www.dailypioneer.com

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











committed using that are coming to light one by one. The Congress Government is striving for the development of Mother Dairy. Collectors will ensure that Mother Dairy's products are supplied to all government offices. I told Endowment Minister Konda Surekha to buy the ghee required to make Yadagirigutta Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple's laddu from **Mother Dairy** 

- Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

#### POP Ganesh Idol immersion...

The Telangana High Court, in its order, stated that "Idols made of Plaster of Paris (POP) are to be immersed in baby ponds already constructed by the GHMC or in separate area ponds that do not contribute to water pollution in the main water body. There shall be no permission to immerse Ganesh idols from the Tank Bund side of the Hussain Sagar Lake. Immersion of non-POP idols, which do not contain synthetic paint, is only allowed from the other side of the...

#### **Conflict** is over internal ...

Two BRS MLAs are fighting and blaming Congress government, said Minister for Information Technology and Industries D Sridhar Babu on Saturday. He further said that the two MLAs Padi Kaushik Reddy and Arekapudi Gandhi clashed because of internal problems in the BRS. The BRS leaders tried to attribute a motive to the Congress when the two BRS MKA clashed, he said. The Congress party has nothing to do with what had happened, he made

#### 'No competition between Hindi...

There can never be a competition between Hindi and other Indian languages as they are friends and complement each other. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday. Addressing the fourth rtiva Raihł Sammelan on Hindi Diwas, Shah said the promotion of Hindi cannot happen until all other Indian languages are strengthened and the official language establishes a dialogue with all of them. "There can never be a competition between Hindi and local languages because Hindi is a...

#### 'Duty hike on oils to hugely benefit...

The government's decision to hike customs duty on crude palm and refined sunflower oil to 20 per cent and 32.5 per cent, respectively will "hugely" benefit farmers as it will increase their income, a senior official said on Saturday. The government official also said that the decision to remove minimum export price and slashing of export duty on onion too would help farmers of the country. According to a finance ministry notification, the basic customs duty on crude palm, soybean and sunflower seed oil has been increased from nil to 20 per cent. Basic customs duty on refined palm, soybean and sunflower oil has been hiked from 12.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent. The effective duty on these crude and

-PAGE: 8

#### PROPERTY, WATER TAX, WASTE COLLECTION

# TG proposes monthly tax

#### **CONGRESS GOVT WANTS TO SIMPLIFY THE SYSTEM**

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDEŘABAD

The Telangana Government plans to simplify the tax and billing system in the Greater Hyderabad area by introducing a monthly billing system for property tax, water and waste collection.

Property tax is collected by the GHMC every six months, and the Hyderabad Water Board issues bills once every two months at present.

Residents in the GHMC area receive around 20,000 litres of drinking water free every month. Apartments which exceed this limit are charged accordingly. Some areas charge Rs 50 for door-to-door waste

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy discussed with officials the need for a system that allows citizens to cate for other utilities.



make easier, smaller monthly payments. He noted how DISCOMs currently issue electricity bills every month with consumers paying using UPI or other online platforms. This system encourages timely payments, which the government aims to repli-

or other online platforms The proposal under consideration would see monthly bills being issued for property tax, water and waste collection like electricity bills. This is intended to spread the burden across months, making it easier for the public to manage their expenses. The CM also suggested offering

Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy discussed with

officials the need for a

to make easier, smaller monthly payments. He

currently issue electricity

consumers paying using UPI

bills every month with

noted how DISCOMs

system that allows citizens

discounts or other rewards to those who consistently pay on time. For example, citizens who maintain a good payment record could receive a discount on their last bill of the financial year, or entire colonies could be rewarded with special gifts for achieving high compliance rates.

The Chief Minister stressed that

municipal officials must take responsibility for delivering reliable services to the public. He said the billing system for property tax and water should have clear deadlines, and penalties for late payments — such as late fees or service disconnection - should be enforced.

The Chief Minister also said that income generated through LRS (Layout Regularisation Scheme) should be deposited directly into the bank accounts of local corporations to ensure that the funds are used for

#### **GREEN POWER**

## TG to produce 20,000 MW by 2029-30: Bhatti

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government aims to generate 20,000 MW of green energy by fiscal 2029-30, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said.

Speaking at a public meeting at Dharmaram in Peddapalli district on Saturday, he said the Congress government's commitment to delivering uninterrupted, quality power across the state is a sharp rebuttal of predictions of power shortages under Congress rule.

In a major move to support the agricultural sector, Bhatti said that solar power panels are being installed to power farmers' pumps in 25 to 30 villages as a pilot project. The initiative, fully funded by the government, will enable farmers to generate solar power in addition to raising crops. The electricity generated



an additional source of income. Moreover, the Congress gov-

ernment has been supplying free electricity up to 200 units. In select villages, solar panels will be set up on residential buildings, allowing households to generate and sell surplus power back to the grid, Bhatti added.

Attempt to

murder case

# Conspiracy to damage Hyd's image

#### Will not tolerate trouble makers, warns Minister Ponnam

PNS HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that a conspiracy is going on to damage Hyderabad's brand image. The government will not spare anyone who tries to create law and order problems in Hyderabad, he warned.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Ponnam said the Congress never criticised people coming from various states living in Hyderabad. One cannot remain silent if they (the KTR family) which hails from Vijayanagaram tries to dominate Hyderabad, he said.

Ponnam said that



have been saying from the very beginning that the law and order situation will get disturbed if the Congress comes to power. However, they will have to show that there Ganesh festival.

He said the Congress government gave freedom to opposition parties to stage dharnas democratically. But BRS MLA (Padi Kaushik Reddy) challenged Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and said that he would fly the BRS flag on the latter's residence.

Is it not wrong, Ponnam asked. Physical attacks are not proper personally or on behalf of a political party, he said, making it clear that the government will take action.

He said that strong action would be taken if anyone creates trouble in Hyderabad and made it clear that the law would take its own course in case anyone broke the la

# KTR blasts CM for giving KLIP to Megha & Ponguleti

#### BRS to lead two-day visit to Palamuru Project sites

PNS HYDERABAD

KTR lashed out at the Revanth Reddy government and questioned its decision to hand over the Rs 4,350 crore Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) to Megha Engineering even though the company is involved in many controver-

Referring to the accident at Sunkishala, KTR demanded that Megha Engineering should be

this company for a long time, but KTR said.



"We have been warning about Project was handed over to Megha,"

### against Arikepudi **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD The Gachibowli Police regis-

tered a case against Serilingampally MLA Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and others for allegedly attempting to murder BRS Legislator Padi Kaushik Reddy on Thursday.
A group of people led by
Congress MLA Arekapudi
Gandhi and others trespassed

into the house of Kaushik Reddy, damaged furniture and other articles on Thursday after a stand-off between Gandhi and Kaushik.

# विजय सक्तित्य वाहास

It is three dynasties versus youth, says Modi in J-K

# Sreeja Milk Center is Harish's proxy biz: Venkat

'Konda Surekha told to buy Mother Dairy ghee for making Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple laddus'

PNS HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that the 'Sreeja Milk Production Center' is BRS MLA T. Harish Rao's proxy enterprise and that the frauds Harish committed using

that are coming out one by one. He said the BRS government had looted not only in the name of buffaloes and sheep but also through

the production of milk. However, the Congress admin is trying to develop Mother Dairy, he said. Elections were held in Mother

Dairy, the dairy of the farmers of Nalgonda and Rangareddy districts on Saturday. Gudipati Madhusudhan Reddy was elected as the chairman of Mother Dairy. Minister Venkat handed over certificates to the winners.

Speaking on the occasion, Venkat said the Congress won all the six director posts. He directed Collectors to supply Mother Dairy products to all government offices. He also asked Endowment Minister Konda Surekha to buy the ghee needed to make Yadagirigutta akshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple's laddus from Mother Dairy and to scrap the GO issued by the BRS government regarding this.

The Telangana Cabinet is scheduled to meet on September 20 at the Secretariat, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The meeting will commence at 4 pm and is expected to address many pressing issues.

Among the top priorities are floods and the aid expected from the Centre for relief operations. With the monsoon damaging infrastructure and agriculture, the Cabinet will focus on restoring normalcy in affected areas. The meeting will also examine HYDRAA's operational strategies, with special emphasis on its ordinance for its legalisation aimed at enhancing disaster

The Cabinet will also discuss BC reservations, the long-pending caste census, and the formation of 200 new gram panchayats, which would strengthen local governance and decentralization efforts in the state.

Financial issues, including the

TELANGANA CABINET MEETING ON 20™

# HYDRAA, flood relief may come up for discussion

PNS HYDERABAD

response mechanisms.

implementation of a comprehensive loan waiver scheme and farmer insurance programmes, are expected to be major topics of discussion. Among the top priorities are floods and the aid expected from the Centre for relief operations. With the monsoon damaging infrastructure and agriculture, the Cabinet will focus on restoring normalcy in affected areas

These initiatives are considered crucial for the agricultural sector and are likely to receive detailed attention. As the state grapples with a range of socio-economic challenges, this Cabinet meeting is expected to be a pivotal one in outlining strategies for upcoming months.

# Centre acts on TG's request

#### Hikes import duty on crude palm oil from 5.5% to 27.5%

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao thanked Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on behalf of Telangana's palm oil farmers for increasing the import duty on crude palm oil from 5.5 per cent to 27.5 per cent

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Tummala said that the scrapping of import duty on crude

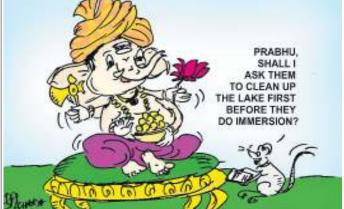


palm oil had not only disappoint- ed TG farmers as it brought down this.

the price of palm oil in the Indian market but had also impacted farmers who wanted to cultivate oil palms. Keeping this in mind, Tummala had recently requested the Centre to re-impose the import duty on crude palm oil and help domestic palm oil farmers.

Tummala and oil palm farmers had requested Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to take appropriate action regarding

# OBTUSE ANGL



## 773 irrigation tanks breached, Govt intensifies repair drive

PNS HYDERABAD

After the heavy rains and floods, the Telangana government has ramped up efforts to repair the breaches in 773 irrigation tanks. Officials said that around 483 tanks have already been significantly rehabilitated.

The government, in coordination with disaster management teams, has shifted its focus to rapid repair and restoration, aiming to prevent further damage to agricultural lands

and rural communities. The Irrigation Department has been working relentlessly to ensure



The Irrigation Department has been working relentlessly to ensure that damaged embankments and sluices are restored to normalcy

that damaged embankments and sluices are restored to normalcy. Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy will be visiting Kodad and Huzurnagar to review repairs on

Khammam, Mulugu and Mahbubabad have been particularly affected by the surge in water levels, forcing officials to initiate a swift response.

A comprehensive survey has shown that over 75 per cent of the restoration efforts have concentrated on irrigation structures, with key repair works expected to be completed soon. A notable area of concern is the breach in the left sluice of the Tummachandra Vagu, which poses the risk of flooding downstream.





# Dutiful daughter Kavitha to bounce back in 10 days

are eager to know what's next for the BRS MLC. But behind the scenes, it's been a quiet yet tender family affair. Her mother, Shobha, hasn't been keeping well, and after a brief hospital stay, she's been spending time with Kavitha. Ever the doting daughter, Kavitha has been balancing her responsibilities while caring for her mother. Meanwhile, her brother KTR had flown abroad to attend to his

son's studies, but with his return, insiders are already whispering about Kavitha's grand comeback. Word on the street is that in just 10days- it

seems she's about to make quite the quiet during the CM's speech, but the splash once again!

## CM's PRO Office Shift Sparks

In a move that's got everyone talking, the Chief Minister's PRO office has become more accessible than ever. Previously tucked away on the sixth floor of the Telangana Secretariat, the office has now been shifted to the fifth floor, thanks to a decision made by the CM Revanth Reddy himself. The reason? The sixth-floor office is being turned into a visitors' waiting room, but the real change is that anyone can now reach the fifth floor, unlike the restricted access on the sixth. The renovations of the office is underway while the team and setup has largely shifted already and started operations. What's even more interesting is the chatter that the number of visitors to the CM PRO under the Congress regime is much higher compared to the BRS

#### **Journalists Buzzing After CM's** Talk on Ethics

The recent event where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy handed over land document to the Jawaharlal Nehru Journalists Housing Society turned into quite the buzz. Instead of just the routine speeches, the CM, alongside Telangana Media Academy chairman K Sreenivas Reddy, gave journalists a lecture about the fading values and ethics in their profession. The message was loud and clear—the media's image is in trou-

Per since Kalvakuntla Kavitha walked out of jail, the buzz around her has only grown louder. People ble, and it's up to them to restore it. After the speech, talk of values and ethics quickly became the hot topic among common term in Hyderabad, it seems journalists. While some nodded along, one outspoken journalist remarked that preserving these values might depend more on the government's governance than anything else. He pointed fingers at a growing nexus between politicians, officials, police, and journalists, hinting that this under-the-table collaboration might be speeding up the decline in journalistic integrity. The room may have been

many Hyderabadis were left scratching their heads. The word is more commonly used in coastal Andhra, and locals in Hyderabad are quick to point out that it's not a part of their everyday lingo. In fact, some have taken it a step further, humorously asking which Hyderabad, KTR is living in. They suggest his non-local advisors might be generalizing too much, forgetting that Hyderabad has its own unique flavor. People

were quick to note that while Hyderabad is known for its cosmopolitan nature, attributing

non-native words to the city doesn't quite sit well. And let's just say, the way the word "Bullabbai" is mocked locally isn't exactly publishable! Looks like this jab missed the mark in

#### **BRS MLAs' Drama Steals Spotlight from Ganesh Poojas**

conversations that followed were any-

This year's Ganesh Navaratri in Hyderabad didn't get the usual media fanfare, and TPCC working president Jagga Reddy is not happy about it. Traditionally, Khairathabad Ganesh poojas and the darshan of VIPs dominate TV screens during the festive season, but this year, something else grabbed the attention – a political showdown among BRS MLAs. Jagga Reddy didn't mince words, slamming the BRS MLAs for their public spat that, according to him, distracted people from the devotional fervor of the festival. He sarcastically remarked that the live telecast of the BRS MLAs' drama seemed to entertain viewers for two days, leaving no room for the usual coverage of the Ganesh poojas. He expressed frustration over the fact that while police officers were busy maintaining law and order at the mandapams, the KCR family members were busy stirring up political chaos. For Jagga Reddy, the timing couldn't have been worse, and he blamed the BRS leaders for taking the focus away from the much-revered Khairathabad Ganesh festivities.

#### Did KTR's 'Bullabbai' Jab Miss the Mark?

KTR's recent dig at CM Revanth Reddy, where he referred to him as "Chitti Naidu" and "Bullabbai," has stirred up quite the conversation, but not

#### **Defectors Use Flood Donations** to Catch Naidu's Eye

more ways than one!

With the TDP-led NDA government now steering Andhra Pradesh, several YSRCP leaders are trying to make their way into the ruling party's good books. But TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu isn't making it easy. He's carefully vetting defectors, ensuring no unwanted elements sneak in, leaving many YSRCP hopefuls on the sidelines. The recent flooding of the Krishna and Godavari rivers has thrown a new twist into the mix. Naidu has been calling for donations to help the State recover, and this has opened a door for opportunistic leaders. Some YSRCP defectors, eager to win over Naidu, are turning their generosity into a political strategy. Take former minister Siddha Raghava Rao, for instance. A loyalist from Naidu's past, he took the chance to make a Rs 50 lakh donation to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. But it wasn't just the money—Rao also used the moment to inquire about Naidu's health and rekindle their old ties. Word on the street is that Naidu responded warmly, possibly paving the way for Rao's smooth re-entry into the TDP. Looks like for some defectors, flood donations are becoming a handy political tool!

> (With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, K Venkateshwarlu and

Onam encourages all to

# **BJP** demands **CBI** probe into paddy procurement irregularities

Alleging a huge scam in inviting tenders to procure food grains, the BJP demanded that the TG Government should order a CBI probe into the irregularities in procuring

BJLP Deputy Leader Payal Shankar said that a scam valued at around Rs 750 crore took place while inviting tenders for procuring paddy.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office here on

Saturday, Shankar said the government recently invited tenders for procuring 35 lakh tonnes of paddy. He said that this lacked transparency and added that there is a suspicion that a scam valued at around Rs 750 crore took place.

He said that the Civil Supply Department was stuck with debts of Rs 54,000 crore due to the illegal acts of the BRS government.

He said that five people secured tenders for paddy procurement and that crores of between the bidders who won the tenders and millers.

He said the Congress government too followed the footsteps of the BRS in procuring paddy. Around 75 lakh tonnes of paddy is with millers and 40 lakh tonnes of paddy were not purchased, he added.

Once again paddy is going to come into the market and

nobody knows what plans the government had, Shankar said. He said that the interest burden on the government

bidders had purchased paddy

The government has been paying thousands of crores as interest due to its negligence, he said. He said that without any underwriting the government handed over 50,000 tonnes of paddy to millers. But the capacity of millers is only 3,000 tonnes. So there is a need for a comprehensive probe into the issue, he said and added that they will meet the Governor regarding this.

## KCR killed ethics & values in politics, says Jagga Reddy

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao killed ethics and values in politics. KCR ruled the state without any ethics or values for 10 years, he said.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Jagga Reddy said that although he had shifted his loyalties from the TRS to the Congress he did not wear the Congress Kanduva during YSR rule. There was no convention of offering Kanduvas



directly to other party MLAs in United Andhra Pradesh. KCR started that in Telangana

state, Jagga pointed out. He said that KCR inducted four MPs, 25 MLAs and 18

MLCs into the BRS from 2014 to 2018. KCR is the leader who started the launched defection culture in Telangana state. The merger of the CLP with the BRSLP was engineered by KCR, he said.

He asked former Ministers KT Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao to explain whether KCR had introduced the policy of encouraging defections in the state or not. He asked KTR and Harish to ask KCR who committed mistakes first and added that ethics in politics went for a toss after KCR became the CM

#### Hindu marriage not to be dissolved as contract: HC

PNS PRAYAGRAJ (UP)

The Allahabad High Court, in a significant judgement, has ruled that a Hindu marriage is not to be dissolved or terminated as a contract.

The sacrament based Hindu marriage may be dissolved (in law), in limited circumstances and too only on the strength of evidence led by the parties, it said.

Allowing the appeal filed by a wife against dissolution of marriage, a division bench of justices Saumitra Dayal Singh and Donadi Ramesh was of the view that even in "granting the divorce.

## Suppressing free speech is in Nehru dynasty's DNA: Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy said that once again it has been proved that the words and actions of opposition leader Rahul Gandhi have no connection to each other.

He said that while Rahul engaged in hostile propaganda abroad about media freedom in India, an Indian journalist

was attacked by Rahul's team in Dallas for asking a question about his stand on Bangladesh

The Congress goons accompanying Rahul were enraged by the question. They confined the journalist to a room, seized his phone and deleted the video of the interview, Kishan said. He said that suppressing the press is in the Nehru dynasty's DNA. Rahul who is always speaking about the 'degradation' of India's democratic values and denigration of the Constitution while abroad, did not speak a single word about the undemocratic act of Congress goons in Dallas on September 7.

Rohit Sharma, a senior 'India Today' journalist, interviewed Sam Pitroda, the man in charge of foreign affairs in the Congress when he went to Dallas to cover Rahul Gandhi's US visit. After questions about Rahul's visit he was asked whether during talks with US lawmakers, Rahul would raise the problems faced by Hindus in Bangladesh. This angered the Congress activists there. They insulted Rohit Sharma and seized his phone.

## Provide accessible healthcare to the poor: Kavya



**PNS** HYDERABAD

Lok Sabha Member Dr Kadiyam Kavya said that accessible healthcare services are a must for the underprivileged. She was speaking at the 7th annual conference of the Indian Association of Pathologists Microbiologists Telangana

Chapter on Saturday. Addressing the gathering at the Osmania Medical College, Dr Kavya stressed that India's progress depends on providing quality healthcare to all. She expressed concern over inadequate facilities in government hospitals citing her experience as a doctor.

Dr Kavya highlighted the

promote social harmony: President Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday greeted citizens on the eve of Onam and said the "festival of prosperity" encourages all to promote social harmony. This festival of joy and enthusiasm is celebrated to mark the harvesting of crops, she said.

"Ît is also an occasion to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Kerala. On this occasion we also express our deep gratitude to the farmers, who work tirelessly to feed our nation. This festival of prosperity also encourages us to promote social harmony," Murmu said in her message

on the eve of Onam.



The President extended warm greetings and best wishes to all citizens, "especially the brothers and sisters of Kerala living in India and

"May the peace and unity



of the country continue to be strengthened and we work together for making India a developed nation, she said.

abroad", on Onam.

#### RG Kar: Standoff continues, Mamata appeals to docs to join meeting

PNS KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday evening appealed to the agitating doctors, who had arrived at her residence for talks, to join the meeting, amid their demand for live-

streaming of the discussions. The meeting between Banerjee and the agitating junior doctors who are protesting over the RG Kar incident did not take place at the scheduled time as the medics remained adamant

on live-streaming of the talks. "I would request you all to come inside and attend the meeting. As the matter is before the court, we cannot allow live streaming. I will video-record the meeting and will provide you with a copy only after permission from the Supreme Court," she said, while appealing to students to come inside and not to get drenched in rain. "Today, you said that you want a meeting, so I have been waiting. Why are you people insulting me like this? Please don't insult me like this.

#### RIVER TRANSPORTATION

## Agreements between India, Bangla will be honoured: Sonowal

PNS GUWAHATI

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, on Saturday said that there is a mutual understanding between India and Bangladesh and agreements signed between the two countries for river transportation will be

Operations along the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) were underway as usual with both countries remaining in

talks via diplomatic channels, meet, Sonowal said. Sonowal said while speaking at 2024' here. "Our officials are interacting with Bangladesh authorities and the response is positive," he said.

The rich potential of the dynamic and complex waterways system of the Northeast will be realised as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) is actively engaging with the respective state governments as well as initiating dialogue via stakeholders

One such meet has already the Nagaland government participated actively while the next was scheduled to be held at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh soon. "Our beautiful region of the Northeast is blessed with natural bounty with a complex and dynamic mix of water bodies which need to be carefully harnessed to ensure that sustainable development takes place in the region," the Union minister

#### 'Siddaramaiah built house on site allotted to Dalit'

PNS BENGALURU

Union Minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday accused Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of building a house illegally on a site allotted to a Dalit with a disability during his tenure as the deputy chief minister.

He said the allegations

Buddhist Conclave, here.

illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife in a layout by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), in connection with which the Governor has given approval for investigation against him, were not the only ones committed by Siddaramaiah in

....haven't we now seen against the CM regarding what he has done for the

Mysuru.

farmers? Are we not seeing (developments) in Mysuru (referring to MUDA site allotment scam)? Let these15 sites (14 actually) be there on one side. As the Deputy CM, he had built a house. On whose land did you build the house. Do you want records of it? I'm asking the chief minister,

Kumaraswamy said.

#### TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Tithi: Dwadashi: Sep 14 08:41 PM to Sep 15 06:12 PM Sep 15 06:12 PM Trayodashi to Sep 16 03:10 PM

Nakshatram Shravana: to Sep 15 06:49 PM Sep 15 06:49 PM Dhanishta to Sep 16 04:33 PM 4:43 PM to 6:14 PM Rahukalam 12:11 PM to 1:42 PM Yamagandam Varjyam: 10:26 PM to 11:53 PM Gulika: 3:12 PM to 4:43 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:46 AM to 12:35 PM

Updated: September 14, 2024 5:00 PM

09:10 AM to 10:39 AM

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 30<sup>∞</sup> Humidity: 65% Sunrise: 6:04 AM Sunset: 6:18 PM

Amritakalam:

# Tributes paid to Yechury

crucial role pathologists play

in diagnosis and pledged to

work towards establishing

diagnostic centres at all prima-

ry health centres, community

health centres and district

Foundation, Dr Kavya is sup-

porting nutrition kits for

pregnant women, hygiene

kits for students and educa-

tional and healthcare initia-

Encouraging pathologists to establish diagnostic cen-

tres, Dr Kavya assured sup-

port in securing government

incentives. She vowed to

advocate Central funding to

set up diagnostic centres in

government hospitals.

Through the Kadiyam

hospitals.

Rich tributes were on Saturday paid to veteran Marxist leader and CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury at the party headquarters AKG Bhavan here, where his mortal remains were brought with chants of 'Lal Salaam' from his residence this morning. Wrapped in the red flag of

the CPI (M), Yechury's mortal remains were kept at the party office, where party leaders, including polit bureau members Prakash Karat, Brinda Karat, Pinarayi Vijayan and M A Baby, and others paid their tributes to the leader. Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi also reached the AKG Bhavan along with the other party



respects to Yechury. She was accompanied by party leaders Jairam Ramesh, Rajeev

Shukla and others. NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar, Ŝamajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leaders Mani Shankar Aiyar, Sachin Pilot, Ramesh Chennithala, DMK leaders Udhayanidhi Stalin, TR Baalu, Dayanidhi Maran, RJD MP Manoj Jha, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chadha and Gopal Rai, CPI general secretary D Raja and party leader Annie Raja, and CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya were among the political leaders who paid their last respects at the CPI (M) headquarters.

## promoting Buddha's values: Rijiju Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on

Saturday said Maharashtra,

with a substantial Buddhist

population, can lead the way in

promoting the Buddha's val-

He was delivering the keynote address at the 'Buddha's Middle Path - Guide for Global leadership', a conference organised jointly by his ministry and the International



Maharastra can lead way in

"With its substantial

Buddhist population, Maharashtra stands as a pivotal region where any movement for spreading Buddha's values can resonate nationwide. The state can lead the way in promoting Buddha's values," the minister said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent initiatives including extensive celebration of Buddha Purnima by the Government of India underline a commitment to promoting Buddhist values, he said.

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

#### **CITY EVENTS**

Indian Coffee Festival

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

Venue

The Jubilee Hills Convention Centre, September 15 Time: 1.30 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.

Aidu Restaurant Plot no 1057/G, Road No. 45, beside SBI Bank, Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, till September

#### 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.

Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur Sunday September 21, at 6.30 pm

#### MP for making healthcare accessible to underprivilaged

PNS HYDERABAD

Lok Sabha member Kadiyam Kavya on Saturday stressed the need to make healthcare accessible to the underprivileged. She made the plea at the 7th annual conference of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists Telangana Chapter. Addressing the gathering at Osmania Medical College, Kavya stressed that India's progress hinged on providing quality healthcare to all. She expressed concern government hospitals.

# City Pioneer



# **POP Ganesh Idol immersion** continues unabated at Hussain Sagar

**DEEPIKA PASHAM** 

deepikapasham2015@gmail.com HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court, in its order, stated that "Idols made of Plaster of Paris (POP) are to be immersed in baby ponds already constructed by the GHMC or in separate area ponds that do not contribute to water pollution in the main water body. There shall be no permission to immerse Ganesh idols from the Tank Bund side of the Hussain Sagar Lake. Immersion of non-POP idols, which do not contain synthetic paint, is only allowed from the other side of the Hussain Sagar Lake."

However, when The Pioneer visited the immersion sites, it was noticed that the immersion of PoP Ganesh idols was still taking place on one side of the Hussain Sagar. In contrast, the other side remained deserted, with banners displaying the High Court's orders.

Arches with window-like structures have been installed to prevent the immersion of



The PoP idols being immersed in the lake in Hyderabad on Saturday

Ganesh idols at certain points. Although vendors have set up stalls, there are fewer visitors on the Tank Bund side, as the main immersion activity has been shifted to the other side.

The sanitation department has failed to provide adequate washroom facilities. Apart from one or two bio toilet vans, temporary washrooms leak water onto the roads and surrounding plants.

A snack vendor, speaking to The Pioneer, remarked, "The news about banning idol immersion here was discussed last year, but they had allowed it at the last moment. This year, it's stricter. People are avoiding this side of Tank Bund because the celebrations are

A family immersing a PoP Ganesh idol admitted, "We have always immersed the idol at Tank Bund. We didn't know that idols made of Plaster of Paris were not allowed

Additionally, heaps of dust and litter surround the lake, as people fail to use the dust-bins provided, leaving the roads cluttered



UoH NSS cell organisign plantation driver at at Zilla Parishad High School in Tellapur on Saturday

#### **UoH NSS cell** organies a plantation drive at ZPH School

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The NSS cell of the University of Hyderabad organised a plantation drive at Zilla Parishad High School at drive at Zilla Parishad High School at Tellapur on September on Friday and Saturdy. This event was held in collaboration with the University's Horticulture Department, along with the staff and students of the school. The drive was part of the Swachchata Pakwada – 2024 celebrations.

NSS volunteers planted 50 fruit trees, including mango, guaya, black

trees, including mango, guava, black plum, pomegranate, neem and peepal. High School headmaster Bhaskar

emphasised the importance of these trees in keeping the school environment healthy.

Following the plantation, the Swachhata pledge was administered by the NSS cell

The teaching and non-teaching staff, students, NSS coordinator Dr B Krishnaiah, Dr Bhimsingh, the NSS program officer, and volunteers par-

Dr Krishnaiah and Bhaskar highlighted the importance of cleanliness in daily life, especially with frequent infections due to the ongoing rains. Both of them thanked the NSS team for their efforts.

# Robbery case against two policemen registered

CHITHALURI REVANTH

revanth.chithaluri@gmail.com
HYDERABAD

The Madhuranagar police in Hyderabad Commissionerate limits has filed a criminal case against two policemen for allegedly taking money and causing injury to a person. The case was registered a few days ago against the police officers Ramakrishna and Naveen. It is learnt that one of the accused is a constable.

The complainant said that on June 14, he along with his two friends went to his friend's birthday party at Mothinagar in his car. In that party the complainant and one of his friends consumed alcohol and left for home after the party.

The complainant said that at about 11.30 pm, they stopped Jawaharnagar for water. case against them.



Madhurangar Police station

Meanwhile a police car came and stopped there. A police officer got down and asked the complainant to get down from the car latter got down and asked the policeman what had happened.

The petitioner said that the policeman told them that they were consuming alcohol by sitting in the car and instructed them to come to the police sta-

The complainant told the police that they were not drinking in the car. For which, the Police man abused him in a filthy language and slapped the complainant. Due to which, he fell down on the ground and his left hand wrist was broken, then the policeman kicked him in the stomach. Meanwhile, another policeman got down from the

#### Action plan for caste survey to be announced soon

PNS HYDERABAD

"An action plan will be announced on caste survey very soon," said the BC Commission on Saturday.

State Panchayat Raj Secretary Lokesh Kumar DS, Commissioner Anita Ramachandran, Deputy Commissioner Sudhakar visited the Telangana Backward Classes Commission office and met Commission Chairman G Niranjan and Commission members.

They discussed in detail the procedures to be undertaken regarding caste enu-meration in the State for about two hours. An action plan was announce an activity on caste survey very soon. The schedule of visiting the districts for field level obser-

# HYDRAA to have special powers soon, says AV Ranganath

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath said that the HYDRAA is a legal entity as it has been constituted by the Government Order (GO) number 99 on July 24, 2024.

He said that someone challenged in the High Court whether the HYDRAA is legal or not. The HYDRAA is a legal agency, as this is constituted by the executive resolution. A lot of bodies were floated through executive resolutions like the Planning Commission. That was formed through an exec-utive resolution in March of

He said that the Cabinet Secretariat, Commission, like

"We take care of assets of the government like lakes, nalas, government lands, parks and other government lands, including traffic related encroachment"

Law through a government order to vation will be released soon. bodies were constituted State government also many authorities."

agencies were formed through Government orders like the ACB, Vigilance Enforcement and other bod-

He said that shortly there is an ordinance which is likely to come up probably next month or so. Powers under various acts will be delegated onto HYDRAA. Once it is approved in the Cabinet, then an ordinance will be issue. After the ordinance, in the next Assembly session, ordinance will be tabled, he said.

"We take care of assets of the government like lakes, nalas, government lands, parks and other government lands, including traffic related encroachment. As per the GO, we do not issue any notices. We assist the local authorities like municipali-

## Of 17MPs, only Owaisi is voice of people in Parliament: CM

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy launched a book titled "Prophet for the World" at a programme held in Hyderabad on Saturday. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister

expressed his delight at unveiling what he called a "wonderful book," emphasising the shared messages of peace found in the Bhagavad Gita, Quran, and Bible. According to Revanth, these sacred scriptures unite in promoting development and harmony among countries. The Chief Minister also acknowledged the regional pride in having the President of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board hail from this area. Reflecting on his past service alongside Asaduddin Owaisi as MPs in Hyderabad, Revanth mentioned how Owaisi's criticism of the Congress government had often been constructive. He noted that an effective opposition helps ensure a more efficient government. "The number of leaders speaking on behalf of the poorer sections in Parliament has significantly reduced. If there are 17 MPs from Telangana, only Asaduddin Owaisi is the leader who speaks about poor people in Parliament. Asaduddin Owaisi remains one of the few raising his voice for the people," Revanth said, appreciating Owaisi's advocacy. He further pointed out the increasing impact people from Telangana are making in the corporate and business sectors, adding, "Politics should remain confined to elections. Beyond that, let us all work together for



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday launching a book titled 'Prophet for the World' in Hyderabad on Saturday

the welfare and development of Telangana's four crore people." Revanth Reddy highlighted the need for collaboration with the Majlis party, particularly for the Musi Riverfront Development project. He lamented how the Musi River has turned into a "dump yard" and emphasized the government's reliance on Majlis party support to transform it. He assured that his government is committed to providing double-bedroom houses to the poor, stressing that everyone shares the responsibility to protect the country and move forward on the right path. Reflecting on past governments, he said, "People have twice given mandates to Chandrababu, YS Rajasekhar Reddy, and K Chandrasekhar Rao. I am confident the Congress government will also be elected for a second consecutive term." Revanth concluded his speech by reiterating his government's dedication to the welfare of the poor over

## Ponnam proposes committee for welfare of Gulf workers

PNS HYDERABAD

Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has proposed the constitution to focus on the welfare of Gulf workers. The committee, he suggested, may comprises of MLAs, MLCs and other leaders to take up the issues being faced by the Gulf migrant workers from the

On the orders of Chief Minister a Revanth Reddy on the measures to be taken for the welfare of the Gulf workers, the meeting was chaired by the Transport and BC Welfare Minister. At the meeting, the Minister urged the government to release the Government Order (GO) by establishing an advisory committee. Government Whip Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas and TPCC NRI Cell Vinod discussed five issues related to Gulf workers.

The Minister suggested that



Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Saturday presiding over a meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Pravasi Prajavani should be organised for Gulf workers every Tuesday and Friday at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad. Ponnam Prabhakar said that a special counter for the Gulf workers' grievances will be

opened on September 20. He assured that steps will be taken to give 100 percent admission to the children of Gulf workers in Gurukula schools and colleges who want to study in Gurukul. He said that he will bring to the notice of the government that Rs 5

lakh ex gratia payment to the families of the workers who died in the Gulf countries

from December 7, 2023. The NRI cell has suggested giving an ex gratia of Rs 1 lakh to the families of those who have died in the past on a humanitarian basis.

It is suggested that there may be Gulf Bhima like Rythu Bhima. Many MLAs said that the workers in Singapore and Malaysia are facing difficulties in recent times. TPCC NRI convenor said that in the 1982

# Asifabad farmers heavily dependent on chémicals

PNS HYDERABAD

University's Osmania Sociology Department has published a research paper on sustainable development on Saturday. The Research Paper, Titled "Unveiling the Detrimental Impacts of Intensive Chemical Use and Monoculture on Soil Health and Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land in Telangana," the paper appeared in the Journal of Lifestyle and SDGs Review, indexed in major databases like SCOPUS and ELSEVIER. The paper has also been translated into Spanish and Portuguese.

The study, conducted in Telangana's Asifabad district, surveyed 382 farmers. It found that 98.2 percent rely heavily

on chemical use, and 84.8 percent adopt monoculture farming, especially for paddy and cotton. Traditional farming practices have largely declined, with 87.6 percent of farmers using machines instead. There's also a growing distrust in livestock manure as fertilizer.

The research calls for sustainable alternatives, such as crop diversity, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and livestock integration. It also introduces the "Curved and Sloped Buffer Zone" to reduce soil erosion.

The paper emphasizes the need for a balance between economic growth and environmental care, aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals -15: Life

#### **AN ARTIST AND AN** AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

## Telangana receives an outstanding award

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State has received an Outstanding Award under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme, presented by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in New Delhi on

The award was presented in recognition of Telangana's top performance in the scheme which has provided the State with Rs.

2,836 crore. With this funding, 2,199 infrastructure units were established, including 1,322 agricultural primary processing units, 785 warehouses, 163 custom hiring centers, and 101 post-harvest

These initiatives have increased farmers' income by offering better facilities. Top-performing districts like Nizamabad, Khammam, and Siddipet, along with leading banks such as State Bank, Union Bank, and HDFC Bank, were also recognised. Under the scheme, farmers benefit from a 3 per cent interest subsidy, with loans up to Rs. 2 crore requiring no collateral security. The scheme aligns with other government programmes like the National Horticulture Mission and food processing subsidies, promoting modern agricultural practices and infrastructure development to boost farmers' income and productiv-

**ALTRUIST** Satya Srinivas is not just an artist par excellence, but an

ecologist who has been in the social development sector for more than three decades. Working mostly in tribal and rural areas of the country and particularly in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, he was associated with State, national and international organizations, including the European Union and the World Bank. He is the editor of Dhinsa, a social monthly magazine and the associate editor for 'Paryavarana Bharathi,' a Telugu quarterly magazine on environment. One of the authors of report on status of

Krishna river, (1992) published by Hyderabad, and has solo #20 memoir Academy of Gandhian studies, he also edited the Telugu version of Local people managing local forests; Zentrum, Hyderabad. Beharoonguda shows the way in A plant lover, and

water colour and pencil portraits of mothers and grannies at Goethe

A plant lover, and an artist, Satya

# Culture & Heritag

Andhra Pradesh, published by Asia Forestry Network. He published articles on environment, development and arts in almost all the vernacular media. Though painting in water colours is his mainstay, he has been indulging in poetry for long. He held

elaborated on the art exhibition that he has organized at his residence, Libra Enclave, Badangpet, Balapur mandal, RR district in Hyderabad. He shared his approach, philosophy and method of creating artwork. În his art exhibition at his residence, he presented porgroup show of his paintings about the women forest crusaders (2004) in traits of various rural and tribal women, with whom he worked close-

ly with during joint forest management initiatives. He is disappointed that it is expensive to organise art exhibitions in normal art galleries. So, he decided to convert his residence into an art

gallery and organised an exhibition "Space is dynamic," he says. "The mother tree exhibition in his house has 23 exhibits of tribal and rural women from several areas of AP and Telangana. It's also a

document of the women's efforts in forest conservation, the reason why I have converted part of my house into a gallery," he added.

> **VENKOB R BALANTRAPU** Senior Journalist (The writer can be reached at venkobbr@gmail.com and 9297204401)

# lelangana ...





#### **Anganwad volunteers asked to** sensitise parents on pre-school edn

PNS MEDAK

District Collector Kranti Valluru has asked the Anganwadi Centres to create awareness among the parents on pre-school education being offered by the Anganwadis.

She was taking part as the chief guest in the conservancy meeting held here on Saturday in connection with the National Nutrition Month celebrated from Sep 1 to 30.

He asked the officials to take steps to provide electricity and drinking water in Anganwadi centres. He asked

the officials to send necessary proposals to undertake repairs to the buildings housing Anganwadi centers.

In Anganwadi centers where there is place, the gardens should be developed in the backyards, he said. He suggested holding grama sab-has and hold parents' meetings. He asked the officials to ensure that the pre-school education is provided to Anganwadi students. On fourth Saturdays of every month, Early Childhood Care and Education Day should be

#### **Dengue claims life of 7-year**old girl in Narsapur

A seven-year-old girl belonging to Narsapur town in Medak district died of Dengue on Saturday. She was identified as Sahasra, 7, daughter of JinkalaNarsing and Lahari, residents of Sivalayam street in the town. She was pursuing class -1 in Don Bosco High School. Three days ago, Sahastra contracted fever and felt ill. The parents got her treated in several private hospitals, but in vain. But her condition worsened because of the fall of the count of red blood cells. The doctors who treated the girl expressed their helplessness in saving the life of the girl.

### **CLASH BETWEEN TWO MLAS**

# **Conflict is over internal** bickerings in BRS: Sridhar

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Two BRS MLAs are fighting and blaming Congress government, said Minister for Information Technology and Industries D Sridhar

Babu on Saturday. He further said that the two MLAs Padi Kaushik Reddy and Arekapudi Gandhi clashed because of internal problems in the BRS. The BRS leaders tried to attribute a motive to the Congress when the two BRS MKA clashed, he said. The Congress party has nothing to do with what had happened, he made it very

Sridhar Babu on Saturday inaugurated the software company titled Centillion Network Pvt Ltd at Manthani in the district and maintained that the



Minister for Information Technology D Sridhar Babu at a meeting in Manthani on Saturday

State government has been laying special emphasis on providing employment to the jobless youth.

Further, he said that a skill development university would soon come up in Manthani.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the software company, he said that the government has been working in the directions of providing jobs to the educated unemployed living in remote areas too.

Development University is set up, special training will be imparted to the youth to help them secure good jobs, he said.

The minister claimed that his main agenda would be to lend support to the youth by providing them employment opportunities. Therefore, he focused his attention on development of software sector in Manthani area of the state. As part of this, he started the new branch of the Hyderabadbased software company Centillion Network Private limited in Manthani. More units would come

up in Manthani in near future, he said, adding that the region would witness all round development in future. The problems of the unemployed will be over soon, he added.

Company CEO Venkat Chundi, directors Radha Pandrangi, Kishore Siddharth Pasumarti, vicepresidents Sudhakar Kamisetty, Kamilapuram, Ganeshwara Reddy and

local elected people's representatives took part in the

Ponguleti Madhuri, along with the minister's brother Ponguleti

PNS KHAMMAM

Family members of Revenue

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa

Reddy went on door-to-door

visit in the flood-hit Palair

Assembly constituency and

infused confidence among peo-

ple. They extended financial

support from PSR Charitable trust of the family
The Revenue Minister in his

capacity as the member of the

State Cabinet was successful in

securing the financial support of

Rs 16,500 to each affected fam-

ily and get them supplied essen-

The PSR Trust for one week

provided food to the flood vic-

tims three times a day. With the help of the trust members and

party workers the food was dis-

tributed at the doorstep of peo-

tial commodities.

people in flood-hit areas Prasad Reddy, and other members of the trust took a decision to extend a financial support of Rs 5,000 and two blankets, two saris, lungis, T-shirts and towels

to each family. As part of the exercise, financial assistance and textiles and blankets were given to 214 families in the class-IV employees' colony, 249 families in Rajiv Gruhakalpa colony, 222 families in Sai Nagar, 721 families in Jalagam Nagar, 199 families in KBR Nagar, 308 families in Temple city, 111 families in Sai Prabhat Nagar, 527 families in Abhaya Township, 527 families in Danavaigudem and 719 families in Ramannapeta on Saturday.

Trust members said that the process would continue in other areas too. The families that received the financial assistance are happy over getting support from their MLA and Minister.

### **Telangana youth recalls** horrors of Russia-Ukraine war

PNS NARAYANPET

A 22-year-old youth from Telangana, who was unwittingly recruited into the Russian army and left stranded at the Russia-Ukraine border for months, expressed his gratitude to the Centre on Saturday for facilitating his return to the country.
"I still cannot believe that I

have returned home. The horrific scenes of the ongoing war are still fresh in my mind..." said M'o h a m m e d Sufiyan, who returned home safely on Friday night after working as a support staff for Mohd Sufiyan with his the Russian

with Ukraine.

Naraýanpet

Sufiyan (22), who hails from Narayanpet district, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Telangana government and also the media for facilitating his return.

Sufiyan recalled that he reached Russia via Chennai and Dubai in December 2023 after being promised the job of a security personnel by a Mumbai-based employment

KUMURAMBHEEMASIFABAD

District Superintendent of

Police Srinivasa Rao has said

that Jainoor is returning to

normalcy after the recent

clashes because of measures

initiated by the police to main-

tain law and order. He said that

stringent measures would be

initiated to prevent recurrence

district police headquarters

here on Saturday, the SP said

that one Maqdhoom was taken

into custody as he tried to out-

rage the modesty of an Adivasi

woman. The police appealed to

Adivasi groups to exercise

restraint and promised to take

steps to get Maqdhoom pun-

ished. However, the Adivasi

groups gave a call to observe bandh in the town recently. In

spite of beefing up security for the bandh, Adivasis in their

thousands throned Jainoor

forcing the police to resort to

lathi-charge on the protestors.

However, the police could not prevent the loss to the proper-

ty but succeeded in preventing

the loss of lives due to the

and rival minority communi-

When the Adivasi groups

bandh that turned violent.

Talking to *The Pioneer* at the

of such incidents in future.

However, he was taken to the Russia-Ukraine border and subjected to training before being entrusted with work like loading vehicles and building bunkers, he said.

Sufiyan and others like him realised that they were misled, but could not establish contact with the main agent.

The youth said he was taken close to the frontline but his

health deteriorated after spending sleepless nights as the war raged Later, he was shifted to a 'green

zone Ukrainian territory under the control of Russia, about 60 kms from the frontlines, after he ordeal.

'We were in a jungle for eight months," he

The central government arranged air tickets to reach Delhi from Moscow, he added.

Russia had agreed to India's demand to ensure early release of Indian nationals working with the Russian military as support staff after PM Modi "very strongly" took up the issue with President Vladimir Putin during his visit.

Jainoor limping back to normalcy: SP

members were fighting

pitched battles on the streets on

the day of the bandh, rein-

forcement were rushed to

Jainoor to ensure that the sit-

uation did not slip out of the

clamped on the town and

internet services had been sus-

pended to prevent the spread-

ing of violence to other places,

Jainoor. For the benefit of the

town residents, Section 144 is

being relaxed three hours in

the morning and another three

hours in the evening. The sit-

uation in the town would be

explained to the IG and pro-

hibitory orders clamped on the

town would be lifted totally to

Normalcy is limping back to

he said.

Prohibitory orders had been

#### NIT Warangal to celebrate Hindi Pakhwada from Sept 14

PNS WARANGAL

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal will celebrate Hindi Pakhwada between September 14 and 30 as per the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Education under the guidance of Prof Bidyadhar Subuddhi, Director, NIT Warangal.

In this series, 4 programs of Hindi, such as Hindi essay writing, Hindi speech, Hindi quiz, Hindi poet conference will be organised, said Adesh Srivastav, Hindi Officer, NIT Warangal. As part of Hindi Pakhwada celebrations, Hindi essay writing competition for ed on Saturday.

Also, literary and Debating club organised "Hindi Diwas" where students shared poetry and shayari in Hindi. Prof Srinivascharya, Dean Student Welfare was the chief guest of the event and Prof. Altaf Badar, Faculty advisor of literary and Debate club was present. Hindi Pakhwada celebrations are supervised by Prof Ram Krishan, coordinated by Nitin Raj Hindi Cell and conducted by Hindi.

restore normalcy there. After checking the CCTV footage, at least 30 persons

belonging to both the groups

were taken into custody.

Others taking shelter in other places would be soon brought

to the book, he said. None

however high position he or she would be holding would

not be spared in the incident,

Tension prevailed between

the two groups over a period

of time, he said. In the last Lok

Sabha elections, 65 miscreants

were identified and 50 were

arrested for indulging in clash-

es. Frequent discussions are

being held with the caste elders

of both the groups to work out

a patch up between the two

One of the groups have been getting goods by lorries at night.

However, Adivasis pointed

out that the goods could

include lethal weapons, the SP

said adding that strict vigil

would be maintained on the

transport of the goods at night

and suitable measures would

of society to cooperate with

the police in maintaining the

He appealed to all sections

the SP said.

groups.

be initiated.

law and order.

## ICFAI Law School holds mentoring session for Orphaned Children

**PNS** ■ RANGAREDDY

The Legal Aid Society of ICFAI Law School, IFHE hosted a mentoring session on Saturday at SOS Children's Village in Shankarpalli, focusing on the legal rights of orphaned children. The programme aimed to address the challenges these children face and guide them. Gowri Prasanna, an assistant at the centre, initiated the event by briefing the legal aid participants on the institution's caregiving practices and the support systems in place for the

children. Dr KV Ravikumar delivered a speech stressing the critical importance of protecting the



rights and welfare of orphaned children. The event also featured a mime performance symbolising the equal treatment these children deserve, along with a poster presentation on health and hygiene to provide key care insights.

The programme con-cluded with a "circle of support" activity, highlighting the vulnerable situations orphaned children may encounter and identifying the support networks available to them within and beyond the institution. The event was attended by Dr S Kannan, Dr Iti Vyas, and members of the Legal Aid Society, marking a successful initiative in promoting awareness of the rights of parentless

children.

# Harish Rao presents awards to best teachers

PSR Trust members extending financial support to people in flood-hit areas in Palair constituency on Saturday

PSR Trust extends

financial support to

PNS SIDDIPET

Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao has observed that the parents are not compromising on the education of their wards because education is a valuable He was participating as the chief guest at the Teachers' Day celebra-

tions and presentation of the best teacher awards function held at the police convention centre here on Saturday. The programme was held under the aegis of the Telangana schools, he said and wanted the CM to Recognised Schools' Management

The students have knowledge, but they should fight shy to speak more open-The teaching should promote native culture and foster bonds, he said,

adding that the teaching should educate the value of parents and strengthen the familial ties. Majority of the students are attending the private

Association. He said that the teachers

should stay abreast of new methods.

The education system has witnessed a

significant progress in Telangana.

## District Table Tennis Tournament-2024 held

PNS WARANGAL

Warangal District Table Tennis Tournament-2024 was organised by the Warangal District Table Tennis Association (WDTTA) on September 15 at Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science Warangal (KITSW).

KITS Warangal principal Prof K Ashoka Reddy at Indore stadium, KITSW cam-

Speaking on the occasion, Ashoka Reddy said that to play table tennis a combination of technical and visual skills are required. It included player

hand grip, ready position, footwork, service, and strokes. Games and sports are important tools for maintaining physical health and mental fitness. The KITSW introduced a credit course in the new BTech. engineering curriculum. It would lead to allround development of the students. It would help strengthen muscles, stabilises mobility of the joints and eradicate joint pains. It also hugely improves hand-eye coordination and finally it enhances the quality of life in the youth, he

On this occasion WDTTA

president Akarapu Harish gave the presidential remarks. Table tennis is a world-class social sport. Participation is important in the games. Winning or losing is not important. Playing table tennis the brain is sharp and improves mental balance. In this tournament, table tennis competitions will be conducted for the six categories in two days of tournament such as Under-11, U-13, U-15, U-17, U-19 for girls & boys and for the men & women. There are 130 participants playing which includes 47 teams during these two

In this program KITSW Doctor, Ophthalmologist, Dr R Susmitha, KITSW administrative officer, Prof. Pingili Ramesh Reddy, WDTTA General Secretary and Head, department of physical education, Dr M Srinivas Reddy, the guest of honor, WDTTA Joint secretary, Ajmeera Jay Singh and K Sunil Kumar, , execu-

members, Venkataswamy, all the heads, all the deans, faculty, staff and Associate professor of Chemistry amd PRO Dr D Prabhakara Chary, 150 above players and students were pre-

### ATTEMPT SEXUAL ASSAULT ON WOMAN

# Adivasi associations demand fast-track court to trial accused

KUMURAMBHEEMASIFABAD

Leaders of several Adivasi associations have urged District Superintendent of DV Srinivasa Rao to ensure that Adivasis are not arrested in connection with the violence that took place in Jainoor recently. They urged him to recommend setting up fast-track court to punish the man accused of attempting to assault a woman.

They met the Superintendent of Police at the district police headquarters here on Saturday and said that the Adivasis have been trying to protect their lands and waging struggles for it for the past 40 years. However, non-tribals have been violating the Schedule-5 rules and indulging in atrocities on the Adivasis. Series of atrocities had been committed on the Adivasis for the past several years but only some of them came to light, they lamented.

The recent attempt to rape of an Adivasi woman triggered arson and vandalism in Jainoor



Outsiders have been perpetrating atrocities on the Adivasis, rendering injustice to them, exploiting them and inducing the Adivasi girls to marry them to grab the lands in Agency areas. The non-tribals by virtue of marrying tribal women have been obtaining loans under TRICOR and meting out injustice to the tribals.

The Jainoor town developed commercially in many respects. However, the non-tribals have been establishing their businesses here and selling the counterfeit products to loot the tribals.

There was no action in spite of bringing the injustice being caused to the Adivasis for the past four decades, they said attributing the purpose of the struggles waged by them was to protect their identity.

They urged the police officer to stop arresting the Adivasis for what they did acting on the spur of the moment. So far, 18 Adivasis were taken into custody, they said, appealing to the Superintendent of Police to stop the arrests out of humanitarian consideration.

They demanded that the police to take stern action against the Shaik Maqdoom who tried to outrage the modesty of an Adivasi woman and made an attempt on her life. They sought the authorities to set up fast-track court to ensure that the accused is punished as

# LA suggests naming RRR after Burgula

PNS RANGAREDDY

On the death anniversary of former Chief Minister Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar has suggested that the Rural Ring Road (RRR) be named after Burgula

Ramakrishna Rao. He was paying tributes to Burgula Ramakrishna Rao to mark his death anniversary. He praised the legacy of Burgula Ramakrishna Rao who was Hyderabad State first chief minister.

Burgula Ramakrishna Rao was recognised for his significant role in Hyderabad's political history, including his decision to step down as Chief Minister during the 1956 formation of Andhra Pradesh. He later served as Governor of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

The event drew participation from local leaders, including High Court lawyer S a n n i d h a n a m Krishnasharma, former MPTC Ashok Goud, and Congress leaders, who praised Burgula's contributions. Shankar reiterated his commitment to push for the road to be named in Burgula's honor, celebrating his impact on Telangana and India.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar paying tribute to former Chief Minister Burgula Ramakrishna Rao in Shadnagar on Saturday.

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

#### ACROSS THE STATES



#### **Code violation case: UP** minister surrenders in court

ttar Pradesh minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal surrendered before a local court on Friday after a non-bailable warrant was issued against him in connection with a Model Code of Conduct violation. The special MP/MLA court also issued a non-bailable warrant against Anil Kumar, another minister, for failing to appear before it in a related poll code violation case. Special Judge Devendra Singh Fauzdar recalled the non-bailable warrant issued on September 4 and ordered Aggarwal's release after he furnished two sureties of Rs 25,000 each. Aggarwal, the BJP MLA from Muzaffarnagar constituency, is minister of state (independent charge) of vocational education and



#### **Kejriwal visits Hanuman** temple with wife

day after his release from Tihar, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal sought the blessings of Lord Hanuman, And said His blessings were with him during his "fight against injustice". He visited the iconic Hanuman temple in Connaught Place along with his wife Sunita Kejriwal and sought blessings from God for the well-being and prosperity of all. The temple's Mahant welcomed him with a tilak, presenting the Delhi chief minister with Bajrang Bali's mace and a sacred triangular flag. Senior leaders of the party, Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj accompanied him. Kejriwal meditated with his wife and offered water to 'Shivling'. He also shared a video of his visit on X. "Today, along with my wife Sunita Kejriwal and other companions, I visited the ancient Hanuman temple in Connaught Place and worshipped Lord Hanuman and received his blessings.



### Railway min hops on local train, chats with commuters

ailway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday travelled by a local train, the lifeline of lakhs of Mumbaikars, and Chatted up with commuters. Vaishnaw boarded the suburban train at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in south Mumbai at 2.34 pm and alighted at Bhandup station at 3.18 pm after his 27 km-long journey. Railway officials said Vaishnaw, who was in the city for an awards ceremony, boarded a second class coach of the Ambernath-bound slow local train. While interacting with the minister, commuters sought increase in the number of services and expressed concern over frequent disruptions. Speaking to mediapersons on board the train, the Union minister said 12 projects underway in Mumbai metropolitan region costing Bs 16 240 crore will add 301 kilometres of tracks to the network, among the densest in the world, and go a long way in improving commuter experience.

## Culture key to unlocking economic growth

#### India at BRICS meet

PNS NEW DELHI

A top official of India's culture ministry has emphasised the need to place culture at the heart of global development strategies and use it as a tool for empowerment, inclusion and mutual understanding.

Union Culture Secretary Arunish Chawla said this during the 9th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting in St Petersburg, Russia, the min-

istry said on Saturday.
In his statement, the culture secretary reiterated India's commitment to harnessing the power of culture for sustainable development and

global cooperation. This aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of convergence between

cultural creativity, commerce and collaboration for building an equal, sustainable and inclusive world, the ministry said in a statement.

During the key meeting in St Petersburg, Chawla "emphasised the need to place culture at the heart of global development strategies, to use it as a tool for empowerment, inclusion and mutual understand-

Continuing with its stance in G20 while chairing the influential bloc in 2023, India advocated for recognising culture as a standalone goal in the post-2030 global development agenda, highlighting its transformative potential in driving economic growth, social inclusion and sustainable development, the ministry said.



# It is three dynasties versus youths

## PM Modi at first election rally in J-K

**PNS** ■ JAMMU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the upcoming assembly election is a contest between the young leadership devoted to Jammu and Kashmir's development and the three dynastic families that "destroyed" the region by "encouraging" corruption and "depriving" the people of their

Addressing an election rally in support of BJP candidates in Doda district of Jammu region, Modi said terrorism is taking its last breath and reiterated his government's promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

However, he cautioned the south Kashmir districts of

people against bringing the NC, Congress and the PDP back to power, alleging their policies had prepared the ground for terrorism, stifled young leadership and "hollowed out" J-K, and stressed that the election would decide the future of Jammu and Kashmir which "remained the target of for-

eign powers". This was the maiden election rally by the prime minister in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the first phase of the assembly polls on September 18, which will cover 24 seats spread across the three districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban in Jammu and the

### Trains to reach Srinagar 'very soon': Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday promised to connect unlinked areas of Jammu and Kashmir through the railway network, announcing that trains will soon reach the Kashmir valley.

Addressing an election rally in the Doda district in support of BJP candidates earlier in the day, Modi said

Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam. Modi began his nearly 45work on the railway line between Srinagar and Ramban is complete and the trial runs have begun.

We are working to con-nect the unlinked areas of Jammu and Kashmir through rail. Soon, the people of Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, and Kashmir will be able to travel directly to Delhi by train.

minute speech by welcoming the people who attended the rally in the Kashmiri language.

### 'No competition between Hindi and local languages'

PNS NEW DELHI

There can never be a competition between Hindi and other Indian languages as they are friends and complement each other, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on

Addressing the fourth Akhil

other. Therefore, the relationship between Hindi and all local languages will be strengthened," he said.

The home minister said the 'Hindi Diwas' is an occasion to take a pledge to make Hindi a communication language, a common language, a technical language and now an interna-

# हिंदी दिवस - 2024 चतुर्थ अखिल भारतीय राजभाषा सम्मेल

Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan on Hindi Diwas, Shah said the promotion of Hindi cannot ĥappen until all other Indian languages are strengthened and the official language estab-lishes a dialogue with all of

There can never be a competition between Hindi and local languages because Hindi is a friend of all local languages. Hindi and all local languages complement each tional language.

"We are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee to mark the completion of 75 years of Hindi as the official language. By accepting Hindi as the official language and con-necting all the local languages of the country through Hindi, we are moving towards preserving and promoting our culture, languages, literature, art and grammar," he said.

# 'Unfortunate' to refer to Gyanvapi as mosque: Adityanath

PNS GORAKHPUR (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said it is "unfortunate" to refer to Gyanvapi as a mosque and called Gyanvapi an "embodi-ment of Lord Vishwanath

Adityanath made these remarks while inaugurating an international seminar on "Contribution of Nath Panth in Building a Harmonious Society" at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, where he also highlighted the spiritual significance of Kashi and the revered site of Gyanvapi.



"It is unfortunate that some people refer to Gyanvapi as a mosque while it is the embodiment of Lord Vishwanath himself," he said, and also

made a detailed reference to legendary sage Adi Shankar, narrating an anecdote about his "encounter" with Lord

#### **CENTRE TO SUPREME COURT**

# 'Sensitive' inputs delaying HC chief justice appointments

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that "sensitive material" with the government is delaying the implementation of the SC Collegium's recommendations for appointments of chief justices to high courts.

Attorney General R Venkatramani told a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that he has received certain inputs from the Union government which are sensitive in nature.

He also told the top court

that revealing these issues in the public domain would neither be in the interest of the institution nor of the judges involved. "I would

like to place the inputs and my suggestions in a sealed cover for perusal by the judges," Venkatramani told

KTR blasts.

Continued from page 1

He strongly criticised

Revanth's hypocrisy stat-

ing, "You referred to

Megha as the 'East India

Company, and now you

have handed over a mega

## IFFI introduces new category to honour debutant filmmakers

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Saturday announced a new category to the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) that will celebrate the work of debutant filmmakers.

The new category, called the best debut Indian film section, will be introduced in the 55th edition of the prestigious festival, which is slated to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28.

As part of the segment, a new award will be handed out -- best debut director of Indian feature film, carrying a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a certificate.

The best debut Indian film section will showcase a diverse

**Call for Entries BEST DEBUT INDIAN** FEATURE FILM SECTION OVERVIEW lline: 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2024 till 6 PM

MEDC 1 SO

The best debut Indian film section will showcase a diverse range of narratives and cinematic styles from across the country, the ministry said in a statement

Centre acts on TG's...

range of narratives and cinematic styles from across the country, the ministry said in a statement.

"These selections will highlight the creative vision and unique storytelling approaches of young filmmakers. This aims to provide a platform to the young talent, showcasing the work of new directors.

A maximum of 5 debut feature films showcasing the work of new directors who are contributing fresh perspectives and stories to

Continued from page 1

On September 13, the Centre

issued an order increasing the

import duty on crude palm oil

from 5.5% to 27.5%. After this,

the price of a tonne of palm oil

rose from Rs 14,392 to Rs 16,500.

of palm oil is produced from

44,400 acres of plantations in

the state. Around 9,366 oil

palm farmers are expected to

gain from this hike in import

duty. Tummala said the import

of palm oil costs India Rs

80,000 crore in foreign

exchange a year, and the impo-

sition of import duty will ben-

efit the country's oil palm

farmers, especially those from

At present, 2.80 lakh tonnes

Indian cinema shall be selected in accordance with the rules and regulations and shall be shown in the Best Debut Indian Film section," it added.

The new award, the best debut director of Indian feature film, aims to honour the creativity and potential of first-time directors, acknowledging their contribution to the evolution of Indian cinema, the statement said.

The entries for the new category of awards are open now and the film can be submitted by September 23.

> Telangana. The increase in palm oil prices will attract

> more farmers to take up the

He said the Centre has been

promoting the development of

oil palm from 1992 to achieve

self-sufficiency in edible oil pro-

duction, and currently the cul-

tivation of oil palms in the state

is being implemented through

the National Mission on Edible

Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), a

has given permission to 14

companies to expand oil palm

cultivation in 31 districts and

at present around two lakh

acres are under oil palm cul-

The Telangana government

Central programme.

cultivation of oil palms.

#### project to them. What happened to your integrity?" KTR asked how the

same AP contractors Revanth once condemned were now given major contracts. "You criticised them, but now you have given them the very projects you opposed," he said.

KTR expressed outrage over how Rs 4,350 crore was allocated for the Kodangal Project, while only a fraction of that was spared for completing Palamuru's pending works. "How can you justify spending over Rs 4,000 crore in Kodangal but not a single Rupee to complete 10% of Palamuru's remaining work?" KTR asked, alleging that the Revanth government halted the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project to prevent KCR from getting credit for its success.

He also recalled how the KCR government had nearly completed the Palamuru- Rangareddy project, with 95% of the work done.

# 773 irrigation tanks..

Continued from page 1

The department is conducting round-the-clock operations to repair the damaged sluice and strengthen embankments. This, along with other major repair works, is essential to safeguarding low-lying areas and preventing damage to farmlands. Farmers in the worst-hit regions, especially in Gundala Mandal, have expressed concern over the potential loss of crops due to the severe flooding.

The state government has reassured the farming community that everything possible will be done to divert floodwaters and protect crops. Additionally, the authorities are working on emergency flood control measures to mitigate the impact on agricultural lands. Structural damage in several areas has been significant, with breaches reported in 265 tanks and sluices, of which 285 are currently under repair.

The government has allocated additional funds to speed up restoration, ensuring that the affected regions return to normalcy as quickly as possible. Repair efforts are being prioritized in areas where the breach of embankments and sluices poses immediate threats to nearby settlements.

In response to these challenges, senior Irrigation officials are regularly inspecting works to ensure timely completion. In the last few days, flood control measures have been implemented in several critical zones, with officials ensuring that all breaches are addressed before the monsoon intensifies.

The department has also emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring, especially in high-risk areas. Plans are underway to redirect excess water to areas with lower flood

risk, minimising the damage caused by rising water levels.

So far, the government has completed repairs on 773 tanks, but with the continuing possibility of heavy rainfall, efforts are being doubled to protect communities.

The government has assured that more teams will be deployed to speed up repair works, particularly in regions where breaches could lead to severe flooding. Officials have reported that breaches in the irrigation system have threatened 132 tanks, with 83 tanks already being reinforced as part of the flood control strategy.

Apart from immediate restoration efforts, the government is also focusing on long-term solutions to prevent similar occurrences in future. The integration of disaster management teams with the Irrigation Department ensures a coordinated effort in addressing both current and future flood risks.

This initiative is part of the government's mission to position Telangana as a leading state in both power generation and distribution. Bhatti outlined the government's plans to revive the Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant using advanced super-critical technology. The BRS administration had neglected the plant, but the Congress government will soon

lay the foundation for an 800 MW plant at the site with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore. Highlighting the welfare-driven agenda of the Congress govern-ment, Bhatti said that Rs 18,000 crore had been credited to waive farm loans.

The government remains fully committed to waiving farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh, and if farmers have taken loans exceeding that amount, Rs 2 lakh will still be waived, with the remaining debt the farmers' responsibility, he said. Bhatti took a sharp dig at BRS leaders' remarks on the loan waiver, likening their criticism to "devils quoting scriptures." He also pointed out that the government will pay the premium for Rythu Bhima and crop insurance schemes offering protection against natural calamities. These schemes reveal the government's commitment to shielding farmers from financial instability, he said.

#### Attempt to murder case against...

Continued from page 1

The police invoked Sections dealing with criminal trespass, rioting, unlawful assembly, damaging property and attempt

to murder against Gandhi and others after Kaushik filed a complaint. Speaking to 'The Pioneer,' Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty said the first FIR was filed by Gachibowli SI Mahesh Kumar Goud who complained of attempts to prevent him from discharging his duties. A second FIR was filed based

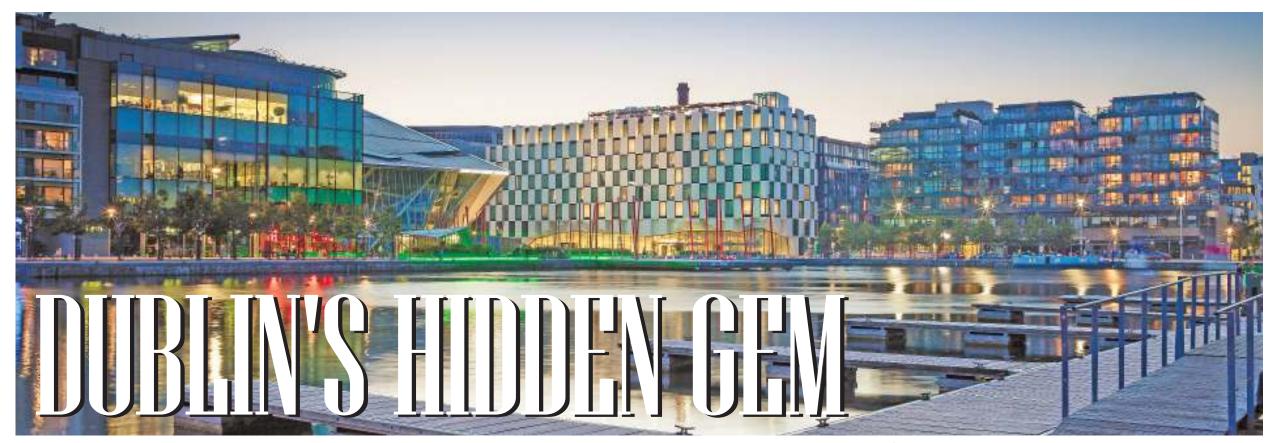
on Kaushik's complaint, which accused Gandhi and his associates of attacking his residence and attempting to murder him.

# TG to produce 20,000 MW by...

tivation in Telangana.

Continued from page 1

HYDERABAD, September 15, 2024



Discover a hidden gem in the Irish capital overlooking the water in the revitalised Silicone Docks. Here, a unique facet of Dublin unfolds, where the historic charm of the city seamlessly intertwines with modern vibrancy

BY **AKANKSHA DEAN** 

ven for locals, this area feels distinctly refreshing, offering a different perspective of Dublin while ensuring that all of its iconic landmarks remain conveniently accessible. Embrace the fusion of old and Docklands, Dublin's

affectionately dubbed the 'Silicon Docks,' serve as the European headquarters for tech giants like Facebook, Google, and Airbnb. At the heart of this dynamic district stands Anantara The Marker Hotel, a striking geometric marvel that has become its unofficial emblem. The name 'The Marker' pays homage to the Grand Canal's rich trading history. The canal, stretching 82 miles, was once adorned with cast iron markers indicating the distance to the journey's end. The hotel stands proudly at the site of the last of these markers.

Situated on the south bank of the river Liffey, the hotel commands stunning views of Grand Canal Dock and the vibrant Grand Canal Square, featuring the striking Bord Gais Energy Theatre, designed by Daniel Libeskind. At night, the plaza comes alive, illuminated in captivating hues of red and green. of Dublin's thriving tech industry, with one area even dubbed

20-minute drive from Dublin mountains, enhanced by floor-to-Airport and a mere 15-minute ceiling stroll to the city centre, making it an ideal base for exploring the capital's rich offerings.

#### **MODERN ELEGANCE AWAITS** All the design elements at Anantara

The Marker tell a story, much like the vibrant neighbourhood surrounding it. The Docklands continues to evolve as a thriving part of the city. As I step into The Marker, I'm immediately struck by its vibrant atmosphere that resonates throughout. The luminous lobby leads into colouringued hedrogree each exiding infused bedrooms, each exuding modern elegance. I notice young Dubliners gathering in the atrium for drinks, fostering a lively social scene that pulses with energy. On sunlit days, the rooftop bar becomes a buzzing hub, offering breath-taking views-a perfect retreat amid the city's bustle. Originally opened in 2013 and recently rebranded under Anantara in 2023 after an extensive renovation, this hotel stands as a beacon of modernity. Its striking chequerboard façade, inspired by the Cliffs of Moher, welcomes me into a mesmerizing 67-meter-long atrium with a cantilevered ceiling reminiscent of the Giant's Causeway, where public spaces, including a bar, lounge, and restaurant, invite relaxation and enjoyment. Embodying the Anantara philosophy, the hotel seamlessly integrates the brand's three core pillars-Indigenous, This dynamic locale is at the heart Expertise, and Authentic Luxury-'Googletown'. breath-taking views of the city, Conveniently, the hotel is just a Grand Canal, Dublin Bay, or the windows. accommodations are thoughtfully furnishings, cutting-edge



technology, and bathrooms for an indulgent experience. The Junior Corner Suite proved to be the perfect refuge for my stay. With ample space to work, unwind, or simply relax, I enjoyed the gentle sunlight streaming onto my Eames-style chair at the desk. A freshly brewed espresso awaited me, a delightful touch to start my day. I was pleasantly surprised to find a bar of Co Wexford's Bean and Goose chocolate by my bedside, boxty on the breakfast menu, and an 'Irish Wine Geese' section on the wine list. The fusion of striking architecture and local storytelling in this 187-bed haven feels refreshingly new. I balanced work and rejuvenation effortlessly. Prioritizing wellness, the awardwinning spa provides an array of ody treatments and the 187 rooms and suites offers massages, complemented by a 75foot indoor infinity pool, a steam room, a eucalyptus-infused sauna, and a whirlpool tub. This was the perfect way to begin my mornings before venturing out. One of my designed with ergonomic favourite retreats was the chic rooftop bar and terrace, which



boasts breath-taking panoramic views. Each evening, I found myself captivated by the skyline, capturing the stunning sunsets that bathed the city in warm orange hues. At the heart of Marker's culinary journey is the vibrant new Forbes Street by Gareth Mullins. As a fan of Gareth's weekly cooking experience. I began with exquisite Flaggy Shore oysters on crushed ice paired with a delightful Bloody Mary. Next, the marbled rib-eye, flawlessly seared, accompanied by zingy Chimichurri, house-cut chips, and a rocket salad, was a delight. For dessert, creatively



presented North County Dublin rhubarb, with smoked vanilla and crispy potatoes, encapsulated the essence of simple yet exceptional

#### STORIES OF DUBLIN

Unlike the traditional luxury of the Westbury, Shelbourne, The Marker embraces bold architecture while ensuring substance accompanies its style. Anantara's mantra, 'Life is a journey,' resonates through its various activities like docklands walks and sea swimming. What truly distinguishes are its unforgettable bespoke experiences, meticulously designed to immerse visitors in the local culture and lifestyle. For food enthusiasts, the signature Spice Spoons journey with Executive Chef Gareth Mullins is a delightful highlight. Guests spend the day with Mullins exploring the charming fishing village of Howth, just 30 minutes from Dublin, and embark on a chartered fishing boat around Dublin Bay, where they might spot dolphins and seals. Afterward, a visit to Kish Fish, one of Ireland's

premier salmon smokehouses, precedes an enriching lesson in baking traditional Irish soda bread back at the hotel. Other curated experiences include Swimming in a popular local spot under the guidance of an open-sea coach, an insightful deep dive into equine culture at the Irish National Stud and Gardens with a renowned horse trainer, and Afternoon Tea: Poetry and Places, which celebrates Ireland's literary heritage. For me, the highlight was the Docklands Storytelling Tour led by Derek Brennan, the hotel's Irish storyteller and guest experience manager. His captivating narratives weave together the rich history of the Docklands, bringing the area's past to life through his engaging tales, a connection forged since the

#### hotel's inception in 2013. SIP, STROLL, EXPLORE

A trip to Dublin is incomplete without exploring its rich offerings. A must-visit is EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, conveniently located within walking distance of the hotel. This interactive museum delves into the history of the Irish

diaspora and emigration. Just around the corner lies The Ferryman Townhouse, a lively pub where locals warmly welcome visitors, eager to share a table and demonstrate the art of enjoying a pint in under ten seconds. For those with a sense of adventure, Grafton Street, The Temple Bar, and Trinity College Dublin are a leisurely 30-minute stroll away. Be sure to reserve an evening for the renowned Guinness Storehouse, where a guided tour reveals the brewing process, and guests can even create a 'stoutie,' a selfie on the frothy beer head. This fusion of modernity and community encapsulates the essence of Dublin's evolving urban landscape, making it a must-visit destination for locals and travellers alike.

Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria

Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.

# **CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF INDIAN ACCENT** A Journey Through Taste and Tradition

Indian Accent's 15th anniversary marked a memorable evening, celebrating its rich legacy with a blend of nostalgic classics and inventive culinary creations, says SAKSHI PRIYA

s Indian Accent New Delhi sensation. Reflecting on those early celebrated anniversary, the occasion paid tribute to its remarkable culinary journey. With softly dimmed lighting and elegant candlelit tables, the ambiance set a warm and inviting tone for the evening. The sophisticated atmosphere, combined with a touch of nostalgia, created a perfect backdrop for a dining experience that was both refined and memorable. Walking into Indian Accent felt like stepping into a space where the charm of tradition and the excitement of modernity seamlessly merged, crafting an unforgettable experience.

The evening featured a nostalgic look back at Indian Accent's inaugural tasting menu from 2009, allowing guests to revisit beloved classics that had

been instrumental in shaping restaurant's journey. Dishes like the Whole Wheat and Semolina Puchkas, Paneer Tikka Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille served as heartwarming reminder of the restaurant's evolution and enduring appeal. The journey

began with Chef Shantanu

Mehrotra at the helm, who crafted

a menu that would soon become a

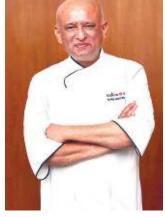
days, Chef Mehrotra recalls the excitement and challenges of the original menu. While some dishes met with mixed reviews, others quickly captured the hearts of diners. Today, Indian Accent is celebrated for its pivotal role in bringing modern Indian cuisine to the global stage.

The celebration commenced with a sensory feast, beginning with the Blue Cheese Naan. This dish was a revelation, a delightful twist on a classic favourite. The crisp texture combined with the bold, creamy blue cheese offered a unique start to the evening. Paired with the Mushroom Shawarma, subtly spiced with garam masala, it was a comforting yet adventurous introduction that set the tone for the meal to come. The evening

> past through a selection of appetisers that have become icons of Indian Accent's innovative approach. The Whole Wheat and Semolina Puchkas provided a playful yet

begins with a nod to the

refined take on street food. The trio of waters mint and coriander, tamarind and jaggery and buttermilk - offered a delightful balance of flavours, beautifully encapsulating Indian Accent's approach to blending



traditional elements with modern sophistication.

Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's talent was unmistakable throughout the tasting menu. His creations, such as the Paneer Tikka Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille, were perfect examples of his ability to blend textures and flavours imaginative and delightful ways. The Beetroot and Peanut Tikki with Caper Wasabi Chutney was particularly memorable, showcasing his knack for transforming humble ingredients into something truly remarkable. The main courses continued to impress with their inventive twists on both classic and global flavours. The Bharwan Mirch with Goat





Cheese Mousse and Chilli Aam Papad Chutney was a revelation, blending bold flavours with finesse. The Paneer Lasagna with Smoked Aubergine and Goji Berry Makhni offered a creative and comforting take on a beloved classic. The Turkish Sultanas and CousCous Ki Tahiri with Anar Avocado Raita was a brilliant example of how global influences can be seamlessly integrated into modern Indian cuisine.
The grand finale of the evening

was nothing short of a dessert lover's dream come true. The Indian Accent Kulfi Sorbet was like a refreshing burst of icy goodness, cleansing the palate with a playful, Reflecting on this milestone, it creamy touch. But hold on tight,

Apple Shakarpara Crumble. Imagine the crunch of perfectly baked apple crumble mingling with the smooth, homemade vanilla bean ice creamevery bite was a joyous celebration of texture and flavour. And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, the Coconut and Jaggery Brulee with Ruby Grapefruit Pops Amarula Ki Chuski arrived, turning dessert into an art form. The rich brulee, with its luscious coconut and jaggery notes, with

grapefruit pops and a hint of Amarula, was an explosion of taste that left us craving o r e Complementing this sweet finale was the Daulat Ki Chaat, which emerged as a standout. Its saffroninfused elegance, adorned with almonds and a hint of sugar, was both a visual delight and a burst of refined flavours. This dish exemplified the restaurant's commitment to creative excellence and its ability to elevate even the

short of spectacular!

most familiar flavours into something extraordinary. Each dessert was a playful, indulgent end to a meal that was nothing

things got even sweeter with the became clear that the 15th anniversary was not just a celebration of *Indian Accent's* rich history but also a vibrant showcase of its future. The event honoured the restaurant's legacy while highlighting its ongoing dedication to culinary excellence and innovation. *Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's* passion and creativity were evident in every dish, underscoring the restaurant's status as one of New Delhi's most cherished culinary destinations.

Indian Accent's 15th anniversary celebration was a memorable reflection on its past, with a touch of nostalgia, while also offering a glimpse into its future. The evening was all about elegance, creativity exceptional flavours. Chef

Shantanu Mehrotra's innovative approach and remarkable talent shone through in every dish, proving that *Indian Accent* is more than just a restaurant - it's a symbol of innovation and sophistication in the culinary world. This anniversary wasn't just a milestone, it was a celebration of a remarkable journey filled with flavour, creativity and lasting excellence.

HYDERABAD, September 15, 2024



The story of transport through time is showcased meticulously at the *Heritage Transport Museum* and is a nostalgic journey for the grownups and curious potent for the young, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL** 

estled in the heart of Gurugram, the Heritage Transport Museum offers a vivid glimpse into India's rich transport history. It is not merely a museum but a living narrative of how India's transportation systems have evolved over the years. From early bullock carts to vintage cars, each display in the museum is a portal to a time when travel wasn't just about the destination but the experience itself.

India's transport history offers a vivid reflection of the country's broader cultural and social transformations. The evolution of transportation-from traditional bullock carts and hand-pulled rickshaws to modern vehicles and advanced public transit-parallels significant societal, technological, and economic changes. Various modes of transport illustrate the evolution of cultural practices and daily life. For example, traditional methods transport palanquins and bullock carts reveal historical social structures and regional customs, while the advent of motorized vehicles signifies a shift toward modernization and globalization. is a treasure trove of historical gems, each piece providing a unique window into India's transport legacy. The Museum in Gurugram offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of transportation in India. As India's first comprehensive transport museum, it showcases a wide

Among the standout exhibits is an extensive collection of vintage cars, including iconic models like the Ford Model T and the Rolls-Royce Phantom. Each vehicle tells a story, with plaques detailing their origins, ownership histories, and their journeys through India's roads.

array of unique items that reflect

the country's rich history in this

The museum also houses an impressive collection of twowheelers, featuring everything from early Royal Enfield bikes to classic Vespa scooters. These vehicles capture the changing dynamics of transportation in India, from rural commutes to urban lifestyles.

A particularly unique feature is the railway exhibit, which includes vintage carriages,

# We hope to instil a respect for our heritage: Tarun Thakral

**¬**arun Thakral, the founder &managing trustee of Heritage Transport Museum is also the Executive Director at CJ International Hotels Ltd, New Delhi that owns and manages Le Meridien New Delhi. Tarun started his career in the Hospitality business in 1986. In 1990, he won French Government scholarship to pursue MBA program International Hospitality Management from 'Institut de Hotelier Management International', Paris.

To pursue his hobby and passion in vintage and classic cars, in 1996 Tarun founded Heritage Transportation Trust (HTT) - a registered not-for-profit trust to promote the preservation of modes of transportation that have been used in India. As its Founder and Managing Trustee, HTT has developed India's first comprehensive Transport Museum, Heritage Transport Museum, Heritage Transport there any museum, which opened to visitors in December 2013

Transport there any challenging or memorable memorable acquisitions?

National Tourism Award for being the most innovative and unique 2016 and 2018 Travellers Choice Award by TripAdvisor, International PATWA award for TripAdvisor, innovation at ITB, Germany, the BITB Tourism Excellence Award, SATTE Tourism award for innovation, and more. He talked to

signaling systems, and detailed replicas of early Indian trains. Visitors can explore the interior of these carriages and get a sense of the grandeur of rail travel during the colonial period.

For aviation enthusiasts, the museum features models and artifacts from India's early civil aviation history, including scaled replicas of early Indian aircraft. Another intriguing exhibit is a full-size 1950s Piper J3C Cub aircraft, providing a rare close-up of mid-20th-century aviation.

One of the more immersive experiences is the display of

passion and labour of love, The Heritage Transport Museum: What inspired you to create the Heritage Transport Museum? Was there a specific moment or experience that ignited your passion for preserving India's transport history?

India did not comprehensive transport museum until the Heritage Transport Museum opened its doors to visitors. Given the presence of remarkable transport museums worldwide, I often wondered why India didn't have one of its own. As my personal collection of transport memorabilia expanded, managing it became increasingly difficult. We launched the Heritage Transport Museum in December 2013, and it remains India's sole transport museum to this day.

How did you go about collecting such an impressive and diverse array of transport artefacts? Were

Since its opening Museum won In 1994, I purchased my first many prestigious awards - The vintage car from Ramgarh Shekhawati, Rajasthan, which was in a state of disrepair. The process tourism project in the country, the of restoring this vehicle over nearly a year brought me immense joy and ignited a passion for collecting and preserving vehicles from being scrapped. My collection soon grew to include cars, two-wheelers, bicycles, carriages, and carts. In 2002, I came across an Gyaneshwar Dayal about his advertisement from Indian

maritime memorabilia, with

detailed models of ships and boats

that were integral to India's naval

The museum's art and design

installations also deserve

mention, with sections devoted to

the design evolution of vehicles,

showcasing how aesthetics and

functionality have shaped modern

transport. Besides, the Museum has also a 3D virtual reality ride

on a rickshaw over the China wall

which is a big hit with the children

development

transportation also mirrors India's

economic progress. The transition

and elders alike.

history and trade routes.

expressing my interest in purchasing and preserving one of these saloons. Since the Railways had never before sold such items to private individuals, it took over a year of negotiations. Ultimately, I in acquiring restoring the saloon, which now proudly stands at the museum on a recreated vintage railway platform. What criteria do you use to select the items displayed in the museum? The Heritage Transport Museum

Railways about scrapping several 1930s railway saloons. I quickly

contacted the Railway Board,

features a diverse array of transportation modes used for both private and public transport throughout history. Our aim is to display the full range of transportation, encompassing cars,

of

and

history by preserving and from horse-drawn carriages to trains and automobiles highlights showcasing these transportation the country's industrial growth milestones. Through its diverse collection of transport artifacts, and enhanced connectivity, which has facilitated trade and mobility. the museum offers visitors Additionally, transportation innovations have been crucial in insights into how transportation has both shaped and been shaped driving social change. The by the broader socio-cultural public context. It effectively connects the transportation systems such as past with the present, providing a buses and metro rails has influenced urbanization, tangible link to India's rich history and its ongoing evolution. sociaĺ The museum houses an integration, affecting how people

buses, two-wheelers, traditional

transport methods, non-motorized

vehicles, railways, trams, aviation,

and maritime. We choose items

based on their historical importance, popularity, and how

they complement our existing

collection. We also carefully

evaluate how each object will

What are the biggest challenges

you've faced in preserving and

restoring some of the older or

more delicate items in the

Many items, especially those that

are decades or even centuries old,

face natural deterioration over

time. Components can become

fragile or worn, making the

meticulous and delicate. For

vintage vehicles and machinery,

restoration process

museum's collection?

engage and benefit our visitors

collection, impressive thoughtfully curated to spark fascination. The assortment ranges from classic vintage cars to engines, traditional

fabrication or innovative solutions to replace missing or damaged components. Restoring complex items, such as early aviation or railway equipment, requires specialized knowledge and skills, and finding experts with the necessary experience can be What are your future plans for the Heritage Transport Museum?

parts can be extremely challenging,

often necessitating custom

Are there any upcoming exhibitions or expansions that visitors can look forward to? We have several exciting initiatives in store for the Heritage Transport Museum to enrich its offerings and

continue captivating our visitors.
One of our key plans is to introduce an experience centre that will provide a unique, multisensory experience. We're also expanding our exhibitions to feature rare artefacts that showcase various aspects of transportation nostalgia, feeling moved, history To keen up with the latest technological advancements, we depart aim to incorporate more interactive and immersive technologies, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and advanced simulation tools, to make the exploration of transport history even more engaging.

What drives your passion for curating and expanding the museum's collection? How do you stay motivated in continuing this labour of love?

locating original or compatible A deep passion for history, culture, and education, coupled with a strong commitment to preserving and sharing important stories and artefacts for future generations. The continual excitement and inspiration of discovering new ways to present these treasures and enhance the museum's narrative. The joys of seeing visitors engage with, learn from, and appreciate the museum's offerings. The profound personal fulfilment derived from working in a field I genuinely love and enjoy. And, of course, the pride in contributing to the museum's enduring legacy.

What kind of experience do you hope visitors take away from the museum? Is there a particular message or feeling you want them to leave with?

One of the greatest compliments we've received is being recognized as a world-class museum in India. Many visitors leave with a profound sense of inspired, and reflect with understanding of the evolution of transport, and the museum continues to ignite curiosity and further interest in its visitors. We hope to instil a respect for our heritage, encouraging visitors to think about ways to preserve it for future generations. For younger visitors, we aspire to inspire them to develop hobbies that bring them fulfilment and

bicycles, and even airplanes. Visitors can explore artifacts that depict the evolution of transportsome centuries old, others representative of the industrial age. There is also a segment dedicated to maritime history, complete with beautifully preserved models of ships, giving the experience an almost

encyclopaedic richness. What truly sets the Heritage Transport Museum apart is the meticulous passion with which it has been curated. The layout of the museum is designed not just to showcase relics but to narrate stories. Interactive displays,

lifelike dioramas, and thematic galleries transport visitors into the very eras these machines were part of. Each exhibit is placed within a larger cultural and social context, enabling visitors to appreciate its significance beyond the mechanics.

It's not just a collection of vehicles: it's a carefully woven tapestry of India's transport evolution, enhanced by attention to detail. For anyone with an interest in history, innovation, or transport, the Heritage Transport Museum is a must-visit, where every exhibit is a labour of love, offering a journey through time.

# THE MONSOON'S WHISPER IN EVERY NOTE

The Heritage Transport Museum

plays a crucial role in enriching

our understanding of India's

introduction

accessibility,

live and work.

Vidushi Sunanda Sharma's Boondan Phuhaar concert celebrated the monsoon with enchanting Indian classical music, says SAKSHI PRIYA

undeniably timeless classical music, especially when performed by an artist as deeply rooted in tradition as Vidushi Sunanda Sharma. On a beautiful evening at the Stein harmonium, Pt. Mithilesh Auditorium in New Delhi, Kumar Jha on the tabla and U. Sharma brought not merely a display of reminded everyone present of musical mastery but a the unique power of live heartfelt celebration of music to evoke deep emotions

human spirit. Sharma, a vocalist of the

something voice that seemed to capture the very essence of the rainy and evocative about season. Each note felt like a raindrop, each melody a breeze dancing through the trees. She was accompanied by a gifted ensemble, including Pt. Vinay Mishra on the the Ghulam Ali on the sarangi, monsoon season to life with who together created an her performance, 'Boondan atmosphere that was almost Phuhaar.' The concert was spiritual. Their performance nature, tradition and the and transport listeners to another world.

What stood out most was not Banaras Gharana, captivated just the technical excellence her audience with her soulful on display but the depth of



feeling in every note. There arts emotional connection to the monsoon season that resonated throughout the performance, making the audience feel the beauty and poignancy of the rains. In a world that often feels dominated by digital and impersonal entertainment, this concert was a poignant reminder of the impact of live music and its ability to make

people feel truly alive. The evening was also a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's reflections on Varanasi's spirit and its deep-rooted connection to the classical

underscored was a genuine joy and importance of preserving these traditions. Sunanda Sharma's commitment to her craft and her work with the Girija Darshan Trust, named after her revered Gurus, Smt. Girija Devi ji and Pt. Sudarshan Sharma, is commendable. Through her efforts to nurture young talent and provide a platform for established artists, she ensures that this exquisite form of music remains vibrant and relevant, not just a relic of the past.

> More than just a concert, 'Boondan Phuhaar' felt like a journey into the heart of the monsoon - a gentle escape from the rush of daily life.

the The performance offered a rare chance to slow down, to be present and to savour the profound beauty of music connected to nature. Sunanda Sharma's devotion to her heritage and artistry was evident in every note, making the evening a memorable and moving experience. In an age where life often moves at a relentless pace, this event was a timely reminder of the importance of taking a moment to appreciate the simple, yet profound joys - a rain-soaked evening, a beautiful melody and a shared experience that brings people closer to the essence of life itself.

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

## IN BRIEF



#### **Lumax to acquire majority** stake in GE Solutions

umax Auto Technologies on Saturday said it has inked a pact to acquire a majority stake in Greenfuel Energy Solutions from its existing shareholders for an undisclosed amount. The proposed acquisition will enable the company to enter into the green and alternate fuels segment which is expected to witness strong and accelerated growth in the coming years, Lumax Auto said in a statement. Greenfuel is a supplier of high-pressure fuel delivery and storage systems primarily for CNG and hydrogen automobiles. It also supplies fire and smoke alarm, detection and suppression systems for the automotive industry. It is a supplier to key OEMs, including Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles,



#### India's oil exports to **Bangla remain unaffected**

espite political unrest in Bangladesh, India continues to export diesel to Bangladesh and the business remains unaffected, chairman of the firm selling oil said on Saturday. Numaligarh Refinery in Assam exports diesel to Bangladesh through a pipeline. "There is no disruption," Oil India Ltd (OIL) chairman and managing director Ranjit Rath told reporters here. Numaligarh Refinery is a subsidiary of OIL and Rath is the chairman of the refinery as well. Diesel continues to be exported through the Siliguri (Assam) to Parbatipur (Bangladesh) pipeline, he said. The pipeline passes 5.156 kms in India whereas it passes 124.346 kms in Bangladesh. "Letter of credit is in place for supplies to Bangladesh," he said. While the pipeline has a capacity to transport 1 million tonnes per annum of diesel, currently about 400,000 tonnes is exported.



#### **Air India cancels Ho Chi** Minh City-Delhi flight

ir India on Friday cancelled its flight from Ho Chi Minh City to the national capital due to operational Aissues. An Air India spokesperson said arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to Delhi at the earliest while options of cancellation with full refunds and complimentary rescheduling to another date have also been offered to passengers. "Air India flight Al389 operating from Ho Chi Minh City to Delhi on September 13, 2024, has been cancelled due to operational reasons," the spokesperson said in a statement and added that hotel accommodation has been provided to the passengers. A source said there was some technical issue with the aircraft and later the crew exceeded the flight duty timings. Subsequently, the flight was cancelled. The spokesperson also regretted the inconvenience caused to the passengers due to the unforeseen disruption.

# India committed to developing resilient agri systems: Minister

India is committed to developing resilient agricultural systems and ensuring food security on the global stage, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Ram Nath Thakur said.

He made the remarks while representing India at G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in Cuiabá, Brazil on September 12-14, 2024. India also emphasized

enhanced international trade's contribution to food security at the meeting.

"Our approach not only focuses on productivity but also ensures economic, social, and environmental sustainability, enhancing farmer prosperity and embodying a comprehensive vision for development," an official statement quoted him as saying.

India's implementation of "the world's largest food-based safe-

ty net programmes" to ensure food security and nutrition.

He stressed the need for Special and Differential Treatment for developing and least-developed countries, particularly to empower small and marginal fishers, the statement said. This is crucial for enabling

The minister also pointed to their effective participation in global trade discussions," he

The G20 meeting focused on four key priority areas -sustainability of agriculture and food systems; enhancing international trade's contribution to food security; elevating the role of family farmers, smallholders, and indigenous communities; promoting integration of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture into value

On the sidelines, Thakur

Our approach not only focuses on productivity but also ensures economic, social, and environmental sustainability, enhancing farmer prosperity and embodying a comprehensive vision for development

held bilateral meetings to strengthen India's agricultural relations with other nations. He reiterated India's willingness to collaborate on addressing global food system challenges.

Congratulating Brazil on its G20 Presidency, Thakur acknowledged the continuation of initiatives launched under India's previous presi-

#### PRICES DROP IN MAJOR CITIES

## Govt's subsidised onion sale brings relief

PNS NEW DELHI

The government's subsidised onion sale initiative, launched on September 5, has led to price drops in major cities within days, the consumer affairs

In Delhi, retail onion price fell from Rs 60 to Rs 55 per kg, while Mumbai saw a decrease from Rs 61 to Rs 56 per kg. In Chennai, the retail price reduced from Rs 65 to Rs 58 per kg, the ministry said in a

ministry said on

Saturday.

statement. The government initiated the sale of onions at a subsidised rate of Rs 35 per kg through mobile vans and out-

lets of NCCF and NAFED. The program, which began

in Delhi and Mumbai, has since expanded to other major cities including Chennai, Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, and Guwahati. Responding to the growing

demand, the government decided to increase the quantity of subsidised onion and expand distribution channels to include e-commerce platforms, Kendriya Bhandar outlets, and Mother Dairy's SAFAL stores.

The government has also initiated whole-

sale disposal of onion in major cities. It has already commenced in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, with plans to extend to Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata and eventually all state capitals.

# 'MoU between India, Iran to boost cooperation'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A memorandum of understanding between the tourism authorities of India and Iran to boost cooperation in the sec-

tor is in the pipeline, Deputy of Tourism in the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran, Aliasghar Shalbafian, said as he underlined the similarities between the two civilisations. In an interview

to PTI on the sidelines of the Iran Tourism Roadshow here, Shalbafian also said he, along with his Iranian delegation, had a "very fruitful" meeting with Indian tourism ministry officials in New Delhi.

"Iran and India have great similarities during their thousands of years of history. We connections through tourism and, somehow, facilitate mutual tourism cooperation," Shalbafian said

In this regard, Iran last year "unilaterally waived visa" for Indian tourists coming to Iran. In the first four

months of the year, there was a 39-per cent increase in the number Indian tourists coming to Iran, exceeding the more than 58,000 Indian tourists who vis-

ited Iran last year, the Deputy of Tourism in the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts said.

"Of course, India has a lot to offer to Iranian tourists. Last year, more than 13 million (1.3 crore) Iranian people went out for diverse tourism purposes. India can enjoy from

# Oil India to invest Rs 25,000 crore for net zero emissions by 2040

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Ltd plans to invest Rs 25,000 crore in clean energy projects to help achieve the net zero carbon emission goal by 2040, its chairman Ranjit Rath said on Saturday.

OIL's net zero plan includes a combination of cutting down the flaring of gas and commercialisation of stranded gas as well as setting up renewable electricity generation capacity, building green hydrogen plants and constructing biogas and ethanol

The net zero plans will go alongside its target to raise crude oil and natural gas production to 9 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas by 2025-26 from 6.5 million tonnes produced in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, he told reporters

The company also plans to lay an 80kilometer pipeline to bring natural gas from fields in Arunachal Pradesh to Assam to help replace polluting liquid fuels in transport as well as industries. "Achieving a net zero target involves a

bouquet of activities," he said. It already has firmed up plans for 640 MW of solar projects in Assam and another 150 MW in Himachal Pradesh, he

OIL joins fellow state-owned firms



India as a nation achieve net zero emis-

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's biggest oil firm, is targeting net zero by 2046 while oil and gas producer ONGC has announced Rs 2 lakh crore investment to achieve the same goal by

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd too are targeting 2040 to achieve net zero carbon emissions from their operations while Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) wants to do so by 2046.

Rath said OIL is drilling more wells and intensifying exploration in a bid to raise action to over 4 million

tonnes and gas output to 5 billion cubic "Last year we drilled 61 wells and the

year before that 45 wells. This year's drilling plan is for 75-plus wells," he said.

While drilling more wells will reverse the 12 per cent decline in production that has set in the mature fields, the company is also increasing exploration to tap newer reservoirs as well as using technology to increase output from existing fields. On its subsidiary Numaligarh refinery

in Assam, Rath said expansion of capacity, from current 3 million tonnes per annum to 9 million tonnes at an estimated cost of Rs 28,000 crore, is planned to

'Duty hike on oils to

hugely benefit farmers'

#### Redington to offer iPhone 16 series at 7k retail locations

PNS CHENNAI

Integrated technology solutions provider Redington Ltd will offer its iPhone 16 smartphones at its retail locations across the country, the company said on Saturday.

US-based Apple Inc., recently unveiled the latest range of smartphones; Apple Watch Series 10, Watch Ultra 2. Air Pods 4 among many others.

In a statement on Saturday, Redington said it would offer the iPhone 16 and iPhone 16 Plus equipped with a host of features at its 7,000 retail locations across the country.

All the new models can be pre-ordered, and they will be available from September 20, 8 am onwards, the statement

# NCLT recalls order on Zee-Sony merger

PNS NEW DELHI

Tribunal (NCLT) has allowed withdrawal of its order approving the merger of Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures Networks India and recalled its earlier order passed in this regard. The Mumbai bench of the

The National Company Law

NCLT had last week recalled its order passed on August 10, 2023, in which it had approved the merger of Zee Entertainment with Sony Pictures Networks India. The bench observed the

parties have "mutually consented" to withdraw the scheme on account of the settlement agreement and the board of directors has passed the resolutions to withdraw the scheme of amalgamation.

"Accordingly, this Bench allows the withdrawal of the Scheme of Amalgamation and hereby recalls order dated 10.08.2023 in C.P.(CAA) No. 209 of 2022," said NCLT order, a copy of which was





shared to bourses by Zee on Thursday.

Zee, which applied for withdrawal, submitted the Composite Scheme of the Merger Cooperation Agreement executed to give effect to this scheme stands terminated and accordingly the closing date has not occurred and the scheme has not attained any effective-

Entertainment and Sony

Pictures Networks India announced settling their six months long dispute related to the failed USD 10-billion merger and agreed to withdraw all claims against each other. As part of that, both had mutually agreed to withdraw all respective claims against each other in the ongoing arbitration at the SIAC and all related legal proceedings initiated in the NCLT and other forums, a

Earlier on August 27, ZEE joint statement stated.

#### The government's decision to hike customs duty on crude palm and refined sunflower oil to 20 per cent and 32.5 per cent, respectively will "hugely" benefit farmers as it will increase their income, a senior official said on Saturday.

PNS NEW DELHI

The government official also said that the decision to remove minimum export price and slashing of export duty on onion too would help farmers of the country.

According to a finance ministry notification, the basic customs duty on crude palm, soybean and sunflower seed oil has been increased from nil to 20 per cent.

Basic customs duty on refined palm, soybean and sunflower oil has been hiked from 12.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent.

The effective duty on these crude and refined oils will increase from 5.5 per cent to 27.5 per cent and from 13.75 per cent to 35.75 per cent, respectively.

These are big support for soya and oilseed farmers. Farmers from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will get hugely benefited as they account for significant production of these oil seeds," the official said.

The official added that these measures were possible because of the effective management of

domestic prices of edible oil, which have been falling continuously for nearly two years now. "These are very smart moves by the government to support

the government to contain

market sentiments," the official Besides Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the other major oil seed producing states are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka,

Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

soya farmers without affecting

Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The government had previously fixed USD 550 per tonne as the minimum export price (MEP), which essentially meant that farmers could not sell their produce overseas lower

than this rate. A Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notification issued on Friday removed the MEP with immediate effect.

The government has also slashed the duty on onion export to 20 per cent from 40 per cent. There is no export

duty on 'Bangalore rose onion.' Last week, Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare noted that the outlook for onion availability and prices in coming months remains positive as the kharif (summer) sown area has increased sharply to 2.9 lakh hectare till August from

1.94 lakh hectare in the year-

ago period.

# GGI detects Rs 2.01 lakh crore GST

Investigation arm DGGI has detected 6,084 cases involving Rs 2.01 lakh crore of GST evasion in 2023-24 fiscal, with online gaming and BFSI in services and iron, copper, scrap and alloys in goods emerging as the sectors most prone to evasion.

The amount is double of over Rs 1.01 lakh crore detected in 2022-23 in 4,872 cases.

Out of these, voluntary taxes of Rs 26,605 crore was paid in 2023-24, up from Rs 20,713 crore in 2022-23.

As per the annual report of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI),

sion cases related to non-payment of tax (through clandestine supply and undervalua-tion), 20 per cent related to fake Input Tax Credit (ITC), and 19 per cent to wrong availment/non-reversal of ITC.

In 2023-24, online gaming sector saw maximum evasion with Rs 81,875 crore in 78 cases, followed by Banking, Financial and Insurance (BFSI) with Rs 18,961 crore evasion in 171 cases. Works contract services and pharmaceutical had 343 cases and 22 evasion cases with tax evasion involving Rs 2,846 crore and Rs 40 crore,

respectively. In 2023-24, 1,976 cases of





Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion were detected in iron, copper, scrap and alloys sectors involving Rs 16,806 crore of tax evaded.

Pan masala, tobacco, cigarette and bidi came second with 212 cases involving an evasion of Rs 5,794 crore. Plywood, timber and paper In 2023-24, online gaming sector saw maximum evasion with Rs 81,875 crore in 78 cases, followed by Banking, Financial and Insurance (BFSI) with Rs 18,961 crore evasion in 171 cases

had 238 cases involving tax evasion of Rs 1,196 crore. Electronic items saw 23 cases (Rs 1,165 crore), followed by marble, granite and tiles 235

During 2023-24 fiscal, the otal GST evasion detected by DGGI officers and Central GST zone was over Rs 2.37 akh crore in 20,576 cases. This includes Rs 2.01 lakh crore detected by DGGI in 6,084 cases and Rs 35,377

The detection of GST evasion by DGGI has been steadirising since the roll-out of GST in 2017.

ases.

crore by CGST zones in 14,492

In 2017-18, Rs 7,879 crore was detected, followed by Rs 19,319 crore in 2018-19, Rs 21,739 crore in 2019-20, Rs 31,908 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 50,325 crore in 2021-22.

# the pioneer

"Despite hanging up my racing wheels over a decade ago, I still get a buzz when Paralympic year"





# PARA ATHLETES BASK IN GLORY AND GOLD

The accomplishments of para athletes at Paris Paralympics are not just sporting success but a story of grit and determination, a story of indomitable spirit that soars high despite hardships and challenges, writes RISHABH MALIK

he Paris 2024 Paralympics will go down as one of the most celebrated sporting moments in India's history. The Indian contingent's extraordinary performances were not just a display of athletic prowess but also a powerful reminder of human resilience, willpower, and the ability to triumph against all odds. From setting new records to inspiring millions, the Indian athletes left a remarkable imprint on the global stage. India's Paralympians wasted no time in making their presence felt at Paris 2024. In 12 days of competition India registered 29 medals includes 7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze. India's medal count marked significant landmark and breakthroughs in Indian history of Paralympics.

India's first medal in the Paralympics came in the 1972 Games, with Murlikant Petkar winning a gold medal in swimming. Up to the recent 2024 Games, India have won 60 medals across all Paralympic Games, with the most successful Paralympic campaign being the Paris 2024 Games with 29 Shooting has traditionally been one of

strong suits in both the Ob and Paralympic arenas. In Paris, India's para-shooters continued their stellar run from previous Games. Avani Lekhara, a name that had already become synonymous with Indian Paralympic shooting, won gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 category. Avani's calm demeanor and laser-focused concentration were on full display as she once again climbed to the top of the podium. This win made her a two-time Paralympic champion and reinforced her place among the world's elite shooters.

India's shooting success didn't end there. Manish Narwal, competing in the men's 10m air SH1 pistol event, clinched silver, narrowly missing out on gold. His performance was another testament to India's dominance in precision sports, along with Rubina Francis in the same women's 10m air pistol category clinched bronze in

shooting. India witnessed some historic milestone in the paralympics event, For the first time India won 17 medals in athletics, with Dharambir winning gold and Pranav Soorma taking silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also established a new Asian record of 34.92 metres. Later, Praveen Kumar set an Asian record by winning the high jump T64 championship, giving India its sixth gold medal at the Paralympics. Mariyappan Thangavelu became the first Indian to win medals at three successive Paralympic Games when he won a bronze in the T42 high jump event. He took home silver in Tokyo 2020 and gold in Rio 2016. With a personal best time. Preethi Pal won bronze in

the women's 100-meter

T35 competition. It was

the first-ever medal for

India in a Paralympic track event. Being the

only athlete from India to win two medals at

the Games, her bronze

in the 200m made her

the most successful

competitor. India finished the

Paris 2024 track season with four medals overall. Among them was Deepthi Jeevanji, who won a bronze in the women's 400m T20 class to become the first intellectually disabled Indian athlete to earn a Paralympic medal. In archery, records were also broken. In the ranking round, armless archer Sheetal Devi in short time broke the world record before coming in second. However, she later joined up with Rakesh Kumar to win the compound mixed team qualifying event with a world record score. Together with Rakesh, Sheetal, at just 17 years old, won bronze in the mixed team event to become the youngest medallist from India ever. Eventually, Harvinder Singh became the first-ever Paralympic archery champion for

India. Another athlete who made headlines was Sumit Antil, the javelin thrower who had previously set a world record in Tokyo 2020. In Paris, Sumit not only defended his title but also shattered his own record, throwing an unbelievable 70 meters in the F64 category. His performance earned him his second consecutive Paralympic gold, establishing him as a global force in the sport. Delhi boy Navdeep Singh genetically short in height



DELHI BOY NAVDEEP SINGH **GENETICALLY SHORT IN** HEIGHT 4FT TALL (DWARFISM) NAVDEEP WHO HAILS FROM HARYANA EMPLOYED AS INSPECTOR IN THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT. THE 23 YEAR OLD WON A HISTORIC GOLD IN DAY BEFORE THE CLOSING **CEREMONY OF PARIS** PARALYMPICS. FROM BEING BULLIED TO NATIONAL CHAMPION AT F41 JAVELIN THROW EVENT WHICH WAS A ASTONISHING TURN OF EVENT BEFORE THE PODIUM AFTER HE WAS **CONFIRMED TO SILVER** MEDAL HIS IRANIAN **COMPETITOR GOT** DISQUALIFIED BEFORE HIS THROW WHICH **AUTOMATICALLY UPGRADED HIM TO** GOLD MEDAL.

(Dwarfism) Navdeep who hails from Haryana employed as Inspector in the Income Tax Department. The 23 year old won a historic gold in day before the closing ceremony of Paris Paralympics. From being bullied to national champion at F41 Javelin throw event which was a astonishing turn of event before the podium after he was awarded to silver medal his Iranian competitor got disqualified before his throw which automatically upgraded him to gold medal. There are ups and downs there are also descents, Suyash Jadhay, (Asian para butterfly (S7) fell short in the competition finished fifth in Heat 1

games gold medallist) in the men's 50m with time 33.47 although he didn't qualify for final but his fight against the strong contenders from the U.S. and Ukraine gave a solid remark of ginger to younger athletes. IAS officier Suhas Yathiraj came in paris to achieve the previous best in Tokyo Paralympics 2020 but restricted to silver medal in SL4 badminton.

After returning from Paris on Tuesday with India's best ever medal tally ever(29) andr ranked



by huge numbers of supporters greeted with showering of flowers on them. The Indian contingent met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Thursday in New Delhi, where PM Modi interected with all para-athletes of Indian contingent and congratulating the medal winners of Paris Paralympics 2024 Athletes shared their journeys and challenges to overcome the stereotypes of the society. Paralympic Gold Medallist Avani Lekhara gifted her signed jersey to PM Modi. Rewards were announced by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of 75 lakh to gold-medallists, 50 lakh to silver winners and 30 lakh to bronzmedallists in the games and pledges full

2028 campaign. While the Paris 2024 Paralympics was a roaring success for India, it also showed the challenges that continue to plague the country's para-sporting ecosystem. Access to training, medical support, and sponsorships remains uneven, with athletes in rural areas particularly

2024 Paralympics should not be seen as Paralympians have shown that they are not defined by their disabilities but by their abilities. Their victories are symbolic of a changing India,

accomplished in four years: Mission Top Five Rank at Los Angeles and Mission Inclusive Revolution to make India disabled-friendly. For the first mission, India must broaden its participation base across the 550 events—both in terms of events participated in and the number of sportspersons per event. No country has a larger pool of disabled individuals than India, with "55 to 90 million," according to a recent World Bank estimate. This demographic presents a potential goldmine of "Khojo-Paralympians" and a driving force for "Khelo Paralympics". The lowesthanging fruit? Track and field events, where the investment per sportsperson is low and the potential return high.

but surely starting to embrace diversity

these players will continue to resonate,

achievement at the Paralympics is more

than simply a moment of glory; it is the

start of a future in which the country's

differently-abled athletes will continue

to smash barriers, demonstrating that

Famous Columnist Akhileswar Sahay

stated in his article Khel Vaani India's

**NEXT STOP: MISSION TOP FIVE AND MIS-**

It's time to jumpstart two missions to be

**SION INCLUSIVE REVOLUTION** 

Paralympic Rise: A Beacon for a More

with spirit and drive, nothing is

pushing the Government to provide

greater support, recognition, and

growth for para-sports. India's

As India commemorates this new chapter in athletic prowess, the effect of

in all its forms.

impossible.

Inclusive Future

All Bharat needs to join the elite Top 5 club is 100 medals at the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics. It's eminently doable, and the time starts now. Considering that in the last three years (2021–2024), between Tokyo and Paris, Indian Paralympians have amassed 48 medals, 100 medals in 2028 is not a far-fetched dream.



support from Government for the LA

disadvantaged. A Movement, not just Medals Paris an isolated success but as part of a larger movement towards inclusion, empowerment, and equality. India's one that is

# unday pioneer

# VENKATAGIRI LOOMS RRAWA

SHIKHA DUGGAL shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

enkatagiri, a small town in Tirupati district that has a history stretching back to the 1700s, was formerly well-known for producing fine-count cot-ton sarees, sometimes referred to as

"woven air." These sarees have borders made entirely of gold khaddi and cotton counts as high as the 200s. In order to revitalise the Venkatagiri cluster, WeaverStory has collaborated with Tata Trusts' Antaran

for a number of months. In the first stage of this project, team Antaran collaborated with past Venkatagiri saree purchasers and conducted archive and museum research in order to document the revival designs in Andhra Pradesh. The cluster's lost design language is being revived along with the recreation of these sarees with the help of what's known to be as The Venkatagiri Revival Project.

Nishant Malhotra, CEO of WeaverStory, points out in an exclusive interview that "Tata Trust had long-term plans for the Venkatagiri project. In order to gather information, they essentially began to establish archives, go over some old designs that were found in a few books, or make contact with persons who had possessed a portion of Venkatagiri throughout their lifetime. Therefore, it was intrigu-

ing that Venkatagiri itself was being taken over, as documentation is a crucial component that is lacking in the majority of clusters. As a result, the tradition that you are familiar with erodes with each weaver or craftsman that continues to do so. Thus, the craft involves a number of people. Thus, it's not only a weaver; you also know how the pattern was intended to be made, how the loom was set up and what the dyeing and other processes entail. Every situation presents a difficulty. Each of them therefore needs a specific set of skills and what made them intriguing was that they were prepared to put in the time and energy to have that documented. We have therefore endeavoured to bring back to life a few more weaving traditions in Banaras and other states as well. It was noteworthy that the Tata Sons had started these weaving traditions in the southern region of India and that they had been chronicled."

The cluster was eventually exposed to the Jamdani weaving technique, which the weavers took up and adapted to become their own. They created a distinctive language of buttas with flora and fauna that covered cotton fab-

rics in the Jamdani style, taking inspiration from commonplace objects. "Ann buttas" became the nickname for these unusual buttas. In order for the design he selected to succeed, it required a steady market. Therefore, even when it is produced and documented by CSR fund-ing, if there is no means of support, it will remain a one-time event and eventually perish. That is what he kind of did, saying that since that is his area of expertise and he has connections in 20 various countries, Nikhil used to reunite with hands in order to bring that presentation and documentation to life and to an increasing number of individuals, which is how he has been involved in this entire adventure. "While Venkatagiri, originally known as

Kalimiri, is known for its weaving and the cluster has a rich history of its own, many of the forms and weaves that I previously mentioned have been lost to time or burned because they were unsure if it was grafts that they had inherited. Some of them, due to their age, had pure zari. Having said that, the tradition for its revival that we carried out was that Venkatagiri was typically worn by very powerful individuals due to its high cost and the usage of gold zaris. As a result, there was a clear distinction that anyone wearing Venkatagiri belonged to the officer class or hierarchy throughout the ecosystem. That's why I believe Tata Trust also took the initiative to contact the owners of those, working with the Craft Council to gather samples and

gain an understanding of their culture." However, a lot of it cannot be immediately replicated in the current structure for the craftsman's speed because it requires a lot of work and skill to weave a 300 count cotton sari; as a result, they have progressed him from a 70 to 100 count right now. They therefore have some modern adaptations, but as Nikhil pointed out, they are still in the process of getting there because the handlooms that are currently in use were made using a structure that requires some time to develop because few people are able to create the same handloom using the same structure. They discovered that the Tata Trust was able to find a single individual who, you know, made them a loom. After that individual became skilled enough to utilise the loom to manufacture an increasing amount, they increased the quantity. Therefore, the process of bringing it back will require several levels of inter-vention, and it will take time. That is not the con-

The Venkatagiri weavers lost contact with their The Venkatagiri weavers lost contact with their traditional design language due to the introduction of the powerloom, the drop in cotton's value, and a change in market preference toward Banarasi, Kanchipuram and Paithani patterns. In order to fit within the budget of a typical cotton saree, they were obliged to switch to weaving silks, completely giving up real zari and lowering the quality of their cotton to thicker counts, which ultimate ity of their cotton to thicker counts, which ultimately led to their demise. When they decided the designs they wanted to work on and learned the backstories of each design, they came together. The decision to intervene and create something in silk was made jointly since silk is more widely accepted. Moreover, we hear, "Some of the interventions we made included designing the designs in silk rather than cotton to give them a more modern feel and we thought carefully about the colour palettes we selected, taking into account what is more likely to be worn by people in general and by Kanchivaram wearers in particular. The other aspect is that, as I already mentioned, the majori-

ty of empty caskets used to contain solely pure zari, or actual, genuine gold and silver."

The weavers who have stopped weaving, or those who have always believed that Venkatagiri is no longer alive, are restricted to weaving the standard sarees that they are currently making, which resemble toggles and everything else they weave. They have returned to their own origins and all those things have changed. An increasing number of weavers are being taught how to set up the loom used to make Venkatagiri sarees now. In practice, the social and especially the economic impact will be widely apparent if it becomes a large-scale project, on which they are currently working.

**JEANNU I** 

**CEUTICALS** 

**INTENSE FIRMING** 

**AMPOULE** 

Experience transformative radiance with





Keep calm with siblings. Your drive ensures success. Emotions may affect health, so stay mindful. Stay focused and communicate effectively to avoid setbacks.

Your charm attracts others and your loyalty brings support. Stay calm in emotional situations and manage insecurity. Be cautious with money in the coming trips.

Your generosity attracts others, but avoid pessimism. Focus on introspection for joy. Balance moneymaking with creativity. Students should prioritize their studies.

Improve communication with siblings to avoid conflicts. Prioritize health, work, and family time. Stay focused, avoid rash decisions, and use your energy wisely.

**MICHAEL KORS'S** 

In a groundbreaking move that

COLLECTION

redefines the luxury watch

landscape in India,

watch ambassador

Anushka Sharma

Bollywood's leading

actor and Michael Kors

Relax as your hard work pays off. Stay calm, avoid emotional blowups, and focus on self-care. Women enjoy appreciation, and it's time to express

You're energetic and successful. Beware of impulsive spending and relationship issues. Stay hopeful, take a break and focus on meaningful connections.

Your energy attracts others, but avoid laziness. Offer support and stay selfreliant. Your efforts may be misunderstood; recognition will come eventually.

#### **SCORPIO**

Your support benefits others and yourself. Avoid rash actions and egodriven behaviour. Stay positive and define goals. Balance freedom with responsibilities.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Your tenacity drives success, but expect challenges and delays. Co-workers will support your goals. Focus on health and financial planning for better outcomes.

#### **CAPRICORN**

Your restlessness hinders harmony. Siblings support your dreams and family time is key. Resolve spousal misunderstandings and embrace new opportunities.

Be cautious of newfound attractions: they may cloud judgment. Focus on self-improvement and address relationship boredom. Watch out for health issues.

#### **PISCES**

Be cautious with new attractions and verify before committing. If life feels chaotic, reflect calmly. Offer support to dear ones and address relationship doubts.



#### **MYARAA BY NAMRATA LODHA** Designer Payal Singhal partners

with Myaraa to unveil the exquisite 'Blossom' hats collection, merging Myaraa's innovative headwear design with her aesthetic of timeless Indian artistry. This partnership brings the best of Myaraa's contemporary hat design with Singhal's signature blend of heritage and modernity, resulting in a collection that's both stylish and sustainable. The 'Blossom' collection is more than just headwear—it is a statement that celebrates nature's beauty, Indian craftsmanship and contemporary design.



#### **BIO-ESSENCE AGE' LUXE PRO-INTENSIVE EYE+ THERAPY**

Experience Bio-essence Age'Luxe Pro-Intensive Eye+ Therapy, a rejuvenating 3-minute boost for tired eyes. The Duo LED Applicator, featuring red and blue lights, reduces eye bags in just 8 days. Red light enhances circulation, diminishing wrinkles, while blue light promotes antibacterial benefits for smoother eye contours.





#### YARDLEY LONDON'S FLORAL GIFT COLLECTION

The Yardley London Floral Gift Collection is a delightful assortment of fragrant products designed to immerse you in the beauty of blooming flowers. Each item has been meticulously crafted to provide an indulgent experience.

MRP: INR 799



#### **CHAT-O-CINO**

# H MUKTI MOHAN: II SEQUEL TO GYAARAH **UNDERWAY!**

nday pioneer

SHIKHA DUGGAL

shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

ctress Mukti Mohan has been trying out some extreme appearances. Well, into the world of the web, she's already creating a mark, especially with her latest performance in Źee5 original series Gyaarah Gyaarah.

"I really wanted to give my per-formance in *Gyaarah Gyaarah* more nuance," reveals Mukti, in an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, as she candidly speaks to us about the series, which also stars Dhairya Karwa and Raghav Juyal. "Readers, let me tell you that I am from Delhi and that I completely comprehend the feelings and experiences that ladies have when they cannot walk freely through the streets. That over there is scary, dude! Why women are not safe in our country is something I detest. Why, in your opinion, are so many Me Too and Hema Committee reports making a comeback? For the character, I was living in a similar parallel universe and worrying about what would happen to me in a bad situation." Yes, that's how far an actor is sometimes expected to go to really

inhabit the part.

However, she is a very upbeat woman in real life! She needed to actually feel unsafe in order to proceed with the depiction. For the actress, Dhairya Karwah's entire plot of the series added to its intensity. Through the combination of dancing and death, the director allowed her to pass away in the series like a phoenix! He is the one

who brought popularity to this series, feels the choreographer-turned-actress. "If the truth is to be known, I had no projects under my belt at the start of last year. My plate was empty! The very first project that I shot and signed

was Gyaarah Gyaarah. Who

Mohan, who has currently been making some remarkable appearances, speaks to *The* **Pioneer** about getting on board for her latest Gyaarah Gyaarah series and more around it

**Actress Mukti** 

would refuse Karan Johar or Guneet Monga? Go check out their filmography, please. I just signed Gyaarah Gyaarah without knowing how many scenes there would be or what role I would play. I basically jumped right in, giving my story an emotional twist and the idea of time travel," shared *Life the* Hill Gayi fame.

She continues, "Filmmakers are now noticing me at my plays, but before that, I used to wonder why I wasn't making it through the audition process. It caused me to doubt my abilities! I began to realise that it was time for me to take grooming classes. But in terms of successful meetings and auditions, last year proved to be a good run for me. In the past month, three of my series were released back-to-back, thanks to a series of miracles."

She had chills when shooting Gyaarah Gyaarah in the rugged environment! While at Mussorie, she saw everything from the flurry of activity to an abrupt quiet. She admired the numerous waterfalls there once more. She felt the water shoot shiver down her spine. The excitement of being abducted was greatly increased by that atmosphere. She chuckled, saying that the location would never be the same for her because a little Mukti who used to visit and adore Kempty Falls is now afraid of it.

The actress concludes by saying, "Gyaarah Gyaarah took years to be formed. I can personally attest that, despite being a Korean remake, it is far superior to the original! My director substituted a character for me in the original and it worked out

well for us. A sequel is on the way for all of you! However, 'I'm done with this per-

sona.









# Three-day conclave showcases art, innovation & sustainability

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

ttending the Transforming India Conclave at SSVM Institutions in Coimbatore was nothing short of extraordinary. The three-day event was a dazzling display of creativity, culture and intellectual discourse, wrapped in the overarching theme of "Resilient Today, Sustainable Tomorrow." As I walked through the gates, the air was charged with anticipation and it was clear that something truly special was about

The event kicked off with a grand inauguration by none other than Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, India's first astronaut. Listening to him share his incredible journey into space felt surreal, as if he was transporting us beyond the earth's atmosphere with each word.

The day also featured an insightful session by Palki Sharma, the renowned journalist, who spoke about the power of storytelling in shaping our world. Her experiences in the field were eye-opening, reminding us of the impact media can have.

Dr. Manimekalai Mohan, the founder and managing trustee of SSVM Group of Institutions, also took the stage to passionately advocate for environmental responsibility. Her words resonated deeply, emphasising the urgency of sustainable actions for

our planet's future.

Each speaker brought a unique perspective, making the first day a remarkable blend of history, innovation and a call to action for a sustainable tomorrow.

From there, the event only soared higher. The first performance I witnessed was by "The Miracle on Wheels" company. Watching these extraordinary individuals perform intricate dance routines on wheelchairs was nothing short of breathtaking. Their fluid movements, combined with sheer determination, embodied the essence of resilience. I found myself deeply moved, realising that they were not just dancing—they were redefining the boundaries of possibility.

The event then took a beautifully traditional turn with a fusion dance performance that blended the race of Bharatnatyam with contemporary dance The dancers moved with such precision and emotion that I could almost feel the energy pulsating through the air. It was a visual and cultural feast, perfectly balancing tradition with modernity.

One of the most visually stunning moments was the multi-sensory, multimedia act. It was more than just a performance; it was an immersive experience that engaged all my senses. The integration of light, sound, and movement was seamless, creating a spectacle that was both mesmerising and mindbending. It felt like being transported into another dimension—a true feast for the eyes and soul.

The artistic flair of the event was further enriched by the "Art for Change" installations by Sylvi. Each piece was a conversation starter, using art to provoke thought and inspire change. As I wandered through the installations, I found myself engag-

ing with the narratives they presented—each one challenging me to reflect on the world in new ways.

Workshops at the event were just as inspiring. Rajiv Kriplani's session on nextlevel content creation was a masterclass in creativity and innovation. His insights into the evolving digital landscape were not only informative but also deeply motivating, sparking new ideas on how to approach content creation in this ever-changing world.

"Power Up with Nature" by Arun Rebero was another standout workshop, offering a refreshing take on the connection between nature and human wellbeing. Through hands-on activities and insightful discussions, I was reminded of the importance of reconnecting with the natural world—a message that feels more urgent than ever in our technology-driven lives.











The evening reached a soothing crescendo with Voctronica's performance. Their harmonies were enchanting, blending seamlessly to create an auditory experience that was both calming and exhilarating. It was a moment of pure musical bliss, leaving me in a state of serene contentment.

For those passionate about photography, Amar Ramesh's workshop was an absolute gem. His ability to blend technical knowledge with artistic vision was inspiring, making it clear that photography is not just about capturing a moment but about telling a story. I left the workshop eager to apply his teachings to my own work.

As the event continued, Rakesh Sharma's words resonated through the halls: "There's an American expression called 'gobsmacked,' and ever since I've arrived here, that's exactly how I feel." His sentiment was shared by everyone present, as we marveled at the grandeur and inspiration that the conclave had to offer.

The second day brought even more wonder. It

began with an engaging sand art performance by Nitish Bharathi, once again captivating the audience with his storytelling in sand. His ability to convey complex narratives through such a simple medium was nothing short of magical. It was as if he were painting with grains of time, meticulously crafting the entire journey of SSVM in sand. His artistry was mesmerising, with each flick of sand revealing intricate images that told the story of the institution's history and achievements. The silence in the room was palpable, broken only by the collective gasp as his masterpiece unfolded.

Timothy Pinnow's session on the differences and similarities between studying in India and abroad was another enlightening experience. His talk urged us to broaden our horizons, to think beyond borders and to embrace the global opportunities that education can offer.

The day also included a unique photography workshop that blended science and art in a way that was both enlightening and engaging. It was a reminder of the intricate balance between technical skill and creative vision—an enriching experience for photographers of all levels. Environmental conservation took center stage with Arun Krishnamurthy's session. His journey from Google to cleaning India's lakes was both inspiring and eye-His wit and wisdom made the session not just educational but also deeply personal, as he shared his passion for protecting our ecosystems.

Another workshop, "No Oil, No Boil" by Siva Kumar-Padyal, was a culinary revelation. He demonstrated how delicious and nutritious meals can be prepared without oil or boiling, offering a fresh perspective on healthy cooking. It was an eye-opener for health-conscious participants, including myself.

The second day of the Transforming India Conclave at SSVM Institutions was just as compelling, bringing together luminaries from diverse fields. The day kicked off with Srikanth Bolla, the renowned industrialist from our very own Machilipatnam, who delivered an inspiring lecture. His journey, from overcoming personal challenges to leading a successful enterprise, was a proof to resilience and determination. Listening to him, I couldn't help but feel a surge of motivation as he shared valuable insights on leadership and innovation. But the true crescendo of the event came with Suhani Seth's performance. The mentalist, magician, and YouTube sensation delivered a spellbinding act that blended mind games with magic, leaving us all both entertained and astounded. Her charisma and skill were unmatched, making her performance the perfect end to an extraordinary event.

Adding a literary flair to the day, Dr. Shashi Tharoor virtually launched his latest book, A Wonderland of Words: Around the Word in 101 Essays. His conversation with Ms. Shoma Chaudhury was profound, emphasising the power of ideas and the role of thought leadership in building a resilient nation. His words left us with much to ponder, reminding us that resilience is as much about intellectual and moral strength as it is about

material prosperity.

As the curtains fell on the Transforming India Conclave, I was filled with a renewed sense of purpose. SSVM Institutions had created not just an event but a platform where ideas flourished, dreams were nurtured and the seeds of a sustainable future were sown. The experience was nothing short of transformative—a celebration of the resilience and creativity that will undoubtedly

shape our tomorrow.



The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case.



In one video, a long line of devotees was filmed being shoved and manhandled by workers at the Lalbaugcha Raja Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Mandal, while a VIP family leisurely took pictures in front of the iconic idol.



BUCKINGHAM

THE

Buckingham *Murders*, an English-Hindi thriller centred on motherhood, mourning and murder, there is nary a flaw in Kareena Kapoor's performance. She nails the role with admirable felicity.



Manasillayo release has been met with enthusiastic praise, particularly highlighting Manju Warrier's dynamic presence.





On the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks, NASA released a letter from the only American astronaut in space at the time who was reflecting on witnessing the tragedy from ISS.

orn on April 26, 1950, Shankar Lakshminarayana, known in the music world as L. Shankar or Shenkar, is a transformative figure

whose innovative artistry has redefined the boundaries of world music. A past master at blending Indian classical traditions with Western genres like jazz, rock and electronic music, he has emerged as a standout maestro in East-West musical synthesis.

inspired a generation of musicians to explore the cross-pollination of musical styles. His 1990 album Pancha Nadai Pallavi broke new ground as the first traditional Indian record to penetrate the Billboard top ten world music chart -- a remarkable achievement that showcased his ability to resonate with a global audience. This success was followed by the

> Grammy-nominated *Raga Abheri*, further solidifying his reputation for blending traditional Indian ragas with contemporary sounds. His collaborative efforts with renowned artistes have significantly shaped both film

> > and music. His work with Peter Gabriel on the Grammy-winning *Passion* soundtrack

for Martin Scorsese's The Last Temptation of

Christ and his contributions to Mel Gibson's The

Passion of the Christ, which won a Dove Award

impactful presence in cinematic music. In

were featured in the movie, further

television as well, with notable contributions to

the original score for NBC's hit series Heroes, collaborating with Wendy & Lisa to craft memorable and evocative music for the small

screen. His extensive and varied body of work not only underscores his exceptional skills as a violinist and composer but also his role as a trailblazer who has continually pushed the boundaries of music, creating a unique and enduring legacy in

In an exclusive conversation with Shikha Duggal of

**The Pioneer**, L. Shankar shares his insights along the high

points of his creative journey, the evolution of his fusion style and his thoughts on the future of world music.

the global music landscape.

for Instrumental Album of the Year, mirror his

2002, he contributed to the film Queen of the

*Damned*, recording eight tracks, five of which

highlighting his versatility. His talent extends to

His groundbreaking creation of the stereophonic double violin (LSD - L Shankar Double Violin) mirrors his technical brilliance, expanding the possibilities of orchestral strings and allowing for a richer, more dynamic sound. His influence began showing in the 1970s with his pioneering work linked to the band *Shakti*, which set a new gold standard in world music by merging intricate Indian rhythms with global musical elements. This fusion not only captivated audiences but also

Scaling heights of world music



**HOME WAS INVADED & BURNED** 

Our home was invaded and set on fire in 1958 during the racial riots. We left everything behind as we escaped Sri Lanka and made our way back to Madras. We had to flee since everything was so awful and we made our way to a military facility by walking through a forest. One of the daughters of military officers was being taught by my father. During the severe riots, we spent a month there before departing for India and arriving in Madras. That was in 1958.



**GREW UP IN LOVING AND TRANQUIL HOME** 

As a child, I was quite composed. My mother would show me the moon while holding me by the waist. She used to show birds to me. She used to feed me rice after feeding the birds, one grain at a time. With an



indulgent mother, I grew up in a really loving and tranquil home. Except for music, I never did well in school; I never enjoyed learning and I had no desire to attend college or university. I used to be Lovola College's number fifty-eighth out of sixty. However, I consistently represented our college and won accolades in every music competition. Thus, I managed to get away with it. They made me study physics because my father wanted me to have a second career. However, I never really liked it and thought it was a waste of time

because I wanted to dedicate more time to music. The issue, in my opinion, is that parents in India and other cultures occasionally want their children to pursue their own goals. Really, you just have to let them be. Painting, art, poetry and music are all things we should support in children. For me, in order to be free to pursue my musical goals, I had to leave India. My father -- whom I do not hold responsible -- wanted to make sure that I had a backup caree even though I was playing a lot in India.



My mother is from Ernakulam, my father is from Alleppey and I am from Kerala. All of my grandparents originated in Kerala. Thus, I was there for a long time. However, I also spent a few years growing up in Sri Lanka from the age of three, while my father was a professor at Jaffna College of Music. Later, I relocated to Madras (now Chennai). My father was a violinist and vocalist, while my mother was a singer and veena musician. His brothers, who are all musicians, were all trained by him. In addition, he instructed thousands of students from other locations.

**CHEATED WITHIN** 

#### **LOWEST POINT OF HIS LIFE**

The world stopped during the Covid pandemic, everything halted and my musical tour was cancelled, which was the lowest point. and progressive rock musicians to finish my album Chepleeri Dream, my record company informed me that I could not go on tour at this time Nevertheless, I put the CD out. Although a lot of shows were postponed, it was the lowest point but studio work continued and the music

# Thus, music was played throughout day and night. It resen



STUDIED ETHNOMUSICOLOGY



#### **HOLIDAYS BEST** TIMES OF HIS LIFE

The best times to be with a large family are always during the holidays, New Year's Day, Deepavali and other occasions to celebrate. My mother prepared the festive delicacies every time and it was wonderful to spend time as a family. Those were the enjoyable times, but I always understood that my parents were the center of the family as long as they were living. Individuals are similar to distinct fingers on a single hand. Thus, it is possible to have members of the same family who are polar opposites. It becomes difficult to keep your parents together when they move away. That's the way life is!



#### **DAD TAUGHT HIM A LOT ABOUT THE BRITISH IN INDIA**

I learned a lot about the British in India from my father. They, in my opinion, exploited India to a great extent and robbed the nation of its wealth and glory. I am aware that they built the railroads and everything else, but they also deserted India, which led to widespread uncertainty among the populace. There were always a lot of Muslims, Hindus amid the unrest. It has always led me to believe that, in one way or another, people are the same everywhere you go. Everybody is the same. Hindus, Muslim and Christians coexisted peacefully in India for ages, but the British attempted to use this situation and devastate the nation. Things were hardly tranquil during the war vears while my father lived.



#### **DOESN'T CARE ABOUT AWARDS!**

With a busy touring schedule, I spend a lot of time travelling for rehearsals and recording sessions. But I stayed with the same guy within. Because I had no intention of being famous or wealthy when I first started! I don't care about awards and I don't hold onto them. Everything in my storage, including platinum records, accolades and the like, is stored far away. I am just a regular man. There will always be someone better than you, therefore in order to advance, you must put in a lot of practice, dedicate time to your music and work hard. Being at the beach, surrounded by birds and eagles, content, creative and quiet while working on your music is how my blissful weekend looks like. Usually, I work on that at my studio, which is just in front of the water. There, I occasionally have musicians perform with me and it is such a lovely place. Typically, on a tour, you don't have plenty of time, as you will be

#### **INVENTING CUSTOM** STEREOPHONIC DOUBLE VIOLIN

l over-dubbed my vocals, violin, viola, cello and bass

when I was in a London studio recording my first solo album for Zappa Records, which was produced by Frank Zappa. I used to own several violins for my various musical endeavours, including classical music for Shakti and other rock bands. Having to carry so much equipment was challenging. In order to play on the same instrument for every genre, I intended to design a single instrument. For this reason, I created the LSD, or L. Shankar's Double Violin! I spent two years perfecting the prototype's angle and separation between the two necks. It can produce the full spectrum of an orchestra in addition to the sounds of many other instruments, like the flute, quitar and synthesiser, I have the ability to play on one neck while the other produces a sympathetic sound. For many years, it has been such a wonderful instrument. I currently own the fourth edition of it. The instrument was first heard on Shankar's album Who's to Know and Phil Collins' critically acclaimed solo album Face Value in 1981. He ensured that both necks were equally robust to prevent a tendency to play on one more often than the other after he and Parker tested a variety of materials and shapes for hours. The upper neck produces treble sounds such as the violin and viola, while the lower neck plays the double bass and cello range. Playing on one neck creates a sympathetic effect on the other, in addition to offering a generous range of five and a half octaves. When playing, the horizontal rib can be placed under the chin or, in the Indian manner, pressed up against the chest. The bowing was different because of the instrument's wider angle and I added new methods such as playing on both necks at once. Because the double violin can simulate the sound of an entire orchestra, it can be used for both pop and jazz genres as well as traditional classical performances. The



double violin has been commissioned by Shankar

four times to date; the most recent version was

At the age of two, I started singing lessons with my father. I was able to hum intricate lines from classical Indian melodies in less than a year. My father, who can sing in five and a half octaves, frequently stresses the value of vocal training in

FIRST CONCERT AT NALLUR KANDASWAMY TEMPLE

addition to mastering an instrument in order to better understand Indian music's embellishments. "It makes you a better performer if you learn vocals and instruments and get an all-around education in music." he underlines often. I was five years old when I got my first violin and when I started playing, I rehearsed vocal melodies that I had learnt. My

first public performance was at the Nallur Kandaswamy temple in Jaffna at a festival when I was seven years old. Until the age of 12 years, I pursued professional mridangam playing in addition to singing and violin playing. My father was adamant that you learn percussion in addition to your melodic instrument. However, as I started to get calluses on my hands, I had to stop at my father's advice!

#### **MEETING JOHN LENNON**

**MUSIC BUSINESS** Although there are always wonderful I'll tell you about John Lennon. I people in the world, the music business met him during George is also full of crooks! Young musicians should frequently seek guidance if they meet every single one of the are unsure, as they are frequently taken advantage of and the record business essentially keeps all the money while the were present. This occurred musicians receive none. They must become knowledgeable about copyright, song registration and consulting with lawyers to ensure that they are not deceived into believing that someone else is the singer. With my music, I have also been cheated and taken advantage of a lot. These things regrettably do occur and at the time I was quite innocent and great significance. focused solely on writing, composition and music. I would like to know the opposite viewpoint. The fact that your music cannot be taken away is a plus. I consider myself to be a full-fledged musician as I have always been at ease

The latest thing you discovered about yourself: I enjoy cooking, I'm not a great cook but it's a peaceful time and Harrison's tour at a party at the A musician that inspires you: Elvis Presley, Palghat Mani Iyer Plaza Hotel. It was amazing to **Proudest moment of your career:** Every time I play a stars and throngs of people that following the Madison Square Garden event! We are all different sections of the same tree, which makes me feel extremely at ease with the media. They are educating the public in the same way that I am and they are also doing a fantastic job of sharing the information with the public in order to help me promote my music. They hold



## FOR HIS PH D

Everyone was trying to be the first to get things going or be competitive, which is why there was so much turmoil at once. For me, there was never any rivalry because everything I needed was already there; all I had to do was to continue honing my craft, pursue my love and practice a lot. I believe that everyone is part of God's plan. I just went after what I wanted. I have always been fascinated by the cooperation between world music's east and west as well as south and north. Because my father exposed me to a wide variety of music, I have always educated myself. In addition, I studied ethnomusicology for my Ph D, learning about the music of other cultures. There is a wealth of music available in every culture and nation; no system is greater than the others. Only two types of musicians exist: excellent and terrible. Among the best systems are others and Indian music. Learning all these many elements would undoubtedly strengthen someone's ability to develop into a unique, innovative and creative musician. My father urged me to take in elements of both

south Indian and north Indian music traditions. I had been exposed to a variety of Western genres since my early teens, including Your pinch-me moment of life: When I had to rock and pop music leave to the US for the first time, leaving my family.

and he was also counseled to familiarise myself with Western classical music. I studied world music and became familiar with several cultural musical systems while

concert, that's the proudest moment for me Favourite city/country to stay in: I have lived in so many countries, but the stage is my favourite attending Wesleyan place to be.

**RAPID** 

**FIRE** 

that makes me happy.

#### **MUSIC MOSAIC WITH MCLAUGHLIN**

I was one among the first innovators in the 1970s to bring south Indian music to a Western audience that was then more familiar with north Indian music. My performances frequently combined Hindustani and Carnatic music and I worked with jazz artistes to close the gap between Eastern and Western musical traditions. Having the sensitivity, control, feeling and knowledge of classical Indian music combined with my comprehension of the Western music system allowed him to express the East/West fusion in music, which eventually led to the formation of the ensemble Shakti with guitarist John McLaughlin. I imparted rhythms, ragas and embellishments to McLaughlin, who in turn learned jazz and harmony. Shakti was overwhelmingly praised by critics.

#### **CHART TOPPERS & LEGENDARY COLLABS**

My talam-bending Pancha Nadai Pallavi CD from 1990 is the first traditional Indian record to hit the top ten world music chart on Billboard for three months. My 1995 album Raga Abheri received a Grammy Award nomination for Best World Music Album. I collaborated with Peter Gabriel on Peter Scorsese's The Last Temptation of Christ (1988) soundtrack, Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ (2004), which took home the Instrumental Album of the Year Dove Award at the 36th GMA Dove Awards and the Grammy-winning album Passion (1989). Alongside Jonathan Davis and Richard Gibbs, I recorded eight songs for the Queen of the Damned soundtrack in 2002; five of those songs were chosen for the feature. In addition, Wendy & Lisa and I worked together on the original soundtrack for the popular TV show Heroes on NBC.