

QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The actions of Revanth are not in the interests of Hyderabad or Telangana. He is functioning as per Chandrababu Naidu's directions to shift the city's development to Amaravati, which clearly shows his intent to hinder our state's growth. Revanth is spreading fear among people under the guise of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA), and added that this was part of a broader conspiracy to destabilise the city

— BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy

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Amit Shah to address 4th Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sannamela

I CALL MYSELF A MORE HYDERABADI THAN A MALAYALI

Nani concentrates on Hit 3, HERE & NOW

DON'T MISS...

CM moots clean city plan for Hyd...

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to draft comprehensive plans to transform Greater Hyderabad into a clean city, following the example of Indore. The Municipal Administration officers were instructed to visit Indore and study the methods in place there. He emphasized the need to observe the practices firsthand and hold discussions with the agencies and organizations involved, exploring the possibility of making them partners in Hyderabad's clean city initiative. He also asked...

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Postal dept to assist pensioners...

The postal department will provide doorstep delivery of services to aged pensioners to help them submit their digital life certificates (DLCs), according to an official statement issued on Friday. The move assumes significance as the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has decided to hold DLC campaign 3.0 from November 1-30, 2024, in all district headquarters and major cities across India. A preparatory meeting to structure the DLC campaign 3.0 in all district post offices was ...

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Fire-resistant upholstery fabrics...

The government has introduced stringent regulations mandating the use of fire-resistant upholstery fabrics in non-domestic furniture, a move expected to improve public safety with respect to fire-related tragedies. Effective from October, the Quality Control Order (QCO) now requires all upholstery components used at public spaces to comply with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms. The QCO applies to upholstered composites and fabrics used in non-domestic furniture found in public areas such ...

-PAGE: 8

Team India begins practice in...

It is back to business for Rohit Sharma's side following its much-deserved month-long break, as the team began its preparations in right earnest under new coach Gautam Gambhir here on Friday, for the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh. With the first Test against Bangladesh scheduled here from September 19, the entire squad, including Rohit and batting stalwart Virat Kohli, assembled at the MA Chidambaram Stadium with new bowling coach, South African great Morne...

-SPORTS

'No notice required to raze FTL buildings'

TELANGANA HIGH COURT OBSERVES DURING HEARING OF HYDRAA PETITION

REVANTH CHITHALURI
 revanth.chithaluri@gmail.com
 ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Justice T. Vinod Kumar of the Telangana High Court said that the authorities need not issue any notices before demolishing buildings built on lake beds.

The Judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by K Umamaheshwaramma and Ramesh challenging the demolition of buildings inside Ameenpur Lake by HYDRAA on September 8.

The counsel for the petitioner said that government officials had declared in 2007 that their land was not in the FTL area or buffer zone of the lake.

The court said it needed the 1970 document as it was a 400-acre lake and not a document issued in the year 2007.

When the counsel for the petitioners said that in 2007 also the proceedings were conducted by officials like the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) the court said, "Documents issued in 1970 will show the exact area of the Kotha Cheruvu's FTL and buffer zone."

The petitioner's lawyer said that officials demolished buildings on nine acres of land.

"Although my client showed documents, GOs and other documents they demolished her building saying that it was in the FTL area. Any authority.



Petition filed in HC seeking dissolution of HYDRAA

Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Friday heard a writ petition to quash the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA).

The Judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by one D. Lakshmi challenging the formation of HYDRAA.

The petitioner's counsel said the GHMC Act does not permit the government to delegate strategic powers to any other authority.

action by officials requires prior notice. The officials have to examine the explanations and only then pass the order," he said.

The court then said that if the building was in the FTL area or buffer zone of the lake there is no need to issue notices to anyone. The court told the counsel to examine the Supreme Court judgement in the Olga Tellis & Ors Vs Bombay Municipal Corporation & Ors case. There are similar provisions in the GHMC Act also. "If lake beds are encroached no notices are required," the court said. The Judge said that Pedda Cheruvu and Kotha Cheruvu are adjacent to each other. People laid a road after dividing and destroying the lake.



Two new Vande Bharat trains to TG: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to present a special gift to the people of Telugu states during the Vinayaka Navaratri festival. As part of the expansion of the Vande Bharat Express network, two new trains will be inaugurated on September 16, 2024, enhancing connectivity and improving travel services in the region.

Currently, four Vande Bharat trains operate from Secunderabad railway station. Now, a fifth Vande Bharat train will run between Secunderabad and Nagpur.

Centre thinks TG is inflating flood losses

NAVEENA GHANATE
 naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
 ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has pegged losses due to floods at Rs 10,320 crore while initial estimates had put it at Rs 5,438 crore. Top Central sources raised concerns over Telangana's estimation of flood losses saying that the state had inflated the figures.

According to sources at the Centre, Telangana initially submitted a report pegging losses at Rs 5,438 crore which came as a surprise to the Centre. As a result, a fact-finding team led by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was dispatched and its report has been sub-

mitted to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Following this, another team was deputed by the Centre to verify the state's estimates and to provide a precise assessment of the damage.

Highly placed sources indicated that actual losses may be significantly lower with estimates indicating that it is below Rs 2,000 crore. When asked about funds for flood relief, sources indicated that Telangana already has access to Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) allocations.

"Moreover, any additional assistance from the Centre would be granted only if procedures are followed by the state.

TG pegs flood damage at Rs 10,320 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has again requested the Centre to extend immediate financial assistance to flood-affected Telangana which suffered huge damage.

The Chief Minister called for all-out help from the Centre without any conditions to provide relief. The CM also emphasized that the strict rules which are being implemented by the Centre for using disaster



Cong suspects SWAEROES' hand in Gurukul protests

■ HYDERABAD

The Congress has levelled allegations of foul play by SWAEROES in the ongoing protests at several Gurukuls across Telangana.

SWAEROES is an organisation started by RS Praveen Kumar, who is now in the BRS and is known for its work among marginalised communities.

The issues surrounding Gurukul schools have been a persistent challenge for the state government, with protests over living conditions, management and student grievances mounting. However, govern-

ment sources now suggest that these protests may not be as organic as they appear.

According to top sources, an internal investigation into the root cause of the unrest by the CMO has revealed a coordinated effort.

While the government has acknowledged the existence of issues within the Gurukul system and expressed its readiness to address them, the involvement of organised networks raises questions.

"The timing and spread of these protests seem orchestrated. It is like a playbook now.

BJP sees Uttam's role in Kaushik row

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP posted on its X account that it suspects that Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy is behind the aggressiveness of BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy against Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi.

The BJP posted in Telugu, "Who is the best (Uttama Darshakudu) director running this drama.?" The BJP also posted Uttam's caricature picture behind Kaushik Reddy's photo. The picture depicts Uttam using Kaushik as a puppet.

Meanwhile, the same BJP handle said, "It is against the rules of the Assembly and the spirit of



Parliament to assign the post of chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to an MLA who joined the ruling party recently. People must be reminded that the Congress is killing the spirit of the Constitution and is also setting fire to the legislature's conventions."

AFTER SIX MONTHS IN TIHAR JAIL...

Kejriwal out on bail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal walked out of Tihar Jail on Friday evening, hours after he was granted bail in the corruption case lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the excise policy 'scam'.

Kejriwal left the jail premises amid heavy rain in the national capital. He was accompanied by his wife Sunita Kejriwal, and senior AAP leaders, including Manish Sisodia, Atishi, Sanjay Singh, Bhagwant Mann and oth-



ers. Standing through the sunroof of a car, the AAP chief then addressed party workers who gathered outside the Tihar Jail and chanted slogans of "Jaik Ke Tale Toot Gaye, Kejriwalji Chhoot Gaye".

'Will continue to fight anti-national forces'

In his first remarks after being released from the Tihar Jail, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said he will continue to fight "anti-national" forces working to weaken the nation, and asserted the incarceration has only strengthened his resolve.

Hours after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Delhi excise policy case, Kejriwal stepped out of the jail to a resounding welcome by his party leaders and supporters.

Addressing party workers from the sunroof of a vehicle, Kejriwal raised slogans of "Inquilab Zindabad" and "Vande Mataram".

"I want to thank people who prayed for my release. You have braved rain to come here and I am thankful to you. Every drop of my blood is dedicated in the service of my nation. In my entire life, I have faced difficulties but the God has always been with me," he said.

BRS leaders under house arrest after call to hold meeting at Gandhi's house

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Several BRS leaders were placed under house arrest across the state after a call by the party to hold a meeting at Arikepudi Gandhi's residence.

Former Minister Harish Rao, who was injured in a scuffle with the police on Thursday, was denied permission to visit the hospital despite suffering severe hand pain.

MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy and former MP Maloth Kavitha were prevented by the police from meeting Harish. Police insisted that they would allow the meeting only with the Police Commissioner's approval leading to arguments. Women public representatives were left standing on the road as a result of the standoff.

BRS leader Padi attempted to reach Arikepudi Gandhi's residence from Shambipur Raju's house, but this was also foiled by the police, who tightened restrictions to prevent the gathering.

In Adilabad, former Minister Jogu Ramanna was placed under house arrest, and several BRS leaders across the erstwhile Medak district were detained at various police stations.

The Siddipet Police also preemptively arrested local BRS leaders. BRS Working President KTR condemned the house arrests,

CM moots transgenders as traffic marshals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has launched a new experiment in Hyderabad's traffic management, suggesting that transgender individuals should be recruited as volunteers to help control traffic. He directed officials to consider this approach as additional support for the traffic police and Home Guards. They will be called "Traffic Marshals".

Like the role of Home Guards, transgenders will be assigned duties, and the Chief Minister proposed that a monthly stipend be provided to them, which would help them secure their livelihood.

The Chief Minister proposed that a monthly stipend be provided to them, which would help them secure their livelihood

The Chief Minister asked to gather details of interested transgender individuals who are willing to take up this responsibility.

The CM also suggested that transgender volunteers should undergo special training for about a week or 10 days and emphasised that they must have distinct uniforms while on duty.

Govt bans all political rallies on Sept 17

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The government has banned political rallies as the final Ganesh idol immersion procession is scheduled on September 17, the Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnampalapati said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference at the Collectorate here, he said there are many platforms for politics and political rallies, but during the Ganesh festival there should be no politics in the area coming under the three Commissionerates.

He asked people to organise Ganesh immersion processions on September 17 without any political undertones. The government has made arrangements for the peaceful conduct of Ganesh immersion and Milad-Un-Nabi processions. If any person or organisation instigates people action would be taken, he warned.

"As Hindu and Muslim festivals are being celebrated simultaneously no politics would be tolerated," Ponnampalapati said. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has already ordered stern action against anti-social elements, he added.

Ponnampalapati appealed to the people to cooperate with the government to ensure the peaceful conduct of both festivals.

Reacting to Thursday's verbal duel between Arekapudi Gandhi and BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, he said that politicians can comment against each other, but should not engage in physical attacks. Action will be taken against those who engage in violence, he added.

Giving details on arrangements made for the Ganesh immersion and Milad festivities, Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand said that they are reviewing security arrangements.

DGP warns trouble makers of strong action

The Director General of Police (DGP), Dr Jitender, said here on Friday that the government has zero tolerance for people who are trying to create disturbances in Hyderabad city and Telangana. The DGP held a conference with the Police Commissioners of Hyderabad City, Cyberabad and Rachakonda in the context of recent developments.

The DGP stressed that there should not be any compromise on law and order in the three Commissionerates of Hyderabad city. Anyone trying to disturb the peace should be dealt with strictly as per law.

Revanth sabotaging Hyd to help Amaravati: Kaushik

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a strong criticism of the Congress leadership, MLA Kaushik Reddy accused the CM of deliberately stalling Hyderabad's development to help Amaravati.

Addressing a press conference at MLC Sambhipur Raju's residence, Kaushik said that Revanth was acting as per the directions of Chandrababu Naidu, undermining the growth of Telangana's capital city to serve the interests of Andhra Pradesh.

"The actions of Revanth are not in the interests of Hyderabad or Telangana. He is functioning as per Chandrababu Naidu's directions to shift development to Amaravati, which clearly shows his intent to

hinder the growth of TG," said Kaushik Reddy.

He accused Revanth of spreading fear among people under the guise of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA), alleging that this was part of a broader conspiracy to 'destabilise' the city.

Kaushik remarks were made in the context of a larger political development, where several BRS leaders, including MLAs, MLCs, and former ministers were put under house arrest.

Kaushik and MLC Sambhipur Raju had planned to visit MLA Arikepudi Gandhi's residence when they were detained by the police.

BJP shows the way to press for more funds

We are a prosperous state with higher per capita income than any other state; hence, the Finance Commission should allocate more funds to the state. We are growing faster than most states; hence, the Finance Commission (FC) should allocate more funds from the divisible pool to the state. The earlier government mismanaged the state's finances, resulting in a considerable debt burden; therefore, we need more funds. We made substantial welfare guarantees in our manifesto to come to power; hence, we need higher fund allocations. The Center collects large sums through surcharges and cesses; therefore, the Finance Commission should bring those revenues into the divisible pool. States need more funds; therefore, the Finance Commission should increase the states' share of the divisi-

ble pool to 50% from the current 41%. The Constitution mandates that the Central government collect certain taxes and put them in the divisible pool. It also mandates a Finance Commission to be constituted by the President every five years on how these revenues should be shared by the Center and the states and between states for the next five years. The Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) made the above demands and suggestions to Arvind Panagariya, the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission. Panagariya and his team visited Hyderabad this week to consult with state stakeholders regarding the division of divisible pool revenues. Though the claims made by the Congress and BRS leaders-represented by the state's current and previous Finance

'Positive net intra-state migration reflects that a particular state has become an enormous employment generator, attracting and providing employment to out-of-state Indians too. Employment generation is the most significant national necessity, and any state that is an engine for it deserves all necessary support through an increased share in funds'

Ministers, Bhatti Vikramarka and Harish Rao of the BRS were factually correct, they seemed more focused on playing to the gallery rather than procuring a higher share of the divisible pool for Telangana state. Bhatti used the occasion to blame the previous BRS government for the dire straits of the state's coffers so that he could use it later as an excuse for failing to fulfil his party's pre-poll promises. On the other hand, Harish was intent on claiming credit for the state's growth over the past decade to sidestep Bhatti's

criticism. Both leaders, having been Finance Ministers, understand the principles and methodology used by Finance Commissions to apportion revenues from the divisible pool. The cardinal principle of taxation is that the rich pay more taxes, and a higher proportion of the tax revenues go to uplift the poor. Claiming Telangana is prosperous and fast-growing is not a viable argument when asking for more money. One need not be a finance minister to understand this principle; every tax-



KISHORE POREDDY

payer knows this. Also, if being in heavy debt is a reason for more allocation, no state government would stop spending frugally and push itself into a debt trap. Similarly, both finance ministers know that adding cesses and surcharges to the divisible pool needs a Constitutional amendment, which is in Parliament's

scope, not in the domain of the Finance Commission. The Finance Commission weighs the changing burdens of the central and state governments to decide on revenue split. The 14th Finance Commission increased the states' share from 32% to 42%. The 15th reduced it to 41% as Jammu and Kashmir moved from the states column into the union territories column, making it a responsibility of the Center. Once the Commission determines the states' share, it evolves a formula to apportion the states' share among individual states. The current formula gives 85% weight to the state's size, population, poverty levels and forest cover and 15% to its performance in controlling population and growing tax revenues. A logical argument to the Finance Commission needs to have two components. The first would be to impress on the

growing responsibilities of the states vis-a-vis the Center. The second would be to change the formula used to determine each state's share so that Telangana's share increases. There are two ways of achieving this: adding new parameters to the existing formula and increasing the weights of specific parameters that increase Telangana's revenue share in the current formula. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), represented by Eatala Rajender - the only other person to have been the state's finance minister - demonstrated this understanding and put forward ideas that can help the cause of Telangana. A significant innovative idea presented pushes for considering net intra-state migration as a parameter for fund allocation. Positive net intra-state migration reflects that a particular state has become an enormous employment gen-

erator, attracting and providing employment to out-of-state Indians too. At the same time, net migration also stresses the civic infrastructure of the receiving state. Given our demographic dividend, employment generation is the most significant national necessity, and any state that is an engine for it deserves all necessary support through an increased share in funds. Another parameter relates to addressing the growing concern of climate change through allocations for disaster prevention and relief and encouraging renewable energy production. Of the three finance ministers the state had seen, only one - Eatala Rajender of the BJP, used their experience and insight to benefit the state. The other two just played politics.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

MBBS counselling will start within a week, says Health Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narasimha said that Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) courses admissions counselling would be started within a week.

The MBBS counselling will be completed within the deadline given by the medical counselling committee and the classes will be started.

He said that their idea is to get seats only for the students of Telangana region and there will be no compromise in this matter.

He advised the students to not believe in rumours on counselling dates. The counselling will start in a week and students should be ready for the registration of web options.

SHEKAWATH, KISHAN REDDY AND BANDI SANJAY TO PARTICIPATE

Amit Shah not attending T-Liberation Day fete

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had extended invitations to four Union Ministers, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to attend the Praja Palana Dinotsavam celebrations. The Telangana government has decided to commemorate the start of democratic governance in Telangana, which began on September 17, 1948. The celebrations will be held at Nampally Public Gardens, Hyderabad, and the Chief Minister has urged the minis-

ters to attend the event.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will not be attending the Telangana Liberation Day celebrations to be held on September 17 at Parade Grounds to be organized by the Central government. However, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat will attend the celebrations. In fact, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy is also attending the celebrations as the chief guest and will unfurl the national flag. Union Minister of

State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar will also be participating in the celebrations.

According to a note issued by the State BJP on Friday, under the auspices of Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations are being organised at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad on September 17, to commemorate the liberation of the Hyderabad Samsthan from the clutches of the Nizam in 1948.

As part of the celebrations, para-military forces and defence forces will conduct a

parade after unfurling of the National Flag. Cultural programmes depicting the historic Hyderabad struggle are going to be part of the celebrations. As a prelude to the Telangana Liberation Day celebrations scheduled on September 17, a rehearsal is being organised on the entire event on September 14 from 9 am at Parade Grounds. Dr K Laxman, Member, Rajya Sabha, National President of BJP OBC Morcha, will take stock of the parade rehearsal and examine the preparedness of the cultural programmes.

'Victory of Constitution' Akhilesh hails Kejriwal's bail

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday hailed as "victory of Constitution" the bail granted to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Supreme Court.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also described Kejriwal as "popular and pro-public welfare" CM and slammed the BJP for being "against the Constitution" and "misusing" it.

"The bail of Delhi's popular and public welfare Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal is a 'victory of the Constitution'. Only those who are against the Constitution misuse it. The world has moved forward on this tradition till now and will continue to do so," Yadav posted in Hindi on X.

Sridhar seeks Central help to make TG a trillion-dollar economy



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The IT, Commerce and Industries Minister of Telangana, Sridhar Babu, requested the Centre to help TG become a trillion-dollar economy in the next decade.

Speaking at the meeting of the National Business Council in Mumbai on Thursday, he emphasised the need for support to achieve Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision of a Rs 84 lakh crore economy.

He highlighted problems with schemes like the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), which have not met expectations due to inadequate funding.

He proposed several measures to boost Telangana's economy like establishing a unit in Nizamabad to produce turmeric powder and dyes. Sridhar said that a rapid-drying plant should be established in Khammam or Mahabubabad to enhance the quality of chillies and meet the demand in export markets.

He called for setting up a spices lab in Nizamabad or Warangal for quality certification.

The Minister also requested the establishment of an irradiation plant to extend the shelf life of fruits and vegetables.

CELEBRATIONS ERUPT AT AAP OFFICE

Party calls it 'loss for dictatorship'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Celebrations erupted outside the AAP headquarters here on Friday after the Supreme Court granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case lodged by the CBI in connection with the excise policy 'scam'. Several AAP leaders and workers gathered outside the party headquarters and distributed sweets and burst crackers to celebrate the release of their party supremo.

Meanwhile, outside the chief minister's residence, Kejriwal's wife, Sunita Kejriwal, along with senior AAP leaders and workers, also distributed sweets as party supporters raised slogans like "Aa gaye bhai aa gaye, Kejriwal aa gaye" and "jail ke taale toot gaye, Kejriwal chooth gaye". Senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia, Atishi, Sanjay Singh and his wife Anita were also present at the spot.

"BJP's plans have been foiled. They wanted to put opposition leaders behind the bars to stay in power," Sunita Kejriwal told reporters.

The bail order comes almost three and a half months after the Delhi chief minister surrendered on June 2, ahead of the Lok Sabha poll results.

Several AAP workers were also seen dancing to the beats of 'dhols' outside the AAP headquarters, where Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj also reached to join the celebrations. Cabinet minister Gopal Rai, who was also present at the occasion, called the event a "big victory for our party and a loss for dictatorship". Sweets were also distributed outside senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia's residence. Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the excise policy linked money laundering case on March 21.

BJP should apologise to the country

AAP on Friday demanded that the BJP should apologise to the country for keeping a "staunchly honest" leader like Arvind Kejriwal in jail, and said the Supreme Court order granting him bail in the excise policy case has exposed the BJP's "lies".

At a joint press conference here, senior AAP leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said the Supreme Court order granting bail to Kejriwal was a moment of "big relief" for the party and its leaders and workers.

"It is not just the issue of bail granted to Kejriwal. The court has also given a big message to the BJP-led Centre to stop its dictatorship," he said.

He said the top court order is important not just for AAP but also as an assurance that if anyone resorted to "dictatorship", the Supreme Court would ensure the dominance of the Constitution.

The BJP was using the agencies to keep Kejriwal in jail, Sisodia alleged, adding that the CBI deliberately arrested Kejriwal to keep him in prison.

"The BJP intended to keep Kejriwal in jail, so the CBI arrested him after he got bail in the ED case. The CBI fulfilled the intentions of the BJP," the AAP leader alleged.

"The bail order is a big slap on the BJP's face. The court noted that the CBI was acting like a caged parrot," Sisodia said.

KTR has gone mad after losing power: Raja Singh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Goshamahala MLA, T. Raja Singh, said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao has gone mad after losing power and so he is speaking as he liked against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"Amit Shah said that people can learn Hindi and what is wrong with it," he said. Raja Singh asked KTR to reveal what language he speaks when he goes to neighbouring states. What language did his father KCR speak when he met the Prime Minister and Union Ministers, he asked.

Amit Shah had said that he is not against English. However, he said that all students should learn Hindi apart from their mother tongue. Learning Hindi will help 'protect' Indian languages. Amit Shah made these comments at the convocation of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Ekadashi: Sep 13 10:30 PM to Sep 14 08:41 PM
Dwadashi: Sep 14 08:41 PM to Sep 15 06:12 PM
Nakshatram: Uttara Ashadha: Sep 13 09:35 PM to Sep 14 08:32 PM
Shravana: Sep 14 08:32 PM to Sep 15 06:49 PM
Rahukalam: 9:09 AM to 10:40 AM
Yamagandam: 1:42 PM to 3:13 PM
Varjyam: 12:15 AM to 01:44 AM
Gulika: 6:07 AM to 7:38 AM
Amritakalam: 02:25 PM to 03:57 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:35 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Partly Cloudy
Temp: 31°C
Humidity: 63%
Sunrise: 6:07 AM
Sunset: 6:17 PM
Updated: September 13, 2024 5:00 PM

Harish behind Padi Kaushik, says Yennam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress MLA of Mahabubnagar, Yennam Srinivas Reddy, said that senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao is behind Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy targeting Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi. Speaking to the media on Friday, Srinivas said that the Kalvakuntla family has gone mad after losing power and has raised the curtains to 'Shikandi' politics. KTR and Harish Rao have been engaging in 'Shikandi' politics using Padi Kaushik Reddy. However, this kind of politicians will be destroyed, he said and

added that he is saying this based on his 30-year political experience.

He said that KCR and KTR have been throwing mud at the government forgetting their responsibilities when people were suffering due to the floods. KTR is politicking through X and KCR is confined to his farmhouse, Srinivas said. He said that nothing would happen to Hyderabad's brand image, however, the Kalvakuntla family has been using the occult to enhance its image. "I know very well about Harish Rao. Harish has a history of sabotaging the political career of Telangana activists."

Harish holds CM responsible for 'law & order breakdown' in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister Harish Rao accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of being solely responsible for the breakdown of law and order in Telangana.

Addressing a media briefing held at his residence following his house arrest, Harish expressed frustration over the current state of affairs and blamed Revanth for orchestrating political vendettas and using state resources for personal and political gains.

He questioned the Chief Minister's handling of the recent attacks, particularly the incident involving MLA Gandhi, in which the police allegedly provided protection

to Gandhi while attacks were being carried out.

"Who provided security for MLA Gandhi to carry out these attacks? Wasn't it Revanth and the DGP? Why were the attacks not stopped on Thursday?" he asked.

He highlighted the hypocrisy in the Chief Minister's stance on law and order. "When our MLA was attacked under police protection, where was Revanth's concern for law and order? Why didn't the DGP act?"

Harish emphasised that despite the gravity of the situation, no cases had been filed, and his party leaders were being unjustly placed under house arrest.

He also condemned the

oppressive actions being carried out under the guise of maintaining peace. "The state is now worse than during the Emergency. Revanth's government is suppressing opposition and the DGP's office is being used for political conspiracies," he said.

"Revanth's reckless words and actions are fuelling unrest across Telangana. Instead of addressing real issues like flood victims and welfare schemes, the Chief Minister is engaging in theatrics," he added.

Concluding his statements, Harish urged the government to focus on governance and fulfilling the promises given to the people, rather than resorting to political vendettas.

Row over appointment of Uttam as SC panel chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former SC/ST Commission Chairman Dr Errolla Srinivas has expressed serious concern over the appointment of Uttam Kumar Reddy as the Chairman of the SC Categorisation Committee, alleging that it betrays the aspirations of the Madiga community. In a statement, he remarked, "After decades of struggle and sacrifices made by the Madiga community, the Supreme Court has finally given a just verdict in favour of categorisation. However, the court clearly stated that each state must implement SC categorisation based on their own requirements." He strongly criticised the Congress, stating that,

despite holding power both at the Centre and the State level for nearly three decades, they failed to implement the constitutional rights of the Madigas, leading to the loss of many lives. "Once again, the Congress is attempting to deceive the Madiga community. It is this very party's policies that led to the tragic death of Suren Madiga at Gandhi Bhavan in the past," he added.

Srinivas further stated that the present Congress government is continuing its betrayal by appointing Uttam Kumar Reddy, from an upper caste, as the Chairman of the SC Categorisation Committee, while overlooking senior SC leader and current minister Damodar Rajanarsimha.

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 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

Rivaayat

An evening of Sufi and classical musical journey with Ustad Puran Chand Wadali and Lakhwinder Wadali. After two decades, the legendary Wadali family returns to Hyderabad for an unforgettable evening of Sufi and classical music.

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur
Sunday September 21, at 6.30 pm

Call to expedite NEET counselling process

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

This year's NEET process has already faced numerous challenges, beginning with issues in the Supreme Court and further compounded by recent developments in Telangana. These changes have led to confusion regarding local and non-local reservations, creating significant uncertainty and distress among students and parents.

Telangana has 56 medical colleges and 14 dental colleges. The total number of medical seats are 11, 582 and dental 1,290.

The delay is causing a lot of anxiety in over 12000 students and their parents. The parents appeal the Government of Telangana to start the counselling immediately.

Parents and students across Telangana are currently enduring tremendous stress due to the prolonged delay in the NEET counselling process.

While counselling sessions are being conducted in most other states, the extended uncertainty in Telangana is having a severe impact on both the academic future and mental well-being of our children.

This delay is particularly critical for students on the borderline—those who may or may not secure a seat. The prolonged waiting period is causing immense anxiety, reducing their chances of making timely decisions for alternative opportunities.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

03

Hyd CP takes stock of security arrangements

Hyderabad City Commissioner of police CV Anand on Friday visited West Zone, met officers of Law & Order, Traffic, Special Branch and Task Force to take stock of the security arrangements being made in connection with the Ganesh immersion and Milad-un-Nabi processions to be held on September 17th and 19th. The Commissioner asked police officers to be self-motivated, be free-minded and be firm while discharging their duties. He instructed the officials to bind over communal rowdies and extend focus on those who are leveraging social media.

OFFICIALS TOLD TO VISIT INDORE

CM moots clean city plan for Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to draft comprehensive plans to transform Greater Hyderabad into a clean city, following the example of Indore.

The Municipal Administration officers were instructed to visit Indore and study the methods in place there. He emphasized the need to observe the practices firsthand and hold discussions with the agencies and organizations involved, exploring the possibility of making them partners in Hyderabad's clean city initiative. He also asked officials to gather details on how the Indore Corporation generates revenue for these projects.

The Chief Minister conducted a review meeting at the Secretariat, focusing on the development of roads, footpaths, cleaning and other tasks within the GHMC limits. Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar, CM's advisor Vem Narendra Reddy, GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, MLA Jayaveer Reddy, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari,

Principal Secretary for Municipal Administration Dana Kishore, GHMC Commissioner Amrapali, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Expressing dissatisfaction, Revanth Reddy pointed out that although 811 kilometers of roads were constructed five years ago under the Comprehensive Road Maintenance Programme, their maintenance had been neglected. With the contract set to expire in December, he directed officials not to tolerate agencies that display negligence. He ordered close supervision of all roadworks and demanded a report on non-performing contractors within 15 days. He warned that any submission of incorrect reports would lead to actions against officials as well.

On garbage collection, the Chief Minister stressed that GHMC must focus more on ensuring daily collection from every household. He suggested the use of modern technologies like GIS and QR scanning for better supervision. To prevent financial hurdles, Revanth Reddy asked officials to prepare clear financial plans, temporarily adjusting funds to clear pending dues. He also



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy addressing a review meeting at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Friday

called for ways to increase revenue and rectify existing inefficiencies. Officials were instructed to monitor rental income, advertisements, and hoardings to ensure proper revenue generation.

Revanth Reddy also ordered the acceleration of the Musi River Development Project and directed that

those displaced by the project be provided rehabilitation. He emphasized the need to ensure no affected individual feels aggrieved and that they are provided reassurance. He also asked officials to personally visit rehabilitation colonies and assess whether necessary basic amenities are in place.

ISB study focuses need to augment AI in healthcare

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

ISB Institute of Data Science (IIDS) and the ISB-Centre for Business Markets (ISB-CBM) conducted a new study titled 'Understanding the Canvas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare in India' which highlighted that AI has the potential to transform healthcare delivery and can support improvements in clinical outcomes, patient experience and access to quality healthcare.

The study by ISB underscores the urgent need for a policy review to address the gaps in bridging the AI adoption gaps in Indian healthcare. The report recommends several policy interventions for accurate AI adoption in Indian healthcare ecosystems. These include incentivising and standardising EHR adoption across healthcare providers to create a unified and robust health data infrastructure. Further, investing in the AI workforce through upskilling and facilitating public-private partnerships to foster innovation and accelerate the development of India-centric AI solutions. Establishing clear regulatory frameworks regard-

ing data privacy, accountability and ethical considerations for AI usage in healthcare should all be taken into consideration.

Professor DVR Seshadri, ISB Centre for Business Markets, said, "AI has the potential to markedly improve productivity, efficiency, workflow, accuracy and speed, both for physicians and for patients. The right adoption of AI innovations in healthcare with proper policy interventions can go a long way in reaching the hinterlands of India, ensuring timely availability of treatment and fostering a good quality of life."

The report highlights the potential of AI via important statistics for the argument for AI adoption in healthcare, like the Doctor-Patient Ratio and the Nurse-Patient Ratio. India has one doctor for every 1,457 people, significantly lower than the WHO recommended ratio of one doctor per 1,000 people. Similarly, India has 1.7 nurses per 1,000 people, compared to the recommended ratio of three nurses per 1,000 people. AI has the potential to bridge this gap.

BC panel holds meet on caste enumeration

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BC Commission chairman G Niranjan and other members on Thursday met former BC Commission presidents and members to discuss the issue of 'caste enumeration' and reservation for BCs on Friday.

The members who participated in this meeting were informed that they will express the information collected in the past and provide all kinds of assistance to the present Commission. An

opinion was expressed that they should meet frequently and hold mutual discussions.

The members of the Commission in this meeting were Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Surender, Bala Lakshmi participated while former BC Commission chairman BS Ramulu, Dr Vakulabharanam Krishna Mohan Rao and members Dr Anjaneya Goud, Juluri Gauri Shankar, CH Upendra, Subha Pradpatel and K Kishore Goud participated.

Voluntary bodies to make incense sticks with immersion floral waste

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY
bhumiireddyashmi@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Witnessing huge wastage of flowers and other materials used for rituals, especially during festive seasons like Ganesh Chaturthi, residential colonies and voluntary organisations have come up with a unique idea of making incense sticks out of floral waste and other scented leftover puja materials, after the rituals and immersion of the idols.

These eco-warriors have been striving hard every festive season, especially during Ganesh immersion, to clean the lake and recycle the waste, as every year after immersion a lot of floral waste is accumulated near lake or floats into the lake thereby polluting the water bodies. In order to tackle this issue, they have come with the idea of recycling the puja waste and making incense sticks out of it. Vinay Manchala, founder of Visva Sustainable Foundation, said, "Through our foundation we have been actively involved in cleaning water bodies and

managing waste after immersion and this year through social media, we have uploaded a video on how to segregate waste. With the help of our video, we are trying to explain that plastic should be separated and sent for recycling or discarded in a dustbin. Ropes and threads from decorations should be saved or thrown away properly but should not be dumped into lakes. Fruits and vegetables used in rituals should be composted. Also, this year we have planned to organise an incense sticks workshop. We have asked people to collect the floral waste out of which dhoop (incense) sticks will be made."

"With the aim to minimise environmental impact, promote sustainability and ensure a cleaner and healthier city, we have tied up with the GHMC in ensuring timely collection of waste from immersion sites and we have collaborated with various NGOs who are specialised in recycling and waste management," said Syed Khaled Shah Chishti Hussaini, Secretary, United Federation of Residents Welfare Associations.



SCR to run special trains for Onam



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to clear extra rush, South Central Railway will run four Onam special train services between Secunderabad-Kollam-Kacheguda and Kacheguda-Kollam-Kacheguda.

Train No 07044 (Kacheguda-Kollam) will depart from Kacheguda at 4 pm on September 14 and will arrive at Kollam at 11:20 pm on September 15 while Train No 07045 (Kollam-Kacheguda) will depart from Kollam at 2:30 pm on September 16 and will arrive

at Kacheguda at 9:45 am on September 17.

En route these trains will stop at Kacheguda, Umdanagar, Shadnagar, Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar, Wanaparthy Road, Gadwal, Kurnool City, Dhone, Gooty, Tadipatri, Yerraguntla, Kadapa, Rajampet, Renigunta, Tirupati, Chittoor, Katpadi, Jolarpettai, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Palakkad, Thrissur, Aluva, Ernakulam Road, Kottayam, Changanassery, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikara, Kayamkulam, Karunagappally and Sasthamkotta stations in both the directions.

Climate tech solutions for industry showcased

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Innovative 'Made in India' climate technology solutions were showcased by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) at the 23rd Energy Efficiency Summit, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Green Business Centre.

Over 20 startups supported by the Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment (FLCTD) set up booths, presenting their innovations to industry representatives. These solutions, now

commercially available, aim to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency.

The FLCTD project, launched in 2016 by UNIDO and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), supports startups developing low-carbon technologies. These solutions undergo field trials in real-life industrial settings, proving their effectiveness before wider adoption. The project has helped over 88 innovations since its start and provided Rs.33 crore (\$4

million) to support business mentoring and technology validation.

Executive Director of CII Green Business Centre, KS Venkatagiri commended the collaboration with UNIDO, noting the potential for scaling these innovations in Indian industries.

So far, 43 technologies have been validated, and 33 have been commercialised, contributing to India's climate and net-zero goals.

Even a one per cent adoption could reduce 3.8 million tons of GHG emissions annually.

576 petitions submitted at Prajavani programme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 576 petitions were submitted by the people at the Prajavani programme, which was conducted at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan at Begumpet on Friday.

Among the 576 petitions, 214 were pertaining to Social Welfare, 78 were pertaining to Revenue department, 56 to Electricity board, 44 to Minority Welfare department, 44 to Panchayat Raj and Rural Development and 140 petitions were submitted in connection with other departments.



Prajapalana Special Officer Divya receiving petitions from the people at the Prajavani on Friday

Telangana State Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Dr Chinna Reddy and Prajapalana Special Officer Divya received the petitions from the people.

BRS must respond: Danam Nagender

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Extending support to Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi, Khairathabad MLA Danam Nagender said the BRS wants the votes, money and businesses of AP settlers.

"Were the comments of Padi Kaushik Reddy that of the BRS or was it personal? The BRS leadership should respond to Kaushik's comments and suspend Kaushik from the party if the comments were personal. Kaushik Reddy insulted the

former lady Governor of TG. We will show the strength of women who wear bangles to Kaushik Reddy," Danam Nagender said.

He asked the BRS to explain why the BRS government gave the PAC post to Akbaruddin Owaisi when it should have gone to the main opposition Congress.

Describing Kaushik as a 'baccha', he said that he respects former BRS Minister T. Harish Rao and that Harish is damaging his image by justifying Kaushik.

Guidelines for direct sellers in 2 weeks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Drawing attention to the guidelines for direct sellers, which will be rolled out in two weeks, Special Chief Secretary to the IT department, Jayesh Ranjan, highlighted ongoing issues in the direct selling industry, where some are wrongly seen as guilty despite not committing any wrongdoing. He mentioned his 10 years of experience in various sectors and emphasized the need to treat all sectors equally.

Jayesh Ranjan participated

was the chief guest in the Telangana Direct Selling Conclave, hosted by the Association of Direct Selling Entities of India (ADSEI), in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Direct Selling Industries (FIDSI) at the Taj Deccan on Friday.

Addressing over 100 plus direct sellers, Jayesh explained that the Centre's guidelines for direct selling, already implemented in other states, have been delayed here due to certain challenges. He announced that a monitoring committee will be set up, which will over-



Special Chief Secretary to the IT department, Jayesh Ranjan, interacting with DS Chauhan, Principal Secretary of Consumer Affairs, at the Telangana

see the registration process. He revealed that over half a lakh people in the State lack

proper identification and the new guidelines will help address this. Wrongdoings in the sector will also be handled under the new rules. Jayesh said he recommended to DS Chauhan, Principal Secretary of Consumer Affairs, that association members be included in the committee for clear understanding.

Jayesh announced that the government will introduce a new law for gig workers, such as delivery agents from various companies, along with a digital tool to monitor their transactions.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Woman held for sending victims to Cambodia

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) arrested a woman for her involvement in sending victims to Cambodia to engage in Cyber criminal activities. A case has been registered under 323, 370, 342, 386, 420, 506, 120B IT Act at the Cyber Crime police station, TGCSB,

Hyderabad. The arrested woman has been identified as Priyanka Shivkumar Siddhu (30), resident of Subhash Nagar of Chembur in Mumbai. Priyanka has her own agency and she misled job seekers by offering visit visas with the promise that they would be converted to job visas later. Priyanka advertised extensively through newspapers and social media, offer-

ing high-paying jobs in Cambodia, leading individuals like Vamsi Krishna and Sai Prasad from Hyderabad to contact her. She collected Rs 30,000 as commission from each candidate, processed their visas and sent them to Cambodia, where they experienced severe physical and mental torture after refusing to participate in cyber criminal activities.



ORR toll workers offering prayers at Ganesh pandal

Toll workers conduct Ganesh Navaratri celebrations

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

For the past 10 years, toll workers on Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road have been celebrating Ganesh Navratri by organising food donation drives and community events.

This year, a special pooja was conducted at the Tukuguda Exit 14 Toll Plaza by IRB Company, led by key staff including CTC Krishnamurthy, Sunil Singh, Arun Singh, Bablu Singh,

Akhil Singh, Bishwajit Singh, and Mayur Jadhav.

Following the religious ceremonies, lorry drivers and ORR users were offered prasadam, continuing the toll workers' tradition of combining spiritual service with community outreach.

CTC Krishnamurthy praised the toll staff for their dedication in organising these events. Other toll members and staff actively participated in the festivities.

Damage to roads, bridges put at Rs 465 cr Adilabad

PNS ■ ADILABAD

The district administration has estimated that at least Rs 465 crore are required to undertake repairs to roads and bridges in the district on a permanent basis.

They maintain that at least Rs 13 to 15 crore are needed to undertake repairs on temporary basis. Roads up to a length of 130 km were damaged. Floods damaged 26 culverts and 54 low-level bridges. The officials estimate that Rs 90 lakh are required to undertake temporary repairs to culverts and bridges.

They sent proposals to undertake repairs on a permanent basis at a cost of Rs 121 crore.

To undertake temporary repairs at 240 places to

panchayat raj roads and culverts, the officials need Rs 12.5 crore, according to proposals sent to the government.

However, to undertake permanent repairs to them a sum of Rs 344 crore are needed.

The government is yet to release funds to undertake repairs. As a result, the rural people have been facing problems as roads became unmemorable.

Crops were lost in 2,000 acres in the district. The cotton crop was raised to a great extent in the district, followed by cultivation of soybeans and red gram. The farmers sustained loss to the tune of Rs 4 crore.

The officials say that they will credit the crop loss in the bank accounts of the farmers directly



once the final report on the crop loss in the district was received. The government has decided to pay an ad hoc assistance of Rs 10,000 per acre towards compensation. The farmers are elated over the Congress government coming forward to pay them compensation.

Earlier, no government paid them compensation for the crop loss. They used to wash off their hands by surveying the crop loss and submitting reports to the government.



Eyebrows raised over 150 teachers getting best teacher awards

PNS ■ NIRMAL

At least 150 teachers belonging to Nirmal district secured the best teacher awards. It led to people raising their eyebrows over the yardstick applied to select the best teacher award.

Several teachers were skeptical about the selection of the best teacher for presenting the award. The academicians wonder what is so special about Nirmal district.

Even the District Collector expressed surprise on seeing the long list of the best teacher awardees.

Some students' unions wondered how was it possible that such a large of teachers securing best teacher awards. They have complained to the Collector seeking action against the teachers who are involved in the illegal business of Bitcoins. Besides the teachers, they urged the Collector to order probe into the activities of the District Education Officer. The DEO selected teachers for awards.

The strength of teachers working in Nirmal district does not

exceed 2,000. Like every year, this year also best teachers were selected from mandals of the district. Selecting as many as 150 teachers for the award is fuelling several doubts in the minds of the people. In other district, the number of best teacher awardees did not exceed 50. However, the number of the award winners from Nirmal district is 150.

The academicians have been questioning the authorities about the yardstick applied to select the best teacher awardees. The students' union leaders feel that the Collector and the DEO owe an explanation for this.

In Adilabad district, 70 teachers received the award, while 40 each selected from Mancherial and Nizamabad districts for the honour.

The Collector was also understood to have questioned the rationale behind selecting such a large number of teachers for presenting the award.

Several teachers and students' unions leaders seek probe into the issue and take action against the guilty.

Ex-Union minister takes part in BJP membership drive

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Former Minister Rajiv Chandrasekharan has underlined the need to ensure that the welfare schemes being aided by the Modi-led BJP government at the Centre reach the rural poor.

The objective of Narendra Modi is to make the BJP the largest party in the country, he said.

Participating in the BJP membership drive here on Friday, along with Medak MP M Raghunandan Rao, he appealed to the party cadre to enrol more members into the party. He held a door-to-door campaign at Pragapur under Gajwel municipality.

The nation has been marching ahead on the path to progress during the last 10-year rule of Modi, he said, adding that several sectors of development witnessed sea change.

Deriving inspiration from



Former Union minister Rajiv Chandrasekharan, along with MP M Raghunandan Rao, participating in the BJP membership drive in Siddipet on Friday

Modi, the BJP activists should work with dedication and sincerity. He said that the membership drive is evoking tremendous response and exuded confidence that the BJP would emerge as the largest party in the country.

He asked the BJP rank and file to expand the party activities to every village. He asked every party worker to lend his or her support to the PM

Modi in turning the country into a developed nation. In Medak LS seat, the BJP membership drive should be conducted on a massive scale in Gajwel.

BJP MP M Raghunandan Rao said that the people's response to the party membership drive is overwhelming. All sections of society have been welcoming Modi's rule with open arms, he said.

Rape & murder of five-year-old girl: Man gets death sentence

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

A local court in Sangareddy district on Thursday awarded death sentence to a 56-year-old man, a labourer from Bihar, for raping and murdering a five-year-old girl in October 2023.

The Special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Judge Court at Sangareddy found the accused Gaffar Ali guilty under relevant sections of IPC and POCSO and sentenced him to capital punishment, a police official said.

According to prosecution, the girl was staying with her grandparents at

a construction site.

On October 16, 2023, the girl's grandparents went for work leaving behind their granddaughter with the security guard.

The accused, who was in a drunken state, told the security guard that he knew the girl and took her with him on the pretext of offering her soft drink.

The accused gave her soft drink laced with alcohol and took her to a cotton field and raped her and killed her with a knife.

He was subsequently arrested after a case was registered against him based on a complaint, police added.

Need for coordinated efforts to check drug menace stressed

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Additional collector GV Shyam Prasad Lal has said that the district administration has embarked on a programme to give a wide publicity to the adverse impact of the use of drugs. A campaign to make Peddapalli a drug-free district.

Addressing a district-level narcotics control meeting here on Thursday, he asked the officials to conduct awareness programme on the adverse impact of using drugs in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, model school, hostels, residential schools and so on.

All government departments should give wide publicity to the loss being caused to the people, he said.

He discussed at length the NDPS cases being registered in the district, measures should be initiated to check marijuana cultivation, controlling the use of drugs, activities to be taken by government departments to prevent use of drugs, adverse impact of using drugs among other things.

He appealed to all government departments to work in coordination to curb the drug menace and asked the authorities to keep an eye whether ganja is being cultivated in remote villages or not. He also asked them to identify those who became addicted to drugs and provide them with necessary counselling and treatment.

Netizens shower generosity on two poor kids who lost mother

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Social media enthusiasts responded showering their generosity on children following the death of the mother after 18 days of delivering her second child. Responding to a video posted on social media, netizens contributed Rs 21 lakh to two children who hail from a poor family.

A youth of the district who made videos on Instagram was moved at the plight of the children following the death of their mother. He captured a video of the plight of the children and shared it in social media garnering financial support to the children. Responding to the video, philanthropic public contributed Rs 21 lakh.

It took place at Bojjannapeta village under Narsimhulupeta mandal of Mahabubabad district.

According to relative Betamalla Ravi of the children, the couple, Uma (24) and Naresh of Bojjannapeta village have a two and half year old girl Nitvita. Uma who became pregnant for the second time gave birth to the baby boy on August 10. But she died of brain stroke two weeks after giving birth to a baby boy.

As the financial position of Naresh is not up to the mark, the children are being taken care by grandfather, grand mother and Naresh's elder brother. The family members work as casual labourers to support the family.

In this backdrop,

Gangaraboyina Raghu of Kuravimandal, who makes reels on Instagram enjoyed considerable fan following. Moved by the plight of the family, Ravi uploaded video on the plight of the family on the Instagram leading to over one lakh followers contributing Re 1 to Rs 10,000 totalling about Rs 21 lakh.

Of the amount, Rs 1 lakh was spent for the funeral expenses. Rs 3 lakh was saved in bank to meet the immediate needs of the children.

The rest of Rs 17 lakh was deposited in the bank account so that girl child would get Rs 80 lakh when she attains 22 years of age. The SBI manager Sunil Kumar gave the bond to Raghu in the presence of the family members.

Collector, Police chief inspect tanks in tri-cities

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Hanamkonda Collector P Pravinna, City Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha and Municipal Commissioner Aswani Tanaji Wakade on Friday inspected the Bandham Tank in Kazipet, Siddheswara Gundam in Hanamkonda and Hasanparti tanks in

Warangal where the Ganesh idols would be immersed on Sep 16.

Central Zone DCP Shaik Saleema, Kazipet, Special branch ACPs Tirumal and Jitender Reddy, irrigation, revenue, municipal, electricity department and local police personnel were present.

The commissioner of

police and Collector reviewed the arrangements for the immersion.

They also discussed the number of cranes to be deployed and the number of personnel to be appointed at the places of immersion, electricity supply, erection of barricades, keep ready the floats among other things with the officials.



Students selected for State-level softball tournament in Peddapalli

4 students selected for state-level softball tournament

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Three students from Krishnaveni Vikas Junior College - Repala, Vamsikrishna, Burra Siddhu and Manda Kaushik - here have been selected to represent the undivided Karimnagar district in the Telangana State Level Softball competitions to be held in RajannaSircilla district on Sep 21, 22 and 23.

At a special programme held at Krishnaveni Vikas Junior College here on Thursday, chairman and director Nagandla Jamuna

Ravikumar congratulated the students selected for the state level event.

He wished them success in the tournament and earn good name for the college by winning a medal. The college management would extend its cooperation to students who show talent in sports besides academics. He advised the students to work with a definite goal in mind.

Principal M Venkanna, academic principal Tirupati Reddy, college physical director Prashant and other lecturers took part in the event.

Officials told to ensure peaceful Immersion of Ganesh idols

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

District Collector Muzammil Khan has said that Ganesh idols immersion would take place in the district on September 16 and also on September 17. Therefore, he directed the officials to take steps to ensure that there are no hiccups during the programme. He asked them to ensure that the immersion of the idols take place in a peaceful atmosphere.

He gave these instructions, while holding a meeting along with Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, Additional Collectors P Srija and D Madhusudhan Naik and others at the Collectorate here on Friday.

The officials should make foolproof arrangements for the peaceful immersion of idols in Wyr, Sattupalli and Madhira too by taking into confidence the Ganesh Utsav Committee leaders.



Khammam Collector Muzammil Khan and Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt holding a review meeting in Khammam on Friday

The officials should visit the immersion points and check whether necessary arrangements have been made there or not. The necessary route map for the procession should be kept ready beforehand. Repairs to the processional route should be taken, if necessary, he said.

There should be no hanging overhead electric wires and

there should be no power cuts during the immersion period, he said asking the officials to deploy cranes at the immersion points and also the expert swimmers.

He directed the officials concerned to erect barricades on the roads, running of medical camps, keeping ready the first-aid kits. The fire brigade personnel should remain on

alert during the immersion period and should be deployed near the immersion points.

City Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt said that security has been beefed up for the immersion. On September 16, 1,000 idols will be immersed and another 800 to 900 idols on September 17. Appropriate number of cranes should be deployed, besides creating a platform.

Expert swimmers and boats should be kept ready near the places of immersion, he said. He also suggested keeping ready the services of vehicle mechanics at vantage places all along the route of the procession.

District Forest Officer Siddharth Vikram Singh, trainee collector Mrunal Shreshtha, revenue officer M Rajeshwari, district officials, RDOs, municipal commissioners and others took part in the meeting.

Sangareddy Branch Sangareddy

Possession Notice (Rule-81)

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 13.06.2024 calling upon the borrower/s (1) Mrs. Talkonda Krishnaveni, D/o. Thimmaraju Raddi (Borrower/Mortgagor) (2) Mr. Talkonda Sarni Alias Sunny Kumar, S/o. Talkonda Anand Rao (Co-Borrower) (3) Mr. Thimmaraju Narayana Reddy, S/o. T. Reddy (Guarantor) with our Sangareddy Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1388813/- (Rs. Thirteen Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Only) as on 12/06/2024 with further interest and cost within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 10th day of September of the year 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 the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 1388813/- (Rs. Thirteen Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Only) as on 12/06/2024 and further interest, cost and charges 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

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: Mortgage Assets: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Plot No. 115, in survey Nos. 107 & 108, measuring 200 Sq. Yds or 166.66 Sq. Mts and house constructed therein with plinth area of 1092.50 Sq. Ft., situated at Shantini Nagar of Ameerpur Village and Mandal, Sarathwala Madak, District, presently Sangareddy Dist., Telangana State belonging to 1st of you (Talkonda Krishnaveni) and bounded by: North : 40' wide road, South : Plot no. 94, East: Plot No. 114, West: Plot no. 116.

Date: 10/09/2024
Place: Karimnagar
Sd/-Authorized Officer
Indian Bank

Pothreddypally X road Sangareddy Branch Sangareddy

Possession Notice (Rule-81)

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 13.06.2024 calling upon the borrower/s (1) Mr. Padunoori Akash S/o. Mr. P. Satyanarayana (Borrower/Mortgagor) with our Pothreddypally X road Sangareddy Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1482963/- (Rs. Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three Only) as on 12/06/2024 with further interest and cost within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 10th day of September of the year 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 the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 1482963/- (Rs. Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three Only) as on 12/06/2024 and further interest, cost and charges 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

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: Mortgage Assets: All that the Residential Flat bearing Nos. 8 & 9 (G+3 Floors) in the Ground Floor constructed on open space of diamond plot H No. 5-2-15, in Sy No. 2281 and 2 known as " Sri Sai Krishna Residency" with an undivided share of land measuring 25.03 Sq.yds out of total measuring 650.00 Sq.Yds. With a plinth area of 1165. Sq.ft, including common areas balcony, lift and Car parking area of 80Sq Ft, total plinth area: 1245 Sq.ft, situated at Ward No. 5, Block No.2, Kalyankunta, near New Bus stand surrounding, Sangareddy under the city Municipal limits of Sangareddy Town, Mandal and District, Telangana State, Registration Sub-District Sangareddy, Registration District Sangareddy belonging to 1st of you (Padunoori Akash) and bounded by: North : Flat No.07 South : Staircase, Contistor and Lift East: Open to Sky West: Open to Sky. Remark: Bank can appropriate sale proceeds remaining balance amount in other loan accounts sanctioned to A. Square Enterprises (Proprietor: Padunoori Akash)

1. Account No : 5049349519 A/c Type: OCC-AUDIRA-REPO : Date of sanction: 06.07.2019 Sanction amount: 6.00 Lacs Total Dues as on date: Rs.6,20,313/-

2. Account No : 5000078327 A/c Type: MSME TL-MUDRA-IND GECLS19 : Date of sanction: 20.06.2020 Sanction amount: 1.20 Lacs Total Dues as on date: Rs.12,215/-

3. Account No : 5046630694 A/c Type: ETL-AB VIDYA-IRM IT-MCLR : Date of sanction: 27.11.2018 Sanction amount: 4.93 Lacs Total Dues as on date: Rs.6,21,433/-

Date: 10/09/2024
Place: Karimnagar
Sd/-Authorized Officer
Indian Bank

ACROSS THE STATES



Mamata's resignation will be in interest of nation: BJP

It will be in the interest of the nation and West Bengal if Mamata Banerjee resigns as chief minister of the eastern state, senior BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said on Friday.



Man lynched on train for sexually assaulting girl

A 34-year-old railway contract labourer was beaten to death by fellow passengers on a moving Humsafar Express train between Lucknow and Kanpur after he allegedly sexually assaulted an 11-year-old girl, police said on Friday.

Petition filed in HC seeking dissolution..

Continued from page 1

The court said that GO MS No: 99 says HYDRAA is a nodal agency. There is a specific reference that it will follow relevant Acts and rules.

BJP sees Uttam's role in Kaushik..

Continued from page 1

The peoples' problems under the anti-people government are innumerable. Car, Congress parties in diversionary dramas.

under relevant Acts and rules. So the HYDRAA can pick up any Act when it conducts demolitions to justify it, he said.

should come to the fore in Revanth's drama. BRS is hoax #PrashnistunnaTelangana

Kejriwal out on..

Continued from page 1

Beginning with slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Inquilab Zindabad', Kejriwal thanked the people of Delhi for their blessings.

100 times. My strength has increased 100 times," the Chief Minister said. "My life is dedicated to the country.

BRS leaders under house arrest..

Continued from page 1

asking why opposition leaders were being denied the right to hold meetings in a democratic set up.

Congress goons involved in attacks on BRS activists were released. KTR warned that the people of Telangana were observing these illegal tactics and that the Congress would face consequences in the people's court.

Centre thinks TG is inflating flood..

Continued from page 1

Amit Shah is said to have assured Telangana of help, provided the state submits proper documentation and follows protocols," sources said.

follows protocols," sources said. The issue sparked discussions about the transparency and accuracy of damage assessments in disaster-affected states.

Bail to Kejriwal exposes BJP's 'lies': Aam Aadmi Party

Claims CBI, ED saffron party's 'tota-maina'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Friday demanded that the BJP apologise to the country for keeping "staunchly honest" leader Arvind Kejriwal in jail and asserted that the Supreme Court bail in the excise policy case has exposed the saffron party's "lies" while dubbing central probe agencies CBI and ED as its "tota-maina".

Kejriwal's bail comes as a big boost to the Aam Aadmi Party, which is seeking to make forays in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir in the coming elections and also gearing up to retain power in Delhi where polls are due early next year.

Celebrations erupted at the AAP headquarters with party leaders and workers distributing sweets and bursting firecrackers.

Sunita Kejriwal, wife of the Delhi chief minister, congratulated the party leaders and workers on her husband getting bail in the excise



policy-linked money laundering case filed by the CBI. He has already got bail in another case registered by the Enforcement Directorate in July.

Talking to reporters, senior party leader Manish Sisodia claimed the Supreme Court's observation makes it clear that the BJP was using the CBI and the ED as its "tota-maina" to keep the AAP supreme behind

bars as part of its conspiracy.

"The BJP should be ashamed for using 'tota-maina' ED and CBI for arresting opposing leaders," he said. "The BJP intended to keep Kejriwal in jail, so the CBI arresting him after he got bail in the ED case. The CBI fulfilled the intentions of the BJP," Sisodia alleged, adding that the bail order is a "big slap on the BJP's face".



Mumbai artist makes 'Ardhanari' Ganesh to highlight crimes against women

PNS ■ MUMBAI

An artist from Mumbai has created a Ganesh idol in the 'Ardhanari' form - half male, half female - to highlight the need for harmony between the two genders amid rising crimes against women.

Rintu Rathod has sculpted an idol of the elephant-headed deity from chocolate, something she specialises in.

of dark chocolate and 10 kg of white chocolate to create the 25-inch-tall idol in the 'Ardhanari' form, installed at her Santacruz home.

"This form of Ganapati is particularly significant in Hinduism. It emphasises the idea that male and female principles are essential and complementary to each other, promoting harmony and balance in the universe," she said.

Accused approached victims after hearing loud music

PNS ■ INDORE

The men who allegedly attacked two Army officers and raped their woman friend near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh were drawn to the picnic spot after hearing loud music, police said on Friday.

The police have arrested three out of six men for the attack that occurred near Jam Gate, a popular tourist spot, on the intervening night of September 10 and 11. The spot is around 30 km from the Mhow military cantonment.

Located on the Vindhya ranges, Jam Gate is surrounded by forests. In monsoon, tourists frequent the spot during the day, and the area is deserted at night.

Talking to reporters, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Hitika Vasal said two Army officers and their two

women friends had been at the spot since 11 pm on Tuesday.

"The four of them were listening to loud music, and on hearing the sound in the deserted area late in the

night, the six accused reached the spot and committed the crime," she said.

One of the attackers threatened the victims with a pistol, while the others were armed with sticks, the official said.

BJP workers, kin behind Mhow assault-rape incident: Cong

PNS ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Congress on Friday alleged that some BJP workers and their relatives were behind the incident of assault on two army officers and rape of their woman friend near Indore's Mhow.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), however, rubbished the allegation and accused the opposition party

of creating a "false perception" on the issue. It also said the state government is very sensitive in such matters and that the accused in the Mhow case will not be able to escape.

Two army officers were assaulted and one of their two women friends was allegedly raped in the wee hours of Wednesday near popular tourist spot Jam Gate, about 30 km from Mhow military cantonment.

Probe 'corruption' in Anandacha Shidha scheme: Cong leader

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Maharashtra Congress leader Atul Londhe on Friday alleged corruption in the state government's 'Anandacha Shidha' scheme.

Under the scheme, several segments of society are given a food kit comprising suji (semolina), chana dal (Bengal gram), sugar and one litre edible oil ahead of festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Diwali. Addressing a press conference here, Londhe, the state Congress' spokesperson, said "70 to 80 per cent" of areas in Maharashtra had not been covered, adding the kit contained poor quality items.

"Huge corruption is taking place in the Anandacha Shidha scheme. The Maharashtra government must form a committee to probe irregularities," Londhe said.

Postal dept to assist pensioners in submitting digital life certificate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The postal department will provide doorstep delivery of services to aged pensioners to help them submit their digital life certificates (DLCs), according to an official statement issued on Friday.

The move assumes significance as the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has decided to hold DLC campaign 3.0 from November 1-30, 2024, in all district headquarters and major cities across India.

A preparatory meeting to

structure the DLC campaign 3.0 in all district post offices was held by V Srinivas, Secretary (DoPPW) with Sanjay Sharan Director General Postal Services, Rajul Bhatt Deputy Director General Posts and R Viswesvaran MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), among others, on September 12, 2024.

It was agreed that district post offices will coordinate with pensioner welfare associations, pension disbursing banks and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), among others,



to conduct the DLC campaign 3.0 at district post offices, the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

"Jeevan Pramaan (or DLC) can be submitted by pensioners at district post offices using face authentication from an Android smart phone," it said. "The Department of Posts will also provide doorstep delivery of services to aged/(and to) inform pensioners to submit their DLCs as per requirements," the statement said.

Wide publicity will be given to the DLC Z 3.0 campaign by spreading awareness through

banners, social media, SMS and short videos, it said.

The UIDAI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will provide technical support during camps, the statement said. "It is envisaged that the collaboration will broaden and deepen the government's efforts for digital empowerment of pensioners and will contribute immensely to their ease of living," it added.

In 2023, the DLC campaign 2.0 was held in 100 cities and 1.45 crore pensioners submitted their DLCs.

Govt bans all..

Continued from page 1

"I have already visited all zones and have checked out the steps taken at the Ganesh Mandapam to ensure peaceful immersion," the Police Commissioner said.

Simultaneously, the police are looking at the arrangements for Milad festivities and two more programmes which would be held at the Parade Ground and Public Gardens on September 17, the Commissioner said. More police units would join duty on the final day of immersion and some more will be joined

Will continue to..

Continued from page 1

Kejriwal stressed that the jail time has strengthened his resolve. "They put me in jail to break me but my resolve has only grown stronger. Jails cannot break me. I will continue my fight against anti-national forces," he said. Hundreds of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers and senior party leaders, including Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, were waiting outside the prison to welcome Kejriwal.

Revanth sabotaging Hyd to..

Continued from page 1

"Today, across the state, our leaders have been unjustly put under house arrest. When we tried to leave for Gandhi's residence, we were stopped and arrested," he added.

In a scathing attack on Revanth Reddy, Kaushik said that the Congress leader had

personally directed an attack on his residence. "Revanth himself ordered the attack on my house. How can the police allow that? This is an attempt on my life, a direct threat to an MLA," Kaushik said, demanding an explanation from the authorities. He questioned the law and order situation in Telangana, stating that such

incidents "would not have occurred" under KCR's leadership.

He also targeted Arikepudi Gandhi's behaviour by criticising his language and actions. "The people of Serilingampally should take note of Arikepudi Gandhi's language. He admits that I am a BRS MLA, but there are Congress banners all around his house. Does society accept this kind of conduct?" he asked.

Two new Vande Bharat trains to ..

Continued from page 1

Another Vande Bharat service will commence between Visakhapatnam and Durg in Chhattisgarh. The Prime Minister will inaugurate these two services along with eight other Vande Bharat trains across the nation during a ceremony in Ahmedabad on the same day. The new Secunderabad-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express will start its journey from Nagpur at 5:00 am and reach Secunderabad by 12:15 pm. The return journey from Secunderabad will begin at 1:00 pm, arriving in Nagpur at 8:20 pm.

Covering a distance of 578 km in just 7 hours and 15 minutes, this train will halt at key stations such as Kazipet, Ramagundam, Balharshah, Chandrapur, and

Sewagram. The Nagpur-Secunderabad train is expected to significantly boost travel efficiency between the two cities.

On this occasion, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw extended an invitation to Union Minister Kishan Reddy to participate in the welcome ceremony for the new service. Vaishnaw highlighted the central government's efforts to enhance railway services in Telangana, with a budget allocation of Rs 53,360 crore in the current year alone. The Visakhapatnam-Durg Vande Bharat Express will offer improved connectivity for passengers traveling across Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. It will traverse key stations such as Raipur, Mahasamund, Kanta banji, and Vijayanagar, covering a distance of 565 km in 8 hours.

No notice required..

Continued from page 1

This is one of India's first lakes which was declared as a biodiversity centre. Unfortunately, the culprits spoiled the lake which used to attract birds. The famous ornithologist Salim Ali has written about this lake in his book, the court said.

The counsel for the petitioner said, "I have to protect the property on nine acres of land. The place is known for land grabbing."

"There is a saying in Telugu. 'Boodidha lo posina panneeru' (It's like pouring money down the drain).

TG pegs flood damage at..

Continued from page 1

relief funds should be relaxed.

The CM brought to the notice of the Central team the hurdles being faced by the state in using even a Rupee from the available Rs 1,350 crore NDRF funds due to stringent Central regulations. The guidelines have prescribed using only Rs 1 lakh for repairing one km of road. The CM said that it would not be possible to take up even temporary repairs of damaged roads with the meagre charges fixed by the Centre. The Chief Minister said

that the details of SSR rates in the state will also be included in the flood damage report which is to be submitted to the Centre and requested the Central team to examine the report and provide disaster relief.

The Chief Minister briefed the Central team about the heavy rains and damages caused by the floods in the state. According to the comprehensive estimates compiled by various departments, the damage caused by the recent floods and heavy rains is a staggering Rs 10,320 crore.

Cong suspects SWAEROES'..

Continued from page 1

Exactly at breakfast time, there will be a protest. That too on a day when the BRS doesn't have any agenda. Whenever there is some other issue going on, Gurukul protests won't come up. Most of the management have been in place for years but suddenly students are being used to settle scores," a source said suggesting that this could be an attempt to destabilize the government's educational initiatives.

Sources said BRS leader RS Praveen's posts on social media are being forwarded to parents in WhatsApp groups connected to Gurukuls. Some parents have reportedly sent screenshots of these messages to the government, expressing concern over the political involvement in education. Last month students of the Gurukul School in Palmakula in Rangareddy district took to the streets to protest against the appalling living conditions and abuse they have been subject to.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Adieu comrade Yechury!

The untimely passing away of Sitaram Yechury is a defining moment for CPI(M) and Indian Left politics

Sitaram Yechury, the General Secretary of CPI(M) and veteran Left ideologue is no more. He died after prolonged illness in Delhi. Yechury, one of India's most prominent left-wing politicians, has left a deep void in the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Indian politics. As the General Secretary of the party and a key ideologue of India's Left movement, Sitaram Yechury was widely recognised for his ability to bridge ideological divides within the CPI(M) and foster cohesion in a faction-ridden party. Under his leadership, the CPI(M) worked toward navigating the challenges of declining relevance, especially in key states like West Bengal and Kerala, where the party held sway. Yechury's pragmatic approach sought to balance Marxist orthodoxy with the demands of modern politics, often encouraging alliances with non-Left parties to check the rise of right-wing forces, particularly the BJP. His tenure as General Secretary was marked by his efforts to revitalise the party in an era where communist ideologies found not many takers. His ability to remain cheerful in the midst of crisis and light hearted won him many admirers across party lines. His ability to engage with younger generation was indeed remarkable. His influence extended beyond CPI(M) to broader Left coalitions, making him a key figure in shaping progressive political discourse in the country.



The CPI(M) has lost two of its prominent leaders in quick succession. Just a month ago, Buddhadeb Bhattacharya passed away, and now with the departure of Sitaram Yechury, the party may face a significant void in its politburo that will be difficult to fill. While Buddhadeb Bhattacharya brought pragmatic economics to the Left, it was Sitaram Yechury who steered Left politics towards a more centrist alignment. Yechury's passing poses a significant challenge for the CPI(M). His adeptness at navigating intra-party conflicts, especially between the hardliners and those favouring more pragmatic politics, was pivotal in keeping the party from splitting along ideological lines. His absence may lead to a leadership vacuum that could exacerbate existing tensions. The choice of Yechury's successor will be critical in determining whether the CPI(M) continues his centrist approach or swings toward a more hardline stance. However, replacing someone of Yechury's stature, who had both the intellectual capacity and the political acumen to lead in challenging times, will not be easy. In recent years, the left parties have struggled to maintain electoral relevance in most parts of India as the BJP and regional parties have filled the political space traditionally held by the Left. Sitaram Yechury, a politician and a gentleman, would be missed in Indian politics. His ability to transcend party politics and engage with a broader spectrum of ideas gave him a unique position in Indian politics. Yechury's absence will be profoundly felt, not only by his comrades but also by those who admired him as a kind and compassionate individual.

ics to the Left, it was Sitaram Yechury who steered Left politics towards a more centrist alignment. Yechury's passing poses a significant challenge for the CPI(M). His adeptness at navigating intra-party conflicts, especially between the hardliners and those favouring more pragmatic politics, was pivotal in keeping the party from splitting along ideological lines. His absence may lead to a leadership vacuum that could exacerbate existing tensions. The choice of Yechury's successor will be critical in determining whether the CPI(M) continues his centrist approach or swings toward a more hardline stance. However, replacing someone of Yechury's stature, who had both the intellectual capacity and the political acumen to lead in challenging times, will not be easy. In recent years, the left parties have struggled to maintain electoral relevance in most parts of India as the BJP and regional parties have filled the political space traditionally held by the Left. Sitaram Yechury, a politician and a gentleman, would be missed in Indian politics. His ability to transcend party politics and engage with a broader spectrum of ideas gave him a unique position in Indian politics. Yechury's absence will be profoundly felt, not only by his comrades but also by those who admired him as a kind and compassionate individual.

The statesman who bore the burden of Kandahar



BHOPINDER SINGH

In the Kandahar hijacking, Jaswant Singh stands out for his quiet resolve. He shouldered the responsibility of securing the release of 161 hostages

Beyond the usual 'manufactured-outrage', there was an inadvertent redemption with the role played of the Soldier-Statesman-Scholar, Jaswant Singh, in the recent OTT series IC-814 - The Kandahar Hijack. Undoubtedly, the hijacking saga casts a dark shadow on Indian governance with glaring mismanagement e.g., lack of cohesion among intelligence agencies, slow alignment amongst stakeholders, allowing the aircraft to take off from Amritsar et al, but in public memory, it is the singular image of Jaswant carrying three terrorists to Kandahar to secure the release of passengers and crew of IC-814. Many saw it as a moment of sovereign capitulation. Others saw it as successful negotiations under impossible circumstances, where negotiations were the only option (An entebbe-style raid, clearly wasn't feasible).

It was, as Jaswant himself puts it succinctly, "a choice between a bad decision, and a far worse decision". Negotiating the release of the hijacked passengers was a collective decision of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The composition of CCS was chaired by then PM Vajpayee, and had included the then Home Minister, NSA, Defence Minister, and of course the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh. If that is so, why was it only Jaswant who carries the can of blame for posterity? The answer can be attempted in a couple of ways - firstly by understanding the inherent construct of Jaswant the individual, and his understanding of his 'duty', and secondly by understanding the impulse of others in the same situation, who were also part and parcel of this complex and questionable decision. Why didn't Jaswant come clean (or at least forcefully enough) to share the blame with his colleagues? For starters, it has to do with Jaswant's imagined sense of himself and his conscience. Honourable soldiers do what is to be done, with no fuss or grandiosity. Major Jaswant Singh was a cavalier from the illustrious Central India Horse and had left



the Indian Army prematurely but always exemplified its finest tenets and values steadfastly, throughout his public life. The institution had defined him, and he had marched out without any usual 'terminal benefit' but with what he reflected, "My service with is my benefit, and what the army gave me, taught me, left me with me is my priceless pension". One such 'officer-and-a-gentleman' quality is what General James Mattis (former US Defense Secretary) alluded to while expressing his measured disagreement with the unhinged Donald Trump i.e., the French expression 'devoir de reserve' (literally, the duty of silence).

Perhaps Jaswant was informed by decades of soldiering, politics and statesmanship that to brave a difficult situation like IC-814 was one thing, but to further weaken the 'moment' for India by name calling or finger pointing, even worse. His colleagues were spared the taint, for he had protected them. It is another story that many were incredibly absolving themselves of any knowledge of the exchange or his dash to Kandahar. When one misstep after another was happening with IC-814 with no one taking charge of the situation, Jaswant had stepped up and personally



PERHAPS JASWANT WAS INFORMED BY DECADES OF SOLDIERING, POLITICS AND STATESMANSHIP THAT TO BRAVE A DIFFICULT SITUATION LIKE IC-814 WAS ONE THING, BUT TO FURTHER WEAKEN THE 'MOMENT' FOR INDIA BY NAME CALLING OR FINGER POINTING, EVEN WORSE

offered to go to Kandahar to secure the release, with the unpredictable Taliban and amoral ISI, across. The usually blustering and omnipresent Ministers were meekly abstaining from giving media bytes or even talking to distraught relatives, as they knew the hopelessness and intensity of the situation.

The situation was fluidic, and anything could have happened requiring quick decision-making, and so Jaswant put himself in the line of fire. His colleagues were better politicians, and he, was a soldier to his country and conscience, first and foremost. We were to engage frequently at the Rashtrapati Bhawan when he was earlier an opposition MP, and later a Cabinet Minister (Defence, External Affairs & Finance), and then again, as an opposition MP. Each time in a gathering of civilians he would catch the eye of those in 'Uniform' and acknowledge them with a gracious nudge or salute when saluted.

In all his varied professional capacities, his sole and avowedly apolitical questions were about the welfare of the President's Bodyguards or about their magnificent horses, on whom too, his eyes rolled rather gently. Many questions can be posed about

Jaswant's decisions e.g., IC-814, but he remained an essentially decent and dignified voice of reason. So winds of politics in his partisan camp changed, and he became an 'outsider' in the new sensibilities. Like a noble soldier, he left his camp but didn't join the 'other side', as done by most. He was too proud to do that, so he passed away silently like a ship at night, saving his colleagues, party, and the country, like he saved the moment in Kandahar.

He was to profoundly introspect in, A Call to Honour, "between this 'right' act of saving 161 lives, or standing up against terrorism and letting them all 'go', for all to die - will that be another 'right' act? By choosing that which is otherwise extinguished for always - Life, for, in any event this fight against terrorism will continue, from one challenge to another". Just for the fact that the Gentleman (an old-fashioned word that he'd understand best) stood up for all his decisions (right or wrong) and never really blamed others (when he could have), he certainly deserves a better memory.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

PICTALK



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama during a teaching session at the Main Tibetan Temple, in Dharamshala, PTI

Perfect parenting: Navigating expectations and aspirations

In an age where parenting seems to be under constant scrutiny, the stress of raising children has evolved into a modern-day burden

In the olden days, it wasn't uncommon to be born in large families and be raised along with several siblings. But for some reason, parents back then did it with a laid-back approach and have not been heard or known to feel pressured by the size of the family they had to support. My paternal grandparents had 13 children and my maternal grandparents had ten.



It is a scenario impossible to even imagine in modern times, where stress has become a staple for all - from kindergarten children to pensioners past their prime. Today's parents are engulfed in a whirlwind of expectations, constantly feeling the weight of being "perfect" while juggling the unrelenting pressures of life. The irony is not lost on any of us—despite our best efforts, parents often feel they are falling short, outpaced by a society that holds them to impossible standards. Dr Vivek Murthy, the US Surgeon General, recently said that parental stress is a significant public health issue and called for shifts in cultural norms. In our hyper-con-

nected world, where every action and decision is subject to public scrutiny, the quest for perfection is an unending pursuit that only leads to exhaustion. We need to pause and ask: Are we, as parents, pushing ourselves into a corner, one where our best is never good enough? How far should we go to prove our merits and how much strain can we take before we break at the seams? A young parent recently mentioned how she was waiting for her toddler to grow up by a few years so that the tensions of the difficult years are past, but the truth is the stress of parenting seldom leaves, no matter how old the children become. It is in the psyche of the parent to be ever concerned, with the concerns and expectations only changing with age. Once a parent, always a parent. There is a relentless battle to become the

perfect parents who have raised peerless offspring that the world would appreciate. This pressure to adopt the best practices of parenting is now increased manifold by social media which presents picture-perfect family lives. What parents often forget is the travails of raising children are never easy and what seems perfect on social media are filtered versions of a life and landscape filled with challenges.

The idea of being a 'perfect parent' is a myth and it would be prudent on the parents' part to recognise that benchmarks set by society, media and peers are often unattainable. Each family should set its priorities and boundaries commensurate with its resources, circumstances and the children's capacity to undertake over-demanding expectations from all around. How parents of yore have been able to divide their attention between the litany of concerns and complaints their children must have presented baffles me. The joke that goes around in our family is this - the children just grew up; no one raised them by following any stringent stan-

dards. This attitude may not work in our times where the bars are set so high and the race for achievement is taken so seriously that parents find themselves caught in the quagmire of worry and anxiety even after the children have flown from their homes and built their nests. The anxiety of being an inadequate parent haunts many and the truth is there is no single right way to parent; neither is there a prescribed format to make children successful and happy except by instilling the right values in them. Embracing their imperfections as parents and learning to let go are difficult but essential traits to pick up in their journey of parenthood. What children need most is not a parent who has everything figured out, but one who loves them, supports them and is present through the highs and lows of life. Constant fretting about children will only take away from the confidence of the children and make them incompetent to face life's numerous challenges. (The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal.)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RIISING SUICIDES: A SERIOUS CONCERN

Madam - According to the recently released National Crime Record Bureau data, only in 2022 more than 1 lakh 71 thousand Indians chose the path of suicide due to various reasons. On the other hand, according to the report of Lancet Public Health, this number worldwide is about 7 lakh 76 thousand. The brutal presence of global suicides simultaneously calls into question the overall social order of our individualistic lives. According to NCRB data, 12 out of every 1 lakh Indians take suicide-like decisions. More than 10 percent of them are farmers. An average of 154 Indian farmers commit suicide every day mainly due to unprofitable agriculture, failure to find a way out of chronic poverty, inadequate institutional financial credit system. Loneliness, family turmoil, childhood trauma, extramarital affairs, illness, and financial insecurity have emerged as causes of suicide among other segments of the population. Besides, the suicide of students makes us worried. Almost every day we come across such incidents, driven by the pressure of academic ambition as well as the artificial glamor of social media, which is increasingly drowning inexperienced teenagers in the darkness of gloom. In this situation, it is urgent to take appropriate measures to prevent this mental epidemic. The Lancet study claimed that a dollar increase in daily income reduced the number of suicides by an average of 8,000 per year during the period 2006-2016, which was confirmed by the study. At the same time, the government should implement poverty alleviation programs quickly. According to the NCRB study, there is a direct correlation between the increase in the pace of housing projects and the decrease in suicides. Counseling should be arranged in every school and coaching center for the students so that they are able to strike a balance between expectations and reality. Besides, it is imperative to include mental health as a subject in the syllabus. Arka Goswami | Asansol

Not a cakewalk for Congress in Haryana



This refers to the article, "Haryana elections: BJP faces Congress' resurgence" (September 12) by Kalyan Shankar). Despite the fact that the BJP is facing an anti-incumbency of 10 years rule in Haryana, the forthcoming assembly polls in the state may not be a cakewalk for the party due to some other factors. On ground sharp division among voters in the state on the lines of Jat and non-Jat as well as Urban and rural cannot be overlooked. Result of Lok Sabha polls also proved it.

The Congress snatched five Jat-dominated Lok Sabha seats from the Congress but the saffron party also managed to retain an equal number of seats dominated by non-Jat voters. This shows the BJP still has a strong presence in non-Jat as well as urban voters, however it is not sufficient to bring it to power third time. Besides BJP, the JJP-ASP alliance also may play a spoilsport for the Congress by denting in its dalit votes. Internal conflicts may also cost the Congress dear in assembly polls. Due to internal conflicts, the Congress failed to cobble an alliance with the AAP. Though former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has proved a greater star in the all matters including distribution of tickets but ambitions of Kumar Shailja, MP from Sirsa may play a spoilsport. A divided Congress will find it very difficult to defeat the BJP despite the latter being on a weak ticket. Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

SLASH RATES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Madam - It is a hard fact, when there is a hike in international prices the government's revenues increase proportionately as customs duty along with other central taxes are imposed thus the government reaps a bonanza. But when there is a fall in global crude prices state-owned oil companies are still earning more profits on petrol and diesel. The recent declining trend in crude prices owing to geo-political reasons, the Indian basket of crude has fallen from \$90/barrel in March to \$69/barrel today. The government needs to cut prices of petroleum products to bring some relief to the common man who is otherwise living at skyrocketing price levels. The reduction in petroleum products may be on the basis of calculations. S K Khosla | Chandigarh

recent days, coinciding with the announcement of assembly elections in the state. With the first phase of polling set for September 18, incidents of terrorist activity have been reported across various regions, including Kathua. Fortunately, these threats have been effectively neutralized by the Indian Army. By instigating fear and anxiety among the local population, Pakistan seeks to undermine the democratic process set in motion by the Indian government. Despite India's relentless efforts, Pakistan continues to stir unrest, ensuring Kashmir remains a contentious issue. Conducting elections is the first step toward restoring democracy and peace in the region. It is essential to encourage the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to vote, strengthening both their state and the path to lasting peace and harmony, free from the shadow of terror. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

JAMMU AND KASHMIR ELECTIONS

Madam - The people of Jammu and Kashmir are no strangers to the menace of terrorism. However, cross-border terrorist activities have surged noticeably in

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FIRST COLUMN

STRIVE TO HAVE AN EMPTY MIND

One must have empty mind which lead to the spiritual awakening



RAVI VALLURI

Aeons ago a neophyte Zen student was an apprentice at a temple of knowledge. Regrettably, his mind was not robust enough and kept vacillating; so much so his mind and soul were not satisfied with "mere" breathing practices and meditation techniques imparted at the monastery. Petals of knowledge revealed. In a state of haughtiness, the Zen student arrived at another temple of knowledge where he remarked, rather dramatically that, "The human mind, Sakya Muni Buddha and other sentient beings, in reality do not exist." The pontiff of the monastery was silently listening to the outburst but uttered nothing for a while. And then abruptly and quite unexpectedly he whacked the tutee with his prized bamboo pipe which angered the student. The Zen Master compassionately inquired of the tutee that if nothing existed, from where did his bout of anger and arrogance emerge? The mentee was momentarily nonplussed and then fell at the feet of the Zen Master, begging for forgiveness. A hollow and empty mind. The percipient Master agreed to admit the whippersnapper but with a few stipulations. It was incumbent upon the greenhorn to remember the cardinal principle of trying to keep the mind hollow and empty. Lord Krishna's flute. There is an interesting parable about Lord Krishna and his flute. It is believed that he used to visit a garden and whisper, "I love you" to all the flora and fauna. In unison, the flora and fauna reciprocated their unalloyed and unadulterated affection towards Lord Krishna. It so transpired that one day, an animated Lord Krishna approached a bamboo tree in the garden. The Lord broke the cataclysmic news that



he would have to snuff out the life of the bamboo plant. The entire garden was agast as the news spread; several plants and trees were however secretly joyous that they were spared of the torture. The bamboo mulled upon the news for a while and then languidly responded, "Lord, you and I have no choice. At the altar of the Master of the Universe, I am willing to sacrifice my life." Hearing this, Lord Krishna beamed. With surgical precision, he struck the bamboo plant. Soon the bamboo was fashioned into a flute for Lord Krishna himself. The flora and fauna, all the gopis and gopikas were now covetous of the bamboo, that in its new avatar it would always be inseparable, constantly in the hands of Lord Krishna.

The exultant bamboo flute was to become a triumphant possession of Lord Krishna. "What was so noteworthy about you, that you were the chosen one?" was an incessant refrain faced by the flute. "Nothing but my singular capitulation to will of the Master; willing to be an instrument of the Lord," was the refrain of the flute. The classical epic Mahabharata is populated with numerous valorous characters. But the ace archer Arjuna stands out prominently. Why is that so? Arjuna is the Sakha, the Nara through whom Narayana revealed the divine celestial song - The Bhagavad Gita. It was Arjuna's unflinching devotion to the Lord that made the character so robust and aerobicized. He faithfully carried out all the commandments of the Lord. Only inner strength and a mature mind transfigure an individual to establish contact with the source of our inner energy.

This is possible through the process of authentic surrender. Breathing techniques like Sudarshan Kriya help to make the mind hollow and empty. "A mature mind is one who understands the impossibility of knowing the ultimate, and with this understanding there is a new dimension, the dimension of the being," said the philosopher, Osho.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

New world order: Is Western hegemony crumbling



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

In an unprecedented joint public appearance, CIA Director William Burns and MI6 Chief Richard Moore assert the enduring strength of their intelligence agencies

Last week, the heads of major Western intelligence agencies made a striking public appearance, first with a provocative op-ed and then in a high-profile interview with the Financial Times editor. Although some questions remained unanswered, their statements provided critical insights into their covert and overt operations. William Joseph Burns, Director of the CIA, and Richard Peter Moore, head of MI6/SIS, both distinguished diplomats before their current roles, asserted with conviction that their organisations are more formidable than ever. Their strong professional alliance highlights a key strategy: confronting their main adversaries, Russia and China. This unprecedented public engagement reflects Sun Tzu's strategic principle from The Art of War: "Appear weak when you are strong, and strong when you are weak." So, who is truly weak? Is this a perfect example of Orwellian doublespeak in the era of Artificial General Intelligence? The nuances of their statements suggest an intriguing answer when read between the lines.

This marks the first joint public appearance by Burns and Moore since their appointments, though separately they have spoken occasionally in public gatherings, signalling a departure from the traditionally more secretive approach of their predecessors. This dramatic 'openness' may be part of a broader strategy to project strength and capability in a shifting global power dynamic. Their commentary suggests that Western hegemony is waning, and those within the system must awaken and confront Russia before China is brought into the strategic equation, challenging the rise of Asia and the Global South. The article's audacious claim, if accurate, that "We have no more trusted or esteemed allies," starkly reveals the widening chasm among their partners.

This intensifying polarization is driven by rising discontent with the United States and the United Kingdom, whose actions have exacerbated global crises and dragged others into worsening conflicts. Burns and Moore emphasised the crucial role of transparency in the 21st century and democratic systems, noting that public engagement is key to demonstrating their agencies' priorities and building trust. Burns highlighted the importance of visibility for attracting talent and enhancing public understanding of their work. The discussion also revealed the deep collaboration between their agencies, which has been instrumental in global events, such as providing early warnings about the war in Ukraine. Moore praised their joint efforts and the "best athlete model," where the most suitable agency handles specific operations, showcasing a high level of trust and effectiveness. They also addressed broader geopolitical issues, noting the threat posed by the cooperation among China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. While these nations share military technology, their collaboration is described as pragmatic rather than value-based, unlike the alliances within the Western intelligence community. Burns and Moore mentioned the lack of direct evidence of weapon transfers from China to Russia and the stalled status of the gas pipeline from Russia to China, attributing its likely incompletion to sanctions and shifting geopolitical factors.

However, they offered no new information on the widely reported Nord Stream pipeline sabotage, where it was suggested the CIA had prior knowledge. Regarding the increasing military cooperation between Russia and



THIS INTENSIFYING POLARISATION IS DRIVEN BY RISING DISCONTENT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHOSE ACTIONS HAVE EXACERBATED GLOBAL CRISES AND DRAGGED OTHERS INTO WORSENING CONFLICTS

North Korea, including the use of North Korean missiles in Ukraine, both spies recognised the heightened threat to US allies in Asia. Moore highlighted the gravity of the situation, stating, "North Korean weaponry and dual-use materials from China are already impacting the battlefield in Ukraine, and this cooperation poses a significant danger." Both leaders also stressed the critical importance of ongoing support for Ukraine, with Burns noting the severe and methodical nature of the conflict, where "Putin is using a traditional tactic of taking village by village, leaving nothing behind."

Despite the grim outlook, the resilience of the Ukrainian forces remains a focal point. Moore lauded Ukraine's bold strategy, such as the move into Kursk, as a game-changer. He remarked, "The Ukrainians, by going in and taking Kursk, have really brought the war home to ordinary Russians," disrupting Putin's narrative and demonstrating the effectiveness of their counteroffensive. Addressing the broader implications of the conflict, Burns acknowledged that while Putin's grip on power remains firm, it is not necessarily stable. "Putin's grip on power doesn't seem to be weakening, but don't ever confuse a tight grip with a stable grip," he stated. The recent Kursk offensive and past events, such as the Prigozhin mutiny, have exposed vulnerabilities within Russia, challenging Putin's confident narrative. Burns and Moore discussed the differing approaches of the US and UK in providing military aid to Ukraine. Burns reaffirmed the US's substantial support despite concerns over escalation, emphasising the ongoing commitment to Ukraine even amid Russia's nuclear threats. Moore echoed this, stressing that the West must not be intimidated. They also addressed Russia's intelligence operations in Europe, noting a shift toward using criminal elements for sabotage,

which has made these operations easier to detect.

The discussion also highlighted the threat of Russian intelligence, citing the 2018 Salisbury poisoning as a stark example of their reckless tactics. Moore emphasised the importance of dealing with such threats through intelligence sharing and collaboration. They also touched on Russian military intelligence activities in the Americas, particularly concerns about Russian agents operating in Mexico and potentially aiding illegal migration into the US. Burns assured that this issue remains a top priority, with law enforcement agencies closely monitoring and countering such threats. Burns updated on efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage deal in Gaza, based on a three-phase plan proposed by President Biden: ceasefire, hostage release, and reconstruction. Despite progress, finalising the deal remains challenging, requiring strong political will and mediator support.

He hopes new proposals will drive action, with both leaders urging external pressure on Hamas for humanitarian aid and peace. Burns also backed the two-state solution but no questions were raised about the US's double standards—hosting ICC-wanted Benjamin Netanyahu while pushing other nations to arrest Putin on an ICC warrant. This highlights the hypocrisy in the US approach to international justice. Regarding Iran, Moore expressed concern about potential retaliation for the assassination of Qasem Soleimani. "We shouldn't let our guard down regarding the type of activity Iran might pursue," he cautioned, citing Iran's history of destabilising actions and support for militant groups. But the overthrow of Mosaddegh, the shooting down of Iran Air Flight 655, and unilateral sanctions show the real picture. The discussion then shifted to the strategic challenge posed by China. Burns and Moore both underscored that China remains a top pri-

ority for their respective agencies. "The CIA has reorganised to reflect this priority," Burns noted, highlighting a significant increase in resources dedicated to addressing China's challenges. Despite economic difficulties in China, Moore observed that Xi Jinping remains a powerful and ambitious leader, making understanding China crucial for global strategic dynamics. Burns and Moore discussed the transformative role of AI in intelligence operations, with Moore emphasising its use in data analysis and counterterrorism, while Burns stressed the importance of maintaining open channels with China. They highlighted the need to balance AI advancements with human oversight.

Their public appearance reflects a shift in Western strategy, focusing more on leadership than on traditional destabilisation tactics. With the US elections approaching, it is clear that a broader alliance is working to secure Vice President Kamala Harris's victory against her main contender, Donald Trump. In his book, The Back Channel, Burns comments on Trump, stating, "In the age of Trump, America is diminished, the president's worldview smaller and meaner, the world full of difficult currents." The entire discussion highlights how the absence of decisive political leadership is not only eroding the system but also accelerating the West's decline. This decline follows decades of destabilising nations in the Global South and Europe to maintain hegemony, which is now cracking. This situation goes beyond the simplistic notion of new adversaries emerging against the West. It signifies a profound awakening from the deep-seated colonial legacies that have long influenced many Asian, African, and Latin American countries. Consequently, the old mantra of manipulation, isolation, and elimination may no longer work.

(The writer is a journalist and author; Views are personal)

Crime against women: A call for swift justice and comprehensive reform

Safety of women remains a fundamental concern worldwide, with millions of women falling victim to the horrific crimes of rape and abuse each day

Safety is a fundamental concern worldwide, with the pervasive issues of rape and abuse affecting millions of women and girls daily. These heinous crimes have a profound impact, extending beyond the individual victims to disrupt families, communities, and societies at large. The consequences are not just physical or emotional but are also societal, leaving lasting scars that undermine trust and cohesion.



VIKAS TIWARI

At the core of rape and abuse lies a complex web of societal attitudes and deeply ingrained power imbalances. Often, perpetrators use these crimes as tools of control, asserting dominance over their victims. The devastating consequences of rape range from physical injury to emotional trauma,

social isolation, and even death. The psychological damage endured by survivors is difficult to quantify, and the ripple effects on society are immense. A recent case that shook the conscience of the nation was the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital, Kolkata. This brutal crime recalled the infamous

Nirbhaya case, igniting nationwide outrage. Yet again, it posed a critical question to both the central and state governments: Is the judicial system adequately addressing crimes against women? Are victims truly receiving the justice they seek?

Another notorious example is the 1992 Ajmer gang rape and blackmail scandal, where over 100 girls were blackmailed with obscene photographs, many subjected to gang rape. Justice, in this case, was only served 32 years later, with six accused sentenced to life imprisonment and fined ₹5 lakh each. This shocking delay once again raises concerns about whether the Indian legal system is equipped to tackle cases of sexual violence effectively.

India, with its population of 1.5 billion, has over 750 fast-track courts designed to expedite justice. Yet, cases like the Ajmer gang rape, Nirbhaya, Unnao, and Balrampur drag on for decades. The slow pace of justice signifies a collective failure of the government and law enforcement agencies in a country that claims to be the world's largest democracy. This begs the question: Do we need a judicial overhaul to ensure timely justice for victims of sexual violence?

The global landscape shows a diverse range of approaches to preventing violence against women. The UK, for instance, has recently passed a bill recognizing violence against women as a national security threat, equating it with Islamist terrorism. Several European



countries, such as Denmark, Iceland, and Switzerland, have adopted stringent laws under the umbrella of 'Zero Tolerance' policies, which even include the death penalty for those convicted of sexual violence. These examples offer potential models for India to consider as it grapples with its own crisis of gender-based violence. Preventing rape and abuse

requires a multifaceted approach, one that addresses the root causes of these crimes. Education and awareness programs about consent, healthy relationships, and respect are essential starting points. Engaging communities, especially involving men and boys in discussions around women's safety, can help shift societal attitudes and reduce the prevalence of such crimes.

Equally important is providing accessible support services for survivors, such as counseling and legal aid. These services are vital for helping victims heal and pursue justice. Policy reforms aimed at strengthening laws to protect women and ensure swift accountability for perpetrators are also crucial. Empowering women and girls plays a critical role in prevent-

ing rape and abuse. This can be done by promoting economic independence, which helps reduce vulnerability to violence, and fostering safe spaces where women can report incidents without fear. Encouraging survivors to speak out against violence can help break the silence that often surrounds these crimes, lifting the stigma and encouraging others to come forward. In today's digital age, technology can also play a pivotal role in enhancing women's safety. Innovative tools such as safety apps, which allow women to alert family or friends in emergencies, and online support platforms for survivors offer new avenues for protection and support.

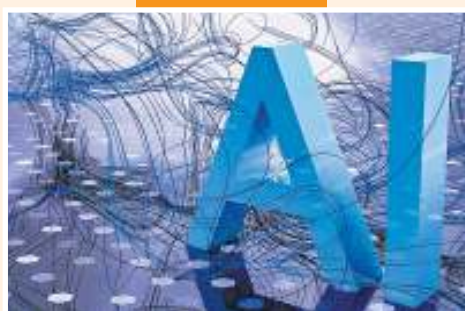
Data analytics can help identify patterns and hotspots of

violence, enabling authorities to target prevention efforts more effectively.

Ultimately, women's safety is a collective responsibility. It demands the involvement of individuals, communities, organizations, and governments. By addressing the root causes of rape and abuse and implementing solutions at various levels, we can create a society where women and girls live free from the fear of violence. It is time for decisive action. The protection of women should not be seen as an afterthought but as a fundamental pillar of societal well-being. Only by working together can we create a safer, more equitable world for all.

(The writer is a social worker and a RTI Activist; views expressed are personal)

IN BRIEF



CCI selects MDIS to conduct mkt study on AI

Fair trade watchdog CCI has selected the Management Development Institute Society (MDIS) to conduct a market study on artificial intelligence and competition that will examine various aspects, including potential competition issues in the AI ecosystems. In April this year, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had issued a request for proposal to conduct the market study on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Competition. The Gurugram-based MDIS has been engaged to conduct the study that will seek to understand certain key AI ecosystems, including stakeholders, resources, value chains, market structures and parameters of competition, CCI said in a release on Friday. It will also examine the emerging and potential competition issues in these markets/ecosystems as well as look at the scope and nature of AI applications/use cases, and assess associated opportunities, risks and ramifications from a competition standpoint.



Moneyboxx Finance raises Rs 176 crore

Moneyboxx Finance, a NBFC providing business loans to micro entrepreneurs, on Friday said it raised Rs 176 crore to support growth plans. In a filing to BSE, the company announced the allotment of equity shares and warrants convertible to equity amounting to Rs 176 crore. The capital raise includes Rs 63 crore via preferential equity issue and Rs 113 crore via equity warrants from both promoters and non-promoters. The company has received Rs 91 crore, which includes Rs 63 crore from preferential equity issue and Rs 28 crore from warrants, and the balance Rs 85 crore pursuant to warrants is receivable within 18 months, Moneyboxx Finance said. The net worth of the company stood at Rs 174 crore as on June 30, 2024, which has increased by over 50 per cent by August 31, 2024 and will double with the total equity raise of Rs 176 crore, it said.



Western Carriers IPO subscribed 79% on 1st day

The initial public offer of logistics company Western Carriers (India) Ltd got subscribed 79 per cent on the first day of subscription on Friday. The Rs 493-crore initial share sale received bids for 1,64,59,269 shares against 2,08,68,467 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) part received 1.41 times subscription while the quota for non-institutional investors got subscribed 38 per cent. Western Carriers (India) on Thursday said it has mobilised Rs 148 crore from anchor investors. The Kolkata-based company's initial public offering (IPO) is available for subscription in the price range of Rs 163 to Rs 172 per share. The IPO has a fresh issue of equity shares, aggregating up to Rs 400 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 54 lakh equity shares worth Rs 93 crore, at the upper end of the price band by promoter Rajendra Sethia. Proceeds from the fresh issue to the tune of Rs 163.5 crore will be used for debt payment and the remaining funds towards general corporate purposes.

MORE MEDICAL INSURERS JOINING PLATFORM

NHCX gains momentum

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The National Health Claims Exchange (NHCX) platform, introduced by the National Health Authority, is gaining traction among Indian health insurers, offering various benefits to insurers, healthcare providers and patients.

This digital platform aims to enable patients to access quality healthcare quickly and reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

NHCX connects insurance companies, healthcare service providers, and government insurance scheme administrators to streamline healthcare access and claims.

Officials said that leading insurers like Aditya Birla Health Insurance, Magma HDI General Insurance, Reliance General Insurance, Future Generali India Insurance and HDFC Ergo are joining the NHCX platform in their operations.

By leveraging this technology, insurers can significantly reduce claim processing time, improve operational efficiency, and enhance customer satisfaction, health insurance firms said.



claim processing. It also underscores IRDAI's commitment to expanding insurance coverage and accessibility nationwide," said Mayank Bathwal, CEO of Aditya Birla Health Insurance.

It will enable the company to streamline the claims process, reduce administrative costs, and provide a better experience for the customers, he said.

"I think the National Health Claims Exchange is a fantastic idea by the regulator.

IRDAI's primary focus has been affordability, accessibility and customer-centricity. The regulator believes that if the industry has to grow well then it has to create an enabling environment and a regulatory interface where the insurers are able to quickly react to whatever changes are happening in the market," said Anup Rau, MD & CEO of Future Generali India Insurance.

The adoption of NHCX is a positive development for the Indian healthcare industry.

"As more insurers join the platform, we can expect further improvements in the efficiency and transparency of healthcare claims processing," a company official said.

"The NHCX platform, designed to streamline and expedite the claims process, represents a significant advancement in the insurance sector. We believe it will play a significant role in furthering the insurance movement in the country. It testifies to our belief that technology can provide impetus to India's insurance sector," Magma HDI Chief Technical Officer Amit Bhandari said.



Call to encourage youth in agriculture sector

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde on Friday stressed promoting research in agricultural universities and encouraging entrepreneurial development in the sector.

Bagde attended the event of the 12th foundation day of Karna Narendra Agricultural University of Jobner. During his address, he said that more steps should be taken in the interest of farmers by teaching them to do the work of production, grading and packing at home.

He also stressed on maximum dissemination of beneficial schemes of the central and state governments to be implemented for the benefit of the farmers. Bagde said that everyone should make a collective

effort to conserve rainwater. This is the era of climate change and the agriculture sector is too facing crisis.

"We can develop the nation only by planting more saplings and adopting natural farming," he said.

He further emphasized motivating the youth towards farming and entrepreneurial development in the agricultural sector.

Rajasthan Kisan Aayog Chairman C.R. Chaudhary and MP Rao Rajendra Singh also attended the event. The Governor interacted with the students and saw the exhibition of agricultural animal husbandry products. He also inaugurated the building of the university's Dairy and Technology College.

Warivo forays into high-speed e-scooter segment; eyes Rs 120 cr topline in FY25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler startup Warivo Motor India is looking to nearly double its topline to around Rs 120 crore this fiscal on the back of its entry into high-speed electric-scooter segment, according to top company officials.

The company, which has been present in low-speed (top speed of up to 25 kmph) so far, on Friday launched its high-speed scooter CRX with price starting at Rs 79,999 (ex-showroom).

"Earlier, we were in the low-speed electric scooters segment. Now with the CRX, we are getting into the high-speed segment which will help us get more volumes," Warivo Motor India CEO Shammie Sharma said.

While the CRX has been positioned in the mid-segment of high-speed scooters, the company is planning a bridge product between the low-speed and high-speed

looking at Rs 120 crore, up from Rs 62 crore in FY24."

The company, which has a manufacturing unit at Ellenabad in Haryana has a production capacity of 600 units a day.

In terms of sales, Sharma said the company has been averaging around 2,000 units per month from its low-speed scooters.



Food Ministry inks pact with FCI to boost grain output

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The food ministry has signed an agreement with the state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the 2024-25 fiscal year, aiming to enhance efficiency and accountability in foodgrain procurement and distribution.

The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) sets specific performance benchmarks, including metrics for FCI depots, and outlines accountability measures to optimise public fund usage in food security operations.

"Depot efficiency parameters like capacity utilization, operational losses, security measures, and modernisation of processes are part of the performance benchmarking," the ministry said in a statement. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to refining the Public Distribution System (PDS) and ensuring efficient management of food subsidy funds through improved FCI operations.

Ford: Preparing to use Chennai manufacturing plant for exports

PNS ■ CHENNAI

American auto major Ford Motor on Friday said it is preparing to utilise its Chennai manufacturing plant to roll out vehicles for exports and has intimated the same to the Tamil Nadu government.

Minister for TRB Rajaa, who is in the United States accompanying the Chief Minister M K Stalin to woo investors, said the efforts of the Chief Minister to reposition 'Brand Tamil Nadu' in its Numero Uno place has yielded rich dividends.

The comments by Rajaa follows the decision by the US car maker Ford which earlier in the day said that it was preparing to utilise its Chennai manufacturing plant in Maraimalai Nagar to roll out vehicles for exports and has intimated its intention to the state government through a 'Letter of Intent'.

"A year of constant interactions and consistent pitches under the guidance of our CM Tamil Nadu M K Stalin have today resulted in the return of Ford Motor



Company to Tamil Nadu." Rajaa said.

"Our CM's efforts to showcase TN's manufacturing prowess, its abundant talent pool and the efforts he has taken to reposition Brand Tamil Nadu in its rightful NumeroUno place has yielded rich dividends," he said in a social media post on Friday.

Rajaa also shared a video of his earlier visit to the factory of Ford in the United States where the car maker produces F150 at its Dearborn Manufacturing unit.

Recently, Chief Minister Stalin met the senior management of Ford Motor Company and said he had an engaging dis-

cussion with the team from Ford Motors and explored the feasibility of renewing Ford's three decade partnership with Tamil Nadu.

Earlier today, Ford said it has submitted a Letter of Intent to the Tamil Nadu government, indicating its intention to utilize the Chennai plant in Maraimalai Nagar in Chengalpattu district, located about 45 km from here, to serve overseas markets. The company had stopped manufacturing of its products in September 2021, after nearly three decades, and said it would sell only imported vehicles going ahead as part of the restructuring exercise.

TN CM Stalin concludes two-week US tour

Govt signs pacts worth over Rs 7,000 crore

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Friday said it has signed an MoU with US-headquartered Rapid Global Business Solutions, Inc, a supplier of business solutions across various industries, and the firm would set up a new unit in the state by investing Rs 100 crore.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin in Chicago on September 12 between officials of the state and the company, represented by its Chairman and CEO Nanua Singh and others, an official

release here said, adding the new electronic and telematics firm would come up at Hosur.

Industries Minister TRB Rajaa and top state officials were present.

In total, the state government has inked pacts totally worth Rs 7,616 crore with 18 companies during the Chief Minister's official US tour to attract

investments. Stalin, who embarked on his US tour on August 27, completed his trip and departed from Chicago to Chennai on September 12 following a warm send-off by the Tamil diaspora.

In a post on X, he said: Goodbye, USA! The CM is scheduled to land in Chennai on Saturday morning.

Stalin, also the ruling DMK's chief writing to his party cadres said the Dravidian model of government has been putting into action the government's ideal of making Tamil Nadu the first destination of investors and the investment commitments secured in the US would provide employment opportunities to the young people.

Recalling his interaction with the Tamil diaspora in Chicago on September 7, he said they did not fail to laud the momentous schemes of the DMK government during the past three years.



Markets take a breather after record rally; settle marginally lower in volatile trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty took a breather on Friday after a record rally in the previous session and ended marginally lower on the emergence of profit-taking. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 71.77 points or 0.09 per cent to close at 82,890.94. During the day, it dived 309.49 points or 0.37 per cent to 82,653.22.

The NSE Nifty dropped 32.40 points or 0.13 per cent to 25,356.50. Adani Ports was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, declining 1.37 per cent, followed by ITC, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Maruti, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever and Larsen & Toubro. In contrast, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Axis Bank and Tech Mahindra were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai settled lower, while Seoul and Hong Kong ended in positive territory.

Fire-resistant upholstery fabrics mooted

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has introduced stringent regulations mandating the use of fire-resistant upholstery fabrics in non-domestic furniture, a move expected to improve public safety with respect to fire-related tragedies.

Effective from October, the Quality Control Order (QCO) now requires all upholstery components used at public spaces to comply with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms.

The QCO applies to upholstered composites and fabrics used in non-domestic furniture found in public areas such as offices, malls, airports, restaurants, underground shopping complexes, museums, hospi-



tals, places of worship, and educational institutions.

The order is also applicable on all imports of complete furniture or sub-assemblies having upholstered fabric meant for public use, however relax-

ation till March 31, 2025 has been provided on the request of industry.

"This decisive action underscores the government's commitment to enhancing fire safety in public spaces and

ensuring that all non-domestic furniture meets the highest standards of quality and safety, thereby safeguarding lives and property," an official statement by the Ministry of Textiles said.

QCOs are part of the government's broader strategy to ensure quality and safety in critical products.

"While BIS certification is voluntary for many products, compliance with these standards for strategic items like fire-retardant upholstery is now compulsory. This regulation is a significant step towards creating safer public spaces and ensuring that the furniture used in these environments meets the highest safety standards," the statement said.

Focus on being a future ready company: RITES

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RITES Ltd, an infrastructure, consultancy and engineering firm under the Railway Ministry, has focussed on being a future ready firm with several initiatives centred around information technology and artificial intelligence, Rahul Mithal, the Chairman and Managing Director of the company said in a press statement.

According to the statement, in the 50th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company held on September 12, Mithal said that over the past five decades, RITES has grown from humble beginnings to being granted the prestigious

Navratna status this financial year, committed to delivering consistent results and creating value for stakeholders.

"With our focus on being Future Ready, RITES has vigorously pursued its #ITReady, #SkillReady, and #AIReady initiatives," Mithal added.

"During the AGM, the shareholders approved resolutions such as the adoption of Audited Financial Statements of the company, 1:1 Bonus Equity Share for shareholders and Rs 5/share as a final dividend for FY2023-24," it said.

"This is in addition to the three interim dividends totalling Rs 13 per share, which have already been paid during the year.

HYDERABAD GROWTH CORRIDOR LIMITED
 HGCL Office Building, 2nd floor, Khasakuda Road, Adjacent to CHTR, Namakaramguda, Hyderabad-500104. Email: cgpr@govt.in

E-Procurement Tender Notice
 Tender Notice No.18/CGM/IT/HCGL/DGM/1/2024-25 Dt: 04.09.2024
 Tenders are invited on e-procurement platform for the work of "Relocation of Non-functional traffic signal systems at unimportant junctions to important junctions"

Commencement Date for Downloading Tender Document : 13.09.2024
 Last date and time for submission of Tender : 27.09.2024 up to 3.00PM
 Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : 27.09.2024 at 3.30PM
 For Further details log on to <http://www.hmda.gov.in> (OR) <mailto:helpdesk.telangana.gov.in> (OR) Contact this office.

Any Amendments, updates regarding this Bid Notice will be published in the e-procurement platform and in the website <http://www.hmda.gov.in> only.

Sd/-
 Chief General Manager (Tech)
 HGCL

R.O. No.: 482-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 Lr.No.EE-INV/WM/ICTN/10/Procurement/Recall/2024-25 Dt: 13-09-2024
 Tenders are invited from the Registered Contractors/Agencies for the works listed on online tender platform "tender.telangana.gov.in" for (28) works under General Fund for Rs.389.18 Lakhs.

Abstract of works:
 (Reserved for SC Individuals & SC Societies) - 04 No. of works : Rs. 37.90 Lakhs
 General - 24 Nos. of works : Rs. 351.28 Lakhs
 Total (28) Nos. of works : Rs. 389.18 Lakhs

Schedule of Tender Process:
 Starting date and time for downloading : 18-09-2024 from 10:30 am onwards
 Last date and time for downloading : 25-09-2024 up to 04.00 pm
 Opening of Bids (Technical) : 25-09-2024 at 04.30 pm.
 Opening of Bids (Financial) : 25-09-2024 at 04.30 pm.
 Contact Details: E.E., Circle - III, Nakkakagutta, GWMC, Cell No.: 9701999998, email: ee@gmcc@gmail.com. Further details can be seen on "e" procurement market place @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> Downloading of works starts from 18-09-2024, 10.30 AM onwards.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
 Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

R.O.No.: 4125-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt: 13-09-2024

Hyderabad



RAHUL BOSE ON BERLIN

PNS/HYDERABAD

In the world of cinema, it's often the subtleties—the unspoken moments and quiet tensions—that breathe life into a character. Rahul Bose, a master of navigating these spaces, has always been drawn to roles where the layers aren't instantly visible. His latest film, *Berlin*, is no exception.

"When I read the script, what attracted me the most was the interiority of the character and the film—the way everything isn't immediately obvious," Bose reflects. "It's a game played in shadows, and even the characterisation of Sondhi, the role I portray, follows the same path. As an actor, I've always loved working in those spaces between words, in the silences. That's what drew me in."

Bose's character, Sondhi, is a complex figure tough yet undisciplined, with a power that feels dissolute. To bring this vision to life, the actor undertook a physical transformation. "I wanted Sondhi to have that puffed-up look, like a tough guy who's slightly swollen. I put on three or four kilograms around my stomach to achieve that. And then there's the mustache," he adds with a laugh. "Atul and I agreed it suited him perfectly."

But it wasn't just the physical aspect that he worked on. He delved deep into Sondhi's dialect, intonation and accent, crafting a speech pattern distinct from his own. "It's subtle but consistent throughout the entire film," he notes, highlighting the care he takes in crafting a character's authenticity.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the shoot, according to Bose, was working with his co-stars Ishwak Singh and Aparshakti Khurana. He compares acting to a tennis match, explaining that "you raise your game based on what's in front of you. It's tough to maintain your level if the other actor doesn't have the required skill. But with Ishwak and Aparshakti, it was different. They have talent, intuition, and an inner rhythm. They understand the cadence of cinema."

He continues, "Acting in movies isn't something you can do alone. Both Ishwak and Aparshakti really understood this piece, and more than that, they're wonderful human beings. I had a fantastic time working with them."

The camaraderie on set was palpable, and the *Dil Dhadakne Do* star speaks fondly of his time in Bhopal, where the crew spent several days shooting. "I discovered Bhopal while shooting *Berlin*," he shares. "After filming, I would go for runs around the city, experiencing its nights, lakes, and urban landscape. But what I truly enjoyed was working with Apar and Ishwak. There was zero ego, just trust, and that's a rare thing."

As Indian cinema continues to evolve, his optimism "If we have actors like Apar and Ishwak leading the way, the future is bright," he says, his belief in the next generation of talent clear.

With *Berlin*, Rahul Bose has once again stepped into a role that allows him to explore the nuances of human behaviour. It's in the silences, the shadows, and the carefully chosen words that he finds his groove, reminding us why he's one of the most respected actors in Indian cinema today.

AARTI SREENATH
aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

In a world that often rushes forward, forgetting to pause and appreciate the simpler joys, Sreeja Sreekumar found her way back to a slower rhythm through the delicate art of baking. A resident of Hyderabad for over 35 years, Sreeja Sreekumar, now the owner of Flavours Baked with Love, embarked on an unexpected journey from the fast-paced corporate world into the heartwarming, aromatic confines of her kitchen.

Born in Wayanad, a serene town nestled in the lush greenery of Kerala, Sreeja's journey to Hyderabad began when she was just a child. "I came to Hyderabad when I was a kid," she recalls with a smile. "I did my schooling, college, everything here. So, it's been over 35 years now and this city has become more than just home to me."

Her life in Hyderabad has been one of adaptation and transformation, shaped by the city's ever-evolving cosmopolitan spirit. "Hyderabad is such a cosmopolitan place. You find people from different states, speaking different languages, with different cultures. I call myself more a Hyderabadi than a Malayali," she says proudly.

But before she became a full-time baker, she spent nearly two decades in the corporate world. "I worked with Airtel and a few other companies for almost 20 years," she reflects. "It was a good run, but at one point, I felt the need to do something different." Little did she know that her next chapter would be baked with love—quite literally.

It was a decision that required courage—quitting a stable corporate career for the uncertainties of entrepreneurship. "I took the leap of faith and decided to focus entirely on baking. It's been almost a year and a half now and I haven't looked back."

Hyderabad, she believes, played a key role in shaping her new career. "There's a lot of opportunity here to learn and grow. There are so many tutors and workshops available that teach the latest baking techniques," she says. "Also, since Hyderabad is so cosmopolitan, people are more inclined to try home-baked goods, especially because of the hygiene factor and the customisation we can offer, which is often missing in large bakeries."

Her journey wasn't just about learning new skills; it was also about the support she received from her family, particularly her son. A proud moment came when she was selected to attend a curated dinner by the famous judges of *MasterChef Australia*: Gary Mehigan, Matt Preston and George Calombaris. "When I got the call from the

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Sreeja Sreekumar, the passionate home baker behind Flavours Baked with Love, opens up about her remarkable journey from a corporate career to building a thriving bakery business in Hyderabad. Sreeja shares heartfelt stories of her transition, the city's role in shaping her dreams, and a once-in-a-lifetime encounter with *MasterChef Australia's* Gary Mehigan.



Konosh team, I was so excited. They had a contest and I was one of the winners. I got to meet them at The Westin," she shares.

Her son, Swesh, played a crucial role in making this moment memorable. "He insisted that I should bake something for them. I was hesitant at first—they are such big chefs! But he encouraged me, so I baked brownies for them. "The result?" Gary had one of the brownies, and he gave such amazing feedback. He even took the box with him!" she beams. "It was an experience that I'll cherish forever."

But for her, baking is not just about creating delicious treats; it's about the connections she makes with people and the city she calls home. "Hyderabad is my city now. It's modern, with broad-minded people, and it has helped me grow both personally and professionally," she says. And despite its fast pace, Hyderabad's warmth stands out to her. "I've travelled to other cities for work, but nothing compares to the warmth here. People are so helpful—even an auto driver will ask you if you need help before you even ask."

Her fondest memories are tied to her family's visits from Kerala. "Whenever my cousins come down, we visit places like Golconda Fort and Falaknuma Palace. But my favourite spot is the Salar Jung Museum—I've been there five or six times and could go again."

Yet, like any city, Hyderabad isn't without its challenges. "The traffic is insane, especially around the high-tech city area. But other than that, there's nothing I don't love about this place," she admits.

As a woman who has seen the city evolve over decades, she is proud of Hyderabad's advancements, especially in healthcare. "I worked in the medical field before quitting, and I can say Hyderabad has some of the best hospitals around. The health infrastructure is excellent, with multi-specialty hospitals in every corner of the city," she says.

Her connection to Hyderabad runs deep, so much so that her relatives from Kerala always find an excuse to visit. "They love coming to Hyderabad. They can't get enough of Ramoji Film City and, of course, Biryani. No other biryani matches up to Hyderabadi biryani," she laughs. "They always take a packet back home with them!"

If there's one thing that truly encapsulates her love for Hyderabad, it's the people. "This is one of the safest cities. You can walk around in the middle of the night and still feel safe," she says. "And the best part is the sense of community—people here are always ready to help."

As she looks toward the future, Sreeja is excited about continuing her journey as a baker in the city she now calls her own. "Hyderabad is the best city," she says with conviction. And with every bite of her delicious brownies, it's easy to taste the love she has for her craft—and for Hyderabad.

Dream to reality:

Young entrepreneur changing business barriers!

IN A TETE-A-TETE WITH **THE PIONEER**, YOUNG BUSINESSWOMAN NIYATI TIWARI, FOUNDER OF TWO DYNAMIC FIRMS, TAKES US THROUGH HER HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, CHALLENGES AND MORE

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY
bhumireddyashmi@gmail.com

Who wouldn't have once dreamt of becoming their own boss? In fact, these days many wish to become the founder of a firm in their early 20s.

These days, youngsters, as soon as they hit their 20s, are on a quest to achieve their dreams and one among them is Niyati Tiwari. She isn't a founder of just one firm but two: an online fashion platform, Inaraa, and Niyati.ai, a free AI education platform.

The young talent gets on board for an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, who finds her inspiration in her father, Naveen Tiwari, who is the founder of Inmobi. "His influence had a great impact on me, which made me pursue entrepreneurship. Growing up in an entrepreneurial environment, I was constantly exposed to the idea that businesses can be powerful tools for societal change and that nothing is impossible. His journey has demonstrated to me the significance of creativity and how it influences the world. Since that time, I have developed a strong enthusiasm for merging culture, innovation and technology to enhance social impact to the fullest extent possible. With this, we can effectively expand on a large scale and reach a global audience from our country," shares Niyati.

She started her journey by receiving a solid education from two outstanding schools, Rishi Valley and The International School Bangalore (TISB), which prioritised the holistic development of students. These schools encouraged her to delve into a wide range of interests, including our rich history and diverse culture, particularly in traditional tribal arts and artificial intelligence. In addition to her education, her parents, who are enthusiastic about technology, culture, innovation and the arts, have played a crucial role in influencing her entrepreneurial ambition and motivation. In the home environment, problem-solving and critical thinking have always been the focus when addressing challenges in ways that are beneficial to society. This attitude has been instilled in her since she was a child, inspiring her to go beyond her own achievements and concentrate on developing solutions that can result in significant changes.

She shares, "I have been focused on developing ventures. Both initiatives stem from my desire to make a meaningful impact, whether by empowering artisans who most need it or providing young people with the tools to help them succeed in a technology-driven world."

Well, the idea for Inaraa came from a deep appreciation for India's rich cultural heritage and a desire to make it more accessible and relevant to today's fashion landscape. "I have always been fascinated by the intricate artistry of tribal designs and the stories they tell, but I noticed that these traditional crafts were often confined to specific regions and communities, limiting their reach and impact. At the same time, fast fashion and e-commerce have been growing at an exponential rate. For me, sustainable fashion and preserving our cul-

ture complement each other. I wanted to bridge this gap by bringing these beautiful, often overlooked designs, handicrafts and artistry into the mainstream fashion industry. The idea was to create a platform where modern fashion could coexist with traditional art, allowing these designs to reach a broader audience while ensuring that the artisans behind them are fairly compensated and recognised for their work."

These values were instilled in her by her mother, Aditi, who left her prestigious job in the US to come back and serve the country. "She has shown me how different tribes live and work and their craft is not just a unique marker of their region but carries their cultural heritage and the stories of their villages. Inaraa is more than just a fashion platform; it is a celebration of India's diverse cultural heritage and a way to empower tribal artisans, particularly women, by giving them a sustainable source of income and a global stage to showcase their talent," Niyati added.

Nevertheless, the young entrepreneur did encounter numerous obstacles. Gaining the trust of tribal artisans and convincing them to collaborate on a platform combining traditional art with modern fashion was a major challenge. "These communities often have deep-rooted traditions and it was essential to approach them with respect and sensitivity, ensuring that their cultural heritage was preserved and not commercialised in a way that compromised its authenticity. Then, navigating the logistics of onboarding and distribution while ensuring that the artisans were paid fairly and promptly was

another challenge. Many of these artisans are located in remote areas, which makes communication and coordination more complex. It was crucial to establish a system that not only streamlined these processes but also maintained transparency and integrity throughout the supply chain. We regularly conduct workshops imparting digital literacy and skills in these tribal communities to ensure their independence and ability to use our platform."

Additionally, introducing traditional tribal designs to a modern global market requires careful thought and creativity. She had to find the right balance between preserving the essence of these designs and adapting them to fit contemporary fashion trends. This involved a lot of experimentation, feedback and iteration to create products that resonated with today's consumers while staying true to the original art forms. Despite these challenges, the journey has been incredibly rewarding. "Overcoming these obstacles has only strengthened my commitment to Inaraa's mission of empowering artisans and preserving India's rich cultural heritage through sustainable fashion."

In regards to Niyati.ai, a free AI education platform includes an app that aims to serve both users on the desktop and mobile to use the AI services served by the portal. It is basically a simplified eLearning portal, making AI tools available to students from all backgrounds. It emphasises training, skill development and others.

"We also try to work with schools as teachers can help guide the students, while the platform encourages positive, community-focused projects. Regular assessments ensure students not only gain technical skills but also understand the ethical implications of their work, minimizing risks while maximising the benefits of AI education. Niyati.ai fosters a learning environment where students can share projects, exchange ideas, and work together on AI challenges. This not only enhances their learning experience but also builds a network of young innovators who are equipped to use AI responsibly. By promoting teamwork and creativity, the app helps students develop a deeper understanding of AI's potential while also cultivating the skills and mindset needed to contribute positively to society through technology," says Niyati.

In conclusion, Niyati shares her motivating advice for young students and peers keen on entrepreneurship: remain curious, persevere, and welcome challenges as opportunities to learn. "Surround yourself with helpful mentors and peers to receive guidance, and don't shy away from taking strategic risks. Entrepreneurship involves more than just building a profitable business; it also means having a beneficial influence on the local community and society as a whole," she signs off.



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what's brewing?

Asia Jewels Show 2024 unveiled its 52nd Edition of Asia Jewels Show Exhibition in Hyderabad at Hotel Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Asia Jewels Show is happening in Hyderabad on 13th, 14th, 15th September from 10.30AM to 8 pm.

Nishat

Pooja and Jhanvi

Varshini Sounderajan

Siripapa

Sindu and Priyanka

Bramaramba

Amulya

Renowned Tollywood celebrities Regina Cassandra, Anup Rubens, Racha Ravi, Bheem C participated in the Ganesh Darshan of 92.7 BIG FM - BIG Green Ganesh at Ashoka One Mall, Y-Junction, Kukatpally. 92.7 BIG FM's 'BIG Green Ganesh' made a grand return, infusing eco-consciousness with festive spirit this year. As part of the 16th edition of the popular campaign, Hyderabad welcomed eco-friendly celebrations during the week-long event.

Mia by Tanishq, hosted an exclusive event at Xora Bar and Kitchen, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The event, attended by the loyal customer base in the presence of Rajiv C Menon, National Sales and Retail Head of Mia by Tanishq, highlighted the brand's commitment to celebrating its cherished customers in the city of Hyderabad.

As part of the Telangana Language Day celebrations, grand events were organised across the state under the auspices of the Department of Telangana Language and Culture. The main event took place at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad, where Minister Jupally Krishna Rao attended as the chief guest, paying tribute to Kalojji's invaluable contributions.

7th edition of Echoes of Earth will celebrate the seasons and their significant role in shaping the natural world, highlighting the harmonious cycles of change and renewal they bring. The festival will draw attention to nature's resilience in response to these seasonal changes, advocating for mindful, sustainable practices that protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem. The festival will take place on December 7th and 8th, 2024, in Bangalore for the first time in India.

Fernandez Hospital Educational and Research Foundation (FHERF), in partnership with the Stillbirth Society of India, hosted the 2nd Annual Stillbirth Society of India Conference from 13-15 November at the Park Hotel, Hyderabad. The event brought together over 200 healthcare professionals, policymakers, researchers and community advocates, all driven by a common goal: to reduce India's stillbirth rate to 10 per 1,000 births by 2030.

FUN

ARCHIE

3. SNIFF! I SMELL SOMETHING GOOD!

I'M MAKING MY SPICY LIMA BEAN-BEET SOUFFLÉ!

MY MISTAKE!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

AH! LUNCH, MY FAVORITE MEAL! AND TODAY'S LUNCH IS EXTRA SPECIAL!

EVER SINCE THE WEATHER GOT WARM I'VE BEEN SWATTING FLIES AND SAVING THEM IN A JAR.

FINALLY I GOT ENOUGH BUGS TO MASH THEM INTO A GOOEY PASTE WITH A SPOON.

I CALL IT 'BUG BUTTER.' CARE FOR A TASTE?

TELL ME, CALVIN, DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT ALL?

GARFIELD

ARE YOU GOING TO STARE AT YOUR PHONE THROUGH OUR ENTIRE DATE?

YES, I AM.

COOL.

REALITY CHECK

Updates are available. Would you like to install now?

Remind me tomorrow.

TOMORROW, TOMORROW, IT'S ALWAYS TOMORROW!

SPEED BUMP

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WITH A MORE OPEN FLOOR PLAN.

CROSSWORD

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

NANCY

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAVE TO HAPPEN?

I DON'T KNOW, HONEY.

CAN WE STOP BAD THINGS?

NOT ALWAYS.

BUT WE CAN ALWAYS TRY TO MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Yesterday's solution

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

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

- A written communication
- Bathe
- Touch lips with someone
- Concealed
- A sale where people make bids for things
- Rocks in space that burn up when close to the Earth
- An animal with a shell
- Mix up with a spoon
- Very impolite
- A university award
- Repaired
- Refuse to follow an order
- Pointy part of a church roof
- A restaurant employee
- Author
- Poke with a finger
- Factual

DOWN

- Enjoy
- Very thin, soft paper
- Broad

SOLUTION

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

GINGER MEGGS

SO, YOU'RE FINALLY FREE FROM YOUR GROUNDING, GINGER.

WHAT'RE YA SONNA DO?

NEVER FORGET TO REMEMBER!

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

SOAP.

Mathu Vadalaru 2: Satya's one-liners take center stage!

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Many successful movies have sequels and now even a modest film like *Mathu Vadalaru* received one called *Mathu Vadalaru 2*. The lead actor in the movie is Sri Simha Koduri, who is the younger son of popular music director MM Keeravani. The music for the film is provided by Kaala Bhairava, the elder son of MM Keeravani. The movie is made by Cherry (Chiranjeevi), who belongs to the renowned production company Mythri Movie Makers. On Friday, the film also featuring Faria Abdullah premiered.

STORY:

Delivery boys Babu Mohan (played by Sri Simha) and Yesubabu (played by Satya) have been recruited as special agents in the High Emergency (HE) Team, specialising in handling kidnapping cases. These individuals gained recognition handling those cases while also stealing some money intended for the kidnappers. Babu, Yesubabu desired to handle a high-profile kidnapping case discreetly from their superior and aimed to earn a large sum of money from it. They have been faced with a kidnapping case and they are determined to handle it without outside help. They were close to solving the case, but to their surprise, the kidnapped girl was found murdered in the backseat of Babu and

Yesubabu's car. This made them the main individuals under suspicion in a murder investigation. A video has also been released identifying Babu and Yesu Babu as the main suspects. Who was the one responsible for killing that girl? What is the link between this murder investigation and actors Vennela Kishore and Ajay from the movie *Star Yuva*? The crux of the story is understanding exactly what occurred.

ANALYSIS:

The film by director Ritesh Rana relies heavily on comedic scenes. Focus solely on the comedy scenes, particularly the one-liners, and don't worry about the plot or logic of the film. Similar to its predecessor, *Mathu Vadalaru 2* relies heavily on comedian Satya and his comedic spoofs. In fact, Satya takes the lead role in this movie, while Sri Simha plays a supporting role. In part one, they were both delivery boys, but in this follow-up, they have transformed into special agents. The director briefly demonstrates how they enter the investigative agency.

Just as in the original, the main characters in this follow-up also desired to make some cash by engaging in criminal activities, leading them into trouble. The way they handle those difficulties is portrayed in a more humorous manner. In this sequel, the director focused more on memes than on the story, unlike in the first film. As stated previously, if you disregard the logic, the movie is enjoyable to watch once, especially with Satya's comedic performance.

The series of events continues in this fol-

REVIEW



low-up, but it is not as remarkable as the first installment. The initial part of the movie is full of humour, but the latter half fails to meet expectations. The director illustrates the resolution of the agents' issues, resulting in a significant reduction in the comedic element. Some scenes also moved slowly for too long. The sequences in the movie where Satya imitates Chiranjeevi are portrayed beautifully.

The outcome of the Vennela Kishore episode was disappointing. A scene featuring Vennela Kishore speaking with the media in the trailer does not appear in the movie. His personality has not been crafted correctly. In this sequel, they added Faria Abdullah's character as a senior agent, which she did relatively well. The story is completely predictable and has no surprises at all.

PERFORMANCES

Satya stands out for his performance with his dramatic acting and witty one-liners. At times, one might feel like he is exaggerating a bit, but the director has a lot of trust in him and he proved himself in his role. He

is without a doubt the standout in the movie. Next is Sri Simha, who has been with Satya since the start. He performed well. Another standout is definitely Faria Abdullah, who delivered a strong performance as a senior agent. Her character is included in the next installment and she proves her worth completely. In the latter part of the show, Vennela Kishore delivered the most comedic moments and gave a stellar performance. Ravathi appears in a different form in this movie, unlike her usual roles as a mother in other films. Ajay, Raja Chebolu, Sunil and the rest provided good support. The conversations are clever and enjoyable. The music by Kaala Bhairava is satisfactory. The cinematography is also commendable.

VERDICT

In conclusion, *Mathu Vadalaru 2* doesn't live up to the standards set by the original. Comedian Satya and his one-liners comedy take the spotlight. The movie provides some occasional laughs without any logical reasoning, making it a fun way to pass the time.

Actors: Sri Simha Koduri, Satya, Sunil, Faria Abdullah, Revathi, Vennela Kishore, Raja Chembolu, Ajay and others

Director: Ritesh Rana Cinematography: Suresh Sarangam

Music: Kaala Bhairava Producers: Chiranjeevi (Cherry), Hemalatha Pedamallu

Writer and director: Ritesh Rana Rating: 2.5/5

Bhale Unnade: Raj Tarun is back on track, but...

PNSHYDERABAD

Bhale Unnade marks Raj Tarun's third release in theatres. Despite releasing films regularly, he has not been able to sustain box-office success. *Bhale Unnade* is presented by renowned filmmaker Maruthi, which results in generating some intriguing elements. The promotional videos are showing promise as well, prompting curiosity about this film. Kannada actress Manisha Kandkur is starring as the main female character for the first time in this movie.

STORY:

Radha (played by Raj Tarun) works as a saree-draping professional and resides in Visakhapatnam with his mother Gauri (played by Abhirami). Despite being a saree-drafter, he is a kind and excellent individual who never makes physical contact with the girl while carrying out his job. Gauri is employed at a bank where Krishna (played by Manisha Kandkur) has recently started working as a new employee. During lunchtime at the bank, Gauri shared her lunch with Krishna, who was impressed by Radha's skillful cooking as she is also a talented chef. Krishna loves Radha without meeting her, and they exchanged letters through Gauri's lunch box. Krishna, a contemporary girl, attempts to seduce Radha on several occasions, but Radha consistently refrains from crossing any boundaries. Krishna's friend gets divorced right after their second day of marriage. Krishna is uncertain about Radha's suitability for marriage. Krishna accompanied Radha to a holistic healing center—what unfolded during their visit? What is the reason Radha always keeps a distance when he encounters a girl? The crux of the



Cast: Raj Tarun, Manisha Kandkur, Abhirami, VTV Ganesh, Hyper Aadhi, Goparaju Ramana, Srikanth Iyengar, Singeetham Srinivasa Rao, Leela Samson and others
Music: Sekhar Chandra **Cinematography:** Nagesh Banella
Producer: NV Kiran Kumar **Writer and director:** J Sivasai Vardhan
Release date: September 13, 2024 **Rating:** 2.5/5

story lies in what transpired at the conclusion.

ANALYSIS:

Director Sivasai Vardhan humorously conveyed a serious message in his narration. The main story revolves around the definition of a complete man, society's perception of him if he doesn't cross the line and the repercussions he faces. The director emphasised the definition of love between a girl and a boy and depicted its ending in a unique manner. When a girl tries to attract a boy and he does not respond, many assume he is at fault and criticise him. However, they never delve into the reasons behind the boy's actions and his reasons for not exceeding his boundaries.

This is the plot described by the director in *Bhale Unnade* featuring Raj Tarun as a decent guy and

Manisha as a contemporary girl portraying Krishna. The initial part of the movie presents information in a comical manner with minimal humor. The story commences with Raj Tarun recounting his tale alongside VTV Ganesh in a humorous manner. The way in which characters Radha and Krishna meet each other is depicted in an engaging manner. The feeling of maternal love is also expressed very well.

However, the movie takes a sudden dip in the second half when the focus of the story changes to a wildlife rehabilitation center. The scenes here feel contrived and lack intrigue. These episodes also tend to drag a bit and consist of typical masala jokes. The scenes featuring Singeetham Srinivasa Rao and Leela Samson are well executed, but they are overshadowed by the type of jokes seen in the second half, which are more in line

with Maruthi's style. Prior to the climax, the emotional bond between Radha and Krishna, the mother and son, is strong, yet the ending is predictable. Good job to the director for making a good point, but it

PERFORMANCES:

When it comes to the acting abilities, Raj Tarun stands out and delivers his performance with a subtle touch. Compared to his previous movies, this is Raj Tarun's best performance and subject-wise film. He definitely finds this movie to be a good one. Manisha Kandkur is newcomer, but she excelled in her first performance. She doesn't come across as a newcomer, performing like a seasoned actress. She has a promising career ahead in acting. Raj Tarun and Manisha have good chemistry in front of the camera. Abhirami landed a significant role and excelled in portraying a formidable single mother. Singeetham Srinivasa Rao, a highly experienced director, also excelled in his role as an actor. Hyper Aadhi, Sudharshan provides some moments of laughter for you. Srikanth Iyengar, Racha Ravi and Goparaju Ramana all performed admirably to the best of their abilities. The film features music by Sekhar Chandra, which is considered a standout aspect. The conversations are enjoyable. The cinematography is also excellent.

VERDICT

Finally, *Bhale Unnade* is one of the best films for Raj Tarun when compared to his recent films. He performed well along with the lead actress, Manisha. The point in this story is new, but it falls short in the second half. The director could have made it interesting if he concentrated more in the second half. But still, this film is watchable—a good one for Raj Tarun.

AARTI SREENATH
aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

PLOT:

Bench Life, directed by Manasa Sharma, is a witty, humorous exploration of life on the corporate sidelines, following three eccentric employees who find themselves on the 'bench'—a paid vacation of sorts for those not currently on active projects. The show delves into the lives of Balu (played by Vaibhav Reddy), the unmotivated yet lovable slacker; Meenakshi (played by Ritika Singh), the ambitious filmmaker stuck in the corporate grind and Ravi (played by Charan Peri), whose sole goal is to escape to Goa. As they navigate office politics and personal dilemmas, their interactions spark a delightful mix of comedy and heartwarming moments. Balu's unspoken love for a colleague, Meenakshi's creative struggles and Ravi's escapades bring the workplace to life in ways both amusing and relatable.

PERFORMANCE:

Vaibhav Reddy steals the show with his portrayal of Balu, effortlessly combining humour with just the right amount of vulnerability. His laid-back persona and zany antics make him a character you root for, even when he's up to no good. Ritika Singh is equally compelling, delivering a nuanced performance as Meenakshi, the dreamer who quietly rebels against corporate monotony. Charan Peri's character Ravi is the lovable but often irritating newlywed whose reckless pursuits add levity, though his character can at times feel frustrating. The real gem, however, is Rajendra Prasad as Prasad, a retired cop trying to reconnect with his daughter. His warmth and comedic timing give the show a deeper emotional layer.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The brilliance of *Bench Life* lies in its quirky exploration of workplace absurdities. From navigating clueless American bosses to the constant struggle to swipe in proxies for absent



Directed by: Manasa Sharma **Produced by:** Niharika Konidella

Cinematographer: Dhanush Bhaskar

Cast: Vaibhav Reddy, Ritika Singh, Charan Peri, Rajendra Prasad, Aakanksha Singh, Nayan Sarika, Tulasi

Streaming on: SonyLIV **Rating:** 3.5/5

friends, the series finds humour in the most mundane aspects of corporate life. The interactions between Prasad and his younger colleagues offer a delightful generational contrast, while Meenakshi's quiet defiance in chasing her filmmaking aspirations injects a layer of depth. Though some characters' arcs are more memorable than others, the chemistry among the lead trio is undeniable, keeping viewers hooked even when the plot dips into familiar territory.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS:

Manasa Sharma's direction is sharp, ensuring that the tone stays light and breezy, even when the show flirts with more serious themes. The series is visually appealing, with the cinematography skillfully capturing the energy of office life, from its claustrophobic cubicles to its fleeting moments of

escape. The score complements the whimsical vibe, though it occasionally feels heavy-handed when attempting to push emotional scenes. While the writing, shared by Manasa Sharma and Mahesh Uppala, tends to play it safe, the humor is punchy, and the workplace satire feels spot on.

VERDICT:

Bench Life is a fun, easy watch that highlights the absurdities of corporate life while keeping things light and laugh-filled. Despite a few clichés and the occasional dip into melodrama, the series succeeds in being a feel-good show with standout performances, especially from Vaibhav Reddy and Rajendra Prasad. For anyone who's ever found themselves daydreaming at their desk or plotting an escape to Goa, *Bench Life* is a must-watch.

NANI CONCENTRATES ON HIT 3, HERE & NOW

Actor Nani is pleased with how his latest movie *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* turned out. The actor was heavily promoting that film until recently, but now is shifting focus to a different film. The actor is currently occupied filming his upcoming movie *Hit: The Third Case*. The third installment of the *Hit* movie series is helmed by Dr Sailesh Kolanu and funded by Prashanti Tipirneni. Similar to the previous two installments, this movie will also be an engaging crime thriller. A short promotional video featuring Nani as Arjun Sarkar in his role as a HIT officer was also recently released.

Currently, filming for this movie is happening at a location in Secunderabad. Nani, Rao Ramesh and several other actors are taking part in the filming, with the director capturing some crucial scenes featuring them. In *HIT 2*, he will

portray the character of Arjun Sarkar, an officer in the HIT team. His role in *Hit: The 3rd Case* as the Hunter's Command highlights his powerful and intense acting skills.

Nani gets a fresh new look for the film with experienced profession-



als handling various aspects of production. Sanu John Varghese works as the cinematographer, whereas Mickey J Meyer is responsible for the music. The movie *HIT 3* is set to premiere on May 1, 2025, during the summer season.



Preview for Sudheer Babu's upcoming movie looks good

Sudheer Babu, the actor, has commenced the promotion of his new movie *Maa Nanna Superhero*. Abhilash Reddy Kankara, a newcomer, serves as the director, while Sunil Balusu is the producer. The teaser came out on Thursday and appears to be full of promise and emotion. This long-awaited film is scheduled to be released during Dasara. This teaser displays Sudheer Babu's strong emotional bond with his father. He calls both Sayaji Shinde and Sai Chand his paternal figures. Although Sayaji Shinde's character is hostile towards Sudheer Babu, Sai Chand's character has a positive relationship with him. "This is the most satisfying film in my career to date. Everybody will connect with the emotion of father and I

liked the subject when the director narrates to me. In the same manner, I completed this film with a lot of interest and liking. I hope everyone likes the film when it gets released," said Sudheer Babu at the teaser release event. He added that he loves his father very much. "My father gave me a very good life and he worked hard towards it. I can't tell how much I love my father in real life; sometimes I can't express it in words either. I love my father and in this film, the father-son relationship, love and bonding are narrated in a more emotional way," said Sudheer Babu about the film. He further praises the director, Abhilash Reddy and says that in the coming days he is going to be a big director. Film also stars Aartha, who is playing the female lead.



STANDALONE:

On the runway for designer Robert Naorem during the fifth iteration of Global India Couture Week, Urvashi Rautela sparked. Leading designers showcased their collections at The Bristol to kick off the five-day premier fashion event, which was organised in association with the International Fashion Design Council. The first day of Global India Couture Week (GICW Season 4) featured a stunning array of creations from renowned designers, each of which added their own unique artistic touch to the catwalk.

TEAM INDIA BEGINS PRACTICE IN CHENNAI FOR FIRST TEST AGAINST BANGLADESH

PTI ■ CHENNAI

It is back to business for Rohit Sharma's side following its much-deserved month-long break, as the team began its preparations in right earnest under new coach Gautam Gambhir here on Friday, for the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh. With the first Test against Bangladesh scheduled here from September 19, the entire squad, including Rohit and batting stalwart Virat Kohli, assembled at the MA Chidambaram Stadium with new bowling coach, South African great Morne Morkel, and batting coach Vikram Rathour also in attendance. BCCI posted images of the first day of practice and wrote, "The countdown starts as Team India begin their preps for an exciting home season." The images showed the entire squad listening attentively to Gambhir, his support staff and



skipper Rohit. Earlier, India skipper Rohit arrived in Chennai on Thursday, while Virat flew in directly from London for the opening Test. Wearing a yellow jersey, Rohit was seen emerging from the airport escorted by security

personnel, in a PTI Video on Thursday night, while Kohli came from London in an early-morning flight. The likes of India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant had earlier reached the city on Thursday.

The players are returning to the field after a much-needed break of more than a month and would look to put behind the disappointment of losing the ODI series against Sri Lanka in August and get back to winning ways quickly under Gambhir.

This will be India's first Test under Gambhir and his new support staff, and it would be interesting to see how Rohit's side approaches the game against a Bangladesh side, which is riding a wave following their 2-0 Test series win over Pakistan.

Vital World Test Championship (WTC) points are at stake in the two-match series as India get ready for a gruelling 10-match Test season, which also includes a three-Test series at home against New Zealand and the five-match Border-Gavaskar series later this year in Australia. India are currently heading the table with 68.52 percentage points, while Australia are a close second with 62.50 percentage points. Bangladesh have jumped to fourth spot with 45.83 percentage points following their 10-wicket win against Pakistan in the opening Test and their amazing fight-back in the second Test where wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das scored a century to singlehandedly guide the side to a series triumph. The second Test of the India-Bangladesh series will be played in Kanpur from September 27.



ACT hockey: Favourites India look to continue supremacy over Pakistan

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

A semifinal berth already secured, unbeaten India will look to continue the winning run and supremacy over arch-rivals Pakistan in their last and most-awaited round-robin match of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here on Saturday. With four wins out of as many games, defending champions India are leading the points table, followed closely by Pakistan. Starting the tournament as clear favourites, Paris Olympics bronze-medallists India haven't disappointed so far, beating hosts China 3-0, Japan 5-1, trouncing Malaysia 8-1 before registering a 3-1 victory against Korea in their last match. Pakistan, on the other hand, have been resilient in the campaign. Playing under the guidance of legendary forward Tahir Zaman, the Ammad Butt-led side has improved with every passing game. Pakistan drew 2-2 against Malaysia and Korea, before beating Japan and China 2-1 and 5-1 respectively to climb to the second spot. Going by recent results, India enjoy an upper-hand over Pakistan. In their last meeting at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, India thrashed Pakistan 10-2. A few months before that, the Indians beat Pakistan 4-0 when the ACT was held in Chennai. At the Asia Cup in Jakarta in 2022, a relatively young Indian side held Pakistan to a 1-1 draw while at the 2021 ACT in Dhaka, India beat Pakistan 4-3 to clinch the bronze medal. India captain Harmanpreet

Singh, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers in the world, is continuing his good form from Paris, and is excited to resume the rivalry against Pakistan. "I have been playing with some of the players in the Pakistan team since my junior days and we share a special bond with them. They are like my brothers. Of course, on the field, we will go about the match like we would against any other opponent and make sure we keep our emotions in check," he said. "In world hockey, the rivalry the two teams share is unparalleled and I am sure fans across the globe will be waiting for an India-Pakistan match." Though India enjoys an edge over Pakistan, Harmanpreet is least bothered about past results. "Past results will not matter when we take on a team like Pakistan. They are a tough side and have the potential to bounce back at any stage in the game," he said. The Indians can also take heart from the fact that the team's young forward-line is living upto the expectations and scoring a lot of field goals, an area which was a bit of concern in Paris. Pakistan's skipper Butt is also confident about Saturday's contest and said his side has improved with each passing game. "India has undeniably played like true favourites in the tournament so far. We will take heart from the matches we have played, and I must say, we have improved in every single game, not conceded cards and have played disciplined hockey.



Agarwal, Pratham give India A edge after Devdutt makes 92 for India D in Duleep Trophy

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR

Half-centuries by skipper Mayank Agarwal and Pratham Singh helped India A reach 115 for one in their second innings and extend their hold over India D after second day's play of the Duleep Trophy here on Friday. India A, who made 290 in their first innings, earlier bowled out their opponents for 183 despite India batter Devdutt Padikkal's valiant 92 to gain a lead of 107 runs. Now, India A have an advantage of 222 runs, with Agarwal (56, 87b, 8x4) and Pratham (59 batting, 82b, 6x4) leading their run glut in the second innings. However, Agarwal, who is eager to chart his way back into selectorial reckoning, will be kicking himself for falling on the last ball of the day to part-time spinner Shreyas Iyer, spooning a simple return catch. But till that point, Agarwal and Pratham played fluently and executed some fluent drives and cuts as the run-rate never came under four. However, that's just one part of India A's story of domination on the day as earlier pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Aaqib Khan bagged three wickets apiece to rattle the India D line-up. Only one of their batters defied the constant challenge of judgement - Devdutt who stroked his way to a 124-ball

92 with 15 hits to the ropes. The Karnataka left-hander who made his Test debut earlier this year against England was particularly harsh on any offering on his pads or away from the off-stump. A century was there for his taking, but the 24-year-old fell just eight runs shy as his attempt to play a shot on the up off state-mate Prasidh Krishna ended up in a simple catch to stumper Kumar Kushagra. The 11-4-30-1 figures do not fall under the hallow-spell category, but for Prasidh it was important in his comeback journey. This was the pacer's first outing in competitive cricket since Karnataka's Ranji Trophy game against Gujarat in January this year. Since that match, the 28-year-old was recuperating from a quadriceps injury. Harshit Rana made a 31 off 29 balls, including two back-to-back sixes off left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, but his effort was not enough for India D to close the gap with their rivals. However, Rana can take a slice of comfort as he completed a four-wicket haul in the opening session of the day to bowl out India A for 290 in their first dig. India A were resuming from their overnight 288 for eight, but lost Mulani and Aaqib to Rana who ended up with 4 for 51.

Maxwell excited about Kohli vs Smith showdown in Border-Gavaskar Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is thrilled about the prospect of watching modern-day greats Virat Kohli and Steve Smith battle for supremacy in the Border Gavaskar Trophy against India later this year. Kohli and Smith are among the 'Fab Four' batters of the modern generation, alongside England's Joe Root and New Zealand's Kane Williamson. "I think the way that the two superstar batters, Steve Smith and Virat Kohli, probably head-to-head. Seeing how their dominance I suppose is asserted on the series and how much of an influence that has on who takes home the Border Gavaskar Trophy," Maxwell told Star Sports. "One of those two is going to



make a lot of runs, if not both of them, and it's going to be pretty exciting to watch the two of the finest players of our generation go head-to-head,"

he added. Both Kohli and Smith are former captains, and have indulged in fiery on field exchanges early in their careers but their relationship has evolved in recent times. Smith recently said that Kohli was an Australian amongst the Indian players in terms of attitude. "I believe Virat Kohli is Australian in thoughts and action. The way he gets into a battle, the way he gets into the challenge and tries to get on top of the opposition. He's probably the most Australian of the Indian players, I'd say," Smith had said. India travel to Australia for the marquee five-Test series, starting in Perth on November 22. Since 2014-15, Australia have failed to lay their hands on the Border Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive series including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Rafael Nadal withdraws from Laver Cup in Berlin

AP ■ BERLIN

Rafael Nadal withdrew Thursday from next week's Laver Cup in Berlin, leaving it unclear when the Spanish great will play again. The Laver Cup - the tournament where Roger Federer retired in 2022 after teaming up with Nadal in doubles - would have been Nadal's first event since the Paris Olympics and potentially one of his last ever. "I'm really disappointed to share that I won't be able to compete at the Laver Cup in Berlin next week," the 38-year-old Nadal said. "This is a team competition and to really support Team Europe, I need to do what's best for them and at this moment there are other players who can help the team deliver the win." The 22-time Grand Slam champion didn't address his current fitness after a spate of



injuries in recent years, or when he might play again. Nadal withdrew last month from the U.S. Open, meaning he missed three of the four Grand Slam tournaments in 2024. He last played in reaching the men's doubles quarterfinals at the Olympics, where he also lost in the second round of singles to Novak Djokovic. The Laver Cup, to be held from Sept. 20-22, is an indoor hard-court men's competition pitting Team Europe against Team World in a format reminiscent of golf's Ryder Cup.

Next test for Slot is navigating Liverpool's busy schedule amid Salah contract questions

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool has yet to allow a goal this season and Mohamed Salah has scored in each of the three games - all victories. If this is what contract distractions look like at Anfield, new manager Arne Slot is fine with it. Salah, captain Virgil van Dijk and right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold are all in the final year of their deals, and though it's still early in the Premier League season Liverpool is the only team keeping pace with defending champion Manchester City. Slot reiterated Friday at a press conference that "we don't talk about contract situations over here" - unless there's a new deal - and said the focus is on making it four wins in a row when Nottingham Forest visits Merseyside on Saturday. "I'm fully focused on the individuals and the team," he said about the trio in question, "and they are part of the team and trying to work with them in the best possible way to get the best out of them. So it's not a distraction for me at all." The transition from Jurgen Klopp has



been seamless. Slot is the first manager to win his first three Premier League games without conceding a goal since Sven-Göran Eriksson at Man City in 2007. "It's not the defense who keeps a clean sheet - it's 11 players who keep a clean sheet," Slot said. "We try to convince them constantly about this because in an ideal world we don't need (goalkeeper) Allison. It's a team performance that we don't concede and that has a lot to do

with us putting in a lot of work without the ball." The schedule gets busy now, though, with seven games in the next three weeks. Liverpool plays at Inter Milan on Tuesday in the Champions League. The international break saw lots of Liverpool players logging heavy minutes for their national teams. "Maybe in the future I sometimes would love it to be a bit different," Slot said. "It's a positive thing that we are in such a good place that we have 10 players that can play every minute for the national team. It says a lot about the quality we have." Salah marked his 100th cap for Egypt with a goal in a 4-0 victory over Botswana on Tuesday in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier. In the Premier League this season, Salah is the only player to have scored three goals and provided three assists. Harvey Elliott will be sidelined for several weeks because of a foot fracture, which Slot said is "a blow" for both the team and the midfielder. "He would have had a lot of playing time in the upcoming fixtures," the manager said.

Verstappen faces challenge in Baku as Red Bull's F1 dominance under threat

AP ■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Lando Norris is only one of Max Verstappen's problems at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. The other is his own car. Verstappen needs to tame a car he's called a "monster" to hold off Norris and defend his Formula 1 title, all while the Red Bull team's years of dominance in Formula 1 seem to be nearing their end. Verstappen and Red Bull haven't won any of the last six races going into the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday. Norris will now be favored by McLaren over teammate Oscar Piastri but will likely need some big slip-ups from Verstappen or Red Bull to overhaul the Dutch driver's 62-point lead in the last eight races of 2024. The target is much closer in the constructor's standings, with the McLaren team just eight points behind Red Bull, so that lead could change hands in Azerbaijan on Sunday. New rivals to Red Bull are emerging, powered by Red Bull expertise.

The departure of Red Bull's car design guru Adrian Newey to Aston Martin is a sign of the long-term ambition of a team backed by billionaire Lawrence Stroll. Dubbed "the team of the future" by driver Fernando Alonso, they have an eye on designing a car to exploit the new F1 regulations in 2026 - just like Newey did for Red Bull in 2022. Aston Martin has even signaled it would be open to signing Verstappen, who has a Red Bull contract through 2028. Another key lieutenant to Red Bull team principal Christian Horner, sporting director Jonathan Wheatley, is leaving at the end of the season before heading up the ambitious new Audi works team arriving in 2026. More immediately, there simply isn't much room to improve Red Bull's once-dominant car. McLaren and Mercedes seem to have more stable, adaptable designs. The car "was basically on rails and I could do whatever I wanted," enthused Verstappen after winning the Chinese Grand Prix in April, his



fourth in five races at the start of the season. Each upgrade seems to have made the car less stable and increased tire wear. "We basically went from a very dominant car to an undriveable car in the space of, what, six to eight months?" he said in Italy. Papaya rules' confusion The confirmation that McLaren will have a "bias" toward Lando Norris over his teammate Oscar Piastri from now on should boost Norris' title challenge. But key questions remain unanswered. Racing under the team's vaguely defined "papaya rules" - named for McLaren's orange color - at the Italian Grand Prix, Norris and Piastri started first and second but neither got the win. Piastri overtook Norris early on, allowing Ferrari's Charles Leclerc to get by too, and when Norris and Piastri competed to set fast lap times, it hurt their tires and let Leclerc take a win with smart strategy. What "papaya rules" meant was never fully explained, and the team's

"bias" is almost as mysterious. Norris suggested Thursday that Piastri would be expected to hand over "lower positions" but would keep a win if he was "deserving" of it. Would there be repeat of the scenes at the Hungarian Grand Prix, when a team one-two was marred by awkward radio pleas for Norris to hand the lead back to Piastri? Unclear. Youngsters in the spotlight British teenager Oliver Bearman is back on the grid with Haas in Baku after Kevin Magnussen was suspended one race for picking up too many penalty points in a series of different incidents. Bearman - who was seventh for Ferrari at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix in March - is the Formula 2 teammate of Kimi Antonelli, who's replacing Another F2 face lighting up F1 is Franco Colapinto, who replaced Logan Sargeant at Williams last month and was an impressive 12th on his debut in Italy. If he can break into the top 10, Colapinto would be the first driver from Argentina to score points since 1982.