

There is nothing linking Congress activists to the attack on BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy's residence which took place on Thursday. BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is in a hurry to face by-polls. However, he will be unhappy regarding by-polls. The Congress will wage a legal fight against the HC verdict regarding defected BRS MLAs. Gandhi is technically a BRS MLA. He became the PAC Chairman as per rules,



B Mahesh Kumar Goud, TPCC Chief P2



Peace talks cannot happen



ELECTRIC TWO-WHEELER BUYERS CAN AVAIL SUBSIDY OF UP TO RS 10,000



Krithy Shetty: If not acting, I'd probably have done something in FASHION

DON'T MISS...

Tech should improve human...

Emphasising that technology should improve human life and prevent accidents, IT Minister Sridhar Babu inaugurated the ZF LIFETEC Global Capability Centre (GCC) for passive safety technology, designed to enhance global R&D and engineering collaboration and customer service, on the 2nd floor of Phoenix Centaurus on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu highlighted the \$6 trillion economic damage and 1.2 million global deaths caused by accidents every year. He emphasised the State's need and...

-PAGE: 3

Tenure of arbitral tribunal can be...

The Supreme Court on Thursday held the fixed tenure of an arbitral tribunal to pass an award can be extended even after the expiry of term, saying the courts must strive to give "meaningful life" to a law to "avoid cadaveric consequences" leading to "unworkable scenarios". The top court was dealing with conflicting judgements on the issue by several high courts. Few high courts, including the Calcutta High Court, while interpreting the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, had held that an application...

-PAGE: 5

Bahrain secures \$16.65m...

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) has secured investment commitments valued at USD 16.65 million from three leading India-based companies across the sectors of manufacturing, renewable energy, and ICT. The announcements were made during Bahrain EDB's ongoing week-long visit to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, designed to strengthen bilateral economic ties and attract foreign direct investment to Bahrain, it said in a statement. H E Noor bint Ali Alkhalifa...

-PAGE: 8

Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali star in...

R Praggnanandhaa set the tone on the top board as the Indian mens team blanked Morocco 4-0, while the women romped home against Jamaica, conceding just a draw in the process, in the first round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here. With world championship challenger D Gukesh taking a break in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa delivered the goods against Tissir Mohamed out of a Sicilian defense game while Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi and P Harikrishna also pulled off comfortable wins...

-SPORTS

Speeding CM, halting babus!

HOBBLING BUREAUCRACY PROVES TO BE A DRAG FOR SWIFT REVANTH

NAVEENA GHANATE
 naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
 ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy by practically delivering on most, if not all, of the 'Six guarantees' that had brought the Congress to power in Telangana has no doubt cemented his position as a tall leader who can be relied upon 100% to build the party unit in the state as a cohesive force to reckon with in the years to come. Yet, considering the mismatch in the speed of Revanth Reddy who thinks on his feet and that of the state administration, which has failed collectively on multiple occasions to live up to his expectations; it appears that he has begun to feel the pinch of a hobbling bureaucracy that is not working in perfect alignment with his vision of Praja Palana that has quick service at its core.

Senior Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee leaders shared the Chief Minister's palpable concerns over the lack of support from the bureaucratic machinery, due to which disturbing lapses in governance continue to surface with far-reaching consequences at a time when the Opposition is leaving no stone unturned to cast aspersions on Revanth Reddy's administration, calling it 'bull dozer raj', HYDRABAD

HOW BABUS FAILED CM

- Technicalities undermined gov't efforts to capitalize on loan waiver scheme
- Info drought compounded impact of Khammam floods
- Lessons that Collectors failed to heed at Gurukuls in public glare
- Irrigation officials' reluctance to revisit deals impedes Kaleshwaram probe
- Lack of prioritisation spins issue of pending bills out of control

ops as unconstitutional, this and that. A seasoned administrator known to be an aide of a senior party leader handling a key portfolio shared with The Pioneer that several bureaucrats had failed to prioritize key and burning issues, thereby creating a bottleneck in effective governance. He cited as a striking example the controversies-laden implementation of the Crop loan waiver scheme. Insinuating lack of accountability, he pointed out that there has been no major reshuffle in the Agriculture Department and that the Agriculture Secretary continues to be none other than the one who had helmed the processes during the erstwhile Bharat Rashtira Samithi regime.

Pointing to seemingly harmless errors of babus that had proved to be egregious blunders, a seasoned administrator remarked on hind-

Pointing to seemingly harmless errors of babus that had proved to be egregious blunders, a seasoned administrator remarked on hindsight: "It was the same GO, except that instead of Rs 1 lakh, the amount should have gone to Rs 2 lakh"

"It was the same GO, except that instead of Rs 1 lakh, the amount should have gone to Rs 2 lakh. But instead a change in the Congress regime was introduced by adding a 'ration card' clause to the Government Order. In the past regime, this was based on the database available with the government which is again ration card.



delivery of the scheme to farmers and delaying relief". A similar pattern of mismanagement was discernible in the handling of the recent Khammam floods, following which the district collector's failure to issue timely public bulletins worsened the situation. In fact, Khammam City was impacted and the Collector was at a stone's throw, sources claimed. Still, things went wrong giving Revanth's detractors a chance to throw mud.

5

'Our govt would be safer if law on defections is made stricter: CM

We gave PAC Chairman post to Opposition, says Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Making it clear that the Congress gave the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman post to the opposition, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy asked the BRS to explain why it failed to object when the Speaker announced the number of BRS Members as 38 on the last day of the budget session. The CM asked the BRS to explain

why their government gave the PAC Chairman post to the AIMIM when the Congress was the main opposition party. How did Akbaruddin Owaisi continue as the PAC Chairman from 2019 to 2023, he asked.

"Our government would be better off if the law on defections was stricter. The decisions of the courts will help us. If our MLAs do not defect, our government will remain

strong because we have 65 MLAs. The BRS and BJP leaders are the ones who said that they will topple the government. It is they who set the deadlines of 3 months and 6 months. Indeed, if the Representation of the Peoples Act and the Anti-defection Act are strict, it will be good for us. The BRS encouraged defection, and now they are chanting morals," the CM said.

5

Panchayat Secy held for accepting bribe

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Esapalli Naveen Kumar, the Panchayat Secretary of Nandipet Mandal in Nizamabad District, was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for accepting a bribe of Rs 8,000 from a complainant in exchange for uploading the new house number of the complainant online.

According to the ACB, the incident occurred on September 12, 2024 at around 11:40 AM, when Naveen Kumar was caught red-handed at his office accepting the bribe.

5

Court intervenes to avert power crisis in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's power supply narrowly escaped a state-wide disruption, thanks to the intervention of the High Court.

The issue stemmed from an ongoing dispute with the Power Grid Corporation regarding the corridor agreement made for electricity transmission from Chhattisgarh.

The situation escalated when Power Grid Corporation reported

to the National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC) that Telangana owed Rs 261 crore in unpaid charges.

As a result, Telangana was labelled a defaulter, and its discoms were barred from participating in electricity bids.

On Thursday morning, the NLDC halted all power purchase bids from Telangana's Discoms through power exchanges, bringing the issue to a critical point.

Learning of this, Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy, who was in Delhi, immediately spoke to officials from the power department, instructing them to take steps to avoid disruption in power supply.

He also directed them to file a lunch motion petition in the High Court. Following the Chief Minister's directions, Discom and Transco officials approached the High Court, bringing to its attention the imminent threat to the state's power supply.

5

GANDHI VS KOUSHIK

War of abusive words, attack

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed at the residence of BRS legislator P. Kaushik Reddy here after turncoat MLA Arekapudi Gandhi reached the spot along with his followers in response to the former's challenge that the Gandhi should prove which party he belonged to.

The war of words between the legislators began after the appointment of Gandhi, who defected to the Congress from the BRS, as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Telangana.

5

Cong activists not connected: Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that there is nothing to link Congress activists with the attack on BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy's residence on Thursday. He said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is in a hurry to face by-polls, however, KTR will become unhappy if the by-polls are held.

5

SC SUB-CLASSIFICATION Govt forms panel to study judgement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has decided to constitute a committee to carefully study the judgement delivered by the Seven Judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on August 1, 2024, in the case State of Punjab & Others Vs. Davinder Singh & Others.

The judgement focuses on sub-classification within the SC/ST reserved categories and the committee will examine various aspects associated with the issue to provide recommendations.

5



Uttam meets AP CM Naidu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Telangana Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Uttam Kumar Reddy, met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday.

The meeting took place in Andhra Pradesh's capital, Amaravati, and was described as a courtesy call by Uttam Kumar Reddy.

Accompanied by his wife, Kodada MLA Uttam Padmavathi, the Minister congratulated Naidu on assuming office for the fourth time after his electoral victory. Uttam said that the meeting was strictly a formal one to extend their greetings.

5

Bandi slams Rahul Gandhi over comments on Sikhs

P2

Govt should run 'Secular HYDRABAD,' says BJP MP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, demanded that the Congress, which claims to be secular, should run a 'Secular HYDRABAD.' He said that it is not proper for the Congress government to demolish houses built on encroached lands selectively.

Speaking to the media after the BJLP meeting held under the leadership of BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy on Thursday at the BJLP office in which party MLAs, MLCs and MPs participated as special invitees, Arvind said the Congress government should demolish houses as per plans. He asked the government not to

change HYDRABAD policies every two days and said that HYDRABAD is going backwards to go to the Old City.

Lashing out at the Congress government for giving the PAC Chairman post to a 'migrant' named Arekapudi Gandhi, Maheshwar said the BRS had given three names to the government. He said the government behaved against legislative rules and regulations.

Maheshwar said that they discussed 10 issues at the meeting. He said the BJLP is demanding that the government should give ration cards to all those eligible and celebrate Telangana Liberation Day formally on September 17.

5

Talks to end deadlock non-starter

WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA OFFERS TO RESIGN

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In a dramatic turn of events, the proposed talks to resolve the RG Kar hospital impasse between agitating junior doctors and the Bengal government never took off on Thursday after protestors refused to enter the meeting venue following the state's rejection of their demand to live telecast the meeting.

Disappointed at the talks not fructifying, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she was "ready to relinquish her chair for the sake of the people" but wanted return of normalcy in state-run health care sector which remains crippled on account of the 'cease work' of the junior doctors persisting for over a month. "I do not care for my chair and am



ready to resign for the sake of the people," she said, regretting her failure to get the protestors to the discussion table. Expressing similar disappointment at the talks falling through and transferring responsi-

bilities for it on the shoulders of the state administration, the agitating doctors said they would continue their agitation but remain open for talks.

5

Flight test of surface-to-air missile successful

The flight test was conducted from a land-based vertical launcher, targeting a high-speed aerial target flying at a low altitude



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy and the DRDO on Thursday successfully carried out a flight test of a vertical launched short-range surface-to-air missile off

the coast of Odisha. The flight test was conducted from a land-based vertical launcher, targeting a high-speed aerial target flying at a low altitude.

5

Speed up disposal of TG BPASS applications: Dana Kishore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department Principal Secretary, D. Dana Kishore, has urged planning officials to speed up the disposal of TG BPASS applications. He emphasised the importance of informing applicants promptly if their submissions are incomplete or require more details. This directive is part of the government's efforts to streamline the approval process and ensure timely clearances. Both the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) are required to submit detailed reports of TGBPASS applications from January to date so that the situation can be monitored closely. Dana Kishore will personally review the progress every Saturday to ensure the applications are processed without unnecessary delays.

KCR family must apologise for Kaushik's offensive comment: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that BRS leaders want the votes of AP settlers who came to Hyderabad for livelihood sake but it does not give them party tickets to contest elections, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy asked BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao's family to respond to the comments of the BRS's Huzurabad MLA, Padi Kaushik Reddy. The CM demanded the KCR family should apologise for BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy saying that "Andhraites came to Hyderabad to earn their livelihood." Criticising Kaushik's remarks against AP settlers, former MLA Kuna Srisailem Goud said that the people of Hyderabad should understand the true colours of BRS leaders and their opinion about AP settlers. Kaushik Reddy, who made

provocative comments should be suspended if the BRS really wants Telangana to be united, he said. The Congress candidate who contested from Kuktapally, Bandi Ramesh, said that BRS leaders want the votes of Andhraites and their currency notes but they don't have any regard for them. "We strongly condemn what Kaushik said. Action

should be taken against Kaushik's objectionable comments. The state is witnessing good governance under the leadership of Revanth Reddy. BRS leaders are simply unable to stomach that. KCR should respond to these issues and apologise," he said. It may be recalled that Padi Kaushik Reddy said that he is a son of Telangana, and that Serilingampally MLA

Arekepudi Gandhi, who had gone to Padi Kaushik Reddy's residence on Thursday, had come to Hyderabad to earn his livelihood and that he will certainly hound Arekepudi Gandhi away. Padi Kaushik said that he will show what Telanganites are capable of to Arekepudi Gandhi on Friday by going to Gandhi's residence.

BRS insulting AP settlers in Hyd & RR districts: Aadi Srinivas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that settlers from Andhra Pradesh saved the honour of the BRS by ensuring its victory in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts, Government Whip Aadi Srinivas said that BRS leaders are now insulting AP settlers by saying that Andhraites came to

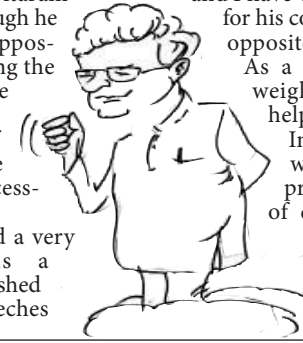
Hyderabad to earn their livelihood. In a video statement issued on Thursday, Aadi Srinivas slammed the BRS's Huzurabad MLA, Padi Kaushik Reddy, saying that he is trying to incite the Telangana regional sentiment once again and that is the reason why he spoke disparagingly about AP settlers. "The BRS needs the votes

of Andhraites and their currency notes. Actually, it was settlers from AP who saved the BRS by ensuring its victory in the Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts during the Assembly elections. However, the same BRS leaders are now saying after their needs were met that people from AP came to Hyderabad.

A sane voice in Indian politics

Sitaram Yechuri was a symbol of decency and sanity in Left politics. Flexible in style, yet firm on principles, he was a friendly man who and always seen smiling. One rarely remembers Sitaram with a grumpy face, even though he was very aggressive while opposing Mrs Indira Gandhi during the 1975-77 Emergency. He organised JNU students to demand the resignation of Mrs Gandhi as the Chancellor of JNU and successfully achieved it. He was always affable and a very persuasive speaker. As a Parliamentarian, he distinguished himself by his insightful speeches

laced with facts and figures and rarely played to the gallery. As a contemporary in JNU, he was a ubiquitous figure during student union elections and I have watched him with admiration for his commitment although from the opposite camp of Free Thinkers. As a person, he never threw his weight around and was always helpful to friends. In his passing, India lost an eminent leader who was a sane voice in the prevalent chaos and cacophony of dogma and hatred. May he continue to inspire generations to come. Lal Salaam, Comrade Sitaram -BP Acharya IAS(Retd)



Assam: 2 die as cops open fire during eviction drive

PNS ■ GUWAHATHI

Two protestors were killed when police personnel opened fire to disperse a mob that attacked them during a drive to evict alleged encroachers in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam on Thursday, an official said. Several officials and security personnel were also injured in the mob attack, which led to the policemen opening fire, he claimed. A team from Sonapur cir-

cle office and the police went to Kochutoli village in the district to evict Bengali-speaking Muslim villagers who had previously been removed from the encroached land but had again returned, he said. The villagers, including women, attacked the officials and policemen with sharp weapons, sticks and stones, resulting in injuries to a magistrate and over 20 police personnel, the official said, adding that a police vehicle was also damaged.

Bandi slams Rahul over comments on Sikhs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for criticising Indian politics, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said that it is a shame for Rahul Gandhi to say that Sikhs are not in a position to wear their turban and bracelet in India. Rahul Gandhi's grandmother Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the one who massacred Sikhs during the 1980s, Sanjay said. He said that Rahul who is making traitorous statements should apologise publicly. Otherwise, the BJP demands that he should leave the country, he said. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Sanjay said that Rahul has no moral right to speak about Sikhs. He is now joining hands with those who are conspiring to divide the country again. That is why Rahul's comments are endorsed by terrorist organisations who want to divide India. This creates suspicion that Rahul has links with ter-

rorist organisations, he said. "The present Congress is not the Indian National Congress. It is the Italian National Congress. It is the Congress that divided the country into three parts. If Rahul comes to power, there is a danger of breaking India into seven pieces. Why are Congress leaders not responding when Rahul is talking about scrapping reservations? It is a shame that the Congress has teamed up with parties who want to bring back Article 370 and have two flags in Jammu and Kashmir. That's why every Indian wants to respond to Congress' dual policies and Rahul's traitorous comments. Rahul should apologise publicly for issuing traitorous statements. Otherwise, the BJP demands that he must leave the country," Sanjay said. He said that Rahul does not understand what he is talking about India while travelling abroad. Do you go abroad to criticise your country? Earlier too, Rahul said while abroad that "India was in danger."

Case booked against 30 people including MLA Gandhi: Cyberabad CP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A case has been booked against 30 people including MLA Arekepudi Gandhi and notices have been issued to them, said Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty on Thursday. When contacted Avinash Mohanty said, "We have already arrested the people who were involved and have issued notices to them. We will investigate and file a charge

sheet in this case." The FIR says that a case has been filed against MLA Arekepudi Gandhi under BNS Sections 189, 191(2), 191(3), 61, 132, 329, 333, 324 (4), 324 (5), 351(2) and 190 as per the complaint filed at the Gachibowli Police Station by SI Mahesh Kumar Goud of Gachibowli Police Station. Earlier, the protest saw heated exchanges between BRS leaders and the police who blocked their entry into the

CP's office. BRS leaders also called for the immediate suspension of the Circle Inspector and Assistant Commissioner of Police, accusing them of encouraging the attack. MLA Harish strongly condemned the incident, questioning the state of democracy under Congress rule. He accused the Congress of mali-

ciously targeting BRS MLAs after inducing defections within their ranks. Harish said the attack was orchestrated as per the orders of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao and other party members were detained by the Cyberabad police on Thursday evening. Harish was released late in the night.

KTR raises concern over violence against BRS leaders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

KTR, in a recent post, strongly protested against a series of violent incidents targeting BRS leaders in recent weeks. He stated that he had spoken to the Telangana DGP, raising concerns over the police's lackadaisical response and failure to take pre-emptive

measures. The incidents highlighted by KTR include the attack on the camp office of BRS leader Harish Rao in Siddipet, the attack on the convoy of BRS MLAs, including Sabitha Indra Reddy, Harish Rao, Jagadish Reddy and Ajay Puvvada, who were visiting flood-affected areas in Khammam, and an attack.

BRS calls meeting at Arikepudi Gandhi's house today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A BRS meeting of Serilingampally constituency is scheduled to be held on Saturday at 11 am at the residence of Serilingampally MLA Arikepudi Gandhi. The meeting will be attended by MLAs, MLCs, corporation councillors, key

leaders and BRS members from Medchal district. Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy is also expected to attend the gathering. A group of BRS representatives will leave from the residence of Medchal district BRS president and MLC Shambipur Raju to attend the event.

CM to hoist national flag at TG Praja Palana Dinosaursavam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari told officials that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will unfurl the national flag at the Public Gardens on September 17 on the occasion of Telangana Praja Palana Dinosaursavam. Before the flag hoisting, the Chief Minister will pay tributes to martyrs at the Telangana Amaraveerula Stupam at Gunpark. During a meeting held at the secretariat, Santhi Kumari reviewed arrangements for the event and urged officials to work in close coordination to ensure its success. The police were directed to organise proper traffic management, including alighting and boarding points, as per the designated route map. The Municipal Administration Department was asked to repair the roads

leading to the venue and to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, fogging and venue preparation. Temporary illumination of the Raj Bhavan, Secretariat, Assembly, and the High Court building needs to be arranged. The Energy Department was asked to ensure an uninterrupted power supply during the event while the Fire Department was asked to station fire-fighting equipment. The Water Board was directed to provide drinking water at the venue. The meeting was attended by DGP Jitender, the Principal Secretary for Home, Ravi Gupta, Police Commissioner CV Anand, Special Chief Secretary TR&B Vikas Raj, Principal Secretary MAUD Dana Kishore, Agriculture Secretary Raghunandan Rao, CIPR Hanumantha Rao and other officials.

No possibility of by-polls

We will win in case they are held: Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that he doesn't think there will be by-elections due to the defection of some BRS MLAs to the Congress. If there are by-elections, they will be in the Congress account, he said. Arikepudi Gandhi is technically a member of the BRS and became the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) as per rules. "While respecting the decision of the High Court regarding defections, we will look for legal alternatives. We will proceed regarding party changes

as per the Constitution. We will induct leaders if they come to us liking our policies and governance. BRS leaders are not in a position to play the role of the opposition. The people gave them zero seats in Parliament. BRS leaders are looking at us as they do not have any confidence in their leadership," Mahesh said. Speaking to the media after meeting AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge on Thursday in New Delhi, Mahesh said that he came to New Delhi to seek the blessings of Kharge. Kharge is a leader with long political experience. Kharge asked me to strengthen the Congress by

including members from all communities, he said. "We will strengthen the party at all levels. We will try to win more seats for the party in the next elections. We will move ahead with the aim of making Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister," he said. Mahesh said that the decision on Cabinet expansion is in the hands of the Chief Minister and the high command. He said that it is common for new committees to be appointed after the TPCC president is changed. A decision will be made regarding new committees after discussing it with AICC leaders.

'Jan Suraaj to contest all seats in Bihar'

PNS ■ PURNEA (BIHAR)

Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor on Thursday said Jan Suraaj, which is set to become a political party in less than a month from now, will contest "all 243 seats" in the Bihar assembly polls due next year. Addressing a press conference in Purnea district, Kishor said the party will be formed on October 2 "with active support of at least one crore people of the state, which would leave no need for any alliance". "Let me make it clear that Jan Suraaj will contest all 243 seats, not one less", said Kishor, who has in his earlier avatar handled poll campaigns of leaders such as Prime Minister



He criticised the current prohibition as ineffective, claiming that it has led to illegal home deliveries of alcohol and deprived the state of Rs 20,000 crore in potential excise revenue.

Narendra Modi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Aam Aadmi Party founder Arvind Kejriwal. A known critic of the much touted prohibition law in Bihar, the IPAC founder said the new party would "scrap the ban on liquor within an hour of forming its government". "The prohibition law is nothing but a sham (dhakosla) on part of Nitish Kumar," he said. He criticised the current prohibition as ineffective, claiming that it has led to illegal home deliveries of alcohol and deprived the state of Rs 20,000 crore in potential excise revenue. Kishor accused politicians and bureaucrats of benefiting from the illegal liquor trade.

Seven dead as wall of 400-year-old fort collapses on house in MP

PNS ■ DATIA (MP)

Seven persons were killed after a wall of a medieval-era fort adjacent to a house collapsed on Thursday due to heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh's Datia town. The incident took place around 4 am in Khalkapura area, said an official. As the wall collapsed, nine persons in the adjacent house were trapped under the debris. While two were rescued, seven died, said Datia district collector Sandeep Makin.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Dashami: Sep 12 11:33 PM to Sep 13 10:30 PM

Ekdashi: Sep 13 10:30 PM to Sep 14 08:41 PM

Nakshatram: Purva Ashadha: Sep 12 09:52 PM to Sep 13 09:35 PM

Uttara Ashadha: Sep 13 09:35 PM to Sep 14 08:32 PM

Rahukalam: 10:40 AM to 12:11 PM

Yamagandam: 3:14 PM to 4:45 PM

Varjyam: 05:14 AM to 06:46 AM

Gulika: 7:38 AM to 9:09 AM

Amritakalam: 04:51 PM to 06:25 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:36 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 30°

Humidity: 67%

Sunrise: 6:04 AM

Sunset: 6:20 PM

Updated: September 12, 2024 5:00 PM

Haryana Guv dissolves Assembly

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Thursday dissolved the state Assembly with immediate effect, a day after the state cabinet recommended the move to avoid summoning the House before the expiry of the six-month period from the last sitting. According to a notification issued by Haryana Vidhan Sabha secretariat, the Governor has dissolved the assembly with immediate effect in exercise of the powers conferred under Article 174 (2) (b) of the Constitution of India, which gives the Governor of a state the power to dissolve the state's legislative assembly. The Haryana cabinet had

on Wednesday recommended to Governor Dattatreya to dissolve the Assembly to avoid summoning the House before the expiry of the six-month period from the last sitting. The term of the current Vidhan Sabha expires on November 3. After the governor's move to dissolve the assembly, the Nayab Singh Saini government will continue as a caretaker government till a new one is formed, sources said. Official sources had earlier said that summoning of the House before the end of the six-month period from the last session is a constitutional requirement. The cabinet move to recommend assembly's dissolution appeared to avert any

constitutional crisis. The Haryana Assembly's last session was held on March 13 when the Saini government had won the trust vote and the next session had to be convened by September 12. Saini replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister in March. Khattar is now a Union Minister. Earlier, the Haryana Cabinet had met here Wednesday evening and accorded approval to a proposal regarding the dissolution of the 14th Haryana Vidhan Sabha, an official release had earlier said. "The proposal will now be sent to the Haryana governor for approval," it had said. Polls have already been



announced in Haryana which are scheduled to be held on October 5 and the results are slated to be out on October 8. The government has been summoning the monsoon session in August, mostly after Independence Day. However, polls were announced on August 16 after which the government did not summon a session.

Row over PM attending puja at CJI's residence

PNS ■ New Delhi

With a row erupting over Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending the Ganpati Puja celebrations at Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud's residence, the BJP and its ally hit out at the opposition parties on Thursday, calling their reactions "reckless" and said casting "baseless aspersions" on the highest court sets a dangerous precedent. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Lok Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra hit back at the opposition and asked if the then Chief Justice of India (CJI) did not attend the Iftar



party hosted by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "They do not have any objection to the prime minister meeting the chief justice of India but Ganpati Puja," he said and accused the opposition leaders of indulging in politics. "I am

surprised that if the prime minister meets the chief justice of India, you raise an objection. But when (Rahul Gandhi) meets (US lawmaker) Ilhan Omar, who is with Pok, in America, you have no objection," Patra added.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

CITY EVENTS

Indian Coffee Festival

An extraordinary celebration of India's rich and diverse coffee culture! This event will bring together coffee lovers, connoisseurs, brands, and influencers for brewing sessions, tastings, workshops and exciting experiences.

Venue

The Jubilee Hills Convention Centre, September 13, 14, 15
Time: 1.30 pm

Horticulture Department

Training in urban farming on growing of vegetables on terraces and balconies. Registration fee is Rs 100. For further details contact: 8977714411 / 9491527917

Venue

Telangana Horticulture Training Institute, Red Hills Hyderabad
September 14, 10 am to 1 pm

Novotel

16 years of heartfelt hospitality at Hyderabad Airport.

Venue

Novotel, Hyderabad Airport, September 14, Time: 6.30 pm.

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, till September 15th

Security tightened for docs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"Security has been strengthened by increasing the security staff with police to support duty doctors and they would be on duty in shifts round-the-clock", said a rejoinder issued by the Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital on Thursday. A female doctor, an intern at Gandhi Hospital's casualty wing was assaulted by an intoxicated patient on Wednesday. In this regard, the Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital has said that measures have been taken in the Gandhi Hospital after this incident.

The Superintendent said that an incident of assault was attempted on a Junior doctor by a patient who had been brought with symptoms of alcohol withdrawal symptoms. The incident happened at 3.30 pm on September 11. Immediately, the culprit was handed over to the police and an FIR was booked.



City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

03

City leads surge in EV-related searches

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Metro city Hyderabad leads the surge with a 220% rise in EV-related searches nationwide from January 2022 to August 2023, according to a Justdial report. Hyderabad saw searches grow by 8 times compared to previous levels. Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Jaipur saw searches increase by 3, 2, and 2 times, respectively. Indore topped the chart with a 379% rise, followed by Patna (230%) and Surat (143%) (January-August 2023 vs. January-August 2024).

The report shows that the India's EV market has grown due to government incentives, awareness and improved technology. FADA data shows the electric passenger vehicle market share doubled from 1.3% in March 2022 to 2.6% in March 2023. EV sales jumped 91%, with 90,996 units sold in FY2024. Electric bikes on rent surged most, especially in Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru.



GCC INAUGURATED TO ENHANCE PASSIVE SAFETY TECH

Tech should improve human life, says Min Sridhar Babu

SAMUEL JOSHUA samueljoshuamjmc@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising that technology should improve human life and prevent accidents, IT Minister Sridhar Babu inaugurated the ZF LIFETEC Global Capability Centre (GCC) for passive safety technology, designed to enhance global R&D and engineering collaboration and customer service, on the 2nd floor of Phoenix Centaurus on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu highlighted the \$6 trillion economic damage and 1.2 million global deaths caused by accidents every year. He emphasised the State's need and potential for a safety technology development centre like the GCC. He stated that ZF LIFETEC has strong potential, with over 500 employees now, expected to grow to 5,000 in the coming years. Sridhar commended ZF LIFETEC's innovations in seatbelt systems, airbags, inflators, igniters and steering wheel systems, which will improve quality of life and safety. He appreciated the 2,800 sq



IT Minister Sridhar Babu speaking at the ZF LIFETEC Global Capability Centre in Hyderabad on Thursday

ft facility and promised to provide the best skills and talent for the GCC.

Meanwhile, ZF LIFETEC Executive Vice-President Rudolf Stark said they are focusing on developing advanced high-end active technology and will combine both passive and active systems

in the coming years. He revealed that the company has 5 billion euros revenue, with over 36,000 employees and 48 locations across 20 countries.

He also said that this facility can accommodate 220 employees, with plans to expand in the coming months as needed. He also

noted they are looking for experienced professionals in software, hardware, mechanical, and R&D fields. Rudolf concluded that this inauguration strengthens their global development footprint. He emphasised that customer proximity is key to their growth, and India is a rising market.

LVPEI leads the world in corneal transplantation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Performing over 50,000 corneal transplants since 1987, The L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) has become a global leader. The Shantilal Shanghi Cornea Institute (SSCI) at LVPEI holds the record for the highest number of corneal transplants world-wide. This success, announced on Thursday, was made possible through the hard work of doctors, staff and the generosity of cornea donor families. According to Dr Pravin Vaddavalli, the SSCI, the first Institute of Excellence at LVPEI, addresses corneal blindness and impairment. It is a key global resource for developing cornea care facilities and offers high-quality training and research.

LVPEI's eye bank network, spanning southern and eastern India, collects over 12,000 corneas annually. The Ramayamma International Eye Bank, the largest in Asia-Pacific, has collected over 129,500 corneas since 1989. LVPEI's founding chairman, Dr Gullapalli N Rao highlighted the need for more eye banks, surgeons and funding to meet the country's demand for corneal transplants.

Ganesh Nimajjanam: MMTS specials on Sept 17, 18

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Ganesh Nimajjanam (idols Immersion), South Central Railway will run eight MMTS special trains between various destinations in twin cities in the intervening night of September 17 and 18.

Train No GHL-5 (Hyderabad - Lingampalli) will depart from Hyderabad at 11:10 pm on September 17 and will arrive at Lingampalli at 11:55 while Train No GSH-1 (Secunderabad-Hyderabad) will depart from Secunderabad at 11:50 pm and will arrive at Hyderabad at 12:20 am on September 17.

Train No GLF-6 (Lingampalli-Falaknuma) will depart from Lingampalli at 12:10 am and will arrive at Falaknuma at 1:50 am on September 18. Train No GHL-2 (Hyderabad-Lingampalli) will depart from Hyderabad at 12:30 am and will arrive at Lingampalli at 1:20 am while Train No GLH-3 (Lingampalli-Hyderabad) will depart from Lingampalli at 1:50 am



and will arrive at Hyderabad at 2:40 am on September 18. GFS-7 (Falaknuma-Secunderabad) will depart from Falaknuma at 2:20 am and will arrive at Secunderabad at 3 am on September 18. Train No GHS-4 (Hyderabad-Secunderabad) will depart from Hyderabad at 3:30 am and will arrive at Secunderabad at 4:00 am while Train No GSH-8 (Secunderabad-Hyderabad) depart from Secunderabad at 4:00 am and will arrive at Hyderabad at 4:40 am on September 18.

12 special trains for Dussehra, Diwali & Chhat Festival

In order to clear extra rush on Dussehra, Diwali and Chhat festivals, the South Central Railway (SCR) will run 12 special train services between Secunderabad - Srikakulam Road - Secunderabad from October 2. Train No. 07487 (Secunderabad - Srikakulam Rd) will run from October 2 to November 6 on Wednesdays only while Train No 07488 (Srikakulam Road -Secunderabad) will run from October 3 to November 7 on Thursdays. The total number of services of both trains is 12. En route, the special trains will stop at Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Nadikudi, Piduguralla, Sattenapalle, Guntur, Vijayawada, Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Nidadavolu, Rajahmundry, Sarmalkot, Annavaram, Elamanchilli, Anakapalli, Duvvada, Pendurthi, Kothavalasa, Vizianagaram and Chipurupalli stations in both the directions.

GMRHIAL receives CII award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced the winners of the 25th CII National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2024 at the HICC Novotel on Thursday. This award recognises outstanding achievements and innovations in energy management, showcasing organisations' commitment to sustainability and efficiency. This year, the award programme saw huge participation, with over 570 companies from



15+ sectors registering. Out of them, 207 companies were shortlisted for the final round, representing the highest standards in optimising energy use

and implementing innovative solutions.

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited was named the 2024 leader in

energy management among 21 contenders.

Award category and number of winners are, National Energy Leader: 21 Units (represents consistency in energy performance for 3 consecutive years). Excellent Energy Efficient Unit: 82 units. Energy Efficient Unit: 115 Units. Most Innovative Product/ Service: 2. Young & Emerging Leader in Energy Efficiency: 4. High Impact Program for Energy Efficiency- 2 Organisations.

Indians can travel to Iran without visa for 15 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Iran Consulate General, Hyderabad, has initiated a road show on tourism promotion of Iran at Hotel Taj Deccan, Hyderabad with the presence of Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, the Iranian Deputy Tourism Minister on Thursday. The event aims to highlight Iran's tourism potential and feature the participation of key private sector players from Iran's outbound travel agencies, along with government officials from both countries. The roadshow aims to achieve several key objectives, including promoting a positive image of Iran by highlighting its cultural, historical and natural diversity, increasing the number of international tourists, creating new business opportunities, and introducing new destinations

and attractions.

As per the roadshow organisers, from January 2024, Iran has made it possible for Indians to travel to Iran without visa for 15 days every six months.

One of the main focuses of the event is facilitating direct interaction between the tourism professionals of the two countries through B2B meetings.

These sessions aim to establish direct, face-to-face contact between the tourism sectors of both nations to facilitate practical tourism exchanges. In addition to fostering ties between tourism professionals, the event also offers a platform for identifying and collaborating with new business partners, such as tour operators, airlines, social media influencers and other stakeholders in the tourism industry.

Wine shops, bars to remain closed in city on Sept 17-18

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All the wine shops and bars attached to the restaurants will remain closed on September 17 and 18 in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

In view of the final immersion of Ganesha idols, Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand on Thursday, issued orders to close all the wine shops. The closure will be in effect from 6 am on September 17 to 6 pm on September 18.

The order, issued under Section 20 of the Telangana Excise Act, 1968, aims to maintain public peace and tranquility during the immersion festivities.

All Station House Officers (SHOs) and Additional Inspectors of Law and Order police stations in the city have been authorized to take appropriate legal action against those who violate the notification, the order read.



Two women cops excel in passing out parade

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

In a proud moment for the Telangana Police Academy, two women sub-inspectors, Palli Bhagya Sri and G Saumya, stood out with the best overall performance at the Passing Out Parade of 547 Sub-Inspectors (SIs) held on Wednesday. The ceremony took place at the Raja Bahadur Venkatarama Reddy Telangana Police Academy, Palli Bhagya Sri (Civil) and G Saumya (AR) won awards in three categories: Chief Minister's Baton with

Silver End for Best Indoor Cadet SIs/RSIs, and DGP's Trophy for Best Outdoor Cadet SIs/RSIs. Bhagya Sri also won the Home Minister's Baton with Silver Ends for Best Performance in Indoor Subjects and the DG/Director's Medal for Best in Law Subjects.

The first woman Director of RBVRR, Abhilasha Bisht, highlighted the special initiatives taken to support the cadets during their training. This batch had a special intervention of psycho-social support and a communication channel where every trainee could reach out to me directly via email with their



grievances, making them feel less stressed. The academy provided various amenities, including a cafeteria called Hotspot where cadets could enjoy homemade food and junk food, Wi-Fi, and a buddy system to encourage interaction.

The cadets also had access to in-house psychiatrists and psychologists, meditation sessions and training on financial literacy. Another new initiative is the cadets were allowed to take a break continuously, for

48 hours so that the ones who travel from districts can visit their homes, stay and then come back. The police academy let Sundays also include in the schedule so that the training is not disturbed.

Among the 547 new Sub-Inspectors, 402 are men and 145 are women. They will receive their joining letters from respective zone inspectors and will join the upcoming Ganesh Festival Bandobast as part of the Telangana Home department. The breakdown of the cadets includes 401 civil, 71 armed reserve, 29 Telangana special police, 22 IT&C, 12 SPF, three PTO, and nine fingerprint bureau assistance sub-inspectors.

IG transfers SI on graft charges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

V Satyanarayana, IGP (Multizone-II), on Thursday ordered the transfer of Miryalaguda Rural sub-inspector K Naresht to the zonal office. This move was followed based on a report received from the Nalgonda

Superintendent of Police on the sub-inspector who was facing allegations of corruption. The transfer order mandates that SI Naresht report to the zonal office immediately. IG Satyanarayana has confirmed that disciplinary action would be initiated against the sub-inspector.

Telangana

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

04

Yadadri temple earns Rs 11.64 lakh on Ganesh festival day

PNS ■ YADADRI

A record number of devotees thronged Yadadri temple on Saturday last on account of Ganesh festival. Thousands visited the temple because it was a week-end holiday. They performed special pujas and fulfilled their vows to the deity, according to information released by the temple authorities.

The temple authorities made elaborate arrangements for the benefit of devotees ruling out any inconvenience to them.

According to temple executive officer Bhaskar Rao, the temple earned Rs 11,64,144 on a single day on Saturday last. The following is the break-up of the revenue earned by the temple: main booking-Rs 57,424, break darshan-Rs 44,100, sale of prasaad-Rs 6,47,960, tonsuring of heads - Rs 42,000, Yadarush Nilayam - Rs 33,728, Suvarna Pushpa Archana - Rs 26,400 and car parking-Rs 1,50,000.

He predicted that the number of footfalls of devotees will increase on Sunday pushing up the temple revenue earning.

Stay away from ragging, SP tells students

PNS ■ VEMULAWADA

District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan has asked the managements of the professional colleges and other colleges to constitute anti-ragging committees to ensure that the colleges are free from ragging.

He was addressing polytechnic, JNTU and degree colleges at an awareness campaign. He asked the college managements to closely monitor the situation. If students were found ragging their juniors, the police would get tough with them. Indecent behaviour towards the juniors and posing problems to them would not be tolerated, the SP said.

The students - whether they are seniors or juniors - should mingle with each other in a friendly environment and pursue education and reach lofty positions, he said.

He called ragging illegal and threatened to take stern action against anyone found indulging in ragging. He appealed to the students to call 100 and furnish information on those who indulged in ragging. He asked the students not to get addicted to narcotics like marijuana and drugs which would ruin their lives. He asked them to live up to the expectations of their parents and work hard and attain top positions in their career.

He appealed to women and students come forward and resolve their problems and advised them to boldly air their problems to the police authorities. If girl students complain to SHE teams calling 871265425, legal action would be taken against miscreants, he said.

Losses to irrigation sector pegged at Rs 434.07 cr in Khammam dist

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The irrigation department in the district suffered the highest loss in the district due to the floods triggered by heavy rains.

All government departments sustained a total loss of Rs 730 crore due to floods. This includes Rs 434.07 crore damage caused to the irrigation projects.

The deluge caused bunds to breach and also the Nagarjunasagar canal. At some places the bunds to water bodies were washed away. The floods caused crop loss in 68,000 acres.

The state government has decided to plug the breaches to ensure irrigation to crops in the current agricultural season.

The irrigation tanks and sluices in the district developed a breach at 69 places. Lining in the canals was damaged. The officials estimated that as much as Rs 37 lakh



Central team examining the damage caused by heavy rains in Khammam rural mandal on Wednesday

was required to undertake temporary repairs. However, to repair them on a permanent basis, it would cost the government Rs 433.70 crore, according to estimates furnished to the Central team visiting the district by the

Collector of Khammam Muzameel Khan.

The Nagarjunasagar canals in the adjacent Suryapeta district developed breaches. The main canal developed a breach 132nd km in Kagita Ramachandrapuram village of Nadigudemmandal and

also at the escape regulator at 133.6 km. The officials called tenders to bridge the breaches and also to do the work of the canal lining at a cost of Rs 2.10 crore.

In Khammam district, the officials invited bids for plugging the breaches, canal lining works and for other works with estimates of Rs 17 crore. At Palair mini-hydel power station, the canal bund developed a breach. In the second zone, the main canal developed a breach at 140.2 km. At a place close to the breach, the bund developed another breach. The government wants to get repairs to the canal executed by inviting short tender notices. Meanwhile, the government officials have initiated the necessary process to finalise the bids. Once the funds are released, the bidding process will be completed to get the works executed in two weeks.

SP calls upon people to celebrate Ganesh immersion peacefully

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

District Superintendent of Police Sudheer Ramnadh Kekan on Thursday called upon the people to cooperate with police in peaceful Ganesh immersion and maintained that the police department has put in place fool-proof measures for the same. The Ganesh pandal organisers and Ganesh Utsav Committee members should follow the suggestions given by the police and extend their cooperation for the smooth conduct of the procession.

The SP said that CCTV cameras have been installed at important places as a security measure.

The local expert swimmers are available if anything goes



Mahabubabad Superintendent of Police Sudheer Ramnadh Kekan addressing a meeting in Mahabubabad on Thursday

wrong during the immersion. All along the route of the Ganesh immersion procession, he said, stringent measures have been initiated to prevent any untoward inci-

dent taking place with the help of all government departments.

Using DJ systems, sound systems and bursting of fire-crackers was prohibited, he said.

The youth should exercise restraint during the immersion procession and set as an example for others, especially the elders and the children. Everyone should respect the rule of law and function within its parameters. If anyone violates the law, stringent measures would be initiated against them, he cautioned.

Therefore, he appealed to the people to completely cooperate with the police in peaceful and harmonious celebration of the Ganesh immersion procession

Minister distributes laptops to 5 visually-challenged students

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao distributed laptops to the visually-challenged students at a programme held at his camp office here on Thursday

under the aegis of the Chetana foundation.

The Minister distributed laptops to the visually-impaired students pursuing education in various degree colleges in Hyderabad and vowed to do more for them in future.

Serving the visually-challenged students is a great achievement, he said, recalling the relief activities implemented by the Chetana Foundation during the recent floods to the Munneru stream.

CM appreciates TDF report on education sector

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Telangana Development Forum (TDF) chairman and Komatireddy Prateek Foundation chief executive officer MV Gona Reddy and TDF founder member Gade Gopal Reddy said, in a statement here on Thursday, that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had appreciated the report prepared by the TDF on the education sector. The Chief Minister said that the report would be taken into consideration when reforms in education sector are take up.

They said that they had recently met the Chief Minister and submitted a report on school education. They stressed the need for reforms in school education. Similarly,



Telangana Development Forum chairman MV Gona Reddy and founder member Gade Gopal Reddy meeting Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in

the Chief Minister's attention was also drawn to the service activities undertaken by the Komatireddy Prateek Foundation in the education sector in the state.

The Chief Minister said that

he would take the suggestions of college teachers, professors and intellectuals on these education-related matters and move forward to bring good results in the Telangana education system.

'Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam' to be organised on a grand scale

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy on Thursday said that the State government has directed the district administration celebrate September 17 as 'Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam'.

On Thursday, the Collector held a meeting with district officials through teleconference on the preparations for the 17th Public Governance Day.

He said that the national flag would be hoisted on all govern-

ment offices, offices of local bodies and gram panchayats.

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy will unfurl the national flag at 10 am at the Police Parade Grounds in Nalgonda. He directed the officials to make all necessary arrangements at the Police Parade Grounds.

Apart from students, all Anganwadi, ASHA workers and employees have been asked to attend these programmes. The District Education Officers and



C Narayana Reddy

DPROs have been directed to organise cultural programmes involving students.

District Superintendent of Police Sarat Chandra Pawar said that necessary arrangements would be made for the celebration at the Police Parade Grounds.

Additional Collector J Srinivas said that all necessary arrangements will be made as per the directions of the District Collector.

On the occasion, officials of various departments were present.

CMRF cheques distributed to 37 beneficiaries of Palair constituency

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Congress leader Maddineni Baby Swarna Kumari, at a programme held at Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's camp office on Thursday, distributed the Chief Minister Relief Fund

cheques worth Rs 11.50 lakh to 37 beneficiaries of Tirumalayapalem, Nelakondapalli mandals of Minister Ponguleti's Palair Assembly constituency. She hailed the minister for working hard to develop the constituency. She said that the Minister would

come to the rescue of the people of the constituency and help everyone. Congress party leaders ChavaSivaramakrishna, former MPP KoppulaShok, Nelakonda palli market chairman VennapusaSitaramulu and others were present.



MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, along with former MPP Venugopal Goud and other dignitaries, participating in a program at Vinayaka mantap in Shadnagar on Thursday

MLA stresses importance of community spirit

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar on Thursday said that he was to participate in youth-led spiritual program organised by Mahaveer Youth, highlighting the importance of service and community spirit. The MLA, along with former MPP Venugopal Goud, former Jandagudem sarpanch Sudarshan Goud, and Srisailand Goud, took part in a program at the Vinayaka Mantap where food was distributed to devotees.

After performing a special puja at the event, Shankar officially inaugurated the food donation drive. The organisers warmly welcomed and honored the MLA and other dignitaries for their participation.

Speaking at the event, Shankar expressed happiness at being part of the spiritual event, praising the youth for fostering a positive, community-driven atmosphere. He emphasised that spiritual programs like these instill a sense of service and mental strength in participants.

The MLA also conveyed his best wishes for the ongoing Vinayaka Chaviti Navratri celebrations, urging the community to perform the rituals with devotion for the well-being and prosperity of all. He prayed for happiness and prosperity of people.

Congress Party mandal unit president Gongalla Harinath Reddy, councillor Madaram Narasimha Goud, and senior Congress leaders Induri Srinivas and Kammaru Janardhan Chari, among others. Youth members from Mahaveer Youth, including Rishi Goud, Pranav

Dharmaram Branch
Dharmaram

Ref: Br/Hunter road/2824-2506 Branch: Dharmaram
Date: 11/09/2024

Regd AID
To: 1. Mrs. Mandu Sunalsha W/o Chintla Karunakar (Borrower) Address 1: H.No 29-5-1512 Pochamma Veedi, Chintlagadda, Hasanparthy, Warangal 506001 Address 2: H.No 35-7-7712, Plot No 7, Survey no 95, 100, Hanamkonda, Warangal - 506001. 2. Mr. Chintla Karunakar S/o Chintla Koteswar (Co-Borrower & Mortgagee) Address 1: H.No 29-5-1512 Pochamma Veedi, Chintlagadda, Hasanparthy, Warangal 506001 Address 2: H.No 35-7-7712, Plot No 7, Survey no 95, 100, Hanamkonda, Warangal - 506001

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(1)(2) read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 02.07.2024 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Mandu Sunalsha W/o Chintla Karunakar (Borrower), Address 1: H.No 29-5-1512 Pochamma Veedi, Chintlagadda, Hasanparthy, Warangal 506001; Address 2: H.No 35-7-7712, Plot No 7, Survey no 95, 100, Hanamkonda, Warangal - 506001 and Co-Borrower Mr. Chintla Karunakar S/o Chintla Koteswar (Co-Borrower & Mortgagee), Address 1: H.No 29-5-1512 Pochamma Veedi, Chintlagadda, Hasanparthy, Warangal 506001; Address 2: H.No 35-7-7712, Plot No 7, Survey no 95, 100, Hanamkonda, Warangal - 506001 with our Dharmaram Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 26,68,256.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Nine Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower has failed to repay the entire amount; notice is hereby given to the borrower and public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on the date 11th September 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 26,68,256.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Nine Only) and interest thereon.

We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities

Description of the Immovable Property

Property Details	Registration Details	Boundaries
Property/Owner: Mr. Chintla Karunakar S/o Chintla Koteswar Address 1: H.No 29-5-1512 Pochamma Veedi, Chintlagadda, Hasanparthy, Warangal 506001; Address 2: H.No 35-7-7712, Plot No 7, Survey no 95, 100, Hanamkonda, Warangal - 506001	Document No: 15473/2018 dated: 21.07.2018. of SRO: Warangal R.D.(2111)	PROPERTY- North- 20' Wide Road West- 20' Wide Road East- 20' Wide Road South- New house constructing in Plot No 7 (Part) of others South- New house constructing in Plot No 7 (Part) of others

Date: 11.09.2024 Sd/-Authorized Officer
Place: Dharmaram Branch Indian Bank

FORM-VI See Sub-rule(1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013 GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT Collector/Joint Collector / Special Collector (LA) / SDG (LA) PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION No.G1/1595/2023 dt: 5.09.2024						
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector that a total of Ac.696.00 gts of Patta land specified in the "Schedule" below situated in the limits of Moghalpashad village of Anthargama Mandal, Peddapalli District is required for the purpose of "Construction of Ash Dyke Stage-II, Telangana STPP Project". As per section 2 of 6 & 10A of RFCTLARR Act, 2013, SIA of Chapter II and safeguard Food Security of Chapter III are exempted in terms of G.O.Ms.No.3 Energy (Budget/A1) Department dt:02.03.2019. Therefore it is notified that the above said project in the Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal, Peddapalli District a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac.696.00 gts standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition.						
SCHEDULE Village: Moghalpashad; Mandal: Anthargama; District: Peddapalli						
Sl No.	Sr. No.	SDR Extent	Name of the landholder as per Dabdar	Name of the allottee	Status in Dabdar	Remarks
1	232	5.00	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	Sl.No/232, 24, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 & 59 in Anthargama Mandal, but not digital signed. As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
2	24	107.05	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
3	53	14.33	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
4	54	19.38	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
5	55	63.28	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
6	59	117.30	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
7	57	130.14	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
8	58	109.38	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
9	59	37.12	Raja Venkato Murali Manohar Rao s/o Venkata Ratha Kishan Rao	Others	NON-Digital Signed	As per Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Proceeding No. B0/1991/2016, Dt: 13.08.2016 the wrong entries in respect of the lands in Sl.Nos. 7, 232, 24, 25, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 situated at Moghalpashad Village of Anthargama Mandal in revenue records restricted on the name of the original pattadar late P.V. Maruti Menohar Rao which was existing prior to entry of the above wrong entries for the remaining land acquired by NTPC.
Total 696.00						
This Notification is made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013)", to all whom it may concern.						
After completion of enjoyment survey, the same names will be included in the Publication of Declaration.						
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Peddapalli and Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli and his staff and workmen to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.						
Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/ purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.						
Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided U/s 15 of the Act before District Collector Sd/- Sd/- Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Addl. Collector, Dist. Collector, Revenue Divisional Officer, Peddapalli Peddapalli Peddapalli						
DIPR No.243/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25						

ACROSS THE STATES



Ambedkar idol desecrated in UP, BSP leaders protest

A statue of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar installed in a village of Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district was desecrated by some unknown persons, police said on Thursday. Angered over the incident, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leaders staged a protest and raised slogans, after which a new statue was installed there. The incident took place in Bahadurpur village under Fefna police station limits on Wednesday night, the police said. The police said they have lodged a case in the matter and initiated investigation. Brijmohan Saroj, Station House Officer (SHO), Fefna, said, "A case has been registered against unknown persons in this matter on the complaint of one Akhilesh Kumar." On receiving information about the incident, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leaders and supporters of the area reached the spot in large numbers and began sloganeering. On the other hand, Deputy Superintendent of Police Shyam Kant also reached the spot with police force. The SHO said a new statue has been installed at the spot.



Mayawati has 'contract' to support RSS, BJP: Cong

The Congress on Thursday hit back at BSP supremo Mayawati for her attack on Rahul Gandhi, saying she has taken a "contract" to support the RSS and the BJP and it is, therefore, necessary to finish her off politically. Unorganised Workers & Employees Congress Chairman Udit Raj alleged that whenever Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi attacks the RSS and the BJP, Mayawati feels the pain. His remarks came a day after the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president alleged that Gandhi was making misleading statements about reservation and said his own party did not let the Bill on SC/ST reservation in promotions pass during its 10-year rule at the Centre. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also claimed that when not in power, the Congress talks about the "neglected" classes of SC, ST and OBC but when in power, it works "against" their interests.

'Peace talks cannot happen without Russia, Ukraine on board'

PNS ■ GENEVA

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said India is among the few countries that have the ability to talk to both Russia and Ukraine to find a solution outside the battlefield but asserted that negotiations cannot happen without the two parties on board.

Jaishankar, who was in conversation with Ambassador Jean-David Levitte at Global Centre for Security Policy, a think tank, here was answering a question about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visits to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin and to Ukraine to meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he reiterated India's stated position of finding a solution outside the battlefield.

After elaborating on how Modi's visit took place over the last two months, Jaishankar said, "We're not going to get a military solution; there has to be a diplomatic one, and negotiated one" and added that it is for the parties to decide the terms of negotiation.

In a veiled reference to the West's unilateral efforts to discuss the end of the Russia-Ukraine war, said, "You know, a negotiation cannot be one party and all its supporters coming together and the other party is not in the room, then it's not a negotiation."

Jaishankar, who reached Geneva after a two-day visit to



Doval meets Putin in St Petersburg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Thursday met Russian President Vladimir Putin amid renewed efforts to find a solution to the Ukraine conflict.

The meeting took place on the margins of a conclave of national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) nations in St Petersburg.

In the talks, Putin hoped that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Russia's Kazan next month to attend the annual BRICS summit.

The Russian President also proposed a bilateral meeting with Modi on October 22 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit to analyse bilateral engagement and to discuss



"future-oriented" actions.

"We are waiting for our good friend Modi and best regards to him," the Russian media quoted Putin as saying in the meeting with Doval.

On Wednesday, the NSA held wide-ranging talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu and discussed important issues of "mutual interests".

It is understood that Modi's talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on August 23 figured in the talks between the two NSAs.

Germany, said, "The would be a few countries who have the ability to talk in both places, who can, who are not seen as in one country as being in the other party. I think these countries have a possibility today," he said, giving examples of Saudi Arabia and UAE.

A time has arrived when there should be a realisation that the continuation of Russia-Ukraine conflict is hurting both countries and it should end soon, he said, and mentioned how the Ukraine conflict actually tells how "interdependent and globalised and tightly woven" the world is.

The war had an immediate impact on fuel prices creating a disturbance in the global economy and global finance and had collateral consequences on other societies, he said and pointed out how many of the consequences of this (Russia-Ukraine) conflict were actually felt far away and gave Sri Lanka's example.

The amount of fuel came down by half because of the cost of fuel and "so, a lot of the crisis in Sri Lanka was actually a secondary or tertiary consequence of what was happening in Ukraine," he explained.

He also drew attention to the happenings in the Middle East, in Gaza because "it's affecting shipping as the Houthis targeting of shipping has big consequences. It has radicalisation implications."



Rahul committed 'rashtradrroh' with foolish remarks in US: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday upped the ante against Rahul Gandhi, saying the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha has committed "treason" with his foolish remarks in the US.

"Rahul Gandhi has committed 'rashtradrroh' (treason) in the US. The entire country is hurt by the kind of image of India he has projected in the US," BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra told a press conference at the party headquarters.

The Lok Sabha MP said Gandhi's "arrogance" of being the leader of opposition is reflected in Parliament and his "foolishness" in the US.

"When caste is pitted against caste, religion is pitted against religion and harsh comments are made about Sikhs in a foreign country, it is called 'rashtradrroh'," the BJP spokesperson said.

Patra said people who do not know how to project India in the right perspective in a

foreign land and consistently try to defy "our motherland" should not be taken very seriously.

"Everyone knows who is a 'panauti'? 'Pappu' and 'panauti' go together. Whatever Pappu has touched, it suffered destruction... He is the biggest 'panauti' of the Congress," the BJP leader said in an apparent reference to Gandhi.

Patra said the Congress has been suffering defeats in elections since Gandhi came at the helm.

"Take it in writing, the Congress will not rise so long as he (Rahul Gandhi) is there. The rocket will not launch because there is no fuel in it," the BJP leader added.

Patra alleged that the Congress' sole objective was to make Gandhi prime minister "at any cost".

For this, they are ready to even divide the country and pit people against each other, he alleged, adding, "But, remember Rahul Gandhi cannot be launched".

Delhi court grants bail to 'middleman' Chauhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to "middleman" Vinod Chauhan in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja granted the relief to Chauhan, who was accused of transferring cash sourced through alleged kickbacks given by the "South Group" to the AAP, for the party's poll campaign in Goa.

Chauhan was given bail on a personal bond of Rs 10 lakh. He was arrested by the Enforcement

EXCISE 'SCAM'

Directorate (ED) in May. On June 28, the ED filed a supplementary chargesheet against Chauhan in the case.

He was the 18th person to be arrested by the ED in the case, in which the federal agency had also taken into custody Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal, his party colleague and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, BRS leader and former Telangana cm K Chandrashekar Rao's politician daughter K Kavitha, several liquor businessmen and others.

Dhankhar slams Rahul for remarks in US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said there was nothing more condemnable and intolerable than one in constitutional position becoming part of enemies of the nation, in an apparent attack on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his remarks made in the United States.

Bio-E3 policy will usher in bio-revolution in India: Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government's Bio-E3 policy marks a crucial step in positioning India as a global bio-economy leader and is set to spark a "bio-revolution" in India similar to the IT revolution in the western world, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

The BioE3 policy was formally launched last month and aims to facilitate sustainable and efficient utilisation of biological resources for innovation, scaling-up and bio-manufacturing of specialty chemicals, enzymes,

bio-polymers, functional foods, smart proteins, veterinary products, precision bio-therapeutics and services. Speaking at the Global Bio-India Summit 2024, Singh said the policy marks a crucial step in positioning India as a global bio-economy leader.

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology also highlighted the importance of the Global Biotech platform, which brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including start-ups, SMEs, large industries, research institutes, and interna-

tional bodies. Underscoring the wide range of opportunities in sectors like bio-pharma, bio-energy, and bio-industries, which are rapidly evolving and contributing to the nation's bio-economy, the minister said the Bio-E3 policy focuses on biotechnology for economy, employment, and the environment. This policy, he said, is poised to usher in a "bio-revolution" akin to the IT revolution in the western world, supporting areas such as bio-based chemicals, climate-resilient agriculture, and carbon capture.

Speeding CM, halting..

Continued from page 1

Residents and rescue teams, including personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), were left without crucial information about stranded individuals and livestock. "There was a clear communication gap from the state government," sources in NRDF said, claiming alleged absence of data that was essential for rescue operations.

Despite the gravity of the flood crisis, the District Collector remained out of the spotlight. This led critics to draw a striking parallel to the situation following previous similar emergencies when officials were highly visible. In another worrying development, the Chief Secretary's office failed to release regular updates on the number of deaths or livestock damage caused by the floods.

Given Telangana's past experience in dealing with floods, a Control Room had been set up; yet, it remained non-operational, with no officials or prop-

er infrastructure available. "The whole arrangement seemed more like a formality than an effective solution. Were there any pictures released apart from one sticker with a number?" a seasoned administrator asked pointedly, sticking to this position that it was crass admin failure.

The inefficiencies extend beyond crisis management. Many citizens are struggling with red-tapism in the bureaucratic system, including those who had been waiting for over six months to receive their retirement benefits.

The inertia within the Irrigation Department is another example cited by watchful administrators as characteristic of bureaucrats who are deliberately distancing themselves from the government's development agenda. In the Kaleshwaram project's controversy, officials are reportedly unwilling to revisit decisions made under the previous regime, even when those decisions are under scrutiny.

War of abusive words, attack..

Continued from page 1

The abusive words used against each other were so bad that they could not be published. Gandhi's appointment irked the K. Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS, which called it a "day-light murder of the Constitution" as it is a tradition to appoint an opposition member as the PAC chairman.

Earlier, Reddy referring to Gandhi's claims that he still belongs to the BRS, said he was inviting the defected legislator to his residence and offered to take him to the BRS office.

Reacting to Reddy's "offer," Gandhi along with his followers reached Reddy's residence where supporters of both leaders had indulged in jostling.

A windowpane of Reddy's residence was broken in the din. However, police intervened and dispersed Gandhi and his followers. Addressing the media, Kaushik said he spoke to senior police officials but there was no response. He said there would be a "reaction" from the BRS on Wednesday regarding the incident. He said that Gandhi's followers attacked some women at his house. Former Ministers Harish Rao, Sabitha Indra Reddy, Prashanth Reddy, Gangula Kamalakar, along with MLAs and other leaders.

They later staged a protest. "We will not leave the Cyberabad CP office until those responsible for the attack on Kaushik are arrested, and

the CI and ACP who incited the violence are suspended," they said.

"The police's failure directly led to the attack on MLA Kaushik Reddy's house. The officers responsible must be immediately suspended. At the Narsingi Police Station, defected MLAs are being given preferential treatment. Justice must be served for MLA Kaushik Reddy, and law and order in the state must be restored. We are committed to preserving Hyderabad's image. In the past, Telangana police were seen as a role model across the country. However, under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership, the police are not being allowed to perform their duties properly," the MP said.

Govt forms panel..

Continued from page 1

The committee, led by the Minister for I&CAD, Food & Civil Supplies, Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy, as Chairman, will have several key members including Damodar Rajanarsimha, the Minister for Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Science and Technology, serving as the Co-Chairman.

The other members of the committee are Duddilla Sridhar Babu, the Minister for Information Technology, Ponnamp Prabhakar, the Minister for Transport, D. Anasuya Seethakka, the Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and Dr Mallu Ravi, the MP representing the Nagarkurnool constituency. The Principal Secretary of the Scheduled Caste Development Department will act as the convener for this committee. The committee's task is to thoroughly study the judgement and provide recommendations on the way forward for Telangana regarding the sub-classification of SC/ST reserved categories.

Govt should run 'Secular HYDRAA,'..

Continued from page 1

He demanded that the government should release a white paper on expenditure incurred in flood-hit areas. He said that it is not proper for the state government to blame the Centre without spending a single penny.

He said they are taking up 'Rythu Deeksha' on September 20 demanding that the government should implement the Loan Waiver scheme fully. He said the BJP will fight till the government implements the farm loan waiver scheme in toto. He said the Centre has

already assured that it will help the flood-hit people of Telugu states and that there is a need for the government to create awareness among the public regarding the Waqf Board issue. He said that they will go to the people to create awareness.

Maheshwar Reddy said the Chief Minister and Ministers are speaking differently regarding the defections of some MLAs. He demanded the government should clear its stand on defections and that they will fight till the government implements its 6-guarantees.

Court intervenes to..

Continued from page 1

The Discoms argued that while corridor charges and payments were still under review by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), Power Grid's actions were unjust. They requested the court to intervene and restore Telangana's ability to participate in power purchases.

The High Court responded promptly, ordering the resumption of power exchange transactions for Telangana Discoms, ensuring there would be no disruption in power supply. It also issued interim orders to the Power Grid, advising them to halt any further actions regarding corridor charges until the CERC concluded its inquiry.

The corridor dispute dates back to an agreement made by the BRS government with the Power Grid Corporation (PGCIL) to book a transmission corridor for importing electricity from Chhattisgarh. The agreement, initially intended for 1,000 MW, was later extended by an additional 1,000 MW, according to the discoms. This led to the current conflict, as the had only signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 1,000 MW, but PowerGrid insisted on a full 2,000 MW commitment.

In 2015, Telangana Discoms signed a 12-year, long-term power purchase agreement with the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited (CSPDCL) for generating 1,000 MW of electricity from the Marwa Thermal Power Plant.

Our govt would..

Continued from page 1

During a chit-chat with journalists in New Delhi on Thursday, the CM said that he would not comment on issues concerning the three BRS MLAs as the matter was in court and with the Speaker. The Speaker will take his decision, the CM said.

Saying that they have yet to study the High Court verdict regarding the three BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress, the CM said that BRS leaders are playing psychological games. The Constitution does not treat anyone as special, he said.

Cong activists not..

Continued from page 1

He said the Congress will fight legally against the HC verdict regarding MLAs who defect. No one cares about KTR's challenges, Mahesh said and added that some more BRS MLAs are ready to join the Congress. He said that Arekupati Gandhi is technically a BRS MLA and he became the PAC Chairman as per rules.

Panchayat Secy held..

Continued from page 1

The tainted bribe was recovered from his possession, and traces were found on his right hand and the contact portion of his trousers, which tested positive during the investigation.

The ACB officials stated that the officer had misused his position to gain undue advantage by demanding the bribe in return for performing an official duty. Following his arrest, he was presented before the Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases Court in Hyderabad. The case is currently under investigation.

Talks to end deadlock turns..

Continued from page 1

Banerjee, who waited for the medics to join the meeting for two hours and 10 minutes, later told reporters that the meeting couldn't be live-streamed as demanded since the issue remains sub-

judice before various courts including the Supreme Court. "What the Supreme Court can, we can't. There are concrete directions from courts against making discussions on sub-judice matters public. We had placed three cameras to record meeting proceedings, which we

could have shared with doctors with the apex court's permission," Banerjee said after leaving Nabanna Sabhaghar, the meeting venue at the secretariat.

The doctors, on their part, maintained that they had "no ulterior motive for making that demand other than ensuring transparency".

half. There should be a limit to such demands," Pant said.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

Ayushman bhav!

The Union Cabinet extends Ayushman Bharat to senior citizens Above 70; a move that would benefit six crore people

In a significant move the Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme to all citizens above 70 years of age, regardless of their income or social standing. The Cabinet's decision fulfils a key promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign. This move is expected to transform healthcare for senior citizens, providing much-needed relief to millions who have been struggling with rising medical costs and insufficient insurance coverage. Since its launch over five years ago, Ayushman Bharat has provided healthcare access to millions across India, covering hospitalisations and treatments for families that otherwise couldn't afford medical care. However, data has shown that nearly every fourth person admitted to hospitals under this scheme has been a senior citizen, highlighting their disproportionate need for medical support. Out of over one crore admissions, 24% were of citizens aged 60 and above, demonstrating how



essential this safety net is for the elderly. The latest decision to extend coverage to all citizens over 70 is particularly significant as this age group is often neglected by private insurers. Most health insurance companies either refuse to offer policies to those above 70 or charge prohibitively high premiums. Even when insurance is available, pre-existing conditions are often excluded for the first two to three years, leaving many senior citizens without immediate access to treatment for serious ailments like heart disease, kidney issues, and diabetes. With the new policy, six crore people over 70 years of age are expected to benefit, receiving health insurance coverage up

to Rs 5 lakh per year. This applies on a family basis, ensuring that elderly individuals, even those abandoned by families or facing financial hardships, can now access free or affordable medical care. The extension of Ayushman Bharat to all citizens above 70 comes at a critical time. Procedures like dialysis, heart surgeries, and cancer treatments are not only expensive but also frequent among senior citizens. The new policy provides a safety net for seniors who have, until now, been forced to bear these expenses themselves or rely on insufficient public health programs. Rs 5 lakh coverage under Ayushman Bharat will lift much of this financial burden, enabling families to access quality healthcare without worrying about their savings. Apart from the direct medical benefits, this policy could have far-reaching social implications. India's senior citizens, especially those in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, often face neglect and abandonment when they become ill. This policy not only promises improved healthcare outcomes but also offers dignity and security to millions of older Indians at a time when they need it most. As this initiative rolls out, its impact on families, communities, and the healthcare system at large will likely be profound, marking a significant leap toward inclusive and accessible healthcare for all.

PICTALK



Visitors at the Taj Mahal during rain, in Agra.

Resignation shakes Trinamool Congress



SIDHARTH MISHRA

Jawahar Sircar's resignation from Rajya Saha highlights growing discontent in Bengal over the State's response to crimes against women

Trinamool Congress Member of Rajya Sabha and former Chairman of Prasar Bharati Jawahar Sircar has resigned both from parliament and the party. Sircar tendered resignation to protest the 'mishandling' of the trainee-doctor rape-cum-murder case at RG Kar Medical in Kolkata. The resignation is significant as Sircar is part of 'Kolkata Bhadrak' which has so far remained steadfast in its support of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee. The move also indicates that the West Bengal assembly passing a 'very stringent anti-rape law' bill has not cut much ice with the people, who so far have resisted condoning the errors committed by the Mamata government in the matter.

The West Bengal bill, which has now been referred by the Governor to the President, has also not found much echo outside the state. The Aparajita Woman and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, passed by the West Bengal Assembly is not the first of its kind. In the past five years, Andhra Pradesh (Disha) and Maharashtra (Shakti) passed similar bills with a death penalty clause against the rapists but they are still to bring any change in the matter. All these bills were preceded by Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 through which Capital Punishment for rape made its entry into the Indian Penal Code.

This followed the public outrage after the brutal gang rape and murder of a woman on a moving bus in Delhi on December 16, 2012, which shook the collective conscience of the nation. Parliament passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to allow the death penalty in rape cases where the accompanying brutality leads to death or leaves the victim in a persistent vegetative state. Whatever name you may give Aparajita, Disha or Shakti, these bills are meaningless as long as cases about rape remain pending in the courts for years together. In 2022, com-



bined with those brought in the previous years, courts had around 2 lakh cases for trial. However, trials could be completed in only a little over 18,000 cases, which was less than the number of incidents as well as police charge sheets filed that year. Finally, the conviction rate of 27.4% in rape cases means seven out of every 10 accused persons were acquitted. So just making the laws doesn't help. Speaking at a function some months back, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud had quoted BR Ambedkar saying, "However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those responsible for its functioning happen to be a good lot." Maker of the Constitution in the concluding speech before the Constituent Assembly had said, "However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot. The Constitution can provide only the organs of the State such as the Legislature, the



THE WEST BENGAL BILL, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN REFERRED BY THE GOVERNOR TO THE PRESIDENT, HAS ALSO NOT FOUND MUCH ECHO OUTSIDE THE STATE

Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics." If the rapes are not stopping in this country or if the anti-rape laws are not proving to be effective in punishing the rapists, it's a failure of culture more than the law. Our society is not very forthcoming in the accommodating the woes of a rape victim, and in most cases, the survivor and the family are subjected to terrible humiliation. Those tasked with implementing the Constitution have to possess the spirit of public service rather than political expediency. There is a recent case study carried out by the Uttar Pradesh Police in Ghaziabad district which reiterates the aforementioned premise. There is an existing government policy for establishing Pink Police Outposts under every police station. The rules have been there but not much work has been done beyond the customary launching of the programme with much fanfare. However, Ghaziabad Police last year

decided to implement the programme in mission mode, and 20 Pink Booths exclusively manned by female police personnel were established in September 2023. A year later the results were for all to see. The mere presence of a force for women's safety had its impact. According to the data released by Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems of Uttar Pradesh Police, crime against women which included dowry deaths, dowry-related cases, molestation, rape and kidnapping came down by approximately 24 per cent. The biggest fall of over 36 per cent was in dowry deaths thus at least securing women inside their homes. If such an initiative by Ghaziabad Police can achieve such results one is sure at the state government level such steps can be taken more effectively. One is not sure how effectively have these pink police outposts been functioning in West Bengal, where the government has just brought a more stringent anti-rape law. (Sidharth Mishra is the author & president Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Madam — The news on Niti Aayog's response to future public health crisis (12-9-24) recommending a legislation is strange. Legislations cannot solve these problems. The status of healthcare, access to nutrition and hunger relief puts India at a shabby bottom line in the global index. Without improving these factors planning to face a likely pandemic can only be an act of humour. Healthcare is made a commodity as understood from levying GST on availing medicines, medical devices and even on life and health insurance policies. Productivity of the nation depends on the productivity of its people. A sane idea would be to improve the health condition of the people by offering the best healthcare to all in the public healthcare institutions. If done so it would take care of major issues connected with pandemics. We have many legislations not implemented with enough seriousness. Therefore Niti Aayog should get down to understand the ground realities and plan accordingly.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

CHIP MAKING IN INDIA

Madam—Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy. During his speech at the SEMICON 2024 conference the PM made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors. A Year ago the Union Cabinet had approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductor and display board, production in the country. Heavy surge in sales of electronic devices during the pandemic and the indefinite closure of giant chip companies during the lockdown had in fact given rise to a crisis of scarcity of semi conductors in the global market. These chips are in fact the 'life' of millions of products in our daily life, ranging from automobiles to fridges and washing machines to computers and smartphones and so on. Insufficiency of these chips had slowed down the produc-

Differently abled deserve a better deal



18th place finish, with 29 medals, is a testament to this shift, showcasing their growing impact in sports and society. The Paralympics not only highlights athletic achievements but also emphasizes the right to participate in sports as a fundamental human right. Athletes like Avani Lekhara, Sumit Antil, and 17-year-old Sheetal Devi have become global icons, demonstrating that perseverance can lead to greatness. Their success is supported by initiatives like Khelo India and the Sports Authority of India, ensuring that they receive the same recognition as their Olympic peers, such as Neeraj Chopra and Manu Bhaker. This triumph inspires both the 2.66 crore differently abled individuals in India and able-bodied people, showing that true strength comes from within. Learning from these athletes can benefit all sports and help reshape perceptions worldwide.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

REWRITING HISTORY AND SCIENCE

Madam — Should we trust the BJP or the facts proven by history and science? Some pseudo-nationalist leaders in India have cultivated a loyal following that supports their every claim, no matter how questionable. For instance, Madhya Pradesh's Higher Education Minister Indir Singh Parmar recently claimed that Indian ancestors, not Christopher Columbus, discovered America. He also asserted that students have been taught "wrong history," alleging that the Indian hero Vasulun reached America in the 8th century and built temples in Santiago. Such statements reflect a broader attempt to reshape both history and science. Previously, leaders have made bizarre assertions, here's even a claim that Rishi Kanad tested an atomic bomb millions of years ago. Despite the absurdity of these claims, experts remain silent, as dissent is neither allowed nor encouraged in this new system.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

M Pradyu | Kannur

The erosion of local cultures and the rise of digital colonisation



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

We are increasingly relying on digital platforms which have a huge impact on local cultures and thought processes. This raises critical concerns about the future of our cultural identity

There was a time when people from a village knew each other. A minute change in a person's behaviour shall bring to the attention of others. Children were safe in that society. Every town or every place in our country has a uniqueness in its culture, traditions, language, food habits, products produced, and even a story to tell. Colonisation, both external and internal, characterised by the exercise of control by one group over another, has profoundly impacted rewriting history. The motivations behind it have been many, encompassing economic profit, territorial expansion, religious conversion, and geopolitical power, among other considerations. In earlier times, it was foreigners who intruded into the local community; now, the movement of native people from one place to another has changed the demographic profile of a region. For many individuals, the consequences of colonialism have been devastating, resulting in the deliberate destruction of cultural customs, the exploitation of individuals, and the forced



displacement of populations. The cultural erasure caused by colonisation is one of its most enduring impacts. Colonizers often portrayed their own cultures as superior, leading to the suppression of indigenous languages, religions, and customs. In that process, we even lost the local economies that were thriving in our society. Even the different dialects spoken by people of a state or region have been lost because of outside interaction. This has even been reflected in the literary works created during the time. Unfortunately, with colonisation, we made our society a homogeneous one. This can be observed when we travel across the country. The uniform way we built our infrastructure in our cities has made every city look the same. Until the late 90s, every place

in our country was known by some unique geography, a specific market, or even the presence of a person. Nevertheless, colonialism has also led to the exchange of knowledge, culture, food habits, concepts, and technology between the native and colonised populations. In the 21st century, the internet has brought about a new type of colonisation that has begun infiltrating our society. This new form of colonisation is known as digital colonisation. The term "digital colonisation" refers to the dominance of numerous multinational technology businesses, the majority of which are based in the United States and a few wealthy nations, over the digital infrastructure and data of the entire world. For all of our day-to-day requirements, we began to rely more on digital platforms, reducing the amount of personal interaction. This new digital culture has infiltrated even the remotest parts of our country. These digital titans prioritise everything in our lives, including what we should buy, who we should be friends

with, where to study, which course to study, and even where to give birth. This can potentially destroy local traditions and languages, as most language formats used today are designed to suit digital platforms. People started believing blindly whatever is available on digital platforms. The addiction is so severe that the auto and taxi drivers of Delhi-NCR, who had excellent navigation skills earlier using the brain, have shifted to Google Maps. Global IT giants promote a universal digital culture for various reasons, many of which are tied to their business models and growth strategies. Although this digital culture promotes global connectivity, information accessibility and collaboration, it also has the potential to obscure regional diversity and traditional lifestyles. The concentration of power in the hands of a few tech companies, cultural erasure, and privacy are all concerns raised by the dominance of these corporations. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

DIPLOMATIC BOOST TO SEMICONDUCTORS

India and Singapore are building a resilient semiconductor supply chain



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Domestic politics may be a key issue for the ruling NDA alliance, however, it has not taken away Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on constantly working on fine-tuning India's foreign policy. PM Modi recently was in Brunei a first for any Indian Prime Minister on a bilateral state visit, to a country located strategically in the South China Sea. Brunei's visit was topped by the PM's visit to Singapore, an important technology ally for India in the region. India and Singapore will be entering into the 60th year of diplomatic relationship next year and both countries have decided to upgrade their existing bilateral partnership to a Comprehensive strategic partnership, which will in turn expand the areas of cooperation.

One of the key focus, during PM Modi's visit to Singapore was expanding the digital cooperation between the countries. The joint statement released read "Both Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the MoU on cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies and affirmed common interests in data, AI and cybersecurity. Building on this, both Prime Ministers agreed to deepen collaboration in the digital space, including in facilitating trusted cross-border data flows, cybersecurity, and the interoperability of digital systems." A crucial element of the partnership was a demonstration under the trade trust framework. Singapore is home to many large Technology companies, many of whom have regional headquarters in the island state, with the business geography, spread all across Asia primarily India.



Advance technology manufacturing and semiconductors formed another crucial element of the PM's visit. The statement read "Both Prime Ministers agreed to explore cooperation in the area of critical and emerging technologies. Both Prime Ministers agreed that advanced manufacturing, particularly in developing resilient semiconductor supply chains, can be a new pillar of bilateral cooperation.

Both Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the MoU on the India-Singapore Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership. Immediately after the PM visited Singapore the US government also announced a new partnership with India to explore supply chain opportunities in India. Funded under the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund, created by the CHIPS Act of 2022 (CHIPS Act) of the US, it allows the department to spend some money on developing a trusted supply chain ecosystem with partners and allies. A US State Department press release read, "The initial phase includes a comprehensive assessment of India's existing semiconductor ecosystem and regulatory framework, as well as workforce and infrastructure needs. The state anticipates that key Indian stakeholders, such as state governments, educational institutions, research centres, and private companies, will participate in this analysis steered by the India Semiconductor Mission. The insights gained from the assessment will serve as the basis for potential future joint initiatives to strengthen and grow this critical sector. The United States and India are key partners in ensuring the global semiconductor supply chain keeps pace with the global digital transformation currently underway. Manufacturing of essential products ranging from vehicles to medical devices relies on the strength and resilience of the semiconductor supply chain."

This week India also hosted SEMICON a global conference that attracts investments in the Indian semiconductor ecosystem. India is trying to attract investments for a crucial component of most modern equipment and machinery called chips. The recent visits by the PM to Singapore and the Memorandum of Understanding with the US may provide the much-needed kickstart for India's semiconductor ecosystem.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)

India's Paralympic journey of resilience and triumph



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Through sheer determination and perseverance, para athletes have steadily overcome the odds, earning global recognition and bringing glory to the nation



The Paris Paralympics unfolded as a captivating display of athletic excellence, particularly for the Indian contingent. It was a spectacle, with each athlete embodying a harmonious blend of strength, determination, and skill - almost like poetry in motion. As an avid follower, I found myself engrossed in nearly every performance, regardless of the challenging (IST) time difference that saw events commence under the glowing silhouette of the Eiffel Tower. On the rare occasions when I could not watch live, social media provided timely updates, fuelling my enthusiasm and admiration for these remarkable athletes.

Their tenacity and commitment to realizing their dreams on the global stage were evident as they competed and excelled across multiple disciplines, leaving an indelible mark on the world of sports. India delivered its best-ever performance at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, achieving a historic 29-medal haul that included seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze medals. This outstanding achievement surpassed the 19-medal tally from Tokyo 2020, where India had won five golds, and marked a significant milestone as the country crossed the 50-medal mark in its Paralympic history. A record 84 para-athletes represented India across 12 disciplines, including the debut participation in para-cycling, para-rowing, and blind judo. Among the shining stars, Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win two golds at the Paralympic Games, defending her title in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 shooting event with a world-record score. Meanwhile, India saw its first-ever one-two finish in athletics, with Dharambir and Parnav Soorma clinching gold and silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also set a new Asian record of 34.92m. In athletics, several Indian para-athletes etched their names in the record books.

Praveen Kumar set an Asian record en route to winning the high jump T64 title, securing India's sixth gold medal - their highest total at the Paralympics. Javelin thrower Sumit Antil made history as the first Indian man to defend his Paralympic title, winning gold in the men's javelin throw F64 with a stunning throw of 70.59m, breaking his record from Tokyo 2020 not once but



INDIA BEGAN ITS PARALYMPIC JOURNEY IN 1968, OVERCOMING NUMEROUS CHALLENGES SUCH AS LIMITED RESOURCES, INADEQUATE FACILITIES, AND LOW PUBLIC AWARENESS. DESPITE THESE HURDLES, INDIAN PARATHLETES GRADUALLY ROSE TO PROMINENCE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

three times. Mariyappan Thangavelu, with a bronze in the high jump T42 class, became the first Indian to win medals at three consecutive Paralympic Games, having previously won gold at Rio 2016 and silver at Tokyo 2020. Preethi Pal secured India's first-ever medal in a track event at the Paralympics with a bronze in the women's 100m T35 race and won another bronze in the 200m, becoming India's most successful athlete at the Games with two medals. The track events also saw Deepthi Jeevanji become the first intellectually impaired Indian athlete to win a Paralympic medal with a bronze in the women's 400m T20 class. India's achievements extended beyond the track and field to other disciplines. In archery, armless archer Sheetal Devi briefly set a world record in the ranking round and later teamed up with Rakesh Kumar to achieve a world record score in the compound mixed team qualification event. It was a perfect example of poetry in motion.

At just 17, Sheetal made history as India's youngest Paralympic medalist by winning a bronze in the mixed team event. Moreover, India's dominance in archery was further confirmed when Harvinder Singh became the country's first-ever Paralympic archery champion. The outstanding performances by Indian para-athletes at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games underscored India's emergence as a formidable contender on the global stage. Originating in 1948 with a sports event for World War II veterans with spinal injuries, organized by Sir Ludwig Guttmann in Stoke Mandeville, England, the Paralympics evolved into an international event in 1960 in Rome with 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then, the Games have grown significantly, challenging stereotypes and promoting inclusivity, while celebrating the exceptional talents and resilience of athletes

with disabilities. India began its Paralympic journey in 1968, overcoming numerous challenges such as limited resources, inadequate facilities, and low public awareness. Despite these hurdles, Indian para-athletes gradually rose to prominence on the global stage. A pivotal moment came in 2004 when Devendra Jhajharia won India's first Paralympic gold, setting a world record in the F46 javelin throw. This achievement heralded a new era for Indian para-sports, culminating in 35 medals across 12 Paralympic Games. The Paralympics exemplify India's commitment to inclusiveness, reflecting a broader national strategy to promote equity in sports. Government initiatives such as the 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme' (TOPS), 'Khelo India,' and increased funding for para-sports provide athletes with special abilities access to advanced training facilities, coaching, and financial support. To foster a more inclusive sports ecosystem, India regularly hosts events like the National Para Games and Para Athletics Championships, enhancing visibility and opportunities for para-athletes. What is needed is corporate sponsorships and media coverage which are crucial in transforming societal perceptions of disability, empowering athletes and promoting social inclusion and awareness. Globally, several countries have successfully promoted inclusiveness through sports.

The United Kingdom, for example, has been a pioneer in fostering an inclusive sports culture. Looking back at the success of Team GB at the London 2012 Paralympics, where they ranked third with 120 medals, which stemmed from years of investment in para-sports proves this point. The UK government, along with organizations like the British Paralympic Association, provided substantial funding, advanced training facilities, and comprehensive

support for athletes. The extensive broadcasting and marketing of the London 2012 Paralympics also helped transform public perceptions of disability, inspiring a new generation of para-athletes. Similarly, Australia has excelled in promoting inclusivity in sports through the Australian Paralympic Committee, which focuses on talent identification, athlete development, and grassroots inclusivity.

Further, Japan's efforts during the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics highlighted its commitment to accessibility, with significant investments in inclusive infrastructure, such as accessible public transport, venues, and accommodations, demonstrating a strong commitment to para-sports.

Moreover, the Paralympic Committee's 'ImPOSSIBLE' program, an educational initiative by the Agitos Foundation, was introduced in schools across Japan to educate children about the Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration, and equality, fostering a culture of inclusivity from a young age. In India, the road to achieving inclusiveness in sports has been long and challenging, but progress is evident.

The success of para-athletes at the Paralympics 2024 has helped break down barriers and challenge stereotypes, paving the way for a more inclusive society. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that people with special abilities have equal access to sports and the opportunity to compete at the highest level.

The future of Indian para-sports looks promising, as it is a powerful reminder that success in sports is not limited by physical ability but defined by determination, skill, and the spirit to overcome adversity. WE CAN is the catchword.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views expressed are personal)

Ozone Therapy: A holistic approach to enhancing health and wellness

Ozone therapy's ability to complement and enhance conventional therapies makes this old treatment a modern-day tool

We live our healthiest when we can balance the demands life places on us with opportunities that heal our bodies. Ozone therapy is emerging as a key wellness treatment that is a transformative addition to conventional medical practices with a multitude of health benefits. The growing concern over managing lifestyle diseases finds a hopeful answer in ozone therapy with doctors appraised of the latest and most effective practices. Developed over 100 years ago in Germany, this complementary medical treatment is proving to be a highly effective integrative treatment that is pocket-friendly and safe for several clinical conditions. Ozone therapy, with judicious doses of ozone administered by a



MILHI SHAH

doctor, brings powerful antioxidant capabilities to restore tissues and body fluids. **Harnessing Ozone's Power:** Ozone therapy involves the administration of ozone gas (O3), a reactive form of oxygen, into the body to stimulate healing and improve overall health. Ozone therapy enhances traditional medical treatments, offering a synergistic approach to health and wellness, where

pain and the side effects of conventional treatment are alleviated by it. It has shown promise in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and autoimmune disorders. For instance, in diabetes management, ozone therapy can improve oxygen utilisation and glucose metabolism, helping stabilise blood sugar levels. In cardiovascular ailments, ozone therapy can enhance blood circulation and reduce oxidative stress, improving heart health.

Pain Alleviation Ozone therapy's analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties make it effective in pain management. Conditions like arthritis, fibromyalgia, and musculoskeletal injuries often cause chronic pain that is difficult to manage with traditional methods. Ozone therapy can alleviate pain by reducing inflammation and promoting tissue repair.

For example, in arthritis, ozone therapy helps decrease joint inflammation and improves mobility. Compared to conventional pain management techniques, ozone therapy offers a less invasive option, with fewer side effects.

Detoxifying with Ozone Ozone therapy supplies the body with potent oxygenation, increasing the life-giving gas' availability for cells, and improving their functioning and energy production. The resulting detoxification eliminates toxins, harmful free radicals and waste from the minutest units of our bodies. The result: Rejuvenated,



healthy and energetic selves. **Stress Reduction** Ozone therapy can aid in stress reduction by increasing oxygen delivery to tissues, promoting relaxation and a sense of calm. This is particularly beneficial in our fast-paced world where stress is a common issue. **Athletic Performance:** Ozone therapy's unique restorative abilities are also extremely relevant to meeting the high performance and health needs of athletes. The increased oxy-

genation provided by ozone therapy improves endurance, enhances recovery, and boosts overall performance.

Skin Rejuvenation: The skin, the body's largest organ, is happiest when we have healthy cells and tissues. Ozone therapy, in promoting healthy cells, leads to several skin benefits. It is effective in treating skin conditions such as acne, eczema, and fungal infections due to ozone's antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties.

Ozone therapy promotes skin healing by increasing oxygen supply to the affected areas. Additionally, it has anti-ageing benefits. By improving blood flow and stimulating collagen production, ozone therapy can enhance skin elasticity and reduce wrinkles, resulting in a

more youthful and vibrant appearance.

Multiple Ozone Therapy Applications: Ozone therapy can be administered in various ways, including rectal insufflation, intravenous ozone mixed with saline, and major autohemotherapy. These methods help activate cellular circulation, enhancing overall health. With over 20 different applications, ozone therapy offers versatile treatment options for a wide range of disorders, promoting healing and well-being through improved oxygen utilization and cellular function.

The Science of Ozone Therapy: The scientific reason ozone therapy works is its ability to stimulate the mitochondria, the energy powerhouse of the tiniest units of our

bodies - cells. By providing a fresh supply of oxygen, ozone therapy boosts cellular health, bodily functions and energy production. Ozone therapy also helps neutralise free radicals, reducing oxidative stress and preventing cellular damage. Ozone therapy is safe when administered correctly and has been supported by numerous studies demonstrating its efficacy and safety. Ozone therapy's ability to complement and enhance conventional therapies, combined with its wide range of applications, makes the centuries-old treatment a modern-day tool in the quest for holistic health and wellness.

(The writer is trustee of Biserli Charitable Trust and president Ozone Forum of India; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Tata Power arm to set up 200 fast charging stations

Tata Power Renewable Energy arm Tata Power EV Charging Solutions and Tata Motors have signed an initial pact to set up 200 fast-charging stations for electric commercial vehicles in all metros cities, a statement said on Thursday. The strategic move expands their ongoing collaboration, in providing sustainable mobility solutions, with a focus on easy charging solutions for small electric commercial vehicles, the statement said. Tata Power EV Charging Solutions under the MoU will set up 200 fast-charging stations for electric commercial vehicles in all metros cities viz. Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata. Tata Motors and Tata Power will provide exclusive charging tariffs for Tata Motors' electric CV owners, resulting in lower operating costs and increased profitability for its customers, the statement said. Electric commercial vehicle users, across the country, will soon benefit from access to almost 1000 strategically located fast chargers, with the planned expansion of the charging network.



Gold drops Rs 250; silver surges Rs 2,000 per kg

Gold prices declined Rs 250 to Rs 74,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday, while silver rates surged to reclaim the 87,000 level, according to All India Sarafa Association. On Wednesday, the precious metal or pure gold (99.9 per cent purity) ended at Rs 74,600 per 10 grams. However, silver price rallied Rs 2,000 to touch a two-week high of Rs 87,000 per kilogram on Thursday. The silver metal had finished at Rs 85,000 per kg in the previous session. In the past three sessions, the white metal has surged Rs 3,200 per kg. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also declined by Rs 250 to Rs 74,000 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 74,250 per 10 grams. Traders said the silver continued its strong trend for the third-straight session owing to strong industrial uptake leading to a jump in the prices of the metal.



DGCA orders special audit of flying training units

Aviation watchdog DGCA has ordered a special audit of flying training organisations in the country amid recent accidents involving training aircraft. The audit of flying training organisations (FTOs) will be conducted in three phases from September to November 2024. It will cover 33 FTOs. "This audit aims to thoroughly assess the safety standards, operational procedures, and systemic deficiencies within flying training organisations to ensure the highest levels of safety and compliance," DGCA said in a release on Thursday. The regulator said the move follows a series of recent training aircraft incidents that have sparked concerns regarding the compliance of FTOs with respect to the established aviation regulations and safety protocols. The last such special audit was conducted in 2022. "The audit will scrutinise each FTO's adherence to DGCA's regulatory standards, including aircraft maintenance, airworthiness, and training operations," the release said.

IIP growth slows to 4.8 pc in July: Govt data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production output decelerated to 4.8 per cent year-on-year in July 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing and mining sectors, as per official data released on Thursday. The factory output growth, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was revised to 4.7 per cent in June from provisional estimates of 4.2 per cent released last month.

The IIP for July 2024 was 4.8 per cent, as per the data. During the April-July period this fiscal, the IIP growth was 5.2 per cent against 5.1 per cent in the same period of the preceding fiscal. The IIP grew by 6.2 per cent in July 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

As per the data, the mining output growth decelerated to 3.7 per cent in July from 10.7 per cent expansion in the year-ago month. The manufacturing sector's growth declined to 4.6 per cent in July from 5.3 per cent a year ago. The power generation increased by 7.9 per cent in July against a growth of 8 per cent in the same month of the last year.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 12 per cent in July 2024 from 5.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

In July this year, consumer non-durables output declined by 4.4 per cent compared to a growth of 8.3 per cent in July 2023. Consumer durable goods production grew by 8.2 per cent during the reporting month against a contraction of 3.6 per cent in July 2023.

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 4.9 per cent in July 2024, down from a 12.6 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.



Amazon India creates over 1 lakh seasonal jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amazon India on Thursday said it has created more than 110,000 seasonal job opportunities across its operations network to cater to increased demand during the festive season.

These opportunities include direct and indirect jobs across India in cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Chennai, among others, a company statement said.

"We have hired over 1.1 lakh additional people to strengthen our fulfillment and logistics network and ensure we can handle the increased demand seamlessly. A number of these associates continue to work with Amazon even after the festive season and many others return year after year to work with Amazon," said Abhinav Singh, VP-Operations, Amazon India.

A majority of these new hires have already been onboarded, the statement said. Amazon has hired thousands of women associates, and close to 1900 disabled persons into its existing network, it added.

Investors' wealth surges Rs 6.59 L cr as markets soar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth soared Rs 6.59 lakh crore on Thursday as markets surged to record high levels with the benchmark Sensex breaching the historic 83,000-mark for the first time.

A sharp flag-end rally drove the 30-share BSE Sensex to the 83,000 level for the first time. The barometer surged 1,593.03 points or 1.95 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 83,116.19. The index ended at a record high of 82,962.71, up by 1,439.55 points or 1.77 per cent.

Tracking a rally in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged Rs 6,59,895.19 crore to Rs 4,67,36,045.21 crore (USD 5.57 trillion).



"Across the board buying support lifted both benchmark Sensex & Nifty to fresh record highs as falling US bond yields and expectations of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve in next week's policy meeting fuelled massive optimism," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, Adani Ports, State Bank of India, Tech

Mahindra, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest gainers. Nestle emerged as the only laggard from the blue-chip pack. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.32 per cent and the smallcap index climbed 0.79 per cent. All indices ended in the positive territory. Metal surged 3.05 per cent, telecommunication (2.61 per cent), power (2.02 per cent), auto

BOARD OF TRADE MEET TODAY

Exporters to raise bank credit issue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The exporters will raise the issue of declining bank credit in the Board of Trade (BoT) meeting tomorrow in Mumbai, an industry official said on Thursday. Headed by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the

board includes participants from various states, Union territories, and senior officials from the public and private sectors. While exports grew by 15 per cent in the rupee terms between 2021-22 and 2023-24, the outstanding credit in March 2024 dropped by 5 per cent over the same month in 2022, according

to exporters. Apex exporters body Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) has said the export credit growth is not keeping pace with rising exports of the country. The Interest Equalisation Scheme, which expired on June 30, was extended on a monthly basis till this month-end.

OIL PRICES FALL

Petrol, diesel price cut if decline sustains

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Price of international crude oil - the raw material for making petrol and diesel - dropped to a three-year low before marginally recovering but a revision in domestic petrol and diesel rates is likely only if lower rates are sustained, industry sources and officials said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell below USD 70 per barrel on Tuesday - the first time since December 2021 - but gained thereafter after Hurricane Francine hit

crude supply in the Gulf of Mexico. Brent rose above USD 71 a barrel on Thursday while West Texas Intermediate advanced to trade near USD 68.

Petrol and diesel prices - which have been on a freeze for over two years now barring a pre-election reduction earlier this year - will be revised if the declining trend sustains, they said.

Oil Secretary Pankaj Jain speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, said the oil companies will be taking appropriate decisions



on reducing fuel prices if international oil prices were to settle lower on a sustained basis. Industry sources said the three state-owned fuel retailers are making good profits on

petrol and diesel but want the trend to continue before deciding on a revision.

"They don't want a situation where they cut prices and are faced with a situation where international prices rise," an official explained.

Brokerage Emkay Global Financial Services in a note said it expects Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to cut petrol and diesel prices before elections in Maharashtra.

IN FIRST YEAR OF PM E-DRIVE

Electric two-wheeler buyers can avail subsidy of up to Rs 10,000

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler buyers can avail a maximum subsidy of up to Rs 10,000 in the first year of the PM E-DRIVE Scheme to be rolled out soon, Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy said on Thursday.

Addressing a media briefing, Kumaraswamy said the subsidy under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme for electric two-wheelers has been fixed based on battery power at Rs 5,000 per kilowatt hour but the overall incentive will not exceed Rs 10,000 in the first year. In the second year, it will be halved by Rs 2,500 per kilowatt hour, and the overall benefit will not exceed Rs 5,000. Addressing the media, Kumaraswamy said e-rickshaw buyers can avail of subsidy benefits of Rs 25,000 in the first year and Rs 12,500 in the second year of the PM E-DRIVE scheme.

"The per kilowatt subsidy for electric two-wheelers is Rs 5,000 for the first year, and in the second year Rs 2,500, for two years, this benefit will be



continued," the minister said.

He clarified that the maximum benefit per two-wheeler will be capped at Rs 10,000 per vehicle in the first year and reduced to Rs 5,000 in the second year.

Currently, popular electric scooters from makers like Ola, TVS, Ather Energy, Hero Vida (Hero Motorcorp) and Chetak Bajaj have battery capacities ranging from 2.88 kWh to 4kWh in a price range of Rs 90,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh.

For three-wheelers, including e-rickshaws, Kumara

swamy said, "In the first year, they will get (benefit of Rs 25,000), and in the second year, it will come down to Rs 12,500 per vehicle".

For the L5 category (cargo three-wheelers), they will get a benefit of Rs 50,000 in the first year, and for the second year, it is Rs 25,000, the minister further informed.

Under the scheme, an Aadhaar authenticated e-voucher will be issued by the PM E-DRIVE portal, and it has to be duly signed by the buyer and dealer and uploaded on the portal.

Will aid in faster adoption of EVs: M&M, Tata Motors

Home-grown auto majors Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors on Thursday hailed the PM e-drive scheme, saying it would help in higher adoption of electric vehicles in the country. On September 11, the Union Cabinet approved two major schemes with a total outlay of Rs 14,335 crore to promote the use of electric vehicles, including buses, ambulances and trucks. The two schemes are the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a period of two years, and the PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) scheme with a budget of Rs 3,435 crore.

NaBFID is a public financial institution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has notified the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) as a public financial institution under the Companies Act.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM - C NOTIFICATION
(Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given) (See rule 6/12)

Gazette No.: GHMC-128 Dated: 04.09.2024
No. C/347/2024 Dated: 03.09.2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Special Collector that a total of 20.00 Sq.yds. land is required in the Uppal Village & Mandal Medchal Malkajgiri District for public purpose namely 150'-0" Road Widening from Uppal X Road to Nalla Cheruvu, Uppal.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Uppal Village & Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District land measuring more or less 20 Sq.Yds of Standard measurements, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition:

Sl. No.	Premises No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Extent in Sq.Yds.	Name of person interested	Boundaries				Trees	Structure
						North	South	East	West		
1	2-10-14 & 16	Owner	Patla	20	N Hanumanthi	Road	Road	Road	Part of Owner Land	-	Owner Land

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

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Collector, & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Special Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer i.e. Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition, GHMC, Hyderabad and his staff to enter upon and survey the land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section -12 of the said Act.

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

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Special Collector/ Authorized officer.

Sd/- Special Grade Deputy Collector, LA, GHMC, Hyderabad.
Sd/- Special Collector (LA) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad.
DPR No.25/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED TENDER NOTICE NO: 05/2024-25

Old- Ext-I-TspNo.37 & 38/24-25, Ext-II-TspNo.32/24-25, TspNo.33/24-25, Ext-III-TspNo.28/24-25, New-TspNo.44 to 47/24-25.

Sealed tenders are invited from the experienced and GST Registered Vendors for 1. TspNo. 28/24-25-Civil Wing, 2. TspNo.32, 33, 37, 38, 44 to 46/24-25-Medchal Division, 3) TspNo.47/24-25-Lines Division. Further Details Visit www.southernpower.com Sd/- Superintending Engineer Operation, Medchal
B.O. No. 481-PP/LA/WT/12024-25, Dt. 12-09-2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Short NIT No.27/SE (M) /Sec-bad Zone/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 12.09.2024
No. of Works: 03 Works, Estimated amount: Rs. 196.00 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 13.09.2024 @ 1.00 PM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 19.09.2024 @ 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
B.O.No: 4118-PP/LA/WT/12024-25, Dt. 12-09-2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 14/EO/GHMC/MPT/10/2024-25 Dated: 12-09-2024
Name of the Work: Maintenance work of Sports facilities, Start Date/ Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids: 13.09.2024/ 10.30 AM & 24.09.2024/ 10.30 AM, Name & Address Officer: Sri. V. Srinivas, Executive Engineer, GHMC, Moosapet Circle - 23, Cell: 9849905745, For Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, GHMC, Moosapet Division -23
B.O.No: 4053-PP/LA/WT/12024-25, Dt. 12-09-2024

Bahrain secures \$16.65 m investments from India

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) has secured investment commitments valued at USD 16.65 million from three leading India-based companies across the sectors of manufacturing, renewable energy, and ICT.

The announcements were made during Bahrain EDB's ongoing week-long visit to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, designed to strengthen bilateral economic ties and attract foreign direct investment to Bahrain, it said in a statement.

HE Noor bint Ali Alkhalifa, Minister of Sustainable Development, Chief Executive

of Bahrain EDB, said, "We at Bahrain EDB are proud to welcome these companies to our business-friendly island nation, further underscoring the robust economic and commercial ties between India and Bahrain that have been traced back 5,000 years to the Dilmun and Indus Valley civilisations. "This cumulative investment reflects the strength and competitiveness of Bahrain's value proposition and fast-growing reputation as a key regional hub for leading manufacturing and niche technology firms seeking a trusted international destination for expansion."

In the statement, Bahrain EDB said that among the Indian companies, Chemco is gearing up for its third expansion in Bahrain since it first announced its plans to set up its factory in Bahrain in 2013, with an aim of augmenting its rigid packaging production capacity at Bahrain International Investment Park (BIIP), incorporating fully automated production lines to meet the growing demand in



Bahrain's Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector. Additionally, Bhageria Industries is investing in Bahrain with plans to develop an 11.40 MW solar project and the third company, an ICT firm, is setting up its regional headquarters in Bahrain, further strengthening the

Kingdom's growing capabilities in technology and AI, it stated. According to Bahrain EDB, India's FDI stock in Bahrain has grown by 36.6 per cent between 2019 and 2023, adding an average of USD 102 million annually, with total FDI stock reaching USD 1.52 billion in 2023.

The announcements were made during Bahrain EDB's ongoing week-long visit to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, designed to strengthen bilateral economic ties and attract foreign direct investment to Bahrain, it said in a statement

TRAVELOGUE

Embarking on a journey to the mountains, *The Pioneer* connects with a passionate mountaineer, **Sunith Kumar Kokku**, for our exclusive segment of Travelogue, taking us through his expedition that's beyond conquering peaks.

AARTI SREENATH
 aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

When you think of Russia, what comes to mind? Towering Kremlin structures, the bustling streets of Moscow, or perhaps an ice-cold glass of vodka? But what if we told you there's much more to this vast country than its popular clichés? This is exactly what Sunith Kumar Kokku, a passionate mountaineer from the Medak District of Telangana, discovered during his recent expedition to the picturesque yet lesser-known region of Pyatigorsk in Russia. For him, climbing the

world's highest peaks isn't just a hobby—it's a purpose. His mountaineering journey began as he recovered from tuberculosis, which was diagnosed in 2013. The mountains became his sanctuary, providing him with strength, peace and a renewed purpose in life. On August 17, 2024, he achieved a significant milestone by summiting Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe and Russia, standing at 5,642 meters. This climb is part of his lifelong quest to complete the Seven Summits of the world,

including Mount Everest. But this expedition wasn't just about conquering a peak; it was about breaking stereotypes and discovering the hidden gems of Russia. He laughs as he debunks one of the most common misconceptions about Russians—that they drink vodka at every meal. "We thought we'd be greeted with vodka for breakfast, but that couldn't have been further from the truth. Russians prefer cognac! It was quite the cultural surprise." Their adventure began in Pyatigorsk, a quaint town nestled in a valley of mineral springs. "It's a hidden gem, especially for Indian travellers. You won't find many reviews about it, even on TripAdvisor," he shares, highlighting the region's underrated beauty. The town, steeped in history, provided the perfect backdrop for the group as they prepared for their climb. One of the highlights of his journey was visiting an ancient mineral lake, now a sulfur lake, that dates back to Russia's monarchic era. "During the war, they converted it to sulfur so the enemy couldn't access it for water. It's fascinating how these lesser-known places hold such deep historical significance." The climb was rigorous and demanded every ounce of physical and mental endurance. Sunith and his group spent days acclimatising, climbing smaller peaks around Terskol before attempting the summit of Elbrus. "Each day was a test of endurance as we carried 10-15 kilos of gear in harsh, freezing conditions." Despite the challenges, there were moments of camaraderie and cultural exchange. "We played card games and shared laughs with the locals, even though we struggled to communicate through Google Translate. They taught us basic Russian phrases and we shared a bit of Indian culture in return." Reflecting on his time in Pyatigorsk, he admits that the vegetarian food options were limited. "For me, it was mostly raw tomatoes and potatoes with olive oil," he laughs, while his non-vegetarian friends enjoyed

hearty meals of beef and chicken. "It wasn't about the food for me; it was about the journey itself." His passion for mountaineering extends beyond adventure. Through his climbs, he seeks to raise awareness about tuberculosis and mental health. His previous climbs, including Kilimanjaro and Stok Kangri, have been milestones in his recovery from TB and his dedication to spreading awareness about these issues. Music plays an essential role in his travels. His playlist includes John Mayer's discography and Assamese artist Bishrut's *Upahar* and *Penekoi*, along with classic rock from the '80s and '90s. "It provides the perfect backdrop to my adventures." In addition to conquering new peaks, he collects hats from every trek, each one a memento of his journey. After summiting Elbrus, he returned with a Rasputin-style furry hat, adding it to his growing collection of 250 hats. Though he only began travelling seriously at the age of 22, Sunith's childhood was filled with tales of adventure from his father, who served in the Indian Air Force. "He travelled to places like Cherrapunji and Delhi. His stories inspired me and now it's my turn to explore." One of the more unnerving moments of Sunith's Russian adventure was a five-hour delay at immigration. "It felt like something out of a *Cold War* movie," he recalls, laughing now, but at the time, it was quite unsettling. For him, summiting Mount Elbrus was more than just another tick off his Seven Summits bucket list—it was a journey of self-discovery and breaking down stereotypes. As he puts it, "Every time we faced extreme cold or strong winds, we just took one step at a time. That's what keeps me going, both in climbing and in life." Through his journey, Sunith Kumar inspires others to push past their boundaries, proving that no summit—whether in life or on the world's highest mountains—is too difficult to conquer, one step at a time.



REVIEW

Stark visuals amplifying action, heighten thrill in Berlin

TEJAL SINHA
 tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Berlin, helmed by Atul Sabharwal, showcases a star-studded ensemble including Aparshakti Khurana, Ishwak Singh, Rahul Bose, Anupriya Goenka and seasoned actor Kabir Bedi. In the dynamic and politically tumultuous setting of New Delhi in the 1990s, the movie strives to introduce a fresh and original perspective to the spy thriller category, custom-made for the Indian audience. *Berlin* showcased at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM 2024) at Hoyts Cinema, further expanding its list of achievements.

PLOT

Taking place in New Delhi, India, in 1993, *Berlin* revolves around a deaf-mute young man, Ashok Kumar (played by Ishwak Singh), who is believed to be a spy from another country. An expert in sign language, Pushkin Verma (played by Aparshakti Khurana), is called upon to interpret for the government during his questioning. As the enigma unravels, the distinction between culpability and innocence becomes unclear, and the interpreter of sign language becomes entangled in a perilous web of lies and political scheming. Pushkin's perceptions of spies, bureaucrats, and the nation undergo a transformation as he becomes more deeply involved in the case.

HIGHLIGHTS

Most of the action takes place in an interrogation room where Khurana and Singh engage with each other, while Bose manages the situation from the outside. Even with some imperfections and an unfulfilled climax, *Berlin* is a truly original storyline that stands out in recent Bollywood films. Maybe this is because the movie examines spies from a unique perspective, seeing them as both humans in their good and bad aspects. Other topics include individuals with disabilities, their solitude and their worth. The movie doesn't pretend to have a better understanding of disabled people's problems, despite showing some sympathy. The movie also explores male friendships slightly without coming off as overly masculine, preachy, or emotionally pretentious. Clearly, a talented ensemble enhances the film's quality.

DRAWBACKS

Regrettably, *Berlin* never reaches its full potential. The start of this mystery story is promising, leaving you curious about where it will lead. However, the tension is disrupted by some unnecessary scenes. Soon, the mystery becomes clear and the reveal no longer surprises you. Additionally, the frequent back-and-forth exchanges in the scenes contribute to the



overall lack of fear in the run-time.

PERFORMANCES

Aparshakti Khurana, as the sign language expert, has brought out a character that's certainly something out of his comfort zone. In some places, his character does reflect a slight reflection of his character of Jubilee. However, he is beyond a doubt the backbone of the film. Ishwak Singh, on the other hand, gives an outstanding portrayal of a man who is both deaf and mute. Singh, who consistently improves with each project, demonstrates once more his ability to succeed in any task, even something as difficult as playing a deaf-mute character. He is aware that he will not be exaggerated and instead acts subtly while being mindful of his facial expressions. Certainly, he is the greatest aspect of *Berlin*.

Rahul Bose opted for being bold and exaggerated in his approach, yet maintains a solid understanding, bringing considerable value to the situation. Anupriya Goenka, despite being the crucial final link in a significant project, unfortunately doesn't have many responsibilities. But of course, isn't she the mystery girl? So to know about her character, you gotta watch the film. Meanwhile, Kabir Bedi as the bureau chief is another best aspect of the film, who creates his own impact in the story.

TECHNICAL ASPECT

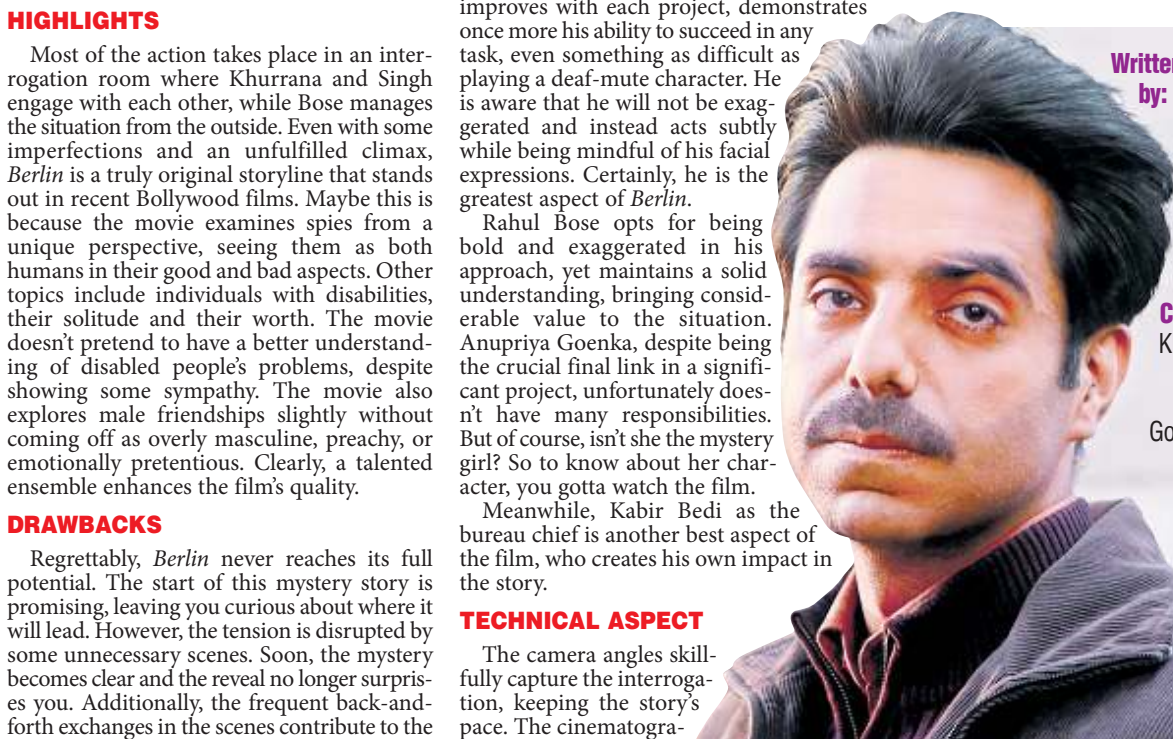
The camera angles skillfully capture the interrogation, keeping the story's pace. The cinematogra-

phy showcases stunning close-ups and carefully composed scenes that emphasise the central storyline.

VERDICT

Khurana and Singh unite to form a quite formidable pair. It goes without saying that Rahul Bose always impresses. *Berlin* is accurately described as impressive. Yes, it definitely has its imperfections and can be a bit foreseeable at times. However, *Berlin* still stands out and is deserving of praise as a film.

Written and Directed by: Atul Sabharwal
Produced by: Umesh KR Bansal, Atul Sabharwal and Manav Shrivastav
Cast: Aparshakti Khurana, Ishwak Singh, Rahul Bose, Anupriya Goenka and Kabir Bedi
Streaming on: Zee5
Rating: 3.2/5



Myth busting olive oil

Olive oil is a common ingredient in kitchens worldwide, valued for its delicious taste and positive health effects. It is considered an essential component of Mediterranean cooking and diet, often regarded as the key to making dishes both delicious and healthy. Among the many oils available, olive oil stands out for its nutritional benefits and versatility. It can be used in a wide variety of dishes, from dressings to roasted cabbage even in baked goods like banana bread. Its applications are diverse, making it a staple in many recipes.

Buying olive oil becomes simple if you know the different variants available in the market which will help you make an informed decision. At the same time there are a few myths that are associated with olive oil so let's debunk them as well.

Myth: Olive oil only means extra virgin olive oil

Truth: It's a common misconception that olive oil is only extra virgin, but that's not quite right. There are several types of olive oils available, each with its own unique features and best uses.

Extra virgin olive oil: This is the gold standard when it comes to olive oil. It's known for its captivating aroma and robust flavour, which can elevate any dish. It's perfect for salad dressings, drizzling over vegetables, or using in low-heat cooking like sautéing. You can even use it on bread as a butter/ghee substitute or for roasting and grilling. If you're looking for a gourmet touch to your meals, extra virgin olive oil is your go-to.

Olive oil for Indian cooking: The oil is ideal for everyday Indian cooking—think curries, deep-frying koftas or shallow-frying cutlets. It blends seamlessly into your cooking without overpowering the flavour of your spices or condiments.

Classic olive oil: With a rich flavour and a high smoke point, classic olive oil is great for speciality cooking. Use it for making pizza, pasta, or any dish where you want a rich olive oil flavour but also need a higher smoke point.

Myth: Very green colour indicates high-

quality extra virgin olive oil

Colour is not the sole factor to gauge whether Extra virgin olive oil is good or not. A lot depends on the climate in which olives are grown, soil condition, country of origin etc. A connoisseur must gauge the flavour, taste, aroma apart from colour also to understand whether extra virgin olive oil is good or not.

Myth: Extra virgin olive oil is expensive and not worth the cost

While extra virgin olive oil might be more expensive than other cooking oils, it's important to consider the value it brings. With its captivating aroma and flavour, presence of antioxidants & rich MUFA profile olive oil is a worthwhile investment. Additionally, it gives a gourmet touch to your meals by adding a distinct taste of olives.

Myth: There is no olive oil available which is suitable for Indian cooking

It's a popular belief that olive oil cannot be used for everyday Indian cooking, but it can be. A product called olive oil for Indian cooking is specially designed to enable consumers to use it for all types of cooking be it tadkas, curries, shallow frying or deep frying. The high smoking point & neutral aroma of the oil ensures that the spices and condiments used at the time of cooking remain intact.

Myth: Smoking point & aroma of all olive oils is the same

Well, this isn't true. Extra virgin olive oil has a captivating aroma & flavour and can work wonderfully for low heat cooking recipes due to its low smoking point. You can use it for grilling, sautéing, roasting or on your bread toast as a substitute for butter whereas, on the other hand, we have Classic olive oil, which has a rich flavour and aroma and comes with a high smoking point suitable for speciality cooking. The third category is olive oil for Indian cooking, which has a neutral flavour & aroma and comes with a high smoking point, and it is perfect for all types of Indian cooking.

(The author, Vishal Gupta, is the Managing Director, of Borges India Private Limited.)



● Sudha Jain

● Kalyani and Anita

● Prerana Simha

● Janaki



KISNA Diamond and Gold Jewellery opened its private showrooms in Hyderabad, bringing its total number of showrooms across the country to 38.



Dyson announced renowned artist and music icon Badshah as a Dyson OnTrac headphones ambassador for India. This collaboration commences with the highly anticipated launch of Dyson's first high-fidelity, audio-only headphones: the Dyson OnTrac headphones on September 23, 2024



The first ever VIVA'S networking event was launched at Vivanta Begumpet Hyderabad. VIVA'S is a platform specially launched for independent women to 'Elevate Connections, Network, Thrive, Unwind and Celebrate.' At Tease Lounge, they held a cultural event with a fashion show which was graced by Tollywood celebrity Ashrita Vemuganti and Mrs India Asia Pacific Dr. Sudha Jain. The second session was a cooking show where contestants displayed culinary art, graced by celebrity Lavanya Tripathi.



AirAsia Thailand continues with its expansion in India with the introduction of direct flights from Hyderabad to Bangkok as well as Chennai to Phuket. The new flight services, set to take off on October 27, 2024 for Hyderabad and October 30, 2024 for Chennai, will enable travellers from two of India's key cities to fly directly to Thailand



Chanchalguda Jail Superintendent Shivakumar Goud, marked his presence at the Ganesh Immersion celebrations of the Youth for Anti-Corruption (YAC) NGO's central office. On the sixth day, the organisation held a food donation program, which was also attended by Rajendra Palmati - founder, Youth for Anti-Corruption.



IRAN Consulate General, Hyderabad initiated a road show on tourism promotion of Iran at Hotel Taj Deccan in Hyderabad, with presence of Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, the Iranian deputy tourism minister. The event aimed to highlight Iran's tourism potential and feature the participation of key private sector players from Iran's outbound travel agencies, along with government officials from both countries.

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



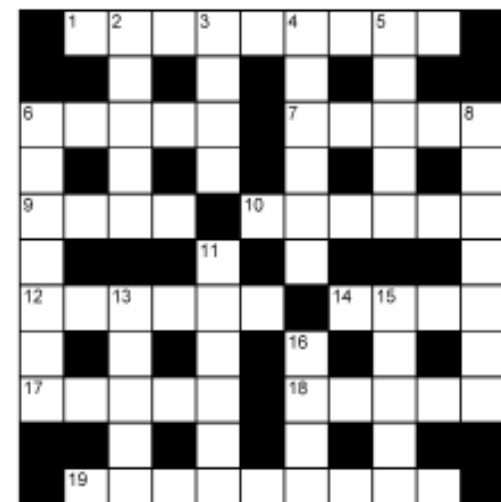
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



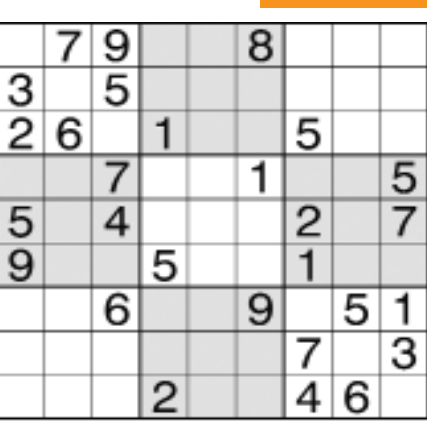
CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution
 3 7 2 6 9 8 1 4 5
 1 9 4 5 2 3 7 6 8
 5 6 8 1 7 4 2 3 9
 7 4 6 8 3 1 5 9 2
 8 5 1 2 4 9 3 7 6
 9 2 3 7 6 5 8 1 4
 4 8 5 9 1 7 6 2 3
 2 1 9 3 5 6 4 8 7
 6 3 7 4 8 2 9 5 1

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

ACROSS

- 1 Hair on the upper lip
- 6 A large spotted wild cat
- 7 Fortunate
- 8 Preserved in vinegar
- 9 Buggy land
- 11 Six-legged creature
- 10 A rower pulls these
- 13 A gas layer high above the Earth
- 12 Quantity
- 14 Wicked
- 15 TV recorder
- 16 Two matching items
- 17 Used a car
- 18 Helped
- 19 A holder for mail

DOWN

- 2 An American film award
- 3 Speaks out loud
- 4 Ridiculous
- 5 A body organ



GINGER MEGGS



Krithy Shetty: If not acting, I'd probably have done something in fashion

Actress Krithi Shetty, for the first time, walked the ramp as the showstopper for ace designer Gaurav Gupta. The actress, who is currently gaining much love for her latest film *ARM*, sat down with *The Pioneer* for a quick chat, sharing her feelings on walking for the designer, what fashion means to her and more around it

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Actress Krithi Shetty has undeniably upswept with her impressive performance in the filmy world so well that one can just not stop adore her for. Apart from her acting skills, one can just not stop adoring her fashion skills.

Well, talking of her and fashion, on Wednesday, Krithi turned as the showstopper and turned heads with her beaded lehenga for fashion designer Gaurav Gupta, showcasing his latest Arunodaya collection at their Hyderabad store.

While the *Uppena* fame was dressed in the intricately embroidered lehenga and dupatta in the shade of wine, the other models were seen dressed in outfits in the monochrome shades.

Krithi, who was pretty excited post-show because she had her much-awaited film that hit the cinemas on Thursday, sat down with *The Pioneer* over a quick exclusive chat.

Did you know the *Custody* star walked as a showstopper for the first time? Well yes! She reveals this to us. "This is my first time being a showstopper," shares Krithi with great exhilaration. "I really feel like it's special and it was meant to be for Gaurav. I've always looked up to his designs for a really long time. It truly feels like a dream come true."

Wait, first walk as the showstopper? Was she even nervous? Well, not because she nailed it! But as we ask her about it, she with an alluring smile on her face says, "You



know what's the funny thing about me; I'm like a little extra when I'm at home. My parents tell me that I have so much practice for this because even when I'm normally at home, I'm always in a ramp walk mode (she laughs out loud). They were like you have already had so much experience with this."

Dressed in a beautiful wine red piece, sharing her excitement, she says, "I truly feel beautiful in this dress because it's refracting so much light and whenever I'm walking, I can feel the light on me, which makes me feel even more special."

During the show, the leading man behind the collection, Gaurav, shared that this line is for someone who is looking out to have something extraordinary for themselves. And the *Bangarraju* star couldn't agree much as she says, "Isn't that perfect! This is lovely for a special occasion. I can totally see a lot of women choosing it for their big day, because I would too. I would choose it for my big day, such as a red carpet or an award ceremony, because it just makes me feel so special."

For the unaware, Krithi's mom is a fashion designer too, thus making her have a special admiration for things around fashion. "I've been into fashion all my life. My mom being a fashion designer, fashion is like my life. If not acting, I'd probably have done something in fashion and experimenting with fabrics. It's a huge part of my life and I think it's all about finding your own style and feeling confident in it. I feel it's also like an artistic expression."

Going ahead, with great elation, the *Manamey* fame spoke about the concept of reusing, recycling, and reweaving of clothes, as she says, "I think it's absolutely amazing because a lot of brands are going sustainable now, which is so lovely for the environment and it's a lovely thing that's happening."

Well, anyone who'd wish to plunder into her wardrobe with her must-haves would find: "Sweatpants, lots of skirts and lots of dresses," she gleefully shares, adding, "I'm more of a girly girl who loves florals and dresses and I think you'll find a lot of dresses in my closet (she giggles)."

As this brings us to the end of this fun chat, Krithi has once again enraptured hearts on the filmy front with *ARM* and also has *Kaantha* with Dulquer Salmaan, *Love Insurance Kompany* (LIK), *Vaa Vaathiyaar* and *Genie* in her kitty. She also shared that she is keen on doing a Hindi movie too!



ARM: TOVINO THOMAS STEALS THE SHOW WITH THREE DIFFERENT ROLES

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

The Telugu audience is also familiar with Malayalam actor Tovino Thomas with the popularity of his films on OTT platforms. His movies *Kala* and *Minna Murali* are well-liked and in the previous year, his Telugu film *2018* was released. His most recent Malayalam movie *ARM* was launched in Telugu under the same title. He took on three distinct characters in the movie, which is helmed by debutant Jithin Lal. The female leads in the movie are Krithi Shetty and Aishwarya Rajesh, with the Telugu version being released by Mythri Movie Makers.

STORY

Ajay (played by Tovino Thomas) resides in a rural village with his mother (played by Rohini) and does minor electrical tasks. Ajay is often blamed for any lost items in the village due to his notorious grandfather, Maniyan (played by Tovino Thomas), who is a well-known thief. There is a temple in the village where Ajay's ancestors worshiped the deity. Sudev Varma (played by Harish Uthaman) came into the village with the intention of taking the deity and committing theft. He is planning to steal it just like Ajay would do. However, Ajay wanted to prevent Sudev Varma from taking it. What action did he take? What is the background of Kunjikelu (Tovino Thomas) and who is he? What is the origin of the deity and how did it end up in that village? Is Lakshmi's and Ajay's relationship approved by the elders? To get answers to these questions, you must view *ARM*.

ANALYSIS

It has been for the first time that Tovino Thomas is playing three different roles in a film! The story begins with a period drama with Kunjikelu entering and saving an important person from a kingdom. In return, the King offers whatever one wants and Kunjikelu asked to give him the historic deity as he wanted to take his village. The king obliged. The director started the film with this story on an interesting note. Later, the next generation, Maniyan, enters and his role was well designed.

Whenever Maniyan is on the screen, it is interesting to see his adventure. The director created some interesting scenes with

him especially where he steals the deity from King Fort. Actually Maniyan's character is the highlight of the film and the director narrated his character pretty well. The present day Ajay character is also portrayed well, but the director couldn't write strong opposition characters. He mainly concentrates on these three characters, so other characters are just nominal on the screen. Even the Ajay, Lakshmi love drama is also not up to the mark. There is no strong chemistry or emotion between them. Ajay's mother character, which is played by Rohini, is also a strong one, especially when she appears as young and an adult, when the villagers bashed her father and her son at the same spot.

There are a few scenes dragged and forced also. But the director narrated an interesting story with three generations. In his first, the director comes up with a different kind of story involving three generations. It's a predictable story; if the director could concentrate more on it; it could be a better one.

PERFORMANCE

When it comes to the performances, Tovino Thomas performed it pretty convincingly. He is outstanding in the roles of Maniyan and Kunjikelu as he showcases the special art form of fighting. Talking of the action scenes, he is simply superb. Ajay's character is quite opposite to the two period characters and he showcases his softness in Ajay. The film belongs to him, as he is seen from the beginning to the end. Krithi Shetty plays one of the female leads and she is cute. Aishwarya Rajesh appears as a cameo and her role is only limited. Rohini plays

a key role and she did it well. Harish Uthaman plays the negative role. Surabhi Lakshmi plays an important role and she is also the key for the film. The remaining actors are supported well. The music by Dhibu Ninan is good, especially the background score. The cinematography by Jomon captured the beautiful locations and also the action scenes were captured interestingly. The movie is also released in 3D, so the makers wanted to put some scenes together by hook or crook.

VERDICT

Finally, *ARM* is a different story where Tovino Thomas steals the show in three roles. The second half is good, with some interesting scenes. This isn't your typical masala movie; if you're searching for something different, you should absolutely watch it.

Cast: Tovino Thomas, Krithi Shetty, Aishwarya Rajesh, Rohini, Surabhi Shetty, Basil Joseph, Harish Uthaman and others

Cinematography: Jomon T John

Music: Dhibu Ninan Thomas

Producers: Listin Stephen, Zachariah Thomas

Writer: Sujith Nambiar

Director: Jithin Lal

Rating: 2.5/5



VARUN TEJ CONCENTRATES ON MATKA

Actor Varun Tej currently needs a good break in his career at this point in time. He is pinning his hopes on *Matka* directed by Karuna Kumar of *Palasa* fame. The final schedule of this film shoot is going on at RFC. "There are some important scenes that are canning on this schedule and with this we are going to wrap up the entire shoot," says the filmmakers.

Varun Tej has been working hard for this film, as he will be seen in a different look. According to the makers, the end game begins, as the final schedule of the movie is underway with some key sequences being shot in RFC, Hyderabad.

Dr. Vijender Reddy Teegala and Rajani Thalluri are the producers. The film *Matka* is going to be the most costly and prestigious project for Varun Tej. The story is set against a period backdrop, and it spans a 24-year period, from 1958 to 1982. Varun Tej is fully immersed in his role, showcasing a range of looks that depict his character's evolution from youth to old age. The latest poster features Tej in an elderly get-up, deep in thought while seated. Meenakshi Chaudhry and Nora Fatehi are playing the female leads.



KAJAL ONBOARDS SALMAN KHAN'S SIKANDAR

Kajal Aggarwal enraptured hearts with *Bhagavanth Kesari*, starring opposite Nandamuri Balakrishna. Not just this, she was also praised for her performance in the female-centric film *Satyabhama*, proving her prowess of pulling the crowd to the theatres. Kajal, who also enjoys a great following in Bollywood has onboarded a big Hindi project, which stars none other than Salman Khan.

Tamil director AR Murugadoss is now working with Salman Khan for the film *Sikandar*. Rashmika Mandanna also plays one of the female leads. Now, the director has offered Kajal Aggarwal an important role in the film. She had earlier worked with director Muragadoss's for the Tamil blockbuster *Thuppaki* which was released in 2012. Now, the same director offered this Hindi film after he was impressed with her work, says a source.

The actress also confirmed doing this Salman Khan film as she replied to a YouTuber, Siddharth R Kannan, where he mentioned Kajal Aggarwal joining the cast of *Sikandar* with Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna.



BJP MP wishes Kalinga big success

Dhruva Vaayu, who earned acclaim with *Kerosene*, is directing the upcoming film *Kalinga*, besides acting as the lead actor in it. Deepthi Kondaveeti and Pruthvi Yadav are the producers. The film is releasing this Friday and at the pre-release event of the film was held, where BJP leader and MP Raghunandan Rao attended as the chief guests.

"Though everyone is busy with their regular life, watching movies is a part of our culture that helps relieve stress from daily life. After the pandemic, many watched OTT platforms. Now, in the Tamil film industry, many smaller movies are achieving great success. I hope the film *Kalinga* also achieves a

good success and I wish the best for Dhruva and the producers," said Raghunandan Rao, BJP MP.

The BJP leader attended this film's function because of Dhruva Vaayu. The actor thanked the political leader for gracing the event. "For my story, *Yakub*, with his dialogues, takes it to another level. The highlight of the film is the visuals and the background score. Preethi Sundar has played her dream role in this film," said Dhruva Vaayu about the film. He added that Sanjay's performance is going to be a big surprise. "He will leave everyone stunned, and in the coming days he is going to play big roles," said Dhruva about the other stars.

TELOGU TV PRODUCERS HELPING FLOOD VICTIMS

The Telugu Television Producers Association has decided to help the flood victims in Telugu states. The association on Thursday said that they desire to help the victims by donating and collecting money from the television producers.

"After seeing the havoc in both the states, we want to help something from us. So, we asked every producer of the TV serial to come forward and help whatever they like. Many producers are willing to help and they donate some money. We will add something to the collected money and hand it over to the respective governments soon," said Prabhakar, who is a producer and actor.

The TV Producers Association president Prasada Rao said that they wanted to help the



flood victims. "There are nearly 250 producers there, but only 60 of them are active. When we asked the producers to respond, many producers came forward and donated some money. We wanted to collect nearly Rs 10 to 15 lakh rupees and we equally distribute the money to both the Telugu States," said Prasada Rao.

He added that they are requesting an appointment of CM or Deputy CM and then handover the cheque to them. He added that nearly 15,000 employees are there in the Television industry and they all helped them at the pandemic time. "Now, the Telugu states are facing some problems due to the floods and we wanted to help the people at these difficult times," said Prasada Rao.

PRAGGNANANDHAA, VAISHALI STAR IN INDIA'S STRONG START AT OLYMPIAD

PTI ■ BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

Praggnanandhaa set the tone on the top board as the Indian mens team blanked Morocco 4-0, while the women romped home against Jamaica, conceding just a draw in the process, in the first round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

With world championship challenger D Gukesh taking a break in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa delivered the goods against Tissir Mohamed out of a Sicilian defense game while Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi and P Harikrishna also pulled off comfortable wins to start off confidently on Wednesday.

In the womens section, R Vaishali and Tania Sachdev scored fine victories in the first time control itself. However, on the other two boards there was stiff resistance as Divya Deshmukh had to sweat hard for a much-needed victory while Vantika Agarwal was forced to concede a draw in the endgame against her rival. It was business as usual for the top guns despite the occasional hiccups. Top seeded United States also won 3.5-0.5 against Panama. Wesley So was the



lone American who was unable to force matters and had to be content with a draw. Armenian-American Levon Aronian came out of an early mishap to turn the tables and ensure smooth sailing for the American team into round two. As many as 99 teams in the open section started off with wins giving them all two points

each. A total of 182 teams were paired while 15 teams were still grappling to reach Budapest. Praggnanandhaa was up against a Sicilian by top Moroccan Mohamed who had only himself to blame after the opening got over. The Indian teen had a stronghold on the king side that he utilised to the fullest to take the first point home for

the team. Not very far behind was Gujrathi who was clearly in his elements. He also got an opening advantage out of a King pawn game against Jacques Elbilal as he knocked down a pawn and never looked back. Erigaisi may have had to work harder but the Indian youngster, who is currently

ranked number four in the world, was never far from winning his game. Harikrishna faced some initial resistance from Anas Mosyad in a closed Sicilian but his superior understanding of the structure gave him the vital point. The second round will see the Indian men clash with a spirited Iceland. In the womens competition,

Vaishali had no trouble in converting her position with black pieces as D Harika was rested on the top board.

Tania Sachdev was in command right through and despite a little mess-up, she did not let the advantage slip through her hands playing on board four.

On the second board, there were some serious issues for Divya Deshmukh but the recently-crowned world junior girls champion proved her mettle out of an equal position. The same, however, was not the case with Vantika as she was forced in a drawn queen and pawns endgame. The womens event features 178 teams as of now with 19 still awaited to join the extravaganza from round two onward.

Indian results round 1: R Praggnanandhaa beat Tissir Mohamed; Jacques Elbilal lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi beat Ouakhir Mehdi Pierre; Anas Moayad lost to P Harikrishna

Women: R Vaishali beat Adani Clarke; Divya Deshmukh beat Rachel Miller; Raehanna Brown drew with Vantika Agrawal; Tania Sachdev beat Gabriella Watson.



Harmanpreet's brace hands India 3-1 win over Korea in ACT hockey

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as defending champions India beat Korea 3-1 to register their fourth consecutive win at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here on Thursday.

Paris Olympics bronze medallist India had defeated China 3-0, Japan 5-0 before thrashing last years runner-up Malaysia 8-1.

Already assured of a semifinal berth, India will play arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday in their last league match in the six-team competition.

The top four teams from the league stages will qualify for the semifinals scheduled on Monday, while the final will be played next Tuesday.

India continued their fine form and struck twice early in the first quarter to take a 2-0 lead.

Arajjeet Singh Hundal, who scored a brace against Malaysia, scored the first goal in the eighth minute before Harmanpreet, regarded as one of the worlds best dragflickers, converted two penalty corners in the ninth and 43rd minutes.

Koreas lone goal was scored by Jihun Yang in the 30th minute from a penalty corner. As has been the case in the tournament so far, the Indians started on an aggressive note with Arajjeet handing his side the lead with a brilliant strike after being fed by Sukhjeet Singh.

A minute later, the promising Raj Kumar Pal, who struck a hat-trick against Malaysia on Wednesday, earned a penalty corner for India and captain Harmanpreet converted the chance with a powerful dragflick.

Indias reserve goalkeeper Suraj Karkera was impressive under the bar, denying Korea on a few occasions in the second quarter.

After an impressive first quarter, the Indians seemed to have gone into a shell in the next 15 minutes as Korea dominated the proceedings with continuous forays on the rival citadel.

The Indian defence stood tall until Korea pulled a goal just at the stroke of half-time through Yang whose effort went into the net after getting a deflection from Manpreet Singhs stick from a penalty corner opportunity.

The Koreans secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 35th minute but India defended bravely. India secured their second penalty corner two minutes later but wasted the chance.

The holders managed to restore their two-goal lead in the 43rd minute when Harmanpreet scored with a powerful low flick to the left of the Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Jarmanpreet Singh conceded a penalty corner but the Indian defence was up to the task. Thereafter, the Indians controlled the proceedings and did not let Korea create any scoring opportunity.

Virat Kohli played a big role in turning the cricket around: Ricky Ponting

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Australian great Ricky Ponting hailed former captain Virat Kohlis "big role" in revolutionizing Test cricket in India and said the countrys batters dont fear the big stage anymore, evidence of which is their success in challenging conditions overseas.

Ponting also lauded the contributions of former head coach Rahul Dravid, who stepped down from the post after guiding India to the T20 World Cup title triumph in June.

"Going back to Kohlis start of captaincy, (he) played a big role in turning the cricket around, and (Rahul) Dravid has continued the same in the recent four years. The influence of someone like that (Kohli) around a team would be great, and theyve got star players," Ponting told Sky Sports.

Under Kohlis captaincy, India became the first Asian side to win a Test series



in Australia, besides recording some memorable wins elsewhere. With his aggressive captaincy, Kohli made everyone believe that the Indian team can win overseas as well, and his confidence rubbed on the side even when he was not around. During the last Test series in Australia in 2020-21, Kohli left for India after

the first match due to the birth of his daughter Vamika. But India, under the captaincy of Ajinkya Rahane, battled injuries and the absence of key players to eke out a historic 2-1 series win.

"They won a game at the Gabba, which just doesnt happen. I think their batters adapt to overseas batting

conditions very well.

"I dont think theyre as daunted by the Gabba or the Optus Oval as they maybe once were. Maybe it is a selection thing, or they just dont fear the big stage anymore," observed Ponting.

During Kohlis tenure, India won 40 matches and lost 17, with 11 ending

in draws out of the 68 Tests they played.

This time around, Kohli will tour Australia under longtime India colleague Rohit Sharmas captaincy. "Their fast-bowling depth is great. The leadership in the last 6-7 years has been strong."

Ponting also praised the Indian Premier League for producing players who like to play fearless cricket.

"For the last 10 years being around the IPL, Ive noticed that a lot of the young guys (play aggressively without fear) as the IPL is high-pressure. It is like a World Cup for them.

"Their batsmen are all very aggressive stroke-making players. They are not scared of failing," he concluded.

The Aussies have failed to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy since their last series victory in 2014-15 at home. The Indians have claimed the title on four successive instances since then, winning twice each at home and away.

Mbappé rejects mediation offer in \$60M financial dispute with PSG

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappé is not ready to compromise with Paris Saint-Germain.

The France superstar rejected a mediation offer by the French soccer leagues legal commission on Wednesday in his dispute with his former club over wages and bonuses. PSG officials and Mbappés representatives met in Paris after Mbappé asked the commission to get involved. Mbappé, who joined Real Madrid this summer on a free transfer, says PSG owes him 55 million euros (\$60 million).

In a statement to The Associated Press, Mbappés representatives said the player asked the commission to take note of the non-payment of three months salary and the last third of a loyalty bonus.

"The eventuality of a mediation was mentioned this morning," the statement read. "This possibility was rejected during the meeting by the players representative. A mediation would be useless to record a lack of payment that would be seen from a simple analysis of the players payslip."

PSG, which said it was pleased with the two-hour hearing at the commission on Wednesday, said in a statement it recalled that Mbappé had formerly made "clear, repeated public and private commitments that must be respected, having been afforded unprecedented benefits by the club over seven fantastic years in Paris." PSG has argued that it does not owe money to the World Cup winner under an agreement when Mbappé was sidelined ahead of the 2023-24 season - following his decision not to prolong his contract with the club - with the player allegedly stipulating that he would



relinquish bonuses over his reintegration into the team. "To avoid its payment obligation, the club seeks to demonstrate the existence of a secret agreement that would justify it. But the club fails to demonstrate the existence of such an agreement," Mbappés representatives said.

PSG said that the leagues legal commission recommended "mediation between the parties," which the club said it had been seeking for months. The French league did not respond to a request for comments from the AP.

The players representatives did not say what action they will now take. In light of the current deadlock, its likely the case will ultimately be settled by an employment court.

Mbappés relationship with PSG ended amid deep tensions during his final season at the club. PSG felt let down by Mbappé after offering him the most lucrative contract in the clubs history when he signed a new contract in 2022. But Mbappé was frustrated because he felt promises to sign key players were not kept. When he signed the new deal, he was paraded in front of

fans holding up a jersey with 2025 on it. Mbappé was reportedly annoyed about this because the contract was until 2024 with the option for an extra year.

Mbappé stunned PSG in June last year by informing the club he would not take the option for an extra year. With his contract effectively into its final year, it put PSG in the position of needing to sell Mbappé to avoid losing him for free when the contract expired. His PSG career could have ended in the summer of 2023 amid a tense transfer standoff. After telling the club he would not extend his contract for an extra year, Mbappé was left off a preseason tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players. PSG said it would rather sell him than let the player leave for free in 2024, but he rejected a 300 million euro move to Saudi team Al-Hilal.

PSG left Mbappé out of the teams opening league game of that season as the standoff continued but eventually let him return to the lineup after "constructive and positive talks" between the two parties, PSG said at the time.

Chopra, Sable spearhead Indian challenge in Diamond League season finale

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

Javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra will have lofty expectations to live up to, while for steeplechaser Avinash Sable, it would be an opportunity to make up for a disappointing Olympics, when the star-studded Diamond League season finale begins here on Friday, featuring the best of world athletics.

The showpiece is spread over two days for the first time and the field features top athletes from all continents, including an unprecedented number of Olympic medal winners, who will be vying for the top honours in 32 disciplines.

Pole vault world record holder Armand DuPlantis, American sprint queen ShaCarri Richardson, and superstar

hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone are among the big names who will light up the King Baudouin Stadium here. National record-holding 3000m steeplechaser Sable, after finishing 11th in the Olympic Games, will be in action on Friday in his maiden appearance in the DL season finale.

Chopra, who added a silver to his Olympic medal tally in Paris following a historic gold in the Tokyo Games, will be aiming to end his season on a high on Saturday.

It is for the first time that a DL finale features two Indians. Sable finished 14th in the overall Diamond League standings with three points from two meetings. But four athletes ranked higher than him — Lamecha Girma



(injured) of Ethiopia, Geordie Beamish of New Zealand, Ryuji Mura of Japan and Hillary Bor of the USA — pulled out, allowing him to sneak into the top 12 cut-off. Five meetings out of the 14 in the DL series across the world this season had mens 3000m steeplechase event.

The 29-year-old Sable had finished sixth with a national record time of 8:09.91 — bettering his own earlier mark

— in the Paris leg of the Diamond League on July 7. He was 14th at the Silesia leg with a time of 8:29.96 on August 25. Chopra, on the other hand, made the DL final cut after finishing fourth in the overall standings with 14 points from his two second-place finishes in the one-day meets held in Doha and Lausanne.

Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a Diamond Trophy, USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships. The runner-up gets USD 12,000.

Chopra skipped the last series meet in Zurich last week.

The 26-year-old finished two points behind Czechias Jakub Vadlech. Grenadas Anderson Peters and German star Julian Weber took the top two spots with 29 and 21 points respectively.

Chopra has been struggling with his fitness this season and is expected to meet a doctor to rectify a groin injury that has affected him all season and came in the way of his quest to hit the 90m mark. He had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlech in the winner-takes-all finale in Eugene, USA, last year.

Bhaker rested, Rhythm to compete in two events in ISSF World Cup Final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rhythm Sangwan will be the only Indian shooter to compete in two events in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final here after double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker opted for a three-month rest following her exploits in the Paris Games.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Thursday announced a 23-member Indian squad for the tournament that will be held across rifle, pistol and shotgun categories from October 13 to 18 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

The squad features nine members from the Paris Olympics team which returned with three bronze medals. A total of 11 Indian Olympians will gun for the title of the best shooter of the year along with the worlds best in 12 individual Olympic events. The 22-year-old Bhaker scripted history for India in Paris as she won a bronze each in the womens 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event (paired with Sarabjot Singh in the latter), and the Indian shooters participating in the prestigious tournament in the national capital will look to carry on the momentum at the familiar range. "We have a strong squad of proven performers for the ISSF year-end and look forward to a strong performance. Expectations from the sport have



reached sky-high after the Paris performance..." said Sultan Singh, secretary general, NRAI.

Four shooters — Divyansh Singh Panwar (mens 10m air rifle), Sonam Uttam Maskar (womens 10m air rifle), Rhythm (womens 10m air pistol & 25m pistol) and Ganemat Sekhon (womens skeet) have been selected by ISSF directly, while the rest of the members Babuta (mens 10m air rifle), Arjun

Olympic trials rankings. The 20-year-old Rhythm will have Surbhi Rao for company in the womens 10m air pistol competition.

Seasoned shooters and Olympians Mairaj Ahmed Khan (mens skeet) and Chain Singh (mens 50m rifle 3 positions) have returned to the team. Besides Rhythm, the other Paris Olympians in the squad include Arjun Babuta (mens 10m air rifle), Arjun

Singh Cheema (mens 10m air pistol), Anish and Vijayveer Sidhu (mens 25m rapid-fire pistol), Shreyasi Singh and Rajeshwari Kumari (womens trap), Maheshwari Chauhan (womens skeet) and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka (mens skeet).

THE INDIAN SQUAD:

Air Rifle Men: Divyansh Singh Panwar, Arjun Babuta
Air Rifle Women: Sonam Uttam Maskar, Tilottama Sen
50M Rifle 3P Men: Chain Singh, Akhil Sheoran

50M Rifle 3P Women: Ashi Chouksey, Nischal Air Pistol Men: Arjun Singh Cheema, Varun Tomar Air Pistol Women: Rhythm Sangwan, Surbhi Rao
25M Rapid Fire Pistol Men: Anish, Vijayveer Sidhu

25M Sports Pistol Women: Rhythm Sangwan, Simranpreet Kaur BarTrap Men: Vivaan Kapoor, Bhowneesh MendirattaTrap Women: Rajeshwari Kumari, Shreyasi Singh Skeet Men: Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Mairaj Ahmad KhanSkeet Women: Ganemat Sekhon, Maheshwari Chauhan.