be "defining bond" of this decade and beyond.

In his remarks in the presence of the visiting royal, Goyal took to popular Indian advertisement to describe the Indo-UAE ties, and borrowed from a glue brand's commercial to call it a "strong bond". He further spoke of how a TV maker's tag line of 'owner's pride, neighbour's envy' also resonates.

"The TV set advertisement says 'owner's pride, neighbour's envy'. That summarises the UAE-India partnership. It is our pride and will be the envy of the rest of the world," Goyal said.

In February 2022, both the countries had signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to deepen trade ties and are targeting to take the non-oil bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030.

Al Nahyan, who is on a three-day visit to the country, arrived in the financial capital earlier in the day and attended events including the business forum.

A total of nine memorandums of understanding were signed between companies from India and the United Arab Emirates during the meeting, including an agreement between state-run entities to jointly scout for critical minerals across the world.

Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyodi, the Minister of Foreign Trade in UAE, listed out a slew of aspects on which both the countries have agreed to collaborate including in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, hi-tech, logistics and renewable energy.

On healthcare, both the countries have agreed to address common medical issues through advance patient-centred medical solu-



"The TV set advertisement says 'owner's pride, neighbour's envy'. That summarises the UAE-India partnership. It is our pride and will be the envy of the rest of the world," Goyal said

allow both nations to leverage data capital for the UAE-India corridor. This will support AI application that can positively impact agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, smart cities and beyond," he said.

On renewable energy, we agreed to work together to achieve India's target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030 that is affordable and accessible. We resolved to engage with startups to support the commercialisation of cutting edge technologies.

Other agreements signed between companies from the two countries at the event, which was also attended by Reliance Industries' Nikhil Meswani, Renew's Sumant Sinha and ITC's Sanjiv Puri, included UAE's retail-focused Lulu Group tying up with India's Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority for sourcing organic food products for sale across the world.

They also included a partnership between Rorix and Adani Port, Indian carriers Indigo, Akasa and Air India partnering with UAE's Global Jet Technic.

Credit growth could lead to liquidity problems: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Credit growth is outpacing deposit growth, which could lead to liquidity challenges for the banking system, a report said on Tuesday.

Raising deposits to keep pace with loan growth and keeping the credit cost low remains on the top of banks' agenda, a FICCI-IBA report said.

More than two-third of respondent banks (67 per cent) reported a decrease in the share of Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits in total deposits in the current round of the survey, it said.

"Term deposits have picked up pace as reported by the respondent banks due to high-

er/attractive rates. 80 per cent of the participating Public Sector Banks reported a decrease in share of CASA deposits during the first half of 2024 while over half the private sector bank respondents reported a decrease in CASA deposits," it said.

The 19th round of the FICCI-IBA survey was carried out for the period January to June 2024. A total of 22 banks, including public sector, private sector and foreign banks, participated in the survey. These banks together represent about 67 per cent of the banking industry, as classified by asset size.

A majority (71 per cent) of the respondent banks reported a decrease in the NPA levels in the last six months, it



A significant 90 per cent of responding PSBs have cited a reduction in NPA levels while amongst participating private sector banks, 67 per cent have cited a decrease, it said.

The survey findings show that long-term credit demand has seen continued growth for sectors such as infrastructure, metals, iron and steel.

Infrastructure is witnessing an increase in credit flow with 77 per cent of the respondents indicating an increase in long-term loans, it said, adding that this could be attributable to the government's capital expenditure push for the infrastructure sector.

According to the report, the partnership between banks and fintech companies holds immense potential for driving innovation, improving service delivery, and enhancing financial inclusion.

Respondent banks were asked to share the measures taken by them in the realm of cyber-risk management.

SIP HITS FRESH HIGH AT RS 23,547 CR Equity mutual funds attract Rs 38,239 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity mutual funds continued their steady growth in August attracting Rs 38,239 crore fuelled by strong contributions from thematic funds, which was primarily owing to New Fund Offerings (NFOs).

This was around 3.3 per cent higher than the net inflows of Rs 37,113 crore logged in July. Interestingly, the quantum of net inflows witnessed in August was the second highest flow ever received in a month. Also, this was second only to the net inflows of Rs 40,608 crore received in June.

The latest flow also marks the 42nd consecutive month of net inflows in equity funds, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Tuesday.

Moreover, monthly contributions from Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) rose to an all-time high of Rs 23,547 in August as against Rs 23,332



crore in the preceding month. This highlights the shifting investor sentiment towards disciplined and long-term wealth accumulation, Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI, said.

Madhu Nair, Chief Executive Officer at Union Mutual Fund, said that equity flows for the month of August 2024 has been a mix of SIP flows, NFOs and existing schemes.

"Net flows continue to remain encouraging with SIP and NFO (New Fund Offering) inflows.

India remains committed to reducing the budget deficit over the medium term, despite its focus on higher public capex and demands of the coalition government, Fitch Ratings said on Tuesday.

In a report, it said India has achieved or outperformed its budget deficit targets in the last few years, thereby improving its fiscal credibility.

Fitch said India using RBI dividend to lower its fiscal deficit target for the fiscal year ending March 2025, reinforces its view that the country prefers fiscal consolidation over additional spending. Still, India's deficit, and interest-to-revenue and debt ratios remain high compared with the 'BBB' category sovereign peers, Fitch said. In the full Budget presented in July, the government lowered the fiscal deficit target to 4.9 per cent for the current financial year.

India remains committed to reducing budget deficit: Fitch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sensex climbs 362 pts, Nifty closes above 25,000 mark

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex climbed nearly 362 points while Nifty ended above 25,000 level higher on Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains following a rebound in the US markets and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 361.75 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 81,921.29 driven by gains in IT, telecom and select banking shares. During the day, it jumped 637.01 points or 0.78 per cent to 82,196.55.

The NSE Nifty surged 104.70 points or 0.42 per cent to 25,041.10.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Adani Ports were the biggest

gainers. Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors and State Bank of India were among the laggards.

"The domestic market showcased a gradual rebound driven by the shift in focus

towards upcoming US inflation and potential FED policy stance. The US political risk and recession fears may set near-term cautious sentiments in the global market.

"On the domestic front, a strong monsoon, and an expectation of an uptick in demand during festival season will drive investor sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.53 per cent and midcap index went up 0.53 per cent.

SCRAPPAGE OF VEHICLES

Working on policy based on pollution, not age: Official

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is working on a policy for scrapping of vehicles to be based on pollution and not on the age of the automobiles, an official said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the annual convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Secretary Anurag Jain asked the automobile industry to help the government in designing the programme of pollution checks "trustworthy".

"When you come out with a policy that scrapping is mandatory after 15 years, people come back to us with a question -- if I have maintained my vehicle well, why do you want to scrap my vehicle? You can't mandate," Jain said.

In order to consider such situations, he said, "We are studying it from the pollution (point) only." The government is "working at a policy" for the same, he added.

"Can we say that pre BS II? We are not talking about age.

Can we do it? BS I or pre-BS I? Can we put up a limit for the vehicle pollution?" he added.

He, however, said, "There also we will have to come out with ensuring that the pollution test will become something which is trustworthy. I would request all of you to help us out in designing the programme of pollution checks, which all of us right now know how to get the certificates." He further said, "So instead of getting the certificates, you have to be a trustworthy certificate."

IFFCO invested Rs 2k cr on nano fertilisers: MD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fertiliser major IFFCO has invested around Rs 2,000 crore since 2017 on its two new innovative products nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP and is hopeful that farmers will adopt these key nutrients in a big way over the next 2-3 years, its Managing Director U S Awasthi said.

Cooperative IFFCO launched the world's first 'Nano Liquid Urea' fertiliser in June 2021. Thereafter, it came up with Nano-DAP (diammonium phosphate) fertiliser in April 2023. Nano urea is available at around Rs 240 per bottle of 500 ml while nano liquid DAP at Rs 600 per bottle.

"We have invested around



Rs 2,000 crore since 2017 on nano fertilisers," he said.

The investments have been made in research and development and setting up manufacturing plants along with branding and marketing activities.

Awasthi said the co-operative is also investing Rs 200 crore annually in the promotion of nano-urea and nano-DAP and increasing aware-

ness among farmers about how to use these products along with conventional urea and DAP.

One bottle (500 ml) of nano liquid DAP is equivalent to one bag (50kg) of conventional granular DAP. Similarly, one bottle of nano urea is equal to one bag (45kg) of conventional granular urea.

To promote the use of nano fertilisers across the country, IFFCO had announced last year that it would procure 2,500 agri-drones and train 5,000-odd rural entrepreneurs. It is also procuring 2,500 electric three-wheelers (loader types) to carry drones to farmers' fields.

Awasthi said IFFCO currently has a total annual man-

ufacturing capacity of 16 crore bottles of nano liquid urea and 7 crore bottles of nano liquid DAP.

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 NIT No. 04/EE-28/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 05-06-2024  
 Name of the Work: Maintenance of IT, Qty: Each, Bid Submission Start date & Time / Bid Submission of Closing Date & Time: 10-09-2024 @ 12.30 PM / 13-09-2024 @ 12.30 PM. Name & Address officer Cell. No.: Executive Engineer, 9154795465, 7331189186. For further details can be sent at e-procurement@http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.O.No: 402-PPCLADVT/12024-25, Dt: 10-09-2024

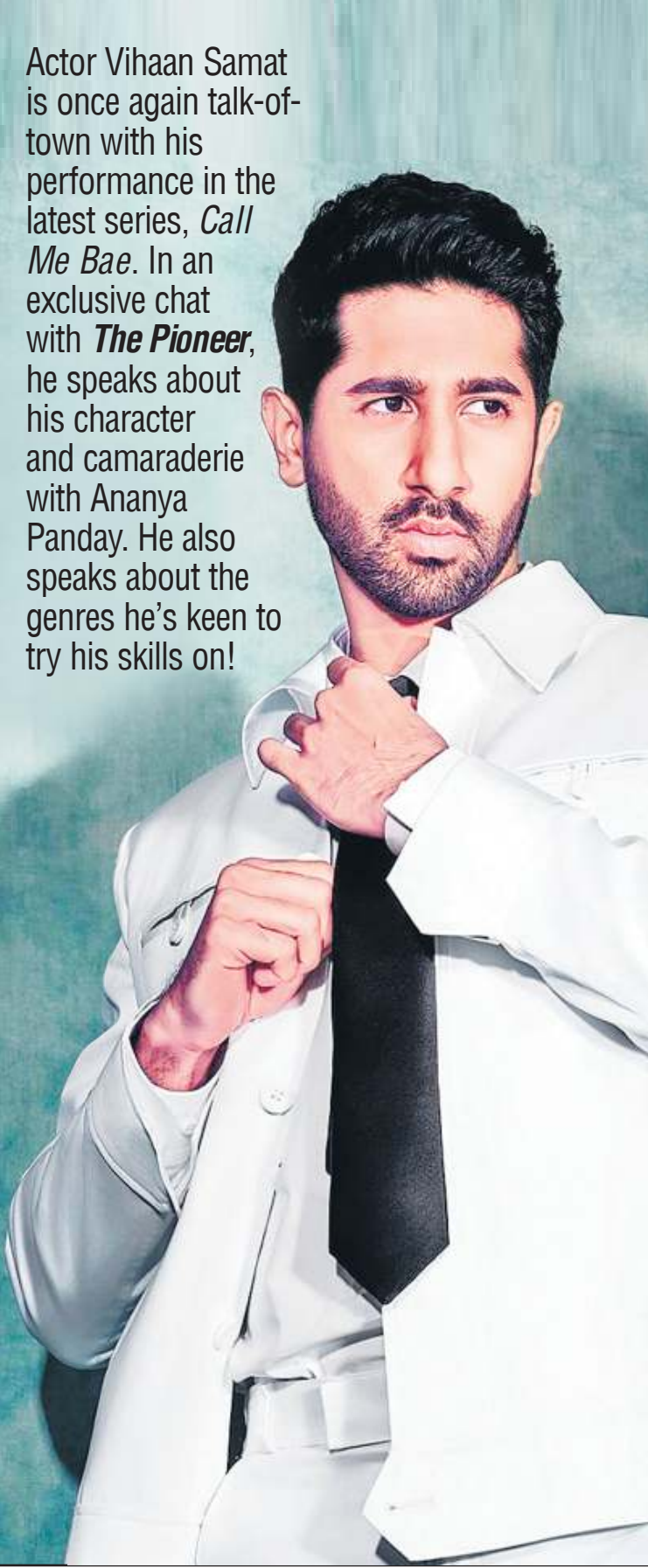
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 No. of Works: 01 Work, Estimated amount: Rs. 169.79 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 11.09.2024 @ 1.00 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 18.09.2024 @ 1.00 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: SE, Sec'bad Zone, GHMC, Cell No. 9989930374. Further details can be seen at @ https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Secunderabad Zone, GHMC



# Hyderabad

## 'I would be overjoyed if offers from Hollywood begin to come in'

Actor Vihaan Samat is once again talk-of-town with his performance in the latest series, *Call Me Bae*. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, he speaks about his character and camaraderie with Ananya Panday. He also speaks about the genres he's keen to try his skills on!



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Actor Vihaan Samat's serious demeanour and sincere decision to commit were revealed to us during a talk with him regarding the hit show *Call Me Bae*!

Despite having a personal emergency at home, Vihaan continued to give back-to-back interviews to the media, refusing to let anything compromise his integrity. And *The Pioneer* was the subject of another such interview— "The character I was playing had a really unique persona, nothing like the roles I have delved into before," says Vihaan as he begins the interview. "I had a whole other vibe when I walked onto the *Call Me Bae* set. I was simply waiting for someone to realise that this was truly one of my true selves and now I'm here! In real life, I can be a little cocky or self-righteous—you might say that about me. I was found out by Panchami Ghavri."

On September 6, 2024, *Call Me Bae* was launched on Amazon Prime. It quickly gained popularity online. Colin D'Cunha is the director of this comedy-drama, which was written by Rohit Nair, Samina Motlekar and Ishita Moitra. Vihaan Samat, who is receiving great feedback for his rapport with Ananya Panday, goes on, "This kind of character can be readily described with five more descriptors, describing its characteristics. However, I didn't approach this part in this manner! The tone was one of struggle, of angst, or to behave in a contemptuous manner." This was the young actor's second movie together and he looked so natural.

Prior to *Call Me Bae*, Vihaan starred in his first American movie, *Worth*, which came out in 2020. "In this series, emotions are the main theme. Demographics wouldn't be relevant. Even someone in poverty who watches *Call Me Bae* can relate to what it's like to be misinterpreted. Glamour and wealth are prevalent themes! Aspirational films are popular among certain audiences, with Yash Raj films being one of the best examples. Even if they were shooting in far-off places like Switzerland, we could still relate to them. In the 2000s, we relished every aspect of a Yash Raj film. What makes *Call Me Bae* unique is how we make fun of ourselves. Another popular show is called *Succession*. Truly, every one of the primary characters is a billionaire. It has an enormous fan base and has won numerous Emmys! Why do you believe that? Because viewers were able to relate to their world because it was depicted in an authentic manner. They were acting sincere. We are demonstrating Ananya Panday's struggles in a glamorous society in a similar way," adds the *Mismatched* fame.

Vihaan Samat's performance in *Call Me Bae*, is truly amazing. It's reasonable to argue that the 28-year-old man has what it takes to be the next big thing. The interview proceeds with the same enthusiasm as Vihaan states, "We played around with Ananya's ideas because she had so many of her own. When I work with Ananya, she is not the same Ananya that I know as a common acquaintance; rather, she is not the star. On the sets, she was "bae" to me; I lost myself in Ananya's presence. Our chemistry was so genuine because of this and external factors had no negative effect."

In 2020, Vihaan Samat made his acting debut in the series *Mismatched*. He also won praise from reviewers for his roles in *Eternally Confused and Eager For Love*. For those who don't know, Ananya and Vihaan are starring alongside each other in Vikramaditya Motwane's thriller *CTRL*, which is anticipated to stream on Netflix in October. "I'm eager to explore period dramas and ready to transform for a role where I can absolutely do a biopic. I am even happy to explore a horror movie since I can see how this genre is really flourishing in our country with its recent successes—especially those feelings of horror. Since science fiction is still an underappreciated genre, let's also look into it. A mind-bending movie sounds like fun. I would be overjoyed if offers from Hollywood began to come in," says the *Eternally Confused and Eager for Love* fame. He had a narrative to tell us; therefore, he was fully aware of the reach of our streaming services. "Last year, I went to a Pink Floyd concert in London," Vihaan recalls. "I adore them so much! As Roger Waters was performing in the arena, I was occupied with my snack when a man from Palestine approached me. I was shocked when he approached me and asked, "Have you done any Netflix shows?" Never in my wildest fantasies did I imagine that someone who knew me from my series would actually approach me from Palestine. I knew as a child that I wanted to be an actor, but that my opportunities would be restricted to my own nation. Hey, the world is changing. With every show, I also hope to emotionally connect with people everywhere."



## India's ironwoman spreading guffaw & chuckles

TEJAL SINHA  
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In a world of different engineers, entrepreneurs, comedians and filmmakers, Anu Vaidyanath stands as an exception. She is a blend of all of it! Well and not just this, she is the first Asian woman to complete the Ultraman Canada event. She is the first India-based athlete to train for and participate in Ironman Triathlon. She was also the first Indian woman to have qualified for the Half Ironman 70.3 Clearwater World Championship in 2008.

But beyond all of it, her defining feature, without a doubt, is being a mom. Though currently inhabiting the role of a filmmaker and comedian, motherhood has deeply influenced her creative life. "If I hadn't become pregnant for the first time, I probably wouldn't have started writing," begins Anu in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*.

She further credits her kids, who have been the driving force behind much of what she's done in the last decade. "While I love the creative projects I'm involved in, there's a unique joy in simple, everyday moments—like packing lunch boxes or hearing about their day after school. At my core, I believe that being a mom is the most grounding and meaningful role I have."

Being a triathlete instilled a great deal of discipline in her life, teaching her valuable lessons about goal setting, persistence and the importance of showing up every day to put in the work—qualities that are essential in any endeavour. Looking back, "I'm incredibly proud of what I've achieved and becoming a triathlete is one of the biggest milestones of my life. It pushed me beyond what I thought was possible, both mentally and physically and I'm grateful that it was such a significant part of my journey."

Meanwhile, when it comes to comedy, there's a lot that she enjoys about it. However, organising large events—it's a different skill set that requires people who are better suited to handling the day-to-day logistics. This year marked a big turning point for her as a live performer. "I took on two back-to-back shows, with just a 20-minute break in between. When I say "we," it was really just me and my technical assistant, as stage work tends to be more complex than comedy shows," enthuses the farceur. However, on the other hand, what she really loves about comedy is the satisfaction of making people laugh.

Her latest show, *Menagerie*, is a theatre piece that delves into the more taboo topics of trauma, mental health and self-care, especially in the context of being parents or immigrants. Basically, it was a personal challenge she set for herself earlier this year, or perhaps late last year. Originally, "I workshopped it as a comedy show, but it didn't quite fit. While I love comedy and consider myself a comedian at heart, I realised that theater offers a unique space for pauses and meditative silences—something that's essential (for me personally) when addressing such difficult and complex subjects."

Given the touring lifestyle that many comedians lead, which is difficult to balance with being a parent, motherhood and comedy, she says, don't naturally go hand-in-hand, which turned out to be a major conflict for her. "I really dislike touring—it's one of my least favourite parts of the job. However, I've come to appreciate the time on stage, even if the travel is grueling. The hour I spend performing each night feels like a gift, where I get to test out new material with fresh audiences in different cities," shares Vaidyanath.

Anu Vaidyanath, who dons multiple hats, speaks to *The Pioneer* over an exclusive chat about the different transitions in her life, her allure for comedy, filmmaking and much more

hours for nearly a month straight—something that's not always visible to the outside world."

Now, with the added responsibilities of motherhood, she shares that she no longer has the luxury of winging it. Every performance, whether five or ten minutes, is carefully prepared and she focuses on her energy on bringing her strongest set. She's always been someone who adapts to what life throws at her.

"I would describe myself as an opportunist rather than someone driven by childhood dreams," she shares. "I've achieved my biggest goal—becoming an engineer—and everything since then has been a bonus. Even motherhood wasn't something I had planned, but I was fortunate to meet someone who appreciated me for who I am and supported my journey."

Then comes *Anywhere But Home: Adventures in Endurance*, a memoir that blends personal narrative with a journalistic approach. For this, she drew inspiration from writers like Mary Karr, known for her deeply personal memoirs and Jon Krakauer, who explores events and lives through a more objective lens. Ultimately, *Anywhere But Home* reflects her personal journey and the rich tapestry of her South Indian heritage, incorporating the voices of family and community. It stands as a proud achievement in my creative career and provided a platform that led to her introduction to Bollywood at the inaugural MAMI World to Screen Market.

Meanwhile, "I'm a filmmaker who has made a dozen short films and is currently working towards creating a feature film. Filmmaking fascinates me, especially in today's evolving landscape, where every field, including film, faces its own set of challenges and opportunities. My engineering background has given me a strong foundation in this belief. My greatest knowledge well in filmmaking is editing, which has deepened my understanding of film language and built my confidence. Writing and performing through comedy are also integral parts of my creative process. Filmmaking is strenuous and challenging, but it aligns with my values of pursuing meaningful, long-term goals rather than seeking quick rewards."

She's also established a small independent production company focused on women-centric narratives. Their creative team is predominantly female, including a talented cinematographer, editors and art directors, all of whom share a strong belief in their projects. The narratives that she's been passionate about exploring often center on the experiences of female immigrants and individuals who have navigated multiple roles throughout their lives.

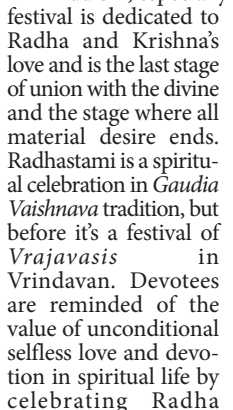
## Preparing 'bhoga' for Radhashtami

The *Chaitanya Charitamrita*, notably the *ANTYA-LILA* (the last text section), contains a detailed explanation of how Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's devotees prepare bhoga (offering food) for various occasions, including Radhashtami. Radhashtami commemorates the appearance of Srimati Radharani, Lord Krishna's divine consort.

In the scriptures, Radhashtami is associated with the glorification and devotion of Radharani, Lord Krishna's divine consort.

Including Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu himself, observe this festival of Radhashtami with great reverence. The day is marked by fasting, special prayers, and the offering of bhoga (sacred food offerings) to Radha and Krishna.

Deeply spiritual, Radha Ashtami has great importance in Hinduism, especially in the *Vaishnava* tradition. This festival is dedicated to Radha and Krishna's love and is the last stage of union with the divine and the stage where all material desire ends. Radhashtami is a spiritual celebration in *Gaudia Vaishnava* tradition, but before it's a festival of *Vrajavasis* in Vrindavan. Devotees are reminded of the value of unconditional selfless love and devotion in spiritual life by celebrating Radha Ashtami. The divine energy is seen to be more approachable for devotees on this day, it is thought to be especially auspicious for seeking blessings and spiritual development from *Hladini shakti Radharani*.



As we celebrate Radhashtami today, here's how to prepare bhoga for Radhashtami to honour this divine celebration.

**1. Selecting ingredients:** The first step to prepare a bhoga is choosing the right ingredients. Traditionally, the offerings include vegetarian and pure foods prepared with devotion and love. Fresh fruits, vegetables, cereals and dairy products are a few commonly used ingredients.

### 2. Preparing offerings:

**Fruits:** Offer a variety of fresh fruits such as bananas, apples and mangoes. These are simple and represent purity.

**Kheer (Sweet rice):** Prepare a sweet rice pudding using basmati rice, milk, sugar and cardamom. Favourite to Krishna, this dish is often offered during festivals.

**Sweet malpua:** During Radha Ashtami, *malpua* has an important role in the festival food offerings. Malpua's sweetness is a representation of Radha's sweetness of love.

**Malai puri:** Another delicious addition to the *Radha Ashtami bhog* is *Malai puri*, a rich and



creamy treat that beautifully displays the flavours of Indian food. This dish is served with sweetened milk on the side or lavishly topped with a creamy *malai* (cream). This meal represents abundance and the wealth of spiritual blessings that are provided during festivities.

**Sabji and puri:** Make sabji (vegetable curry) and puris (deep-fried bread). Prefer using ingredients such as tomatoes, potatoes, and peas.

**Paneer:** You can also include paneer (Indian cottage cheese) and chapati (a type of soft bread) and as part of the offering.

**Dahi arbi:** A delicious and healthy dish, *Dahi arbi* is also offered in the *Radha Ashtami bhog*.

**Panjiri:** A healthy dessert offered on Radha Ashtami, *panjiri* is made of whole wheat flour, jaggery, ghee and has a variety of nuts and dried fruits. This high nutrient food

is associated with many health benefits, and it represents positive character traits that one would like to cultivate in their life.

**Sanctification:** Before cooking, the ingredients and utensils are sanctified through prayers and mantras. This step is crucial to ensure that the offerings are pure and fit for the Lord.

**3. Cooking with devotion:** While preparing the bhoga, it is important to cook with a sense of devotion and purity. Clean the utensils and kitchen thoroughly before cooking. While cooking keep chanting mantras or prayers so that it infuses the food with spiritual energy.

**4. Presentation:** Once the bhoga is prepared, place it neatly on a clean plate (thali). You can additionally adorn/decorate it with fresh leaves or flowers.

**5. Offering and prayers:** Before offering the bhoga to Radha Rani, light an incense and lamp. Place the prepared dishes before the deity's idol or picture and recite prayers or hymns dedicated to Radha Rani. Offer the bhoga with love and gratitude, asking for blessings for health, happiness, and spiritual growth.

**6. Distribution:** Once the bhoga has been offered to Radharani and blessed, distribute it among family, friends, and other members. This sharing of prasada symbolises the distribution of divine blessings and is an important part of the celebration.

Preparing bhoga for Radhashtami is a spiritual and devotional act which involves love, respect and purity, not just cooking. Following these steps will allow you to celebrate Radhashtami with a heart full of devotion while also offering food that is both pleasant to the deity and loved by others. Radhashtami is a celebration that is observed with sincerity and dedication. The special bhoga items made especially for this celebration capture the purity and elegance of Radha and Krishna's holy love. Devotees show the holy pair their appreciation and affection by presenting these bhoga gifts.

(The author, Gauranga das Prabhu ji, is the director of ISKCON'S Govardhan Ecovillage.)

# what's brewing?



**Asia Jewels Show 2024!** Discover exquisite jewellery from top brands at the 52nd edition, September 13-15 at Hotel Taj Krishna, Hyderabad. Explore luxury designs and exclusive collections under one roof.

**Praganya Ayyagari**



**Prantika Das**



**Sony**



**Priyanka**



**Jhanvi**



**Bindukrishna**



The Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation has announced Indian actress Vidya Balan as the national ambassador for the second phase of the Sanjeevani: United Against Cancer program. Tata Trusts will serve as knowledge partners for this initiative.



The Black Page Fashion, in collaboration with the International Fashion Design Council (IFDC), is excited to present the much-anticipated 5th season of the Global India Couture Week (GICW). This premier fashion event will take place from September 11 to September 15 at The Bristol promising a spectacular showcase of creativity and innovation. Manipur based designer Robert Naorem will be the opening designer and Couturier Anju Modi to be the grand finale designer at the event.



Discover elegance at Indian Designer's Haat! Actress Sripapa and fashion enthusiasts join the grand launch on 10th & 11th Sept at Hotel Taj Krishna, Hyderabad. Explore 80+ top designers showcasing Banarasi sarees, jewellery and more. Special gifts on purchases over 5000 and a chance to win gold pendants!

**Kruthika Roy**



**Vedvika and Ishka Roy**

**G**anesh festivities are a time for devotion, celebration and of course, delicious food. To make your festivities even more joyous, Godrej Appliances brings to you delicious modak recipes to celebrate the 11 days of festivity. These quick, easy and mouth-watering microwave recipes will make your Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations even more special. From classic delights to innovative twists, these recipes have something for everyone. So, let's cook up some love for Bappa!

## Keeping sweet tradition of Ganesh Chaturthi ALIVE WITH MODAKS


### CHOCOLATE MODAK

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Milk - 1/2 cup
- Sweetened Condensed Milk - 1/2 cup
- Chocolate Chips - 1/2 cup
- Graham Cracker Crumbs - 1 cup
- Pistachios, Finely Chopped - Few

**METHOD OF PREPARATION:**

- In a microwave oven safe bowl, combine milk, condensed milk, and chocolate chips. Cook for 3 minutes in micro mode.
- Add graham cracker crumbs and mix well and cook for 2 minutes.
- Add chopped pistachios, mix well and cook again for 2 minutes.
- Transfer the mixture to a plate and let it cool slightly. Shape the modak either with hands or use a modak mould.



### BAKED ORANGE MODAK

**INGREDIENTS FOR ORANGE SYRUP:**

- Sugar - 1/4 cup
- Orange Juice - 1/2 cup

**METHOD TO PREPARE THE ORANGE SYRUP**


- In a microwave-safe glass bowl, combine sugar and orange juice. Cook in micro mode for 3 minutes (mix twice in-between). Set aside to cool.

**INGREDIENTS FOR MODAK:**

- Butter - 1/2 cup
- Sugar - 1/2 cup
- Yogurt - 1/2 cup
- Rava - 3/4 cup
- Flour - 1 cup
- Milk - 1/2 cup

**METHOD TO PREPARE THE MODAK:**

- Whip butter and sugar using a beater until the mixture thickens. Beat in the yogurt, followed by rava, then flour, and milk.
- Pour the batter in a lightly greased wide glass bowl and bake at 180°C for 16 minutes. Be careful not to overbake, as this may make it difficult to bind.
- Once the rava base is ready and has cooled, break it up with your fingers. Mix in just enough orange syrup to bind it. Avoid adding too much syrup, as it could make the mixture soggy.
- Shape the modaks either with hands or use a modak mould. Refrigerate until ready to serve.



### KHOYA-SOUNF MODAK

**INGREDIENTS FOR STUFFING:**

- Khoya (Mawa), grated, 1 1/2 cup
- Sugar: 1/2 cup
- Fennel Seeds: 2 tsp
- Pistachios, chopped—a few
- Rose Water: A Few Drops

**INGREDIENTS FOR DOUGH:**

- Rice Flour - 1 cup
- Oil - 2 tbsp
- Salt - A pinch
- Water - 1 1/2 Cup

**METHOD OF PREPARATION:**

- In a microwave-safe bowl, add the ingredients for stuffing, mix well and cook on micro mode for 3 minutes. Set the mixture aside to cool.
- Take water, oil, and salt in another microwave oven safe bowl, and cook in micro mode for 2 minutes. Bring it to a boil.
- Gradually add the rice flour, stirring continuously until all the flour is incorporated.
- Cook again for 2 minutes until the mixture comes together as a dough. Let it cool and cover with a clean, moist cloth.
- Grease your hands lightly with oil, take a small ball of the dough, and flatten it slightly. Place the khoya stuffing in the center and fold the dough over it. Shape it like a modak.
- Take a microwave oven safe wide bowl, pour 1 cup of water in it and cook on micro mode for 2 minutes. Bring it to a boil.
- Arrange the modaks in microwave safe idly plates and place it in the hot water bowl, cover with lid and steam these modaks for 5 minutes in micro mode. Set to cool and serve.

### DRY FRUIT MODAK

**INGREDIENTS**

- Outer shell • 120gms rice flour
- 350 ml water
- Salt as per taste

**DRY FRUIT STUFFING**

- 50 gms Almonds
- 50 gms Cashewnuts
- 50 gms Pistachio
- 50 gms seedless dates
- 50 gms Khoya
- 50 gms fresh grated Coconut
- 50 gms jaggery
- 30 gms ghee

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Chop all the dry fruits and keep aside, take a fry pan, heat the ghee, add all the dry fruits, stir it on low flame for 1 to 2 minutes till it is well roasted. Remove it in a bowl add Khoya, grated Coconut, jaggery and mix well. Stuffing is ready.
- Take pan boil the water add salt let it boil, reduce the flame to medium and then add rice flour
- Switch off the gas, stir till it becomes like dough, then transfer the dough to the pan, cover and keep aside for 4 to 5 minutes. Knead the dough while still warm.
- Grease the modak moulds with little ghee or oil. Make small balls from the dough. lock the mould gently. Put a small ball in the mould. Press the dough along the surface of the mould, so that a cavity or space is made.
- Add the dry fruit mixture. Then cover with a small piece of dough on top. Press to even it unlocks the mould. Gently remove the modak from the mould.
- Keep the modak over a greased steamer pan.
- If using a steamer pan, then add 2 and 1/2 cup of water to the pan. Let the water come to a boil.
- Now carefully place the moulds into the steamer pan taking care that the water does not touch the pan on which the modaks are kept. Cover the pan with a lid and steam for 10 to 15 minutes on a low heat. Once the modaks are steamed gently remove and keep aside. Now, it's ready to eat.




### PEDA MODAK

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Soft Khoya: 2 cups
- Sugar, Powdered: 3/4 cup
- Cardamom Powder: 1/4 tsp
- Cardamom Seeds, Crushed: 1/4 tsp
- Pistachios: Few

**METHOD OF PREPARATION:**

- Take a microwave-safe glass bowl, add khoya, powdered sugar, cardamom powder, mix well and cook for 4 minutes in micro mode.
- After the beep, remove the mixture to a plate. Once the mixture has cooled down a little (don't let the mixture cool completely), start shaping the modaks with your hands or use a modak mould.
- Garnish with cardamom seeds and pistachios.



PARTY  
Photos by- SV Chary

## FUN

### ARCHIE




VERONICA HAD HER ROOM REDECORATED? I HOPE SHE'S DONE SPENDING MY MONEY FOR A WHILE!

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO? TO SHOP FOR A NEW WARDROBE!

MY CLOTHES DON'T MATCH MY CLOSET ANYMORE!

### CALVIN AND HOBBS



THAT ROTTEN HOBBS! I CAN'T MOVE BECAUSE I'VE GOT A BEE ON MY BACK. SO HE GOES TO READ ALL MY COMIC BOOKS!

WE ALWAYS GETS THEM OUT OF ORDER, AND HE FOLDS THE COVERS BACK! OOH, IF I COULD ONLY MOVE!

WHAT KIND OF FRIEND WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A PRECIPITANT LIKE THIS? A LOUSY FRIEND. THAT'S WHAT KIND! WHAT A STINKER HE IS!

HEY, DID YOU SEE HOW THE LATEST ISSUE OF CAPTAIN NAPPING ENDED? DON'T TELL ME! DON'T TELL ME!

### GARFIELD



HAVE YOU EVER ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING WORTHWHILE?

HANG ON...

CHECK IT OUT

### REALITY CHECK



IF THE MOON LANDING TOOK PLACE TODAY:

— ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND!

YEAH NEIL— YA WANNA GO BACK UP THE LADDER AND TRY THAT AGAIN— MANKIND MIGHT BE OFFENSIVE— TRY PERSON-KIND— NO HANG ON— THAT HAS THE WORD 'MAN' IN IT. TRY 'MANKIND'— CHECK THAT— STILL CONTAINS THE WORD 'MAN'— STAND BY—

### SPEED BUMP



SHE CLAIMS SHE'S A HERMIT CRAB, BUT I THINK SHE'S JUST ADDICTED TO NETFLIX.

### CROSSWORD

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

### NANCY



I'VE BEEN BINGE-WATCHING TV ALL DAY

I NEED TO DO SOMETHING

I NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE

MUCH BETTER

### SUDOKU

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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|   |   |   | 4 | 8 | 2 |   |   |   |
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| 3 | 6 |   | 7 |   | 5 |   |   |   |
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| 3 | 4 |   | 5 |   |   | 6 | 1 |   |
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

Rules

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**ACROSS**

- The punishment announced to a criminal in court
- Strong affection
- To make or become larger
- Salary
- From Ireland
- Go in
- A stinging plant
- A month
- Recall

**DOWN**

- Choice
- Not ever
- Requirement
- Say why

5 Come first in a race

8 A type of worship

10 Someone who calls in to see you

14 You have one on each hand

15 Group of players in a game

17 Pixie

**SOLUTION**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| A | C | C | E | L | E | R | A | T | E |   |
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| A | D | V | G | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| P | U | R | S | E | C | H | O | I | R |   |
| P | U | A | R | V | E | R | I | E | S |   |
| L | A | N | D | S | L | I | D | E | S |   |
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## 'INDEPENDENT WOMEN WOULD RELATE TO MY CHARACTER IN UTSAVAM'

Actress Regina Cassandra shares insights ahead of the release of her upcoming film *Utsavam* and also discusses her future projects

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Actress Regina Cassandra has been caught up with projects in Tamil, Hindi and also has a web series in her kitty. Last year, she had also done a couple of Telugu films, but unfortunately, they fell short of the mark.

However, now the actress is all set to entertain the audience with her upcoming project, *Utsavam*, where she is going to play the lead opposite actor Dileep Prakash.

"Director Arjun had narrated to me the story and let me tell you, he spends quite a time with the theatre artists. They are the soul of this

film. It's a rooted subject. His determination to tell such a story for his debut directorial; therefore he intended to tell it less didactically and more commercially," said Regina Cassandra.

She said she is playing a corporate girl, who is independent and she doesn't have an impression about love! "Any independent woman can relate to my role, it's a refreshing one for me," she said.

Asked about her experience in theatre, she said that in school and college days, she had the experience of playing dramas. "During my school and college days, I was very keen towards plays and also a part of the drama club. Back then, I had auditioned for the main role and also played characters of even a young girl

and an older woman."

Going ahead, she reveals, "In this film, there are few emotional scenes related to the theatre artists and plays. I am confident that those scenes will definitely attract the audience."

Meanwhile, talking about Dileep Prakash, she said, "He is a hard-working person and always in a positive mindset. He has worked very hard for this film and I really enjoyed working. I wish him good success as an actor."

The film also stars veteran actors like Nassar and Prakash Raj, who, she says, come from theatre backgrounds as well. "I have worked a lot with Nassar Garu. Working with them is a good experience and I got to learn a lot from them," said Regina.

After *Saakini Daakini*, she says, "I am busy with other languages; I have done a Tamil film, a couple of web series and also signed a Hindi film," she said. She added that her goal is to play different kinds of roles. "When I sign a film, there's always a few questions that come into my mind. Whether I have a relationship with my

production house or the director, the script has to be good for different audiences? If two or three of them from the list tick off, it's then that I sign the film. I want to be a versatile actor," said Regina Cassandra.

Initially, she got to work in two Telugu films: *SMS* and *Life is Beautiful*. "Both films came to me when I didn't have any experience, as I was fresh out of college at that time. I had to choose between these two, which I got in the beginning without doing anything, which was a big thing for me. So, I never plan my career and I choose things and go forward," she said.

Now, Regina is busy with projects in different languages, including Tamil, Hindi and so many others. "I have a good team today, so that I can balance here and there," she said. She added that she signed a Hindi film with director Maigneni Gopichand and Sunny Deol. "Another two Hindi projects are also completed and the makers will announce those two films," she said.



## Devara trailer shows mass avatar of Jr NTR

The trailer for the highly anticipated movie *Devara*, featuring Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor in lead roles, was released on Tuesday. Koratala Siva directs and Saif Ali Khan portrays the antagonist in the movie. During an event in Mumbai, the trailer was unveiled by the film crew and several team members were present. The trailer is packed with action and Jr NTR is portrayed in a full-mass avatar.

Janhvi Kapoor is making her debut in Telugu with this film and she says that she wanted to play opposite Jr NTR in all his films. "I am a big fan of Tarak (Jr NTR) after working with him and I learned so much from him," she said. Actor Saif Ali Khan said that he rendered a Telugu word first in his first shot while shooting for this film.

Jr NTR in his speech said that he is coming with a solo film after six years. "Earlier, my film got released and the audience here appreciated it very much. I hope that this *Devara* will also receive the same," he said.

Part one of the movie will be released on September 27, with the second part following at a later date.

In the trailer, they included references to both the father and son, so audiences can witness NTR's double role fully in the first part. Saif Ali Khan's depiction of Bhaira appears threatening and captivating. Other actors such as Prakash Raj, Srikanth, Ajay and Getup Seenu also exist.



## SUHAS' FILM POINTS FOR DASARA RELEASE

Actor Suhas, who initially began his career as a character artist and comedian, is now portraying lead roles in numerous films. One of the movies, *Janaka Ayithe Ganaka*, was scheduled to come out on September 6 but was delayed. The new date for the event was officially announced as October 12, which they are hoping to schedule during the Dasara holidays. Sandeep Reddy Bandla is serving as the director of the film, with Malayalam actress Sangeethana making her first appearance as the female lead in a Telugu movie.

The movie is created by Dil Raju's production company and is produced by Harshith Reddy and Hansitha Reddy.

Because of the extensive flooding in both Telugu states, the producers chose to delay the release. The actor Suhas has acquired the rights for distributing this film internationally. The only major movie to be released during the Dasara festival is Rajinikanth's *Vettaiyan*, which will be premiering on October 10. The movie *Viswam* by the combination of Gopichand and Srinu Vaitla will also be released on October 10.

The upcoming film *Janaka Ayithe Ganaka* will be released on October 12, taking advantage of the Dasara holidays. The film's plot is one-of-a-kind, with limited information released by the creators; however, an insider has disclosed that it centers on a contraceptive product company.

## TJ Gnanavel announces *Dosa King*

Following the much-anticipated release of *Vettaiyan* on October 10, starring megastars Rajinikanth, Amitabh Bachchan and Fahadh Faasil, acclaimed director TJ Gnanavel is back to deliver another cinematic magnum opus with Junglee Pictures' *Dosa King*. Known for making loved films like *Badhaai Do* and *Raazi*, Junglee Pictures has teamed up with Gnanavel to bring this epic story to the big screen. Written by TJ Gnanavel and Hemanth Rao, the Pan-Indian film is inspired by the epic clash of Jeevajothi and P. Rajagopal, setting the stage for a battle of ambition, power, and justice. Junglee Pictures has acquired the exclusive life rights of Jeevajothi Santhakumar for an exclusive and detailed on-screen portrayal of the saga.

This high-on-drama and entertainment film is set to be mounted on a grand scale and promises to deliver a cinematic experience. *Dosa King* is inspired by the shocking crime of the restaurant mogul, famously known as the 'Dosa King,' that triggered a landmark conviction after an intense 18-year legal battle—P. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu. Gnanavel, celebrated for his gripping narratives and unforgettable characters, is set to bring this film, inspired by the thrilling case that was followed worldwide, to life. The fictional drama chronicles events inspired by the rise and fall of the legendary and globally famous empire, Saravana Bhavan, built by P. Rajagopal and the fearless Jeevajothi who took on the powerful tycoon. *Dosa King* is set to captivate audiences everywhere. Expressing his excitement, TJ

Gnanavel shared, "I've been following Jeevajothi's story since my days as a journalist. While the press sensationalised many details, much of the story remains untold. *Dosa King* is a hard-hitting story that exposes how the system functions, with a focus on the crime and thriller aspects of the narrative. I want to explore the extreme situations of life and tell a deeper story with an untold perspective on the case. This film is my chance to share a story I witnessed firsthand 20 years ago and I'm thrilled to partner with Junglee Pictures."

Casting for the lead roles with top talent will begin soon, ensuring that the film will feature performances as compelling as its story. *Dosa King* is scheduled to begin production soon.



## Rashmika gets injured

Rashmika Mandanna is the actress who is currently excelling as one of the top actresses in both the South Indian and Hindi film industries. The actress is presently filming Telugu movies *Kubera* and *Pushpa 2*, as well as working on several other Telugu and Tamil films, in addition to Hindi films *Chaava* and *Sikandar*. Her presence on social media has decreased significantly lately. People assumed she was occupied with the shootings; however, she disclosed that she had a minor accident.

"The reason I haven't been very active in the last month is because I had a little accident, (a minor one) and I was recovering and was staying at home as I was told to by the doctors. I am better now and just for heads up—I am in the phase of being super active, so all the best dealing with my activities," (sic), said Rashmika on her social media.

*Pushpa 2* will hit theaters on December 6, with Rashmika portraying the character of Srivalli. This movie is a follow-up to the popular film *Pushpa* and Sukumar is the director. Allu Arjun is the main actor in the film. She also appears in the Telugu movie *Kubera* alongside Dhanush and Nagarjuna. In addition to those two, the actress also agreed to work on a couple more projects in Telugu: *Rainbow* and *Girlfriend*.



## Director Harish Shankar releases teaser of *Pailam Pilaga*



The teaser of the film *Pailam Pilaga*, produced under the banner of Happy Horse Films, has been launched by renowned director Harish Shankar. The film revolves around the notion that in this world, nothing is more valuable than money. Whether one aims to rule a small village or conquer the entire world, a full pocket is essential. This humorous and satirical film tells the story of a young man from a village in Telangana who dreams of making millions by going to Dubai. In his pursuit of the money

needed for the journey, he stumbles upon a business opportunity that could benefit the entire village. However, his ambition entangles him in the bureaucracy, causing him to face challenges that threaten to distance him from his love and family.

The film features Sai Teja Kalvakota and Pavani Karanam in lead roles. Despite being a small-budget film, the three songs released so far have become super hits, raising expectations for the movie. During the teaser release, Harish Shankar praised the

film, saying that the teaser gives the impression that the movie has been shot very naturally. He found the teaser highly entertaining, with a catchy title and strong dialogues. He especially liked the dialogue, "If she takes care of plants this well, imagine how well she will take care of her man," and congratulated the film's team.

*Pailam Pilaga*, the debut directorial venture of Anand Gurram, who has previously directed over a hundred ad films and worked with top stars like Nandamuri Balakrishna and Victory Venkatesh, is now ready for release. The film is produced by Ramakrishna Boddula and S.K. Srinivas under the Happy Horse Films banner. The cast includes popular artists such as Dubbing Janaki, Chitram Seenu, and Mirchi Kiran in key roles. The film's melodious music, composed by Yashwanth Nag, features six amazing songs. The technical crew includes Sandeep Baddula on camera, Ravi Teja and Sailesh Darekar on editing, Harika Potti as the stylist and lyrics by Anand Gurram and Akkala Chandramouli. The film is co-produced by Ravi Washington, Krishna Masunoori, and Vijay Gopu, with Santosh Vodalna serving as the executive producer.

The movie is going to be released in theaters on September 20.

# NO PLAY ON 2ND DAY AS DDCA SENDS COVERS

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Using traditional tarpaulin to protect outfield, electric fans to dry wet patches, loaning ground cover from one state unit and super sopper from the other while deploying untrained ground staff, the Greater Noida Authority encountered colossal failure in not being able to get second day's play underway in the one off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand. For the second successive day, not a single ball could be bowled at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports complex here putting the venue under scanner and making it an international embarrassment. The game, the first between the two nations, was scheduled to begin on Monday but no play was possible as the umpires cited "players safety" as a concern. While there was no rain throughout the day, there was a downpour for about an hour on Monday evening, affecting the start of play on Tuesday, which was scheduled to

commence half an hour earlier than the original start time of 10 am. While the skies remained clear on Tuesday, the field couldn't even be readied for a curtailed day's play despite best efforts. The mid-on and midwicket areas remained a cause of concern as the groundsmen were bringing in dry sections of grass from the practice area to "transplant" it to the mid wicket area. Additionally, three table fans were used to dry patches of grass on the offside as the groundsmen continued to work all day. Officials from the Greater Noida Authority, under which the stadium falls, were also in attendance, supervising the work. Umpires conducted three inspections before calling off play on the second day. According to the stadium officials, there are five super soppers -- two automatic and three manual. However, all throughout only two have been used, that too sparingly. If sources are to be believed, the Greater Noida Authority

## GREATER NOIDA FAILS 'TEST' CASE



had requested Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) for a couple of super soppers and they send it from their Meerut Stadium for logistical purposes. Similarly during day time, traditional marriage shamiyana (tent) was used to cover the outfield and in the evening when heavy rains started, they used tarpaulin as DDCA authorities were rushing their outfield cover from Kotla. If this wasn't enough, the Greater Noida Authority didn't have enough trained groundstaff and apparently used their untrained labour for the work. While the pitch area remained pristine, the outfield has been the issue on both days. The BCCI had given the Afghanistan Cricket Board a few options including Kanpur, Bengaluru and Greater Noida. However, the ACB opted for Greater Noida for logistical reasons. "The venue has always been Afghanistan's home venue. If we talk about back from 2016, we have been playing games here," ACB International

cricket manager Menhaj Raaz said. The area is receiving incessant rainfall for the past two weeks, which the ACB claim has played spoilsport. "It is because of the rain. Yesterday also, it rained. We had a three-day game here with one of the local teams which went well. We didn't face any issue. But when the rain started and all of this happened." Afghanistan Cricket Board has hosted 11 white-ball international games here before. The other Indian ground where they have hosted games is Dehradun. "We had conducted a recce four to six months back, and even the visiting team had done their recce. So there was no issue" Raaz added that ACB considered moving the match to a different venue but the monsoon made it impossible. "We tried working on a solution to shift the game and they said that because of the same rain, you will not be able to, you know, actually prepare the venue for you in the coming next 24 hours."



## Rinku picked for second round as stars leave for national duty

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR

Majority of the players picked in the India squad for the first Test against Bangladesh, including Rishabh Pant, K L Rahul and Shubman Gill, were on Tuesday rested for the second round of Duleep Trophy beginning here on September 12. The others picked in the national squad on Sunday include Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel, who all have been exempted from the second round. Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Sarfaraz Khan, who too are part of India's 16-man squad for the opening Test, have not been released from their Duleep Trophy duties indicating they won't be part of the playing eleven against Bangladesh in the game to be played in Chennai. "The selectors have named Pratham Singh (Railways) as a replacement for Gill, Akshay Wadkar (Vidarbha CA) as a replacement for KL Rahul and SK Rashed (Andhra CA) as a replacement for Jurel," said the BCCI in a statement. "Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani will replace Kuldeep in the squad whereas Aaqib Khan (UPCA) will replace Akashdeep in the squad." Mayank Agarwal has been named as India A captain in Gill's place. As Jaiswal and Pant's replacements, the selectors have named Suyash Prabhudessai and Rinku Singh.

Nishant Sandhu comes in as a replacement for Axar in the India D squad. Pacer Tushar Deshpande has been ruled out of the game due to a niggle and his place will be taken by India A's Vidwath Kaverappa. No changes have been made to the India C squad led by Ruturaj Gaikwad. Pant, returning to red ball cricket for the first time since December 2022, gave a good account himself in the Duleep Trophy opener and so did K L Rahul and Akash Deep. **Updated India A squad:** Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rashed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan. **Updated India B squad:** Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, Himanshu Mantri (WK). **Updated India D squad:** Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sandhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

## Bangladesh rising pace sensation Nahid Rana confident and ready for India Test series

PTI ■ DHAKA

Having made an instant impact with his brilliant performance in the historic 2-0 triumph over Pakistan, Bangladesh rising speedster Nahid Rana has now set his eyes on the upcoming away Test series against India. The 21-year-old consistently hit 150 kph and stood out as the star performer especially in the second innings of the final Test in Rawalpindi where he took 4/44 as Bangladesh secured a historic sweep. "Obviously we are well prepared for India series. We have started training. The more we are prepared the better we will be in execution during the matches," Rana said in a video shared by Bangladesh Cricket in 'X', formerly twitter. "India are a good team but the team that plays better cricket will win. We will see when we go there." The speedster, from Chapainawabganj, has emerged as a new sensation in Bangladesh cricket with his



ability to bowl consistently fast over long spells. He made headlines by crossing the 150 kph mark on his Test debut against Sri Lanka in March this year. Then in Pakistan he established himself as a genuine fast bowling threat by making immediate impact in the second Test. He dismissed Shan Masood with his third ball before scalping the prized wicket of Babar Azam in his next over. "Before leaving, I had said that I wanted to achieve something

for my country, and it feels great to have delivered on what was expected of me," he said. The first Test is slated in Chennai, a venue known for its bounce-friendly pitch. Asked if he is ready to hit the 152 kph mark again, Rana said, "I will strive to give my best. "Pace is something you can't always predict -- it depends a lot on rhythm. Sometimes, it just clicks, and suddenly you find yourself hitting those speeds. "I never set out to clock 152

kph or push past that. I just focused on executing the team's plan. My friends and folks back in the village are really happy of my achievement," he said. Rana's journey in cricket began when his brother enrolled him in an academy in 2020 after finishing college. He made his first-class debut in October 2021 and quickly made a mark, taking 32 wickets in the following season. In the 2022-23 National Cricket League, Rana and Sumon Khan achieved a rare feat with both taking over 30 wickets, an accomplishment not seen in over 11 years for fast bowlers in the domestic first-class tournament. Determined to carve his own path, he said: "I don't want to be like anyone else. I want to create my own identity and be known as Nahid Rana of Bangladesh," Rana said. "I haven't followed any particular bowler. I've watched and learned from everyone -- my seniors and those I grew up watching," he signed off.



## Keen tussle on cards as Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The cream of Indian women's golf including Hitaashee Bakshi, Sneha Singh, and Tvesa Malik will be back in action as the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes with the 11th leg at the Delhi Golf Club. The field is huge with 46 players and the purse is a handsome sum of Rs.14 lakh. Led by the leader on the Hero Order of Merit, Hitaashee, and last year's No. 1 Sneha Singh, the field includes almost all the stars barring Diksha Dagar, Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor who have opted to rest before playing on the Ladies European Tour later this month. Hitaashee and Sneha will need to contend with proven names like Tvesa, Amandeep Drall, Ridhima Dilawari, Neha Tripathi and Seher Atwal, all of whom have international experience and aspirations of going on to the LET and further. While the Tour resumes after a gap of almost six weeks, the players have been playing in international events and some

other domestic Pro-Ams. Sneha who went to the United States has qualified for the second stage of the LPGA Qualifying while Hitaashee has been playing in South East Asia and was third at the Singapore Ladies Masters. There are as many as nine amateurs and they are led by teenager Zara Anand, who was recently T-10 at the Junior Asia Pacific Championships in Manila. Her teammate Keerthana Rajeev is also in the field. The top amateur is Mannat Brar, who created history by becoming the first Indian to qualify for the semi-finals of the R&A Juniors in United Kingdom. She is also the current All India Ladies Amateur champion, and she beat Zara in the final. The competition will be keen as the flagship event in India, the Hero Women's Indian Open, is scheduled next month and the top stars from the domestic Tour will get a spot in this prestigious event which is co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour and the Women's Golf Association of India.

## SAI, Steel Plants Sports Board make quarters

PTI ■ PUNE

Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Steel Plants Sports Board entered the quarterfinals from their respective pools after recording contrasting results in the 4th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship here on Tuesday. On a day of do-or-die battles for qualifications, SAI beat Central Board of Direct Taxes (CDT) 5-1 to claim second spot in Pool A with 9 points behind Petroleum Sports Promotion Board who topped the pool. Lalit Negi (6th), Neeraj (28th), Pankaj (38th - p.S, 53rd - p.C) and Rajat Minz (54th) scored for SAI. CDT reduced the margin through a Nachappa Ir (44th) strike. Steel Plants Sports Board made it in second position from Pool B after Dena Bank dramatically struck in the final minute to draw the game 3-3. Pradhan Somanna Pudiyyokkoda Somaiah converted a penalty corner to help Dena Bank earn a point.



Earlier, Chandanda Aiyanna Nikkin Thimmaiah (4th); Somanna Km (33rd) scored for Dena Bank. For the Steel Plants Sports Board, it was Dilbar Barla (5st); Bara Rabi (53rd) and Abdul Qadir (55th) who scored. As a result, Steel Plants Board finished with 7 points (4 matches) and qualified for the knockouts. Pool B had a thrilling finish as the already-qualified Railway Sports Promotion Board faced a tough challenge from All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB). RSPB staged a fightback from a 2-3 deficit to win 4-3. RSPB ended up unbeaten in Pool B. RSPB scored through Parampreet Singh (4th - p.C), Yuvraj Walimki (21st), Darshan Vibhav Gawkar (54th) and Simranjot Singh (56th). Varinder Singh (37th - p.C; 45th) and Haris Mohammad (11th - p.C) struck for the police team. The loss impacted AIPSCB (6) who missed to qualify after finishing third behind Steel Plants Board (7) by a point.

## F1 car design great Adrian Newey to join Aston Martin after leaving Red Bull

AP ■ SILVERSTONE (ENGLAND)

Formula 1's most influential car designer, Adrian Newey, is joining Aston Martin in March 2025 after leaving Red Bull, ending months of speculation over a backroom figure who seemed more in-demand than any driver. Newey has spent nearly two decades with Red Bull and is widely credited with putting the team on its path to dominance in F1. Now he's joining a team that has big ambitions to challenge for the title and the backing of billionaire Lawrence Stroll - but no race wins yet. Newey will arrive in his new role as "managing technical partner" in time to help shape how Aston Martin responds to the new F1 car regulations coming for 2026. He'll also be made a shareholder in the team. Newey said he and Stroll got to know each other while training in

the gym during F1 race weekends in Asia. Newey visited Aston Martin's new headquarters in June as Stroll closed in on a signing which the Canadian billionaire called "another demonstration of our ambition to build a Formula 1 team capable of fighting for world championships." "You have to be honest with yourself and you have to keep yourself fresh and so I felt I needed a new challenge," Newey said. He added that Stroll's hands-on approach as an owner was an "old-school model" that reminded him of his old bosses at teams like Williams and McLaren, which both won titles with Newey-designed cars in the 1990s. "I was very flattered to have a lot of approaches from various teams, but really, Lawrence's passion and commitment and enthusiasm is very endearing, it's very persuasive." The last time the regulations had a



big change, with the return of "ground effect" aerodynamics for 2022, it was Newey's Red Bull that dominated as Max Verstappen won the championship. Newey had a lifetime of experience to draw on, having written his university thesis on ground effect in the 1980s, back when it was previously used in F1. Aston Martin's drivers are Fernando Alonso, the two-time champion and Lance Stroll, the son of team owner Lawrence Stroll. Newey said he'd known Lance Stroll from his teenage years competing against Newey's son in Formula 3, and said Alonso seemed like "a kind of archenemy at times" when he was challenging for wins against Newey's previous employers. Newey joined Red Bull in 2006 and helped the team win seven drivers' titles - including the last three seasons with Verstappen - and six constructors' titles. Red Bull said in May that its chief

technical officer would be stepping back from F1 design and focus on a production car, the RB17, before leaving in the first quarter of 2025. The announcement comes ahead of this week's Azerbaijan Grand Prix, and at a time when Red Bull's dominance of F1 seems to be slipping. Max Verstappen - who recently called his Red Bull car a "monster" - and his teammate Sergio Perez have not won any of the last six races, the team's longest drought since 2020, while McLaren and Mercedes now seem to have faster cars. Newey's departure is also part of a broader exodus of senior Red Bull staff in a season which began amid legal turmoil when team principal Christian Horner was accused of misconduct by an employee. Red Bull's parent company dismissed a complaint against Horner and an appeal was dismissed last month.