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Focused on harnessing



QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer

Uttam, are you trying to match Revanth in offensive language? Your name might be Uttam Kumar, but your language is anything but 'uttam' (best). It's more like the contaminated waters of the Musi. Uttam's words (terming KCR as dacoit) reveal a clear lack of respect. Wasn't it you, Uttam, who inflated the Pranahita-Chevella Project's outlay from Rs 17,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore without even starting work?

- Harish Rao, BRS MLA, Telangana

30 tribal school kids taken...

Nearly 30 students from the Bonduguda Tribal Welfare Residential School in Dumbriguda mandal were hospitalised on Saturday morning after falling ill following their dinner on Friday night. The students, who experienced symptoms of vomiting and fever, were promptly taken to Araku Valley Area Hospital for treatment. Paderu Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Project Officer, V. Abishek, described the situation as "an isolated incident," stating, "The students had egg.

Commissioner, DE come to blows

In a startling turn of events, a Municipal Council meeting in Pithapuram descended into chaos on Saturday when two high ranking officials physically clashed. The confrontation occurred during a routine council meeting held in the Pithapuram Municipal Hall. Long-standing differences between Municipal Commissioner Kanaka Rao and Divisional Engineer (DE) Bhavani Shankar reached a boiling point. The tension between the two had been simmering for some time, particularly after DE Bhavani



BJP govt in Odisha launches....

The BJP government in Odisha on Saturday launched the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) programme in the state. The state government signed an MoU with the Union Education USHA programme in the presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan and state Higher Education minister Suryabanshi Suraj. The Centre will provide financial assistance of Rs 500 crore for different higher education institutions...



Darsh Dronobotics ties up with...

Darsh Dronobotics Systems on Saturday announced its collaboration with Canada-based Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. for the development of hydrogen-based five-seater air taxi. The partnership also aims at combating climate change and reducing carbon emissions in the mobility and aviation sector, a company statement said. Supporting India's net zero goals and country's ambition to be a pioneer in the air taxi revolution by 2025, Vjaitra Air Mobility, a division of Darsh Dronobotics Systems Pvt Ltd, has announced its strategic partnership with Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc, the statement said. As part of this partnership, Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. will play a pivotal role in supporting Darsh Dronobotics Systems...

8 DIE AS HEAVY RAINS LASH AP

CM urges officials to review weather situation and monitor ponds and reservoirs



Besides Vijayawada, heavy rainfall was recorded in Machilipatnam, Gudivada, and other places across AP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Eight persons died in rain-related incidents in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday including four in Vijayawada due to landslides, officials said.

The landslide deaths occurred at Mogalrajapuram area in Vijayawada when large boulders fell on the houses of the deceased due to heavy rain.

At Pedakakani village in Guntur district, a teacher and two students returning home in a hatchback died after their car was washed away while crossing an overflowing stream.

"The incident happened around cials said.

12:30 pm. Following the suspension of classes due to rain, the teacher picked up two students and him to return to a village about 3 km from the school. The hatchback was washed

Though the stream was not very big, Satish observed that the car still got washed away as it was a light hatchback. Police managed to trace all the three bodies, he said.

away while crossing a stream," Guntur

district SP S Satish said.

Incessant rains lashed several places in Andhra Pradesh including Vijayawada in the last 24 hours, offi-



- Landslide occurs in the Mogalrajapuram area, where large boulders fell on houses due to heavy rain, resulting in four deaths
- CM directs officials to relocate people from areas prone to landslides, as heavy rain is forecast for the next two to three days.
- Vijayawada received 18 cm of rainfall in the and water entering houses in some areas
- Municipal teams have been working to divert water from flooded roads using pumps, and community halls were





CM puts officials on high alert

Naidu announces Rs 5L ex gratia to landslide victims

directed offi-

cials to regu-

larly inspect the condition

of water bodies

in coordination

with

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu convened a high-level meeting to assess the rain situation with senior officials, including the Chief Secretary (CS), Director General of Police (DGP), Ministers, District Collectors, and Superintendents of Police (SPs). The Chief Minister, who has cancelled his visit to Orvakal, is continuously monitoring the situation. He

Irrigation and Revenue Departments. Additionally, the CM ordered the immediate release of Rs 3 crore per district for relief measures.

Officials informed the CM that eight people had lost their lives due to the heavy rains across the state. In response, the Chief Minister announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh to each affected family. As the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall for Sunday, the CM instructed all government departments to remain on high alert, as the cyclone is likely to make landfall late on Saturday

CYCLONE ALERT: Cyclone expected to make landfall between Saturday night and Sunday morning. High alert issued for all government departments.

FINANCIAL AID: Immediate release of Rs 3 crore per district for relief efforts.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Residents urged to stay indoors unless necessary, and authorities to clear waterlogged areas and address open drains.

BUDAMERU RIVER: Issues due to encroachments during floods; the CM has instructed officials to devise solutions.

EDUCATION: Holiday to be declared for educational institutions in heavily affected districts.

ELECTRICITY CONCERNS: Prompt response required for potential electrical

issues caused by storms.

HIDDEN CAMS SCANDAL

CM asks officials to probe issue from all angles

PNS VIJAYAWADA

reviewed the ongoing investigation into the instal-Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Krishna district during a teleconference with the concerned officials. He emphasised that the determination of whether a crime has been committed will only be clear after a complete investigation. The Chief Minister urged the authorities to respect the students' sentiments, understand their comprehensive investiga-

Chief Minister N Collector to the college. found so far. He added that he is taking the matter seriously, given that it involves the safety of lation of hidden cameras at hundreds of female stu-



The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of the investigation since the case was registered, discussing the developments with the officials. Naidu stressed the grievances, and conduct a importance of conducting a thorough investigation from all perspectives, par-CM Naidu informed that ticularly based on the stuupon learning of the inci- dents' statements. However, committed.

dent, he had immediately officials reported that no dispatched the SP and hidden cameras have been

> instructed the officials to deepen the investigation further, directing cyber experts to examine the phones and laptops of the suspects. He reiterated that the government prioritises the safety of female students and the personal privacy of women. To prevent similar incidents, he ordered the implementation of checks using de-bugging devices in all relevant areas under the supervision of cybersecuri-

> ty experts. The Chief Minister reiterated that the investigation must be thorough to ascertain if any crime has been

Sand supply halted due to rains: Meena

PNS VIJAYAWADA



Excise, and Commercial Taxes, Mukesh Kumar Meena, has announced heavy rains have caused disruptions in sand supply

across several regions of the State. Meena reported that operations at various sand reaches have been halted and that normal supply will resume once the weather condi-

As of Sunday, the state has 15,19,239 metric tonnes of sand available across 39 stockyards. On Saturday, 1,412 applications were submitted statewide for 18,031 metric tonnes of sand. From these applications, 15,636 metric tonnes have been distributed to 1,115 applicants. Customers are advised to remain patient and cooperate as the situation normalises.

Be vigilant, Minister tells power officials

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has urged the power authorities to exercise heightened vigilance in light of the continuous

the focus should be on preventing accidents. The Minister advised farmers to remain alert and urged the public to stay indoors unless power supply should remain to power lines be promptly

uninterrupted and that reported to local authorities without attempting to touch or move them.

Minister Ravi Kumar stressed that officials must promptly address public complaints and take proactive measures to resolve issues, necessary. He also rec- warning that negligence will result i strict act

Continued on Page 2

0 0 0 0 SRMUAP

SRMUniversityAP

First flood warning issued at Prakasam Barrage

■ All 70 gates lifted ■ 3.97L cusecs of water released into sea



PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Water Resources Department issued the first flood warning at the Prakasam Barrage as the flood discharge exceeded 3.97 lakh cusecs on Saturday at 10 pm. The barrage has been releasing water steadily since the morning, with the discharge increasing hourly. Officials from the Irrigation Circle, Vijayawada, released 3.97 lakh cusecs of floodwater into the sea by lifting all 70 gates.

According to Executive Engineer Krishna Rao of the Krishna Central Division (KC Division), the first flood warning at the Prakasam Barrage was issued following instructions from the Central Water Commission (CWC). He noted that the flood discharge from upstream of the Prakasam Barrage is flood discharge.

expected to increase further. Rao stated that around 3.97 lakh

cusecs of floodwater reached the barrage and was subsequently released into the sea. To manage this, all 70 crest gates were lifted to their maximum height of 10 feet, discharging the surplus downstream. The barrage is being maintained at a water level of 12 feet.

Earlier, at 8 am, the flood discharge from the barrage was recorded at 3.62 lakh cusecs. The discharge has since been increasing hourly and is expected to continue rising, Rao added.

He advised the NTR and Krishna district administrations, as well as the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, to remain vigilant in light of the ongoing

Depression to cross shore between Vizag & Gopalpuram Heavy rains to continue ing to the Meteorological Centre.



PNS GUNTUR

The depression over the west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal, off the coast of North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha, has moved northwestwards at a speed of 10 kmph over the past three hours. At 08:30 hours on Saturday, it was centred approximately 80 km south-southeast of Kalingapatnam (AP), 120 km east of Visakhapatnam (AP), and 180 km southsouthwest of Gopalpur (Odisha), accord- hours.

A weather report issued on Saturday indicates that the depression is expected to continue moving west-northwest and cross the coasts of north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur, near Kalingapatnam, around midnight tonight. The southwest monsoon has been vigorous in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.

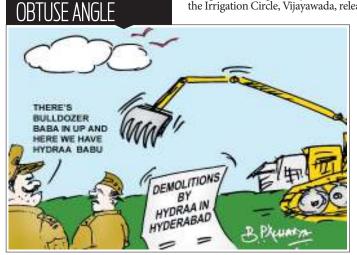
Under its influence, scattered heavy to very heavy rain, with extremely heavy rain at isolated locations, is anticipated in Coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next 24



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Bro has tough time ahead

Deople who had put their lifetime's Kalvakuntla ones find myriad ways of savings into homes they bought in illegal structures currently on the block in buffer zones of lakes are now pulling their hair out over HYDRAA ops. That may be obviously because it could be their only home. What about those who buy and sell homes as an investment option? Even they are under deep waters, though the impact varies. In the corridors of power, the chatter over the Amar Society's alleged encroachment on Durgam Cheruvu Lake has taken an unexpected turn. Among those in the limelight (for the wrong reasons) is Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother, Tirupati Reddy, who can perhaps save neither his skin nor his house, given his brother's Arjuna-like determination to go strictly by the rules. That is not all. There is another house on the block and that belongs to Dubbaka

MLA Kotha Prabhakar Reddy. It is adjacent to Tirupati's house. This house was 'almost sold' to none other than BRS

leader Harish Rao. The deal did not come through due to delay. When reporters asked Harish Rao about it, he candidly admitted: "Thank God, it didn't

Striking parallels between Kalvakuntla and Gandhi siblings

The bonds between Kalvakuntla siblings and BRS leaders KT Rama Rao and K Kavitha, highlighted by the former's touching post on Rakshabandhan and the latter's recent emotional reunion with family amid fanfare, are also creating a buzz in political circles for striking similarities with the bonds of Gandhi family siblings Rahul and Priyanka. Just as Sonia Gandhi had played a pivotal role behind the scenes to guide her children to the forefront of national politics, nearer home BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao seems to have put KTR and Kavitha on a similar trajectory in Telangana, while remaining in the background. Some 'political coincidences' did not go unnoticed. Following the release of Sonia Gandhi's picture with her pet dog, KTR too was seen with his own pooch in a similar snap. Taking a leaf from Rahul Gandhi's video campaign, KTR came out with a video addressing the Valmiki request made by scribes: that the interscam. Like the Gandhi siblings, the action should happen at KCR's farm-

being in the limelight among Telangana prajalu. What if the winds are blowing against them in Praja palana? The synergy between KTR and Kavitha is positioning them as the emerging power duo on the state's political centre-stage.

Media credibility in tact amid vicious blame game

Politicians, be they motor mouths or loudmouthed, make atrocious statements and get away with their caveats that their remarks were torn out of context by the media. In Telangana, of late the media has been at the receiving end when it comes to certain allegations and behind-the-scene activity. Be it the talk of Adani's team beginning to collect electricity bills in the Old City or the con-

troversial comments made by netas in the

wake of bail granted to MLC K Kavitha

in the Delhi liquor scam case, the media

appears to have come out unscathed,

thanks to public trust despite 'trying'

times. So far, there has been no back-

lash from the people. Consequently,

within media circles there is a sense of

pride in the realization that their credi-

bility remains intact, if not stronger than

ever. A seasoned journalist reflected on

the situation, saying: "We might not always have everything on record to

make a legal case, but our credentials, our

trust with the public, remain unhurt."

This sentiment is echoed by many mem-

bers of the fourth estate, which remains

Why reporters seek interaction

with KCR at farmhouse

beat have had enough of jabs from the

new government targeting former Chief

Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, who

rarely engages with the media even if he

is expected to counter the allegations.

Left with no alternative, when some of

them approached Harish Rao -- the sto-

ried trouble-shooter -- he offered to

speak to KCR about it. But what appeared

beyond his means was the strange

Reporters on Bharat Rashtra Samithi

the cornerstone of democracy.

house! Still, sensing their nose for news, Harish Rao quipped, "All you will see (there) is maize and paddy crop". The media sees through things; so they responded: "Yea, show us, we will show it to the world". If the meet does take place at KCR's farmhouse, newshounds will ferret out a lot for showcasing perhaps some little known aspects of KCR's life as an unduly quiet opposition leader.

VHR wants media houses for the Congress

It is quite natural for a seasoned politician to expect to be featured prominently in dailies and channels. That said, one has to accept that media houses do give ample coverage to Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao, considering that he works hard for the party despite

crossing the age of 70 years. Still, taking media circles by surprise, VHR said recently that the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy should

consider the launch of "media houses for the Congress". Seeing that VHR has an axe to grind, one of the scribes commented that dailies and channels give more respect to VHR than what he gets in his

Permits draw the thin line

In Andhra Pradesh, it appears that while some politial leaders are indulging in illegal sandmining, others operate with permits. Senior Telugu Desam Party leader and former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy raised eyebrows when he went public that 25 of his followers were engaged in illegal sand mining in his home turf. He urged them not to distance themselves from him and the party by indulging in unlawful activities. In striking contrast, Tadipatri MLA and JC Prabhakar Reddy's son JC Asmit Reddy wanted Tadipatri (Rural) Circle Inspector (CI) Lakshmi Kanth Reddy to register cases against several individuals who were allegedly involved in illegal sand mining. Upon enquiries, CI Lakshmi Kanth Reddy found that the individuals were operating with permits. Still, Asmit Reddy protested in front of the Tadipatri Police Station until the CI tendered a public apology for not complying with is political demand.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, K Venkateshwarlu and Pradeep Kumar)

YET ANOTHER FOOD POISONING INCIDENT

30 tribal schoolkids taken ill after having dinner

Nearly 30 students from the Bonduguda Tribal Welfare Residential School in Dumbriguda mandal were hos-Dumbriguda mandal were nos-pitalised on Saturday morning after falling ill following their dinner on Friday night. The students, who experienced symptoms of vomiting and fever, were promptly taken to Araku Valley Area Hospital for treatment. Paderu Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Project Officer, V. Abishek, described the situation as "an isolated incident," stating, "The students had egg curry for dinner, after which they began vomiting. A team of four doctors was immediately sent to the school, and fluids were administered to the stu-

"We were alerted at 8:30 p.m. on Friday that students at Jamiguda had consumed contaminated food," said V.

Rs 8.63 crore

Shri schools

PNS VIJAYAWADA

released for PM

The Central government has

released Rs 8.63 crore in funds for

the 2024-25 fiscal year for PM

Shri schools, according to a state-

ment by Samagra Shiksha State

Project Director B Srinivasa Rao

on Saturday. The funds include Rs

6.68 crore for 662 schools under

Phase I and Rs 1.95 crore for 193

that, in line with government

guidelines, PM Shri schools must

ensure the continuity of stu-

dents' learning and adopt a suf-

ficiently relaxed approach.

Depending on the number of students, at least 10% of each school's

funds should be allocated to a

cleanliness action plan focusing

on water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The Project Director stated

schools under Phase II.

Abishek. "We responded immediately by dispatching medical officers from Dumbriguda and Killoguda Primary Health Centres to the Ashram School, where they provided essential medical care." The affected students were later transferred to Araku Valley Area Hospital for further treatment. Abishek assured that the medical officers acted promptly and provided highquality care. He also mentioned that steps would be

taken to prevent such incidents

in the future, including repairs to the ARV plant at the Ashram School.

District Collector A. S. Dinesh Kumar emphasised the need for improved sanitation at the school, stating, "There is an urgent need to improve sanitation at the ashram school. We are committed to ensuring a safer environment for our stu-

An initial investigation revealed that three batches of eggs supplied to the school were spoiled. To address food

safety concerns, changes will be made to the school staff responsible for food prepara-

"We have mandated that a photo of the daily menu served to the students be sent to the ITDA office to ensure compliance and safety," the Collector noted.

The Chief Minister's Office has taken note of the incident and instructed district authorities to provide the best possible care to the affected students. Additionally, AP State Commission Chairman Dr. D. V. G. Shankarao has stressed the importance of vigilance and maintaining high standards of care in such situations. An inquiry committee has been formed to investigate the incident and determine the cause of the food poisoning. Appropriate action will be taken against the responsible staff based on the committee's

RAIN HAVOC IN AP

Jagan calls for immediate relief efforts

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has expressed profound shock and grief over the tragic incidents caused by the ongoing heavy rains across the state, which have resulted in the loss of several lives due to the relentless downpour.

YS Jagan extended his deepest sympathies to the bereaved families and assured them of his unwavering support. He particularly expressed sorrow over the loss of four lives in Vijayawada due to landslides and the tragic incident in



Uppalapadu, Guntur district, where a teacher and two students lost their lives after their car was swept away by flood-

8 die as heavy rains lash...

Additionally, he conveyed his sadness over the death of an elderly woman in Gandalayyapeta, Mangalagiri, due to another landslide.

YS Jagan has urged the state government to provide generous assistance to the families affected by these tragic events. He emphasised the need for immediate and intensive relief efforts in the affected areas, particularly in and around Vijayawada, where the situation remains critical. He has called upon YSRCP leaders and workers to actively support and stand by the victims during this challenging time.

Financial security promised to all

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has stated that his government aims to provide erished individual. In line with the election promise, the TDP-led NDA government has been disbursing pensions of Rs 4,000 since taking

On Saturday, he distributed NTR Bharosa pensions in Gilakaladindi, Buddhalapalem, and other areas of Machilipatnam. Despite continuous rain, Minister Ravindra, accompanied by Sachivalayam and other government officials, participated in the pension distribution.

Addressing the occasion, Minister Ravindra mentioned that the government had planned to distribute 100% of pensions on the first day. As September 1 falls on a Sunday, the pensions were disbursed a day in advance. He commended the dedicated efforts of government employees, including Sachivalayam staff, for achieving this goal.

TODAY

Forecast: Rain

Humidity: 86% Sunrise: 5:54 AM

Sunset: 6:20 PM

Temp: 29°°

ALMANAC Month & Paksham Krishna Paksha Sep 01 03:41 AM Tithi: Chaturdashi to Sep 02 05:22 AM Sep 02 05:22 AM Amavasya to Sep 03 07:25 AM Nakshatram: Magha: Sep 01 09:48 PM to Sep 03 12:20 AM Rahukalam 4:53 PM to 6:26 PM 12:15 PM to 1:48 PM Yamaqandam: 11:04 AM to 12:50 PM Varjyam: Gulika: 3:21 PM to 4:53 PM Amritakalam: 08:04 PM to 09:48 PM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:51 AM to 12:40 PM VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Updated: August 31, 2024 5:00 PM

YSRCP MLC flays govt over engg college hostel scandal

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP Women's Wing president and MLC Varudu Kalyani have expressed grave concern about the TDP government's handling of the hidden camera incident at the Gudlavalleru Engineering College Ladies' Hostel. She accused the government of silencing the affected girls and shielding the college management.

Speaking to the media at the party's central office on Saturday, the MLC criticised

Former minister and Leader of Opposition in the

Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, has crit-

icised the TDP coalition government, accusing it

of gross mismanagement in key areas of adminis-

tration, particularly in the education and public wel-

fare sectors. Addressing the media, Botsa highlight-

ed the government's alarming negligence, especial-

ly in the mid-day meal scheme, which has recent-

ly been plagued by several cases of food poisoning

day meal scheme is a matter of grave concern.

Despite numerous incidents of food poisoning, no

effective measures have been taken to prevent such

occurrences in the future," Botsa Satyanarayana

stated. He emphasized that the TDP's inaction is

a clear indicator of its troubling disregard for the

health and well-being of students across the state.

government's inadequate response to recent trag-

ic incidents, including the Atchutapuram pharma

company accident and the Gudlavalleru Engineering College (GEC) hostel incident. "The

Botsa also expressed deep frustration over the

"The government's inability to maintain the mid-

to prevent similar incidents in the future. She questioned She criticised the ab the police's swift conclusion that nothing occurred in the hostel and condemned the delay in the investigation, which only started after the girls resumed their protests.

Kalyani also condemned the sudden decision to send the girls home, questioning the motive behind it, and voiced her anger over the

Botsa slams TDP govt for administrative

failures, demands urgent reforms

the government's failure to denial of entry to YSRCP respond appropriately to the representatives who wanted sensitive issue and stressed to support the girls, while the need for urgent measures ruling party members faced

of the Home Minister and DGP at the college, given the seriousness of the situation, and called for a thorough investigation led by a senior

Kalyani assured that the YSRCP will continue to fight for justice until the truth is uncovered and appropriate

delayed actions following these tragedies are unac-

ceptable. The government must implement strict

standard operating procedures (SOPs) and adopt

a more proactive approach to governance to ensure

such incidents do not recur," he asserted, calling

for immediate reforms to prevent future tragedies.

praised the YSRCP cadre for their prompt relief

efforts in flood-affected areas, carried out under

the guidance of party president YS Jagan

Mohan Reddy. "Our party has always prioritised

the welfare of the people. The relief measures

undertaken by the YSRCP in flood-hit regions

are a testament to our commitment," he said,

highlighting the party's dedication to serving

the public. Botsa also pointed out the financial

aid provided by the YSRCP to the families affect-

ed by the Atchutapuram pharma company acci-

dent, noting that Rs 5 lakh was granted to the

families of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh to those

injured. "We stand with the victims and their

families during this difficult time. The govern-

ment's failure to act swiftly in these situations

further underscores the need for urgent reforms

in governance," Botsa added.

In contrast to the TDP's performance, Botsa

HM asks officials to be on high alert

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vangalapudi Anita has issued a warning to the Home and Disaster Management Department officials in light of the heavy rainfall across the State. The Minister held regular telephone discussions with District Collectors, reviewing the impact of the rain in their respective districts. She instructed the concerned departments to take precautionary measures and remain vigilant to prevent the loss of life and property.

The Minister emphasised that relief operations should be conducted by special teams to ensure that people in floodaffected areas do not suffer. She advised the public to pay close attention to alert messages sent by the Disaster Management Department to their mobile phones and to take appropriate protective measures. In particular, she urged caution regarding downed power lines due to strong winds and warned against touching electrical poles while walking on the streets.

Be vigilant...

Continued from Page 1

He noted that during severe weather conditions, the responsibility of the power department officials is significantly heightened and they must act accordingly.

In a teleconference with the Chief Minister, Minister Ravi Kumar detailed the situation in Bapatla district and recommended relocating residents from low-lying areas to safer locations. He inquired about the pension distribution process in Bapatla and said that the government has provided flexibility to secretariat employees to complete the distribution within the next two to three days.

Continued from Page 1 In the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Saturday, Vijayawada city received 18 cm rainfall.

Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra said multiple teams from the civic body were working towards diverting water from inundated roads back into canals

He further said 22 places in the city were

affected, where the civic body teams have been working since 4 am to divert the water and observed that rainwater has also entered into houses in a couple of wards prone to flooding. Incessant rainfall was affecting relief operations, he added. Meanwhile, Dhyanachandra said all the

community halls in the city were opened to accommodate the affected people. Food and drinking water were arranged for them. Besides Vijayawada, Machilipatnam also received 18 cm rainfall, followed by Gudivada (17 cm), Kaikaluru (15 cm), Narasapuram (14 cm), Amaravati (13 cm), Mangalagiri (11 cm) and Nandigama and Bhimavaram (11 cm each).

Several other places across the state registered rainfall between 1 cm and 9 cm, according to data shared by the Meteorological Department. Several roads in Guntur town and also the Kaza toll plaza between Vijayawada and Guntur were inundated with rainwater.

Roads are inundated in many towns across the State due to heavy rain, throwing normal life out of gear.

Further, the Met Department said the depression over west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts "is likely to move northwestwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur, close to Kalingapatnam around midnight today."

The Chief Minister held a teleconference with officials to review the weather situation as three days of heavy rains have been forecast. He directed the entire government machinery to be on alert and called for coordination between the Irrigation and Revenue Departments to monitor ponds.

Earlier, the Meteorological Department predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall on Saturday in several parts of Andhra Pradesh as the lowpressure system over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression. Further, the weather department said squally

weather with wind speeds reaching up to 50 km per hour is prevailing over west central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal. Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management

Authority (APSDMA) managing director R Kurmanadh said parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh will receive heavy rainfall today, accompanied by strong surface winds.

Isolated places in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvatipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitarama Raju

CM puts officals...

The CM urged the residents of the three districts in Uttarandhra to remain vigilant and to exercise increased caution. Officials briefed the CM that wind speeds during the cyclone's landfall are expected to reach 55 to 65 km/h. The CM emphasised the need for a robust plan tailored to the expected wind speeds to minimise damage. He also advised authorities to adopt best practices from the Hudhud cyclone response.

The CM appealed to the public to stay ndoors unless in emergencies until the rains subside, as some areas have recorded rainfall between 10 to 20 cm. Authorities have been instructed to take immediate action in waterlogged areas and to clear blockages in water flow using specialised equipment. The public should be warned about open drains to prevent accidents, and necessary safety measures should be implemented.

Minister Kollu Ravindra and officials informed the CM of the severe water flow in the Budameru River. Officials reported that the release of water from Prakasam Barrage into irrigation canals has been halted, and measures are being taken to drain waterlogged roads in Vijayawada city. The CM warned that heavy rains and winds could lead to snapped electrical wires and uprooted poles. He urged officials to respond swiftly to any electricityrelated complaints. He also expressed concern over the unfortunate accident on the Kanakadurga Temple Ghat road and instructed safety measures to be enhanced. The CM demanded an explanation for the incident in which a car was swept away in the Uppalapadu stream in Pedakakani, resulting in the deaths of three people.

The CM advised declaring holidays for educational institutions in districts experiencing heavy rainfall, with private institutions expected to follow government directives.

and Visakhapatnam districts are expected to receive heavy rain, he said. He cautioned people to be wary of overflowing canals and streams, including uprooted power lines and low-lying areas. Meanwhile, the Central Water Commission (CWC) warned that most of the rivers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are expected to swell over the next two days.

As increased water flows are expected into several projects such as Nagarjunasagar, Srisailam, Thottapalli, Madduvalasa, Sriram Sagar and others, the CWC called for water discharge as per standard operating procedures after informing people in the downstream areas.

Depression to cross shore...

Continued from Page 1

among students.

The report also predicts heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in Rayalaseema over the next 48 hours and in Coastal Andhra Pradesh on 1 September. Thunderstorms, accompanied by lightning and strong surface

winds ranging from 30-40 kmph, are expect-Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema over the next seven days.

ed in isolated areas of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema over the next 48 hours. Strong surface winds, also ranging from 30-40 kmph, are likely to persist in these regions from 2-4 September. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are forecasted to occur at most places, at many places, or at one or two locations in

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VMC shifts 396 people

to rehabilitation centres

110 individuals at the New Community Hall in Krishna

Lanka Ranigarithota, 60 at the Darsipet Municipal School in Patamata, and

another 60 at the ODA Community Hall in

Ranigarithota. Additionally, 80 people have been accommodated at the Nayi Brahimana Sangham shelter

and another 80 at the Care

and Share High School in

The Commissioner indi-

cated that more rehabilitation centres could be established

if necessary. He emphasised that officials must closely monitor flood-affected and

hilly areas, taking appropri-

ate measures to ensure the

With substantial floodwa-

ter expected to reach the

Budameru major drain, res-

idents in the affected areas

are advised to move to the

safety of residents.

designated centres.

New RR Peta.

5 dead as landslides strike 2 houses in V'wada

Rescue teams suspect five to six individuals may still be trapped under the debris

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Heavy and continuous rainfall led to the collapse of two houses after landslides struck Sunnapubatteela Centre near Mogalrajapuram in Vijayawada, resulting in the loss of five lives on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as N Meghana, Bolem Lakshmi, Lalu, Santosh and Annapurna. However, Annapurna's body remains trapped under the debris.

Since Friday night, relentless rains have caused landslides, which struck houses at Sunnapubatteela Centre and Kreesturajapuram Mogalrajapuram in Vijayawada during the early hours. The incident occurred at around 7 am, leaving residents in shock and fear.

Upon receiving the news, officials from the Municipal, Police and Revenue departments, along with rescue teams, promptly arrived at the scene to initiate rescue operations. During the clearing of debris, further boulders fell, temporarily halting the rescue efforts.

Once operations resumed, the teams recovered N. Meghana from the debris and immediately shifted her to the Government General Hospital for treatment. Three other severely injured persons were also shifted to the hospital.

However, doctors confirmed that Meghana was brought in dead. Subsequently, Lakshmi, Lalu, and Annapurna succumbed to their injuries while receiving medical care. Rescue teams suspect that five to six more people may still be trapped under the debris.

In response to the disaster, Revenue Department Special Chief Secretary R.P. Sisodia,



NTR District Collector Dr G.

Heavy rainfall, resulting from depression,

wreaked havoc in Guntur, Palnadu,

Krishna, Eluru, and West Godavari

districts on Saturday, leading to the death

of three persons as their car was swept

A teacher and two students lost their

lives when the car they were travelling in was washed away in the Muruguvagu

stream at Uppalapadu village, Pedakakani mandal. The victims, includ-

ing Raghavendra, who was employed as

a teacher, and two students, Satvik and

Manik, were returning from school when the incident occurred. All three

bodies were later recovered from the

began on Friday night and continued

into Saturday morning, severely disrupt-

The heavy rainfall, which

away by floodwaters in the district.

PNS ■ GUNTUR

S.V. Rajasekhar Babu, and Rama Mohana Rao visited the Vijayawada East MLA Gadde

They directed the concerned officials to take immediate steps to relocate those in danger to safer locations. The authorities also urged

the public to avoid unnecessary travel, as heavy rain is expected to continue for the next three days. Additionally, Collector Srijana appealed to residents living on or near hillside areas to vacate their homes and move to rehabilita-

CM Naidu announces Rs 5 lakh ex gratia Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the four victims. He announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh for each family affected by the tragedy.

The Chief Minister also

enquired with NTR district officials and VMC authorities about the relief measures being taken and assured the bereaved families of the government's

full support.

Lokesh reviews rain situation in Mangalagiri

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Commissioner

lying areas.

In response to severe flood-

ing from the Krishna River and Budameru drains, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) estab-

lished 10 rehabilitation cen-

tres across all three VMC

Circles on Saturday. VMC

Dhyanachandra has appoint-

ed several officers to oversee

these centres and has initiat-

ed measures to relocate res-

idents from vulnerable low-

Commissioner Dhyana chandra reported that, to

date, 396 individuals have

been moved to the rehabili-

tation centres. Areas particularly at risk include low-

lying zones and hilly regions

prone to flooding and land-slides. The VMC is actively

working to ensure the safe

relocation of these residents.

The relocation includes

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh is closely monitoring the severe rain situation in Mangalagiri, collaborating with constituency officials. The minister has been overseeing the TDP office control room on an hourly basis, issuing directives for effective relief measures. He emphasised the need for immediate assistance to residents affected by flooding around Ratnala Pond.

Minister Lokesh instructed officials to promptly clear roads obstructed by heavy

rain and address resultant traffic issues. Additionally, he urged the electricity department to ensure an uninterrupted power supply throughout the constituency. He also called upon party followers and activists to aid relief efforts by providing food and clean drinking water to those affected by the

In light of the intensifying cyclone storm, Lokesh has directed that all officials remain available around the clock and that cyclone relief camps be established as nec-

3 killed as car swept away in floods



ed normal life across various districts. Multiple downpours inundated thoroughfares in many cities and towns, with water levels rising to two to three feet.

Vehicular traffic was severely affected at the toll plaza near Mangalagiri, where water levels reached two feet, while water also flooded the Pedakakani police station. Authorities advised people to

avoid travelling towards Guntur on the highway, as numerous vehicles were stranded in floodwaters at the toll plaza. Traffic on the Sattenapalli-Amaravati road was disrupted due to overflowing rainwater at Makkena village. In Palnadu district, the main road leading to Atchampet was submerged under four to five feet of water, leaving an ATC bus, several cars, and two-wheelers stranded.

In Nuzvid town, many roads were inundated under three feet of water, forcing shop owners to shut down as rainwater entered their premises. The RTC bus services were also disrupted as the bus stand was flooded. Streams and nalas in Agiripalli, Musunuru, and Chatrai mandals in the Nuzvid constituency were overflowing, leading to the flooding of several residential areas.

The mango research centre and agriculture polytechnic college in the region also halted operations. In Eluru, the government general hospital was sub-merged under two feet of water, with staff seen manually draining the rainwater from the mortuary room.

Road connectivity to 20 villages was cut off as the Kandaleru floodwaters overflowed the road at Vinagadapa village in Gampalagudem mandal. Additionally, a massive tree was uprooted on the Tiruvuru-Vissannapet highway at Mallela village, causing further traffic disruptions. In a separate incident, 20 students of Ambedkar residential school were safely evacuated by tractor after being trapped by surrounding

Minister Lokesh suspends Director on charges of negligence

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In response to recent reports of students falling ill after consuming stale food at the IIIT-Nuzvid, State Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has suspended the institute's director charging him with negligence. The minister emphasised that measures are being implemented to restore trust among IIIT. As part of these measures, a three-member supervisory committee has been established to oversee the insti-

tute's operations. The committee will include Pola Bhaskar, Commissioner of Education; Collegiate Rammohan Rao, Chairman in-charge of the Higher Education Department; and

K Vetri Selvi, Éluru Collector. The committee's responsibilities will include: Ensuring the maintenance of standard operating protocols (SOPs) for food quality and safety. Overseeing the sanitation and cleanliness of the mess facilities. Enhancing sanitation and quality standards in the student hostels. Conducting minor repairs as needed at Nuzvid IIIT.

Establishing an internal grievance committee to address complaints related to sexual harassment, ensuring prompt investigation and action. Implementing an action plan for drug-free and tobacco-free institutions, including setting up mechanisms at each departmental level.

Taking steps to reduce mental stress and promote healthy life skills among students.



Panel to look into affairs at IIIT-Nuzvid

Forming a College Wellness Team to support the mental and physical well-being of students, including the Dean of

lent), two senior faculty members (preferably female), student monitors from each department, and representa-Student Welfare (or equiva- tives from the parents' associ-

The College Wellness Team will also include Institutional Head Supervisors, Counsellors, and Medical Officers, all working together to safeguard vulnerable students.

Minister Lokesh has instructed the committee to develop a time-bound action plan to address immediate issues such as food quality, ters, and medical supervision. He assured that any untoward incident would be promptly reported to the government for swift resolution.

Officials directed to change mess contractor

PNS ■ ELURU

Minister for Housing and Information & Public cials to terminate the existing food contractor and swiftly instructed officials to replace the current mess

contractor at IIIT Nuzvid, emphasising that there should be no compromise on the quality of food provided to students. During a surprise inspection of the IIIT

campus on Saturday, the Minister examined the food ingredients, cooking utensils, and dining facilities. After sharing breakfast with the students, he assessed the food quality, engaged with the students to discuss their concerns, and provided recommendations to the faculty ordered that retired military

and administrative staff to personnel be appointed for address the issues.



invite tenders to appoint a new one. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the food and mess contracts are awarded to

a reputable company. Additionally, Parthasarthi

staff be vetted with police advice to ensure they have no criminal record. He also

instructed the installation of CCTV cameras in the mess, dining hall, hostel, food court, and other areas, ensuring they are connected to mobile phones for continuous monitoring.

"Nuzvid IIIT is a prestigious educational institution in the state, and its reputation must remain untarnished," he stated.

The Minister noted that students had reported poor food quality, the use of substandard materials, and a failure to adhere to the menu. Concerns were also raised about inadequate sanitation in the kitchen and mess areas.

Ex-MLA Kaile raps TDP govt for 'ignoring' student safety

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former MLA Kaile Anil Kumar has sharply criticised the TDP coalition government for its negligence and lack of action, pointing out several incidents where students across the State have fallen ill after consuming and schools.

Speaking to the media at the party central office on Saturday, Kumar revealed that 79 students at a tribal welfare residential school in Alluri Sitarama Raju district became ill after eating contaminated food. He noted that while Education Minister Nara Lokesh is preoccupied with implementing the Red Book' constitution, similar incidents have occurred elsewhere: 139 students in Chittoor, 750 in Nuzvid, and various other cases across districts including Chittoor, Srikakulam, and Nandyal.

Kumar highlighted that the previous YSRCP government introduced welfare programmes like Amma Vodi and Jagananna Vasathi Deevena, which improved educational infrastructure and student welfare through better education and nutritious meals. He criticised the current coalition government for neglecting these programmes, resulting in increased problems such as food poisoning and inadequate facilities.

24x7 control rooms set up

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In response to the heavy rainfall, K. Vijayanand, Special Chief Secretary of the Energy Department, has directed the CMDs of Discoms to establish round-the-clock control rooms. The officials have been instructed to address power supply issues promptly and to remain vigilant as the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts strong surface winds and heavy rains due to

Bay of Bengal.
Vijayanand, alongside
APGENCO MD KVN
Chakradhar Babu, AP Transco Joint Managing Director Kirti Chekuri, and other senior Power Department officials, reviewed the situation. He noted that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and

Ravikumar are continuously monitoring the power sector. The Special Chief Secretary emphasised that adequate



measures should be in place to ensure the public faces no difficulties with the electricity supply. He called for sufficient resources and personnel to handle any power-related incidents and carry out necessary

Energy Minister Gottipati

. Vijayanand urged officials and staff to establish control rooms operating 24/7 at the circle and division levels to address power issues arising from the rains and to respond swiftly to complaints. He also advised electrical workers to remain alert, assess damage caused by the rain, and submit reports accordingly. No officer is to take leave until the situation is normalised, Vijayanand stated.

strong surface winds of 50-60 km/h. Vijayanand appealed to the public to report any electricity supply issues immediately and to stay vigilant to avoid electrical hazards. He warned that the government would take strict action against anyone found negligent in

Take steps to check landslides in V'wada: Spl CC Sisodia



PNS VIJAYAWADA

RP Sisodia, the Special Chief Secretary for the Revenue Department, has instructed the authorities of the NTR district to take necessary actions to prevent landslides from affecting houses in Vijayawada in the coming days. His concern was heightened following the tragic inci-dent at Sunnapubatteela Centre near Mogalrajapuram, where landslides resulted in the collapse of two houses, leading to the deaths of four people.

Accompanied by NTR District Collector Dr G Srijana and Vijayawada Municipal

Commissioner Dhyanachandra, RP Sisodia inspected the collapsed houses. He oversaw the rescue operations and the clearing of debris on Saturday. Addressing the media, Sisodia described

loss of four lives. He assured that the state government would support the families of the deceased financially. He also instructed officials to ensure that the victims who were severely injured in the incident received prop-

the incident as unfortunate,

expressing his sorrow over the

Furthermore, Sisodia mentioned that both the NTR dis-

er medical treatment.

trict administration and VMC have established Flood Control Rooms to monitor the flood situation in the district. He directed officials to relocate residents of low-lying areas to rehabilitation centres as a precautionary measure. With many areas of the city inundated by rainwater, he urged officials to take appropriate steps to drain floodwater and desilt the drains.

Additionally, Sisodia instructed the Medical and Health Department and the VMC Public Health Wing to implement necessary measures to maintain sanitation and prevent the outbreak of seasonal diseases

HSL inks MoU with Indian Maritime Red Cross assists slum dwellers affected University to enhance shipbuilding skills by heavy rains

PNS VIJAYAWADA PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Intense and persistent rainfall over the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) past two days, driven by low pressure in the Bay of Bengal, has caused severe flooding in several low-lying areas of Andhra Pradesh. In response, the Andhra Pradesh State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society has mobilised its volunteers to provide crucial assistance to those affected. On Saturday, relief supplies including biscuits, milk, bread, and tarpaulins were distributed

in select areas of Vijayawada city. Dr. A. Sridhar Reddy, Chairman of the AP Red Cross, led the team as they reached out to victims in the slums surrounding Autonagar. He personally distributed the relief materials and promised to organise a medical camp in these areas.

and Indian Maritime University
(IMU) have signed a
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve shipbuilding skills and support capacity building. The agreement, formalised in the presence of Dr Malini V Shankar, Vice Chancellor of IMU, aims to drive innovation in ship design and technology.

Dr Malini V Shankar praised

HSL's efforts to meet the goals of Maritime India Vision 2030. "This partnership highlights our shared vision to advance India's maritime sector. The collaboration between

academia and industry is essential for

fostering innovation and excellence,"

Cmde Hemant Khatri, CMD of HSL, emphasised the shipyard's com-

mitment to innovation. "At HSL, we are focused on exploring advanced solutions in ship design and technology for a range of platforms. This partnership with IMU will enhance our capabilities and support the nation's broader maritime

Additionally, Dr Shankar met with HSL's women executives, encouraging them to develop their skills and take on leadership roles. She stressed the importance of balancing work and personal life while pursuing professional excellence. The collaboration between HSL

and IMU is a significant step towards strengthening India's maritime infrastructure and fostering innovation in the shipbuilding sector.

sunday pioneer



Commissioner, DE come to blows at Pithapuram council meeting

PNS KAKINADA

In a startling turn of events, a Municipal Council meeting in Pithapuram descended into chaos on Saturday when two high-ranking officials physically clashed.

The confrontation occurred during a routine council meeting held in the Pithapuram Municipal Hall. Long-standing differences between Municipal Commissioner Kanaka Rao and Divisional Engineer (DE) Bhavani Shankar reached a boiling point. The tension between the two had been simmering for some time, particularly after DE Bhavani Shankar went on extended leave and later resumed duty. During his absence, Commissioner Rao authorised the Executive Engineer to sign off on certain bills, a move that ignited controversy.

During the meeting, Councillor B. Deva questioned the Commissioner on



What began as a verbal exchange quickly escalated into a heated argument between Commissioner Rao and DE Bhavani Shankar

why the Executive Engineer's signature was sought when the Divisional Engineer had already rejoined. In response, Commissioner Rao stated that the Collector had instructed them to proceed in this manner for the clearance of files. What began as a verbal

exchange quickly escalated into a heated argument between Commissioner Rao and DE Bhavani Shankar. In a fit of anger, the two officials physically assaulted each other, shocking everyone present. Other officials and council

members swiftly intervened to

The sight of two senior officials brawling in full view of the council members and other attendees left everyone stunned. The incident quickly spread across social media, sparking widespread outrage. Members of the Pithapuram Municipal Council have since demanded strict action against the errant officers.

A local Jana Sena leader remarked, "We've seen politiremarked, we've seen politi-cal leaders clash during debates, but witnessing top officials engage in such a brawl, especially in Pithapuram, the constituency of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, is unprecedented. Disciplinary action must be taken against these officers." The altercation has become a hot topic of discussion among officials across the state, raising concerns about discipline and decorum within public offices.

'Drug-free India' awareness rally taken out

PNS TIRUPATI

A massive rally aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of drugs was organised here on Saturday by the NCC wing of SV University in collaboration with the local police department. The procession commenced from the SV University administrative building and concluded at NRT Circle.

The rally was inaugurated by SP L Subba Rayudu, SV University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Appa Rao, and Registrar Bhupati Naidu. Addressing the crowd, the District SP high-lighted that drug abuse is one of the most pressing issues currently facing the nation. In response, the Central Government has launched the "Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan" programme, with the goal of eradicating drug addiction. Under the "Nasha Mukt

Bharat Abhiyan", NSS students and the police department have jointly organised this rally, aiming for a drug-free Andhra Pradesh, drug-free Tirupati, and drug-free SVU.

"The purpose of this rally is to educate people about the consequences of drug abuse

ing drug use in Tirupati district," the SP clarified. The state government has already issued directives to address the narcotics issue with utmost seriousness and has established an anti-drugs

and to work towards eliminat-

special task force in each dis-

"In line with this, we have formed a special task force led by a Circle Inspector in the district. Our team is actively involved in seizing cannabis and other drugs on a daily basis. We are committed to combating the drug menace," the SP emphasised.

He also stressed the importance of support from youth, students, and the media in tackling drug-related issues. The SP warned that the PD Act would be invoked against individuals who repeatedly engage in drug trafficking. Additional SP Venkata Rao and other officials were present at the



Ensure no loss of life due to heavy rains: WG Collector

PNS BHIMIVARAM

District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani has directed officials to maintain a heightened state of alert and take all necessary precautions to prevent loss of life in the wake of incessant rains.

During a teleconference on Saturday, the Collector assessed the damage caused by continuous rainfall resulting from the depression. She instructed officials to be readily accessible to the public and to monitor the situation closely. A control centre has been established at the Collectorate, with the helpline number 08816-299219 available for those seeking assistance.

The Collector emphasised the need to restore road connectivity to affected villages and ordered the relocation of residents from low-lying areas to safer locations. Officials have been directed to establish relief centres and provide food and water for those impacted by the rains. The water drainage department has been



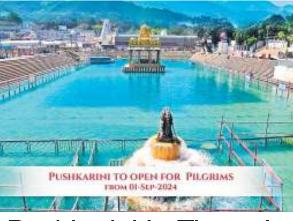
instructed to remain vigilant, particularly in inspecting and reinforcing weak embankments of drains and ponds.

All Laskars have been ordered to remain on the ground. The Nandamuri Aqueduct, Red Canal, and Yanamadurru Drain are to be closely monitored, with immediate action to be taken upon receiving any reports from residents of the respective villages. Efforts are to be made to restore power by replacing uprooted electrical poles. The Collector also stressed the importance of ensuring the supply of purified water to

island villages, residential schools, and hostels, and urged the promotion of awareness on the consumption of boiled and cooled water.

Collector Nagarani expressed concern over reports of contaminated water being supplied in Narasapuram town and instructed the Municipal Commissioner to take appropriate action. She also warned of the potential outbreak of seasonal diseases such as diarrhoea and urged officials to implement preventive measures.

In response to the increase in fever cases within the district, the Medical and Health Department was directed to organise medical camps as needed. The Collector noted that platelet levels can drop even in the absence of dengue. Police and fire personnel have been instructed to remain vigilant and provide necessary assistance to the public. Joint Collector T. Rahul Kumar Reddy and other officials were present during the review.



Pushkarini in Tirumala to reopen for pilgrims

PNS TIRUMALA

Following extensive repairs, cleaning, and restoration work, access to the temple tank Swamy Pushkarini will be reinstated for pilgrims starting from 1 September.

As customary, the temple tank undergoes annual cleaning and necessary repairs before the Brahmotsavams at

The cleaning and renovation activities typically last for a month, during which time pilgrims are prohibited from bathing in the Pushkarini. The sacred Pushkarini Bath will resume for devotees from 1 September. Pilgrims are kindly requested to take note of this

Is Uttam trying to match CM's foul language?

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao countered Irrigation Minister Uttam's recent remarks describing former Chief Minister KCR as a "dacoit." He criticized Uttam's words saying that they indicate a clear lack of respect. "Uttam, are you trying to match Revanth in using offensive language? Harish asked. "Your name might be Uttam Kumar, but your language is anything but 'uttam' (best). It's more like the contaminated waters of the Musi River," he said.Addressing Uttam's actions he asked why had Uttam introduced the EPC contract system, raised project costs without explanation, and handed out advance payments. That was a way to loot the state, Harish said.

"Wasn't it you, Uttam, who inflated the Pranahita-Chevella project's budget from Rs 17,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore with-

out even starting work?" Harish asked.

He said that the project was originally approved for Rs 17,875 crore but later it was increased to Rs 38,500 crore by the Congress government with

Uttam's involvement. Harish also pointed out that the Congress government divided the Tummidihatti Barrage project into multiple parts and began work without an agreement with Maharashtra. This led to significant advance payments. Harish asked who benefited from this implying Uttam's involvement.

"In 2010, your Congress government increased the project cost to Rs 40,300 crore and sent it to the Centre, Harish said and listed the expenses as Mobilization Advances: ?651.28 crore, Survey & Investigation ?829.51 crore, Work Payments ?151.93 crore,

Land Acquisition ?16.93 crore

and other expenses ?14.52

Harish emphasized that these actions during Uttam's tenure wasted public funds.

Shifting focus to Telangana's progress, Harish praised KCR's policies especially in agriculture. He pointed to a recent Union Agriculture Ministry report showing Telangana's food grain production growth as t 16.42%, outpacing major agricultural states like Punjab and Maharashtra. This success is due to KCR's farmer-friendly policies and projects like Kaleshwaram, Harish said. In 2014-15, Telangana's crop area was 1.29 crore acres. By 2022-23, it expanded to 2.21 crore acres, making Telangana the top

He also mentioned the completion of major irrigation projects and the modernization of canals and tanks which have greatly improved the water supply for farming.

state in food grain production.

Anakapalli in grip of malaria, dengue, and viral fevers

PNS ANAKAPALLI

Villages and towns across the region are grappling with a severe health crisis as a surge in fevers, including malaria, dengue, and viral infections, sweeps through communities. Health officials attribute the alarming rise in cases to inadequate sanitation, intermittent rains, and climate changes.

The failure of local authorities to implement basic mosquito control measures has significantly contributed to the spike in malaria and dengue cases. Additionally, the ongoing rainy season has exacerbated the spread of viral fevers, with young children being particularly vulnerable. Hospitals, both government and private, are overwhelmed with patients suffering from severe fevers, coughs, colds, and sore throats, leading to overcrowded medical facilities and a sharp increase in inpatient care.

The rise in fever cases is alarming," said Dr. Kumar, General Physician at NTR Regional Hospital in



Patients with fever being treated in the general ward of Narsipatnam Regional Hospital

Narsipatnam. "We are seeing a steady increase in the number of patients coming in for treatment. Our hospital witnessed a significant rise in fever cases during August, with a sharp increase from 390 cases in June to 1,046 in August. Inpatient admissions have also surged, with numbers climbing from 129 in June to 181 in August. However, the hospital's records only reflect dengue and malaria cases confirmed by blood tests, leaving room for underreporting. The situation is particularly dire in rural areas where sanitation issues are more preva-

Statistics from the district medical and health department paint a grim picture. Between January and August of last year, 11,567 fever cases were reported across the district. This year, that number has already risen to 12,693 by August 29. Malaria cases have nearly doubled, from 113 last year to 195 this year.

These numbers are concerning," stated Varahalu Dora, District Malaria Officer of Anakapalli. "While malaria is under control to some extent, the combination of rains and poor sanitation has led to the prevalence of viral fevers in several areas. Our teams are actively responding by conducting malaria diagnosis tests and organizing special medical camps where necessary."

In the Narsipatnam constituency, primary health centres have treated approximately 3,000 fever patients in August alone. Blood tests sent to Visakha KGH confirmed the diagnosis. "We are doing everything we can to manage the situation," added Varahalu Dora. 'We've been deploying Gambusia fish in drainage canals and ponds to curb mosquito breeding, and our teams are on the ground collecting blood samples and providing necessary medical care."

As the region continues to battle these health challenges, the need for improved sanitation and proactive public health measures is more urgent than ever. "It's not just about treating the symptoms," emphasized Dr. Kumar. "We need to address the root causes to prevent these outbreaks from becoming a recur-



RARE EVENT AT SRISAILAM DAM

10 gates lifted for 2nd time in a season

PNS KURNOOL

The Srisailam project has been receiving heavy inflows again during the current monsoon season, prompting authorities to lift ten crest gates to release excess floodater downstream.

Officials reported on Saturday that the Srisailam dam is receiving 326,481

dam already at full capacity, the excess water is being released to the downstream

Nagarjuna Sagar project.
Eight crest gates have been lifted to a height of 12 feet, while two gates have been raised to 10 feet, allowing the discharge of over 325,000 cusecs of water. Hydropower is being generated at both the

cusecs of water. With the left and right banks of the project at maximum capacity. Currently, 214.88 TMC of water is impounded at the project, compared to its full capacity of 215.80 TMC.

The water level at the dam is recorded at 885 feet. Officials noted that this is only the second time this season that ten crest gates have been lifted, a rare event.

Woman injured in tree collapse



PNS TIRUMALA

A woman was critically injured when a massive tree uprooted and fell on his at 305 cottage at Seshadrinagar here on Saturday.

Officials said that a 44vear-old devotee, Umamaheswar, who belongs to Chennai, suffered injuries when the tree uprooted and collapsed on her.

She was admitted to the SVIM in Tirupati. The massive tree was uprooted due to heavy winds under the influence of depression. The TTD officials appealed to the people to stay indoors till normalcy prevailed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Collector urges industrialists to provide CSR funds

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad has urged local industrialists to channel their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds towards enhancing education and healthcare services in the district. Speaking at a meeting with industrialists on Saturday, the Collector stressed the importance of transparency and accountability in the use of these funds. "We must focus on the well-being of our local communities by using CSR funds effectively," Prasad said. "Every penny should be spent with a clear understanding of local needs."



The Collector outlined critical areas requiring immediate attention, including the upgrading of hospitals, improving infra-

structure in government schools and hostels, and ensuring clean drinking water for students. He also noted the need for modern

equipment for the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and the fire department, stating, "GVMC needs advanced tools for effective waste collection, and our fire department must be equipped with the latest technology to handle emergencies efficiently."

Prasad also emphasised the importance of modernising the burn ward at KGH, highlighting recent difficulties in treating accident victims. "The burn ward at KGH needs urgent modernisation. We must establish a state-of-the-art facility to ensure that no life is lost due to inadequate care," he said. "CSR funds will be vital in upgrading

our educational and healthcare institutions. We need to provide our students with the best facilities and ensure our healthcare services can meet future challenges.

Addressing environmental concerns, the Collector encouraged industrialists to actively contribute to protecting the environment and enhancing greenery in the district. "We must collaborate to create a greener Visakhapatnam," he said. The meeting was attended by Deputy Inspector of Factories Suresh, the Assistant Director of the Industries Department, representatives from various companies, and other officials.

Huge response to Montessori walk in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Montessori Training and Research Trust (MTRT) and the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) hosted a successful Montessori Walk in Hyderabad on Saturday. The event aimed to raise awareness of the Montessori method and saw participation from around 300 children and adults from over 20

Montessori schools in the city. The Montessori Walk was organised to commemorate Dr Maria Montessori's birth anniversary and celebrate 40 years of the Montessori Training and Research Trust. The event took place at Sanjeevaiah Park, Hussain



Sagar. It began with a message from the Secretary of the Montessori Training and Research Trust, Dr Usha Naik expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the Montessori schools for uniting for the

The event included a walk around the park, where participants sang songs and carried banners and placards high-

losophy and its benefits. The walk concluded with moments of reflection, where participants shared their thoughts on Dr. Montessori's impact on education and society. Director of Training at MTRT, Teenaz Reporter

said, We are thrilled with the huge response from the Montessori community in Hyderabad and thank every school that participated despite the rainy weather, The Montessori Walk was a great success, and it was happy to see children and adults come together to celebrate the Montessori method and the legacy of Dr. Maria Montessori.

VIJAYAWADA I SUNDAY I SEPTEMBER 01, 2024

ACROSS THE STATES



Delhi HC quashes Centre's 1987 eviction notice to Express bldg

he Delhi High Court has held as arbitrary and malafide the Centre's decision to terminate its lease deed with Express Newspapers for the 'Express Building' at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg here and quashed the 37-yearold notice seeking ejection of the media house from the premises. Justice Prathiba M Singh, while dealing with the lawsuits by both the central government and Express Newspapers Ltd- filed over three decades ago, said the action of the authorities was an attempt to "muzzle Express Newspapers and dry up its source of income." The court nonetheless directed Express Newspapers to pay around Rs 64 crore to the Centre as payment towards "conversion charges", "ground rent" and "additional ground rent" in



Binoy Kumar Saren new Officiating VC of Visva Bharati

Prof Binoy Kumar Saren will be the new officiating Vice-Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, an official statement said. A statement signed by Acting Registrar on August 30 said Prof Arabinda Mondal, who was discharging the responsibility as the officiating VC, will hand over charge to Saren with immediate effect. Saren was Principal of Palli Siksha Bhavana (rural education department) of the university and member of Executive Council - the top decision-making body of Visva-Bharati. Saren is the first tribal to become VC of Visva Bharati, a senior university official said. After the term of permanent VC Bidyut Chakraborty ended in the first week of November 2023, Sanjoy Kumar Malik first took over charge as officiating VC in November. He was succeeded by Mondal a few months back.



Five booked for assaulting, **humiliating Dalit boy in MP**

ive persons, including three minors, were booked on Saturday for allegedly assaulting a 17-year-old Dalit boy in Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh and forcing him to perform humiliating acts, a police official said. He was made to squat and hold his earlobes in a way that is called 'murgha banana' in local parlance and is handed down as a punishment, and was also made to caw like a crow, the official said. "The accused shot a video of the victim's ordeal and uploaded clips on social media. After coming across these clips, we identified the victim, who is a Dalit. He told us the accused, who were known to him, took him to a desolate place and made him undergo this ordeal on August 25 over an old dispute "Kotwali police station inspector Raghavendra Tiwari said.

J&K BJP leader quits over ticket, threatens to contest as Independent

PNS JAMMU

In yet another rebellion within the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir over ticket distribution for the assembly elections, senior party leader Chander Mohan Sharma Friday announced his resignation from the party and threatened to contest as an Independent.

The BJP is facing resentment over its ticket distribution in the Union territory, with party leaders and workers protesting in several districts of the Jammu region. This has prompted the party to launch a damage control exercise, deploying several top leaders, including Union ministers, to defuse the situation.

"There is immense resentment and anger among leaders and workers of the party over the unfair distribution of mandates. They are holding protests to express their discontent. Saddened by this, I, one of the senior-most leaders

of the BJP, along with others, have resigned from the party, Sharma, the convenor of the 'Tawi Andolan', told reporters

Advocate Sharma, who joined the BJP in the early 1970s, criticised the party leadership in J&K for improperly presenting the proposal for mandates to the party high command.

We hope the party leadership accepts my resignation. However, if they reconsider their decision on the mandate change in the Jammu East assembly segment, it is okay. Otherwise, I will accept the calls from workers who want me to contest independently from the Jammu East seat," he added.

"The people of the Jammu East segment fully support us, having worked closely with us during the Tawi Andolan movement," he added. "It is now time for the senior BJP leaders camping here to make a decision on this matter."



Committed to make rail travel comfortable for all: PM Modi

The railways has made big strides in addressing long-standing issues and will not stop till it becomes a guarantee of comfortable travel for all sections of society, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Flagging off three new Vande Bharat Express trains via videoconferencing, Modi said the nation was inching towards the goal of Viksit Bharat with modernisation and expansion of Vande Bharat trains.

The three trains flagged off by the prime minister connect Meerut with Lucknow, Madurai with Bengaluru, and Chennai with Nagercoil.

"Through its hard work over the years, the railways has made big strides in addressing long-standing issues and offered new hopes and solutions. We will not stop until the Indian Railways becomes a guarantee of comfortable trav-

The prime minister's remarks came against the backdrop of railway accidents that prompted the opposition to question the government's track record on rail safety.

Modi said modern rail infrastructure was a strong pillar of the vision of Viksit Bharat.

He said more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore was allocated to the railways in this year's budget and the government was connecting Indian

to transform its old image.

The prime minister underlined that the rapid development of southern states was imperative to accomplish the

Chennai-Nagercoil Vande Bharat offers fastest connectivity to Kanyakumari: Railways

PNS CHENNAI

Chennai-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express, one of the three trains which Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off virtually on Saturday, offers the fastest connectivity to Kanyakumari, the country's southernmost tip, a senior railway official

"The Chennai-Nagercoil Vande Bharat train will cover a distance of 726 km in 8 hrs



the fastest connectivity between two destinations. From

Nagercoil, Kanvakumari is about 20 km which people can travel by rail or road route," the

Southern Railways official

"There are two trains at present from Chennai which go straight to Kanyakumari but they take about 12 hours. Vande Bharat offers them a third option which is quickest and most comfortable among them," he added.

After its launch on

Saturday, its commercial operation will start from September 1 (Sunday), the official added.

BJP govt in Odisha launches PM-USHA

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP government in Odisha on Saturday launched the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) programme in the state.

The state government signed an MoU with the Union Education Ministry for the launch of PM-USHA programme in the presence of

2020, and carries Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to attain higher levels of access, equity, and excellence in the state higher education system with greater efficiency, transparency, accountability, and responsiveness. While 60 per cent of allocated grants will be released by Centre and 40 per cent will be borne by the



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan and state Higher Education minister Suryabanshi Suraj.

The Centre will provide financial assistance of Rs 500 crore for different higher education institutions across Odisha for infrastructural and other developmental activities, Pradhan said describing August 31 as a landmark day towards strengthening the higher education landscape in Odisha.

"PM-USHA is an important initiative of the Centre towards implementation of the state," he said.

The Union Education minister said the implementation of PM-USHA scheme in Odisha, will enable state universities to ramp up infrastructure and also their transformation into world-class multidisciplinary universities.

Odisha is blessed with talented human capital, he said, adding that both the Centre and the state are committed and working to make sure that Odisha's youth are equipped and empowered with 21st-century knowledge and skills.

India's August rainfall 16% higher than normal: IMD

PNS NEW DELHI

India recorded around 16 per cent more rainfall than normal in August, with rainfall over Northwest India recorded at 253.9 mm, the second highest in August since 2001, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

Addressing a virtual press conference, IMD Director Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the country recorded 287.1 mm of rainfall



normal 248.1 mm. Overall, India has received

749 mm of precipitation against the normal 701 mm since the start of the monsoon season on June 1.

Several districts in the foothills of the Himalayas and the northeast experienced below-normal rainfall as most of the low-pressure systems moved south of their usual position, and the monsoon trough also remained south of its typical position, the IMD chief said.

Many states in the northeast, along with Kerala and the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, experienced defi-

Jai Ram Thakur attacks Sukhu govt over rising debt, salary delay

PNS SHIMLA

BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday said that Himachal Pradesh would soon be too debt-wrecked to pay the salaries of its employees, as he attacked the Sukhvinder Sukhu government for deferring wages of several employees, including



Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had on Thursday

government would be deferring the salaries of ministers, chief parliamentary secretaries, and chairpersons and vice chairpersons of boards and corporations for two months, citing the state's "grim financial situation."

Thakur, a former Himachal Pradesh chief minister, said the deferment was not going to be

Yechury under treatment for chest infection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sitaram Yechury continues to be under treatment at AIIMS, New Delhi, for a respiratory infection, the party said on Saturday.

Yechury was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 19 for treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection. The exact nature of his ailment was not revealed by the hospital.

'Comrade Yechury, general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), continues to be under treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences of New Delhi," the CPI(M) said in a statement.

"He is under the care of a team of specialist doctors who are treating him for respiratory infection," it said. Yechury had recently undergone cataract surgery.

1962 Indo-China war era mortar smoke bomb found in Assam

PNS ■ TEZPUR (ASSAM)

A mortar smoke bomb, believed to be of the 1962 Indo-China war era, was recovered from a river bed in Assam's Sonitpur district, a top police official said on

The bomb, which was found in Dhekiajuli area, has been safely blasted with the help of Army personnel, he added.

Sonitpur Superintendent of Police Barun Purkayastha said the two-inch-long explosive was discovered by a person from Jougapur village while fishing in the Sesa river

on Friday evening. The area comes under Missamari police station. The bomb most likely is Chinesemade and from the 1962 war," he said.

Providing safe environment to women is Centre's top priority

PNS GANDHINAGAR

Annapurna Devi on Saturday and providing them with a safe environment is the Central government's top pri-

Devi said the Central government has taken several concrete steps to ensure the safety of women. However, it is the responsibility of the state governments to take advantage of these schemes and implement

them. The Union minister was Union Minister of Women addressing a gathering at and Child Development Mahatma Mandir after inaugurating the seventh edition of nutrition month, the Centre's flagship initiative celebrated throughout annually September.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state Women and Child Welfare Minister Bhanuben Babaria were also present.

"Empowering women and providing them a safe environ-



ment is the Indian government's top priority. The govcrete steps to ensure the safety of women. But it is also the responsibility of the state governments to take advantage of this and implement these schemes," she said.

"Poshan Maah" reflects Prime Minister Narendra holistic health and nutrition of children, mothers and sisters, she said.

"The main aspects of this 'Poshan Maah' are awareness about anaemia, growth monitoring, nutrition and education, appropriate dietary supplements, technology-based transparency and environmental

E P Jayarajan no longer LDF convener, Ramakrishnan will replace him: CPI(M)

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling CPI(M) in Kerala on Saturday said that its veteran leader E P Jayarajan will no longer hold the post of LDF convener and will be replaced by party leader T P Ramakrishnan.

ĈPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan made the announcement at a press conference here following the party's state committee meeting during

Govindan said that Jayarajan was no longer the LDF convener due to some statements made by him during the Lok Sabha polls and certain limitations he had in carrying out the Left front's

These issues were discussed in the state committee meeting and a decision was arrived at, he said.

The veteran Marxist leader has reportedly been under fire from the party ever since he had admitted, in April, to meeting BJP leader Prakash Javadekar.

Following the revelation by Jayarajan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had cautioned his party colleague to be vigilant in his associations.

Speculation was rife since Saturday morning that Jayarajan had resigned or was removed from the post of LDF convener after he abstained from the CPI(M) state committee meeting and returned to his home in Kannur

BJP spokesperson's ancestral home attacked in Manipur

the third time".

Unidentified miscreants on Saturday set on fire the ancestral residence of Manipur BJP spokesperson Michael Lamjathang in Churachandpur district, police said.

A car parked in the compound of the house at Peniel village in Tuibong sub-division was also torched during the attack.

The house came under attack last

week too Churachandpur district Deputy Commissioner Dharun Kumar S has written a letter to the district Superintendent of Police to conduct an "enquiry" and submit a report at the earliest, police added.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh condemned the attack on the house "for

"The repeated targeting of our people (Thadou in this case), often under the guise of peace rallies, is a deeply troubling trend," Singh said in an X post.

Thadou is one of the largest subtribes of Kukis.

"Such acts of provocation will not be tolerated. We will ensure that those responsible are held accountable. Moreover, action will be taken against the officials concerned who failed to provide adequate security, despite prior warnings of potential threats," the chief minister

'District judiciary crucial component of rule of law'

Calling it subordinate must be stopped: CJI

PNS NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said district judiciary is the "backbone of the judiciary" and thus a crucial component of the rule of law and calling it subordinate must be stopped.

Referring to the increasing number of women joining the district judiciary in the past few years, he highlighted that judges, despite being professionals, are affected by their own "brush with reality" and their mental health may suffer as a consequence.

Speaking at the 'National Conference of the District Judiciary', which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here, Justice Chandrachud said district judiciary is the first point of contact for a citizen in search of justice. "The district judiciary is a

crucial component of the rule of law," he said, adding, "Data on the NJDG (National Judicial Data Grid) reveals a basic truth - the district judiciary is not just the first but is also the final point of contact for citizens". The CJI said the reasons may



be numerous - many citizens are unable to afford legal representation, they have a lack of awareness about statutory rights, and there are geographical difficulties in physically

accessing courts.

"The quality of our work and the conditions in which we provide justice to citizens determine whether they have confidence in us and is a test of our own accountability to

society," he said. "The district judiciary is therefore called upon to shoulder tremendous responsibility and is aptly described as the 'backbone of the judiciary',"
Justice Chandrachud said, adding, "The spine is the core of the nervous system. To sustain the spine of the legal system, we must stop calling the

district judiciary the 'subordinate' judiciary".

He said 75 years after independence, the time has come to bury one more relic of the British era - the colonial mindset of subordination.

Referring to the "multifarious responsibilities" of judges, the CJI said it was difficult for a judge not to be affected by the actual face of suffering that each of us encounters every day - a family which has faced a gruesome crime, an undertrial who is languishing for years or the children in a parental matrimonial dispute.

I DON'T SMOKE, DON'T DRINK MUCH, AND GO
TO THE GYM FIVE TIMES A WEEK. I LIVE A
HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND FEEL GREAT. I CAN
RUN A MARATHON, YOU KNOW
— SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR



From leading corporate
giants to shaping
culinary excellence,
PAWAN SONI'S
journey is a celebration
of passion and
innovation in the food
industry, says
SAKSHI PRIYA

PAWAN SONI

Food critic and founder

of the Big F Awards

FROM CORPORATE SUCCESS TO CULINARY STARDOM

A JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF FOOD BLOGGING AND AWARDS

n the culinary world, where flavours tell stories and meals become cherished memories, Pawan Soni has forged an extraordinary path. A former Vice President at global giants like HSBC and GE Capital, Soni made a bold yet passionate shift from the corporate boardroom to the vibrant food scene. Driven by his love for discovering hidden gastronomic gems, he founded Indian Food Freak, a blog that has since grown into one of India's most influential food and travel platforms. His journey took a remarkable turn in 2014 when he launched The Big F Awards, a celebration of culinary excellence NCR's most prestigious events. Now entering its 11th year, The Big F Awards have distinguished themselves with an unwavering

commitment to transparency and integrity. Built on the principle of not imposing any financial burden on nominees, these awards have earned a reputation as a fair and respected platform for recognising excellence in the food industry. Over the past decade, they have become synonymous with culinary credibility, highlighting the region's finest dining establishments and championing new talents, including home chefs and bakers who bring fresh flavours and creativity to the table.

This year, The Big F Awards embark on an exciting new chapter by expanding their reach to encompass the entire Delhi-NCR region, reinforcing their vision of inclusivity and growth. This grand event will showcase a diverse array of culinary talent, with new categories that reflect the latest trends and celebrate the art of both dining out and home cooking. Attendees can look forward to an immersive experience where innovation, artistry, and passion are celebrated in a truly memorable way. At the heart of this celebration is a distinguished jury, featuring some of India's most renowned culinary experts, such as Chef Kunal Kapur, Chef Nita Mehta, Rocky Singh, and many others. These esteemed judges will rigorously evaluate each nominee, visiting the restaurants and sampling the dishes before casting their votes. This commitment to fairness ensures that the awards remain a beacon of trust and excellence in the food industry.

the food industry.
For Pawan Soni, The Big F
Awards are more than just an
event, they are a community
and a platform for supporting
genuine connections and
inspiring culinary creativity. As he
prepares for the upcoming awards
in September, Soni envisions an
evening that brings together the
best of Delhi NCR's food scene,
offering an opportunity to
celebrate, connect and elevate the
standards of culinary excellence.
With a legacy of integrity and
innovation, The Big F Awards
continue to shine as a
cornerstone of the region's
vibrant food culture.

vibrant food culture.
Founded in 2014, The Big F
Awards have become a symbol
of credibility and fairness,
consistently upholding the highest
standards in the industry. This
year's edition promises to build on
this legacy, with new surprises,
new talents, and new stories to be
told. Join Pawan Soni and his
esteemed panel in this grand
celebration of culinary brilliance,
where the finest in food artistry
come together to create an
unforgettable experience.

A CONVERSATION WITH PAWAN SONI

Pawan Soni shares insights into his transition from corporate life to food blogging, the challenges he faced in the early days and his commitment to transparency and excellence in The Big F Awards. He provides valuable perspectives on the growth of his blog, the influence of his corporate background and what to expect from this year's prestigious event.

You left a successful career as Vice President at MNCs like HSBC and GE Capital to follow your passion for food. What motivated this career shift, and how did your corporate experience shape your approach to food blogging and awards?

awards?
Back in our day, social media wasn't a thing. Like many, I followed the conventional route—completing an MBA and then diving into the corporate world. But food was my escape. Traveling the world, I discovered hidden culinary gems and started writing for newspapers and magazines. Eventually, I launched my own blog, Indian Food Freak. Before I knew it, my passion for food had grown into a full-blown career.

MY CORPORATE
EXPERIENCE WAS THE
YEAST THAT HELPED
INDIAN FOOD FREAK RISE.
THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE
IN ORGANISING THE
AWARDS WAS SECURING
SPONSORS WHO
BELIEVED IN THE VISION
BUT DIDN'T INFLUENCE
THE RESULTS.

In foodie terms, my corporate career was a recipe for success, but my love for food was the secret ingredient. I traded PowerPoint for paprika and now, I'm serving up a plate of purpose. Jokes aside, my corporate experience was invaluable. It taught me critical skills in sales, operations, and more, which I still use in my second career. Having worked with ethical companies, I've always prioritized transparency. Even after 11 years of running the food awards, I ensure there's no money exchange involved, whether for nominations, attending the awards or in any other aspect.

When you started Indian Food Freak food blogging was relatively new in India. How did you introduce the concept to an unfamiliar audience, and what strategies did you use to build your initial following?

initial following?
Introducing food blogging to India was like adding a new spice to a traditional recipe—initially unfamiliar, but now indispensable. I focused on creating content that was relatable, authentic, and sprinkled

with humor. I remained honest and objective in all my reviews, even if it meant ruffling a few feathers among friends in the industry. By avoiding fancy jargon and staying true to my readers, I built trust and loyalty. My guiding principle has always been to write for my readers, not for the restaurants.

How did you address the skepticism or resistance from both the public and industry professionals during the early days of food blogging, especially when it was an emerging field?

Skeptics are like stale spices - they need to be replaced with fresh perspectives. I proved that food blogging wasn't just a flash in the pan by consistently delivering quality content and building a loyal community. Facebook played a significant role in this, as I created a space where food enthusiasts could exchange opinions and learn from each other.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in creating content for your blog in the early days, and how did you overcome issues related to resources, technology or audience engagement?

The early days were like cooking with limited ingredients—creativity was key. I tackled challenges by infusing my content with storytelling, leveraging social media, and engaging with my audience like a master chef. Content was never an issue because food is something we encounter daily. To improve the visual appeal, I invested in a DSLR. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Indian Food Freak has grown into one of the largest food and travel blogs in India. What were some of the initial challenges you encountered when starting your blog and organising The Big F Awards, and how did your corporate experience help you navigate these obstacles?

mavigate these obstacles?
My corporate experience was the yeast that helped Indian Food Freak rise. The biggest challenge in organizing the awards was securing sponsors who believed in the vision but didn't influence the results. My sales and marketing skills were crucial here. Convincing people of the brand visibility that our awards could offer was key, and looking back, I'm proud to say that I delivered on those promises.

This year, The Big F Awards has expanded to cover the entire Delhi-NCR region. What motivated this expansion, and what new opportunities and challenges do you anticipate?

Expanding The Big F Awards to Delhi-NCR was like adding a new course to the menu—a natural progression. Since it takes nearly six months to organize the awards, with our jury visiting each restaurant to taste the food before

delivering a verdict, venturing into other cities wasn't feasible. However, Delhi-NCR should be treated as one city, with people frequently traveling for work and pleasure. Including Delhi has given us broader and, in some cases, better choices, helping foodies make informed decisions when they dine out.

The introduction of categories for home bakers and home chefs is a unique and thoughtful addition. What inspired these new categories, and how do they reflect current trends in the food industry?

Home bakers and home chefs are the new spice merchants—they're driving innovation and shaping trends. These categories reflect the democratisation of food and the rise of culinary entrepreneurship. I'm pleased to see that home chefs and bakers are now taken seriously. Not only have their businesses expanded, but many new ventures are focused solely on this segment, helping them grow by organising pop-ups at five-star hotels, developing apps for delivery, and introducing them to wider audiences.

Winning the Best Influencer Award by BBC Good Food in 2018 is a significant achievement. How did this recognition impact your career and the growth of Indian Food

Freak and The Big F Awards? We all seek acknowledgment and appreciation. Winning the award was a validation that I was on the right path. It boosted my morale and increased confidence in the products and content I deliver.

The Big F Awards are known for their transparency and integrity. How are you ensuring these values are upheld in this year's expanded edition, especially with the

addition of new categories? Transparency and integrity are the secret ingredients in The Big F Awards' recipe. We ensure fairness by using a robust judging process, clear criteria, and a commitment to accountability. From selecting the right jury to deliberating each result, we remain steadfast in our dedication to honesty and transparency.

As you prepare for the 11th edition of The Big F Awards, what are your personal goals for the event, and what do you hope attendees and participants will take away from this year's awards?

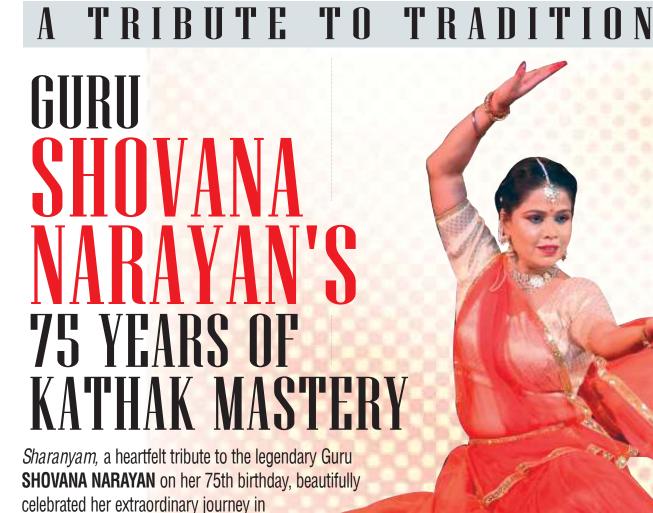
My personal goal for The Big F Awards is to foster a culinary community that's the icing on the cake. I hope attendees and participants leave inspired, with new connections and a renewed passion for the food industry. People don't mind losing as long as they know they lost to a worthy opponent. Our aim is to be fair and just while building camaraderie among all industry professionals.



WE ARE WHAT OUR THOUGHTS HAVE MADE US; SO TAKE CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK. WORDS ARE SECONDARY. THOUGHTS LIVE; THEY TRAVEL FAR — SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

art & culture 07

VIJAYAWADA, September 1, 2024



n the world of Indian classical dance, few names resonate with as much reverence as Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan. Her journey is not just a tribute to her unparalleled dedication to Kathak but a living legacy that has inspired generations. As she steps into her 75th year, the Asavari Centre for Kathak honoured this icon with an evening titled "Sharanyam," a celebration as vibrant and profound as Guruji herself.

Kathak. The evening was a touching tribute to her life's

profound impact she has had

disciples, says SAKSHI PRIYA

work, showcasing the

on the art form and her

Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan is a celebrated icon in Kathak, with a remarkable career spanning over six decades. Her innovative approach and deep understanding of Indian culture have redefined the art form. With prestigious awards like the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, her influence extends beyond performance to

visionary choreography, dedicated teaching, and cultural leadership.
On this unforgettable evening, the Stein Auditorium at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi was transformed into a space of dance and devotion. The evening was not just an event; it was a vibrant expression of love, respect and admiration from her disciples worldwide. Each performance honoured not just Kathak but the essence of Guru Shovana Narayan - the artist, the mentor and the visionary.

From the moment the lights dimmed and the

first note echoed through the auditorium, it was clear that this evening was extraordinary. The performance of "Taal Pancham Sawari" was a masterful display of rhythm and precision, perfectly embodying the discipline and expression that Guruji has always emphasised. Beyond the technical brilliance, it was the sheer emotion that captivated the audience. "Chaand" was not just a dance; it was a poetic journey that moved everyone present. Similarly, "Malika" seamlessly fused song and dance, creating a blend of beauty that felt almost otherworldly. One of the most memorable moments of the night was "Moonling ht Impressionism," a performance that seemed to slow time itself. The dancers moved with such became a peaceful space, where the silence of moonlight

captured in every

gesture and step. The

soft strains of the piano

added an extra layer of

elegance, making it feel as though the audience was witnessing a dream come to The evening was a reflection of the profound bond between Guruji and her disciples, a connection that was evident in every movement and gesture on stage. This wasn't just a series of performances; it was a living reflection of the relationships built through years passion, dedication, mutual respect. As the presentation video played. featuring heartfelt birthday messages from her students, in the emotion auditorium was overwhelming. These were more than just words

ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF THE NIGHT WAS "MOONLIGHT IMPRESSIONISM," A PERFORMANCE THAT SEEMED TO SLOW TIME ITSELF. THE DANCERS MOVED WITH SUCH GRACE THAT THE STAGE BECAME A PEACEFUL SPACE, WHERE THE SILENCE OF MOONLIGHT WAS Captured in Every



GESTURE AND STEP.

admiration; they were living proof of the deep, enduring love and gratitude that have grown over the years - a love that extends far beyond the art of Kathak.

Photo: Pankaj Kumai

the art of Kathak.

As the evening drew to a close with the powerful performance of "Dhwani-Pratidhwani," the energy in the auditorium reached its zenith. The audience's applause was more than just appreciation; it was a collective outpouring of respect, love, and admiration for a woman who has devoted her life to the pursuit of art and the nurturing of others.

others. In the words of Guruji's first disciple, Shruti Gupta Chandra, "Sharanyam is a small tribute from all of us who have learned so much from Shovana Didi - dance in its purest form and, with it, many life lessons. And the learning continues..." Guruji herself reflected on the evening with emotion, saying, "The air rebounded with the pure love and sublime devotion of all the disciples that touched every devotion of all the disciples that touched every heart and left everyone emotional. The programme was meticulously planned and executed."

As her disciples paid tribute through their performances, it was clear that Guru Shovana Narayan's influence extends far beyond the Narayan's influence extends far beyond the stage. She has touched lives, instilled values, and inspired a generation of dancers who carry forward her legacy with pride and reverence. For them, she is not just a guru; she is a mother, a confidante, and a guiding star. Guru Shovana Narayan represents both tradition and innovation. She embodies the continuity of creativity, demonstrating that art is not just about preserving the past but about creating a about preserving the past but about creating a future rooted in tradition yet open to new possibilities.

As we celebrate her 75th year, it's evident that Guru Shovana Narayan is much more than a dedicated to Kathak. Her legacy extends beyond performances to the hearts of her students and the countless lives she has touched. She is not just a mentor and guide but an inspiring figure whose dedication continues to elevate the art form and inspire those who learn from her.

A CELEBRATION OF INDIA'S TIMELESS CRAFTSMANSHIP

Naayaab highlights India's rich craftsmanship through over 100 masterpieces by renowned artisans. This exhibition blends tradition with innovation, presenting a unique cultural celebration, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

Taayaab, a groundbreaking exhibition platform, is set to become a beacon of India's rich heritage, showcasing over 100 masterpieces by the nation's most celebrated artisans. Spanning three major cities New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. This exhibition is more than just an exhibition, it is a profound celebration of India's artistic legacy, bringing together over 40 traditional art forms under one roof.

A SHOWCASE OF INDIA'S **ARTISTIC DIVERSITY**

Naayaab's significance lies in its ability to bring together an extraordinary collection of art forms, each representing a unique aspect of India's cultural fabric. With works from over 70 master artisans, including several Padma Shri and Shilp Guru awards, this exhibition is a rare opportunity to witness the pinnacle of Indian craftsmanship.

The exhibition highlighted the exceptional craftsmanship of renowned artisans. several Sudarshan Sahoo captivated with his intricate stone carving while Jai Prakash Lakhiawal impressed with his detailed miniature paintings. Khaleel Ahmad showcased his exquisite kilim carpets and Bhuri Bai presented her vibrant Bhil art. Durga Bai Vyam contributed her intricate Gond paintings. The visionary leaders behind Naayaab were Ajay A Singh, Founder Director and Akansha Dixit, Founder & Chief Curator.

One of the most captivating pieces is the Inlay Artistry Chest by Rupan Matharu, a work that exemplifies the exhibition's ethos of blending tradition with modernity. Crafted from Indian rosewood to the mastery of Indian artisans.

using traditional Hoshiarpur inlay techniques, Matharu's chest replaces the historically used ivory or bone with acrylic, making it both environmentally conscious and a stunning piece of art. The intricate patterns and meticulous detailing make it a true testament Another powerful piece is Durga Bai Vyam's Gond Painting "Climate in Crisis", which uses symbolic imagery to address the resilience of nature in the face of human activity. This painting not only showcases the intricate detailing typical of Gond art but also delivers a poignant message about environmental conservation. Jai Prakash Lakhiawal's Shrinathji in Tanjore and Miniature Fusion painting is another highlight,

merging Tanjore and Pichwai styles

to create a resplendent depiction of the Hindu deity. The use of gold leaf and natural pigments elevates this piece to a new level of artistic brilliance. The Heritage Red Sozni Shawl by Bashir Ahmed Bhatt is a must-see for those interested in traditional Indian textiles. This exquisite shawl, with its intricate embroidery of 600 stitches per centimeter, took four years to complete and is a tribute to the time-honored skills of Kashmiri Sozni artisans.

MASTERPIECES OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

Among the many remarkable pieces, Shiva Kumar's Tri Panel Mythic Tales stands out as a masterpiece of wood inlay and carving. Spanning six years in the making, this wooden set depicts narratives from the lives of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna across three panels, showcasing scenes like Sri Rama Pattabhishekam,



Vishwaroopa and Krishna Leela. vibrant enamel colors, reflect the The craftsmanship is so intricate rich tradition of Meenakari, an art that concealed handles reveal a form passed down through hidden third panel, an generations since the Mughal era. engineering feat in itself. The use of different woods and seashells A PLATFORM FOR PRESERVATION AND INNOVATION for vibrant hues, along with

hand-carved Yali motifs on the Naayaab is more than just an outer frame, make this artwork mexhibition; it is a movement aimed a true marvel. at preserving and reviving Another notable piece is India's traditional art forms. Mukesh Kumar Soni's The long-term vision of Maharaja Brooch making Naayaab an annual Pendant, a stunning event, both in India and example of Meenakari globally, is commendable. on gold. Inspired by the regal bearing of

By doing so, the organizers hope to inspire the next generation of artisans Rajput personages, inspire this pendant cum brooch combines and ensure that these uncut diamonds, invaluable skills baroque freshwater continue to thrive. As pearls, glass, spinels, and gold to create a piece that is both opulent and art enthusiast, witnessing Naayaab is both a privilege and a profound refined. The intricate designs on reminder of the richness of Indian both sides, along with the use of heritage. The exhibition not only



showcases the exceptional talent of Indian artisans but also serves as a platform to elevate these crafts to the global stage, ensuring they are celebrated for generations to come. Naayaab is not just an exhibition, it is a celebration of India's artistic heritage, a platform for master artisans and a beacon of hope for the future of traditional crafts. In an age where digital and massproduced art often takes center stage, Naayaab stands as a beautiful contradiction, a reminder of the beauty of handcrafted excellence and the importance of preserving cultural legacies. For collectors, connoisseurs and art lovers alike, Naayaab offers a rare opportunity to connect with the soul of Indian culture, to witness the legacy of its artistic heritage, and to support the artisans who dedicate their lives to preserving these traditions. It is an unmissable event that promises to leave a lasting impact on anyone who values the intersection of

history, culture and creativity. Naayaab is not just an exhibition but a profound celebration of India's rich artistic heritage. By bringing together over 100 masterpieces from acclaimed artisans across the country, it offers a unique platform that honors and revives traditional crafts. The intricate works displayed, from the innovative Inlay Artistry Chest to the evocative Gond Painting, illustrate the extraordinary skill and creativity of Indian artisans. This event is a tribute to the enduring significance of these art forms and serves as an inspiring reminder of the beauty that emerges when tradition meets innovation. Naayaab stands as a pivotal moment for both art lovers and cultural enthusiasts, marking a significant step in preserving and promoting India's invaluable artistic legacy.

VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

IN BRIEF



10 new Ayush institutes to open in next five years

nion Minister Prataprao Jadhav announced that 10 new AYUSH institutes will be opened in the next five years to expand the traditional medical system. The Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Health made the remarks at a programme on Friday during his visit to the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) here. Jadhav inspected the entire campus and reviewed the facilities and the treatments being provided to the patients, the Ayush ministry statement said. During his address, he emphasized that his government is committed to fulfilling the prime minister's ambitious effort to bring Ayurveda to every household, it stated. The minister also mentioned that Ayurveda and our traditional medical system suffered significant damage during the colonial period and foreign invasions.



Hero MotoCorp elevates Sanjay Bhan to VP post

ero MotoCorp has elevated its Chief Business Officer for global business, Sanjay Bhan to the role of Executive Vice President with effect from September 1. Bhan, in his expanded capacity, will also lead the Global Product Planning (GPP) portfolio along with the newly established Global Market Insights function, Hero MotoCorp said in a regulatory filing on Friday. "This new function will be our strategic engine, enabling us anticipate customer and market trends, seize opportunities ahead of time, and further solidify our position as a thought leader in the industry," CEO Niranjan Gupta said. Bhan, however, will continue to report to the CEO for Global Business and GPP. Additionally, he will report directly to the Executive Chairman as the head of the Global Market Insights function while also leading the



DoNER's testing lab first NABL-accredited facility in NE

textile testing laboratory in Guwahati, under the ministry of DoNER, has become the first such in the Amortheast to be NABL-accredited, a statement said on Saturday. The laboratory of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) has achieved the distinction, a statement said "Previously, weavers and producers had to send their products to Kolkata for testing due to the lack of such a facility in the region. The establishment of this state-ofthe-art testing lab in Guwahati, Assam marks a significant change, offering local weavers and manufacturers immediate access to high-quality testing services," it said. Accreditation provides a ready means for customers to find reliable testing, it said. It also enhances customer confidence in accepting testing/calibration reports issued by accredited laboratories, the statement added.

'India to lead bio-manufacturing revolution due to its resources'

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday that biomanufacturing will shape the future of global economy, and India is well-positioned to lead this revolution due to its abundant bio-resources.

"India has an opportunity to lead the next big revolution which will be driven by biomanufacturing. While the west led the IT revolution, India, with its immense and largely untapped bioresources, is ready to take the lead," Singh said. He said that bio-manufac-

turing offers solutions to global challenges like climate change, resource depletion, waste generation, and pollution. It can help meet the growing demand for food and fuel while also creating new

Singh said that India currently imports most of its



ing, using biomass and carbon dioxide, can make the country more self-reliant in fuel production. Also, it could support the dairy industry through non-dairy milk alternatives, promoting resource

sustainability. Last week, the Union

Cabinet approved the 'BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing'.

This policy seeks to boost research, technology development, and commercialisa-

While the west led the IT revolution. India, with its immense and largely untapped bioresources, is ready to take the lead," Singh said

tion by setting up bio-manufacturing and bio-AI hubs and biofoundries, and enable the production of several things from medicine to materials and promote the use of advanced biotechnological processes in agriculture and manufacturing.

'Slowing of GDP growth due to lower govt spending, MCC'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The slowing of India's economic growth to a 15-month low of 6.7 per cent in the April-June quar-

ter was due to "lower" government spending in the wake of the enforcement of the model code of conduct for the recent Lok Sabha polls, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said here on

Saturday.
The RBI had projected a growth rate of 7.1 per cent for the April-June quarter of this fiscal.

"The Reserve Bank projected a growth rate of 7.1 per cent for the first quarter. However, the first advance estimation data released by the National Statistical Office showed the growth rate at 6.7 per cent," Das told reporters here.

The components and main

drivers responsible for the GDP growth like consumption, investment, manufacturing, services and construction have registered a growth

of more than 7 per cent, he said. Only two aspects have pulled growth rate slightly down.

Those are—gov-ernment (both central and state) expenditure and agri-culture, the RBI governor point-

ed out. He said the government expenditure was low during the first quarter perhaps due to elections (April to June) and operation of model code of conduct by the Election Commission.

"We would expect the government expenditure to pick up in coming quarters and provide the required support to growth," Das said.

Google-backed fund selects 4 Indian organisations for Al-driven climate solutions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four India-based organisations have been selected among 14 recipients across the Asia Pacific region for grants under the APAC Sustainability Seed Fund 2.0, supported by a USD 5-million grant from Google.org, the tech giant's philanthropic arm.

The fund, managed by Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN), aims to foster technology- and AIdriven solutions addressing critical environmental and social challenges.

The Indian recipients include INREM Foundation, Research and Development Foundation

(CRDF), Institute for Financial Management and Research (WELL Labs), and Gujarat Mahila Housing Sewa Trust (MHT), Google.org said in a statement.
INREM Foundation will

develop AI-enabled open digital solutions for community access to water contamination data. CRDF plans to use machine learning and satellite imagery to protect lakes and their carbon sink function. WELL Labs will develop advanced models for villagelevel water security insights, while MHT will create an AIpowered model to identify urban heat islands and suggest community-centric solutions, the statement added.



TN CM visits Apple, Microsoft offices in US; inks pact with Google for AI lab

PNS CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin visited the offices of Apple, Google and Microsoft and discussed opportunities for investment and partnerships with them.

Day 2 of his US visit led to the signing

of a pact to skill two million youngsters in the state in AI under the 'Naan Mudhalvan'

scheme, in partnership with Google.
The Chief Minister, currently on a visit to the USA to attract investments to Tamil Nadu, on Saturday described the visit to the offices of Apple, Google and Microsoft as "awe-inspiring.' "Discussed various opportunities and

exciting partnerships. Determined to strengthen these partnerships and make Tamil Nadu one of the foremost growth engines of Asia!" @Guidance_TN @TRBRajaa @TNIndMin #InvestInTN #ThriveInTN #LeadWithTN #DravidianModel," Stalin said in a post on the social media platform X. A Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) was signed in the presence of the Chief Minister, with Google for setting up Tamil Nadu AI (Artificial Intelligence) labs in Tamil Nadu. The initiative will help to collaborate

with startups, MSMEs, and the rural economy besides making the youth a future-ready force.



of a discussion initiated by the CM with officials at Google on August 30, a government release here said.

"The Chief Minister met top officials of Google at Mountain View campus and discussed the further expansion of production of Pixel 8 phones manufactured in Tamil Nadu and the launch of other Google products and technology facilities in Tamil Nadu," the release said

Stalin also spoke about boosting growth through AI innovations in start-ups, industrial ecosystem mobility and capacity for the future.

The Chief Minister visited the office of Apple Inc. which manufactures and markets smartphones, personal computers, wearal

Surendran K

joins The

Westin Chennai

Velachery

Hospitality service provider

The Westin Chennai

Velachery has roped in

Surendran K As its

Director, Sales and

Marketing with immediate

Prior to the new role,

Surendran, who has over 18

years of experience, has served at Courtyard by

Marriott Chennai, Hyatt Regency Chennai and The

Residency Towers, a press release said on Saturday.

An alumnus of American Hotels Lodging Association,

Surendran has graduated from Annamalai University.

ranks among the senior

management team in South

Asia for revenue manage-

ment between 2021 and

He has secured top

PNS CHENNAI

effect.

ic products and accessories such as smart watches, headphones, Airpods and various

It is headquartered in Cupertino, California, and is one of the Fortune 500 companies operating in 27 countries with 30 global outlets.

Stalin thanked the company officials for ensuring Tamil Nadu a place in the global electronics manufacturing map.

He outlined the various initiatives of the Tamil Nadu government to improve the manufacturing environment of the state and highlighted that Tamil Nadu is a leading state in terms of industry, housing and transport logistics facilities, as well as the education and skills development of youth

FMD-free zones in 8 states to enhance animal product exports

PNS NEW DELHI

The government plans to establish Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)-free zones in eight states to boost exports of animal products, according to a senior government offi-

Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, announced the initiative at the workshop that concluded on August 30 on the issue of animal infectious disease prioritisation, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with

the department.

"We've made significant progress in tackling four critical diseases: FMD, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Brucellosis, and Classical Swine Fever under the National Control Programme," Upadhyaya said.

The government "plans to establish FMD-free zones in



eight states, where advanced vaccination efforts are underway", she said.

This strategic move is expected to pave the way for expanded export opportuni-ties for Indian animal products, enhancing the country's global market presence, she added.

The three-day workshop resulted in a prioritized list of the top 20 animal infectious diseases, based on factors including severity, transmissibility, and national impor-

Charge) of HAL PNS BENGALURU Dr D K Sunil,

Dr D K Sunil

takes over as

CMD (Additional

(Engineering, Research and Development) has taken over

as Chairman and Managing Director (Additional Charge) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited from C B Ananthakrishnan, effective from September 1, 2024, offi-

cials said on Saturday.
Sunil joined Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in 1987 as a Management Trainee and has about 37 years of experience in varied roles in the company contributing significantly to design, production, quality enhancement and customer support, they said.

NBCC announces issue of bonus shares in 1:2 ratio

To use Rs 90 cr free reserve for this purpose

PNS NEW DELHI

Ltd on Saturday said the board has approved issue of bonus shares in a ratio of 1:2 to eligible shareholders and the company will utilise Rs 90 crore free reserve for this purpose. In a regulatory filing, the company informed that the board has approved issuance of bonus shares and fixation of

State-owned NBCC (India)

record date. "The Board of Directors has recommended the issuance of bonus shares to the share-

holders of the company in the ratio of 1:2 i.e. one new fully paid-up equity share of Rs 1 each for every two existing shares to the eligible members as on the record Date," the company said.

The company proposes to issue 90 crore shares as bonus

"Free reserves of Rs 90 crore would be utilised for the issue of bonus Shares," the NBCC said. This is subject to the approval of the shareholders in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.





DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN AIR TAXI

Darsh Dronobotics ties up with Trouvé Hub

PNS NEW DELHI

Darsh Dronobotics Systems on Saturday announced its collaboration with Canada-based Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. for the development of hydro-

gen-based five-seater air taxi. The partnership also aims at combating climate change and reducing carbon emissions in the mobility and aviation sector, a company statement said.

Supporting India's net zero goals and country's ambition to be a pioneer in the air taxi revolution by 2025, Vjaitra Air

Mobility, a division of Darsh Dronobotics Systems Pvt Ltd, has announced its strategic partnership with Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc, the statement said.

As part of this partnership, Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. will play a pivotal role in sup-porting Darsh Dronobotics Systems in raising necessary funds to build a full-scale pro-

totype of the hydrogen air taxi.
The project is set to redefine the future of urban transportation, offering an eco-friendly and efficient alternative to traditional modes of travel, it said.



Ratandeep Tripathi, CEO of Vjaitra Air Mobility, said, "Their support in fundraising and innovation will be instrumental in bringing our hydrogen-based

air taxi to life, aligning with our commitment to sustainable and cutting-edge transportation solutions." These air taxis promise quieter flights, zero

emissions, and reduced operating costs as compared to conventional aircraft, it noted.

The air taxis will be capable of covering up to 600 kilometres, enabling users to travel from Delhi-NCR to Lucknow and other state capitals as well as other metropolitan city air-

Trouvé Innovation Hub Inc. will assist in securing the required funding for the project, leveraging their extensive network of private investors, government funding, and institutional support.

BLS International acquires 51 pc stake in SLW Media

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Visa processing and consular services provider BLS International on Saturday said it has acquired a 51 per cent stake in sports management company SLW Media for a value of Rs 80.24 lakh.

The company has entered into a definitive share purchase agreement to acquire a 51 per cent stake in SLW Media for a value of Rs 80.24 lakh, SLW Media said in a statement.

The acquisition aligns perfectly with BLS International's



extensive global presence, allowing for seamless integra-tion of golf events with its visa and travel services across more than 66 countries, it said.

SLW Media is a prominent sports management company

driving a transformative leap in our brand equity. This partnership acts as a powerful vehicle to elevate our global presence and position us strategically on the world stage. Our unified approach underscores our dedication to innovation and

with over two decades of expe-

"With this acquisition we are

rience in the golf industry.

excellence, setting a new benchmark for success in international markets," BLS International Joint Managing Director Shikhar Aggarwal

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AARTI SREENATH

As I stepped through the ornate gates of the Crafts Council of Telangana, I was immediately transported into a world where art and devotion intertwined seamlessly. The ambience was steeped in Hindu traditions, with the heady aroma of dhoop sticks wafting through the air and the vibrant hues of marigold flowers adorning every corner. Two young women greeted us at the entrance with chandan tika, a gesture that set the tone for the evening—a celebra-

ture that set the tone for the evening—a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage.

The entrance was graced by a magnificent chappan bhog arrangement, a decorative tribute that added to the spiritual aura of the event. A corner resonated with the soft strains of Carnatic music, punctuated by the gentle notes of a flute, creating a serene atmosphere that was both inviting and festive.

The event antly pamed "Supress A Name of the series and the series are series

Ing and festive.

The event, aptly named "Swaroop: A Narrative of Srinathji in Heritage Handcrafted Textile Art in India," was a visual and sensory delight. Each fabric on display was not merely a piece of cloth but a canvas where the divine figure of Srinathji had been intricately brought to life. The exhibition shows each a rish error of Indian bandianet. tion showcased a rich array of Indian handicraft textiles, featuring the delicate *Jamdani* weaving traditions of Srikakulam and Venkatagiri, alongside Kashmiri embroidery that was nothing short of exquisite. Techniques such as *Katha*, *Chikan*, *Kasauti*, *Aari*, *Gara*, *Gotta Patti*, petite point,

Threads of divinity

chain stitch and beadwork were all represented, each telling its own story through the skilled hands that crafted them. hand-painting styles like *Tanjore*, *Cheriyal*, *Kalamkari* and *Pattachitra* added another layer of depth to this rich tapestry of art and devotion.

The textile installation walk-through, led by The textile installation walk-through, led by none other than Gaurang Shah—the renowned textile revivalist and designer—was a journey into the heart of Indian craftsmanship. He shared insights into his approach to reviving ancient textile techniques, explaining, "These textiles I've been working with—I've been working with weavers for the last 24 years. The weaving technique remains the same rooted in the ing technique remains the same, rooted in the region's traditions. I've simply altered the design dialogue, infusing it with modern, contemporary elements and experimenting with different types

He elaborated on his work with Kanchipuram weavers, known primarily for their silk. "I've transformed Kanchipuram's traditional silk into organza, chiffon and khadi, ensuring that weavers have work year-round. You can't wear Kanchipuram sarees in summer, so I created lighter fabrics like chiffon and organza. It's about evolving the craft to meet contemporary needs while preserving its essence," he explained passionatelv.

When asked about the theme of the exhibition, he reflected on the divine inspiration behind it. "Shrinathji, Lord Krishna—when you usually see a panel or painting of him, it's often done by *Nathdwara* artists, depicting cows and pastoral scenes. I've reimagined these themes across different Indian textiles, employing vari-





ous hand-paint techniques, weaving methods, and embroidery styles—from Rajasthan's *gotta patti* to Hyderabad's *aari* embroidery, Lucknow's chikankari and pattachitra hand painting," he said, highlighting the fusion of tradition and innovation.

Discussing the challenges he faced, he shared that convincing weavers to embrace new designs was initially a hurdle, but over time, they grew to trust his vision. "Now, most are ready to take on new challenges because they know they'll achieve them. Handicrafts are timeless and won't fade away; more young designers are engaging with weavers, ensuring this legacy continues. My greatest inspiration is the challenge itself—I need new things to work on every day," he concluded with a sense of fulfillment.

In an exclusive conversation, Dr. Anita Bharat Shah, an eminent museologist, author and art historian, delved into the intricacies of the devotional art on display. "It's all with the blessings of Krishna; it's not easy," she began, recounting the rigorous process of researching for her second book, now published. "I approached the archaeology department of Rajasthan, convincing the deputy director to grant me access to their muse-um's storerooms, which are typically off-limits. We sat there as they opened the seals, revealing collections that are rarely seen."

Her journey into the world of *Pushtimarga*, a rare sect that has inspired a vast array of eclectic

art, was particularly fascinating. "Pushtimarga has influenced an extraordinary range of art forms, from flower garlands and pichwai paintforms, from flower garlands and pichwai paintings to the textiles we see here today. The art connects deeply with philosophy—Indian classical art is intricately linked to philosophy and altering its iconography would mean losing its essence," she explained.

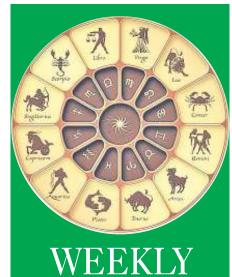
When asked about the challenges in preserving the state of the state of

ing these textiles and paintings, she was candid. "We use museum techniques for conservation, but not all Indian museums are up to the mark. While the paintings in Udaipur are well preserved, they're not displayed; they're kept safely, but they deserve to be seen. Preservation is crucial, but so is showcasing these works to the world," she emphasised.

The evening was not just a celebration of art but a profound exploration of the spirituality that drives it. As the event drew to a close, it was clear that "Swaroop" was more than an exhibition; it was a tribute to the timeless traditions that continue to inspire and evolve, ensuring that the legacy of India's textile arts remains vibrant and relevant for generations to come.



vijayawada 09



SEPTEMBER 1 - 6



ARIES

You will focus on moneymaking, appearing unreliable but joyful. Introspection brings peace. Kindness attracts others. Business decisions call for careful consideration.

TAURUS

Your hard work pays off, but avoid lethargy. Balance family time. Love shines, but be cautious of betrayal. Control spending and impulsiveness to avoid mistakes.

Joy fills you as introspection eases stress. Support from friends helps realize dreams. Balance marriage and ambition. Calm your mind. Enjoy a much-needed trip.

CANCER

Your experimentation earns praise, while meditation improves confidence. Challenges arise as a father and mood changes. Balance ego and avoid health risks.

Your warmth with siblings brings joy, but eccentricities affect your career. Balance work with rejuvenation. Success is likely, but avoid depression by taking a break.

Siblings reconcile. Financial worries are exaggerated. Your energy fuels productivity, turning negatives into positives. Leadership and reasoning aid success.

LIBRA

New project ideas emerge: your experimentation aids selection. Despite delays in support, persist for success. Manage insecurities and focus on your future.

SCORPIO

Your experimentation gains recognition, and support helps advance projects. Plan a journey with your kids, but manage restlessness and negative thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS

Your talent earns accolades, and your peculiarities gain your attention. Though ventures may be delayed, stay confident. Seize unexpected growth opportunities.

CAPRICORN

Your nature to experiment draws attention. Despite setbacks, rise above them confidently. Your innovative and outspoken nature will bring joy and recognition.

AQUARIUS

Avoid overestimating your abilities to prevent mistakes. Embrace beauty, relax as efforts pay off, and handle relationships with care. Consult family before decisions.

Find a stimulating partner and be gentle with loved ones. Friends' support helps achieve dreams. Manage life's issues and rejuvenate relationships with a trip.

Blending traditional & contemporary styles

Kundan jewellery making is an age-old craft of transforming uncut diamonds into exquisite jewelry originated in the Rajput and Mughal eras. In contemporary times these stunning creations are considered essential additions to any trousseau and treasured investments for personal collections. It has always showcased intricate and beautiful designs. It was originally crafted exclusively for royal families. Ruby Raang is a brand that has kept the legacy and craft of Kundan jewellery alive.





Janmashtami

Inspired by the eternal love of Radha and Krishna and the majestic presence of Lord Balaji, the collection embodies devotion, purity and par excellence artistry. Each piece is a tribute to the divine tales that have inspired generations, reflecting the joy and reverence of this auspicious day. Each piece of jewellery curated under this collection is not just an adornment but a heartfelt expression of faith, crafted to resonate with the spiritual essence of Janmashtami, embracing the divine through our specially curated, Krishna and Balaji inspired creations.



protection, hydration and

French Essence is proud to announce the launch of MENZ, a new entity dedicated to delivering premium grooming expansion, French Essence Perfumes is stepping into the men's grooming market, offering a comprehensive range of products that include shaving foam, aftershave, hair spray and other essential



LAUNCHES NEW MEN'S GROOMING LINE

products tailored specifically for men. With this exciting grooming care items.



AND STYLING

PRODUCTS

aging, sunburn, and skin damage. Price -3,460 The pocket high-speed hair dryer is a

the benefits of sun

innovative formula

impressive SPF 50,

a touch of colour for a

provides a high level of

sun protection with an

ensuring that your skin

remains shielded from

the harmful effects of

can cause premature

UVA and UVB rays, which

flawless complexion. This

game-changer in personal grooming, offering a combination of body, this hair dryer is ideal for travel. It features an 110,000 RPM motor that ensures quick and effective drying, even on the go. The dryer comes with versatile styling attachments, including defriza and curling nozzles, multiple temperature and airflow settings and negative ion technology to minimise frizz and maintain hair moisture. Additionally, the intelligent temperature control system prevents overheating, ensuring a safe and professional styling experience.

INTRODUCING VITAMIN C GLOW MOISTURIZER

Vitamin C glow boosting intense moisturiser - the latest addition to The Body Shop's vitamin C range. This new formula is a richer, more potent version of their beloved cult favourite. Designed to deliver instant

radiance, the velvety, whipped cream texture makes skin look visibly brighter and feel replenished with 48-hour moisture right from the first use

Price- 2,2496



SADYASKA: SOMETHING YOU NEED ON YOUR WISHLIST THIS FESTIVE SEASON

As the festive season approaches, Sadyaska offers the perfect opportunity to revamp your home with pieces that add a touch of

warmth and style. Their exquisite collection is ideal for gifting or

refreshing your living spaces, ensuring your home exudes a

on luxurious bedspreads.

sense of luxury and comfort during this special time of year. It

offers a wide range of bedding products, with a special emphasis

FROM KUTCH TO COUTURE

Sangeeta Kilachand, with no

formal training but driven by

ancient art, architecture and

researching and preserving

the traditional craftsmanship

that has slowly faded over

time. Her extensive travels

and decades of collecting

in timeless creations that

exude elegance and luxury.

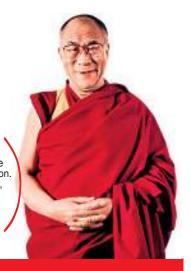
antique textiles have deeply

informed her work, resulting

an insatiable curiosity for

folklore, has spent years

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion"





MOSCOW FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH FOCUS ON INDIAN CINENA

Laapata ladies and Kalki resonate with Russian audience, opening up huge possibilities for Indian cinema in Russia, writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

he Moscow International Films Week, an event that has become a significant cultural bridge between Russia and the world opened up in Moscow with much fanfare at Khudozhestvenny Cinema and with people from film fraternity from around the world in attendance at the gala event. On the first day of the Film Week, screenings of both foreign and domestic films took place, including the nationwide premieres of the Indian sports drama Field and the philosophical-mystical drama Alzheimer from Iran. This year it is an Indian-themed week with focus on Indian cinema and celebrating Indian art of storytelling on celluloid. The film festival is hosting films from more than 40-countries but the flavour of the

festival is completely

was completely

Indian. The second day

dedicated to Indian cinema, with Russian artists performing on Indian songs and Indian cuisine being served at the venue with Bollywood songs playing in the background.
The Indian segment of the festival
is dedicated to celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian cinema, offering Russian audiences a taste of India's cinematic brilliance through a curated selection of films. Among the highlights are two remarkable Indian films, Laapata Ladies and Kalki, which have captivated the Russian audience with their unique storytelling and cultural nuances. Indian cinema has long been admired in Russia, with classics from Bollywood making their mark in the past. Ra Kapoor was a household name in Russia and 'mera joota hai Japani, an all-time hit. The Indian-themed week at the Moscow International Films Week is a testament to the enduring connection between the two cultures. This year's selection is not just about showcasing films; it's about highlighting the shared human experiences and emotions that transcend borders. As one Russian filmmaker quipped, "Indian and

Russian films are made with heart, the most striking similarity between Indian and Russian films is that the songs are woven into the storyline." This is despite the fact that much is lost in translation and language barrier remains a significant impediment. But that is about to change as Swapna Dutt, the co-producer of *Kalki*, told the Pioneer that they would be releasing the film dubbed in Russian. "Indian films were once very

popular in Russia, we want to

open that bracket again. I am sure

Indian films have a huge market here,"

said Swapna Dutt.

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"LAAPATA LADIES" AND "KALKI,"
WHICH HAVE CAPTIVATED THE
RUSSIAN AUDIENCE WITH THEIR
UNIQUE STORYTELLING AND

CULTURAL NUANCES

МОСКОВСКАЯ Международная Неделя кино

28.08.2024

Laapata Ladies, a film that delves into the complexities of womanhood in contemporary India, has struck a chord with Russian viewers. The film's narrative, which intertwines humor with social commentary, offers a glimpse into the challenges and aspirations of Indian women. The Russian audience, known for its appreciation of nuanced storytelling, has responded positively to the film's portrayal of universal themes such as identity, freedom, and societal expectations.

Kalki, another standout film screened on the second day, explores themes of mythology and modernity, blending them in a way that is both thoughtprovoking and visually stunning. The oration of Indian my set against the backdrop of modern societal issues, has intrigued Russian viewers. The film's ability to weave together the old and the new, the mythical and the real, resonates deeply with a culture that values its own rich historical and cultural heritage. The success of Laapata Ladies and Kalki at the Moscow International Films Week highlights the growing appeal of Indian cinema in Russia. These films, while rooted in Indian culture, address universal themes that resonate with audiences across the world. The Russian viewers have found a connection with the characters and

their stories, appreciating the films for their depth, creativity, and the way they tackle complex social issues.

The Indian-themed
week has also opened
doors for cultural
exchange, with
discussions and
workshops that allow
Russian audiences to
engage more deeply with
Indian cinema. This
exchange of ideas and
cultural narratives fosters
a deeper understanding
between the two nations,
reinforcing the importance
of art in bridging cultural

gaps.
As Indian films continue to gain popularity in Russia, the Indianthemed week at the Moscow International Films Week is likely to become a regular feature, showcasing the best of Indian cinema to Russian audiences. The success of *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki* is not just a win for the filmmakers but also a testament to the universal appeal of Indian stories that, while deeply rooted in their own cultures, speak to the shared human experience.

The Moscow International Films Week's Indian-themed week is more than just a showcase of films; it's a celebration of the cultural connections between India and Russia. The warm reception of films like *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki* by the Russian audience is a reflection of the power of cinema to transcend borders and bring people together through the shared language of storytelling.

VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

AT-0-CINO

'Always wanted to gain respect

that I've been getting from people down south

TEJAL SINHA

There's always a different kind of aura that comes around people with a 'make em laugh' skill. In this world of humours, laughs and comedy, there's this one gem who has got comedy in her veins! Does this bring a blurry face to your mind? Well, it's none other than Jamie Lever, who, along with her astonishingly brilliant comedy prowess, is also a great actress, which makes her an amalgam of what not.

The daughter of the legendary actor and comedian Johnny Lever is not just taking forward the 'Lever's' legacy but also creating her own

remark. Having been in the industry for almost 12 years now, with a lot of hard work and learning, she now has a name for herself and people know her as 'Jamie Lever' more than 'oh! She's Johnny Lever's daughter.'

"I feel some sort of satisfaction at this point and in a good phase right now," begins the comic-star in a gaiety interaction with *The Pioneer*. "My intentions were always to get out from the shadow of my father. I always wanted to create my own

identity and that was always my focus. I never wanted to be known as so and so's daughter. It's the privilege I have, but I always wanted to create my own identity. Today, with all the years that I have put in with all the hardwork, it's finally that people know me for my talents"

Jamie, who has already been known for her funny videos on social media or for her roles in films like *Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karun*, where she portrayed the role of Champa or Giggly in *Housefull 4*, having her own one-woman show, *The Jamie Lever Show*, has been her biggest achievement now. "It takes a lot for a comic to have their own one-woman show. It's

such a big achievement. Wherever my dad goes, he's always complimented and told that we appreciate your daughter and we love her. I've always wanted to make my dad proud. Recently, we were performing together in a show in London and he said on stage, 'naturally and impulsively that you kept me alive'. Hehehe. It was so special for me to be able to keep the legacy alive and I will be always working hard

As we ask the *Housefull 4* fame about her growing years around her father, she enthuses, "At work, he is known for being this goofy & over the top, funny

man. There are so many titles that he has acquired, like KING OF COMEDY and THE FUNNIEST MAN OF INDIA. But at home, I've always seen him to be very different, disciplined, focused. Growing up, we always felt like being mindful about that Daddy has come back from work, so let's not bother him and create a peaceful environment for him." Of course, with all the more admiration, she goes on, "He is a verv pro-

> tive dad; he is very particular about a lot of things. He's a bit traditional; he was very strict with studies. He goes to work. comes back home and eniovs a homely atmosphere. He is a very basic person who enjoys dal chawal: a person who likes the fan

> > and not

AC. But yes, we obvi-

ously had fun times. There were also times when he used to drop and pick us up from the school."

You mimic someone, then get ready to be criticised or trolled! However, that's not been the case with Jamie. For instance, her reel mimicking the most viral dialogue of Alamzeb from Heeramandi was loved and had gotten positive feedback with tremendous love. This has been something that's been very motivating for her. In fact, stalwarts like Javed Akhtar and Usha Uthup have personally appreciated her for her fun, comedy-imitating videos. "It's such a nice thing to see that people are not afraid to laugh at themselves," says the adroit star, who goes on to recall, "When Javedji complimented me, he was complimenting me with some really minor observations. But again, some people do take offense. However, I haven't had any particular situation like that. Maybe its because I do it in a more respectful way. I try not to be personal. It's obviously in good humour."

Going ahead, talking of the love that she has received, the South doesn't stand behind! There's equal love poured in for her down South too. Overwhelmed with the love, the ace artist recalls of her humble beginning in the South: "Honestly, people here were all so happy to know that I speak the language, which is my mother tongue. People here greeted me with all smiles. I'm a Telugu girl in Mumbai, doing what I'm doing in Bollywood but at the same time really attempting to keep my roots alive. Everybody welcomed me with open arms down South, especially my lead actor of Aa Okkati Adakku, Allari Naresh. He was the one who actuall spotted me in Pop Kaun? He approached me for the

Adakku, Allari Naresh. He was the one who actually spotted me in *Pop Kaun?* He approached me for this role. In fact, he gave a special speech for me at the press launch of the movie. My aim has always been to gain this respect and that's something that I got from people down south."

Jamie, who admires the King Khan of Bollywood, for always being so humble and down to earth, further shares that beyond a doubt, comedy comes in naturally to her and that it is her comfortzone. "It is what I love doing," opines the *Aa Okkati Adakku* actress as she goes on, "But I never want to be someone who is always put in a box. I want to really challenge myself. For instance, in *Yaatris*, I worked with Seema Pahwa and Raghubir Yadav. I had no comedy in that film. It was a very simple role of a young girl in Benaras working hard. I played that character, and

Following the path of her dad, Johnny Lever, actress and comedian Jamie Lever has been taking the legacy forward. Prospering an identity for herself, the talented star gets onboard for an exclusive tête-à-tête with *The Pioneer*, as she takes us through her humble beginnings and being a favourite of all with her

humour and wit

vijayawada 1

reviews had a mention that 'Jamie did not do any comedy. We were disappointed with her'. But the character was not expected to do comedy. It's also something that the audience will have to accept. I want to challenge myself in trying new things because I feel like I'd get cautious. How will I grow as a person or as an artist?"

So as she goes on to embark on being a multifaceted star and explore much of her prowess, she brings to us a revelation: "I am doing a project that will come out sometime in the next year. It's a beautiful character that I'm playing in the web series that you'll soon get to know about, hoping that I can

impress people with it."

But again, she had to go through her own share of challenges to make things right for herself. The *Yaatris* fame goes on to recall, "Initially, when I started off 11 years ago, there were literally like just 1 or 2

comics doing big. And to see a woman doing well in a very male-dominated industry was a lot to accept. There were more jokes being made about her body and her appearance. That was the kind of humour encouraged at that time. There was certainly a time, when even I had struggled, I wouldn't get a lot of jokes to tell and the punches would be on me. There was a perception among women that they could not be funny. However, now I see how women have grown as comics. There's been so many women who have come up over the years."

Well, after a hilarious chat with her, we head towards the end of the chat as she discusses with us about what's more. "I'm already touring for my *The Jamie Lever* show. We started in February and on an average, I'm doing at least 1 or 2 shows every month. I've been doing my shows in Mumbai and also traveling to do my shows abroad."

TRENDING

K KVAITHV



BRS MLC K Kavitha was released from Tihar jail in New Delhi around 9.30 p.m. after the completion of legal formalities though the Supreme Court granted her bail in the afternoon on Tuesday

PAK WOMAN BEHIND FATAL CAR CRASH CAUGHT 'SMILING' ON CAMERA



A video of Pakistani woman smiling and appearing unremorseful after allegedly killing two people with her car has sparked outrage on social media.

IC 814

MOVIE The Kandahar Hijack twenty-five years after an Indian Airlines flight from

twenty-five years after
an Indian Airlines flight from
Kathmandu to Delhi was taken over
by Islamist terrorists, Anubhav Sinha and Trishant Srivastava
bring to screen the story of the longest hijack and inarguably
the most ignoble blot in the history of Indian aviation.

MILLIONAIRE



Yo Yo Honey Singh is back with his latest music track *Glory* that released. The release of this new song is a special occasion as it coincides with the 10th anniversary of his iconic 2014 hit, *Desi Kalakaar*.

PARALYMPICS 2024 DECLARED OPEN



The 2024
Paralympics were opened in Paris on Thursday (IST) by French President Emmanuel Macron, firing the starting gun on 11 days of competition in a city still riding the wave of the successful Olympics

SOOTHING RELIEF

How hydrotherapy transforms pain management

AARTI SREENATH

ydrotherapy, often regarded as an ancient therapeutic practice, has found a renewed place in modern medicine, particularly for treating chronic conditions like rheumatoid arthritis (RA), Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. This water-based therapy combines the soothing properties of water with targetted exercises, offering a unique and effective approach to managing pain, inflammation and mobility issues associated with RA and other rheumatic conditions.

According to Dr. Yathish G C, Lead Consultant, Rheumatology at Aster Whitefield Hospital, hydrotherapy is especially beneficial for patients with rheumatoid arthritis due to its supportive and warm water environment. "Hydrotherapy helps alleviate symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, particularly the standard pain and immobility associated with the condition," he says. He explains that the buoyancy of water reduces stress on the joints, encouraging greater movement and improving circulation, which in turn aids muscle relaxation and enhances joint flexibility. Over time, patients who regularly participate in hydrotherapy sessions may experience significant improvement in symptom control and quality of life.

He also highlights the customisation potential of hydrotherapy for autoimmune diseases. "The use of warm water can significantly relieve the pain of swollen joints and sore muscles," he notes. Sessions can be tailored to focus on low-impact, resistance-based movements that not only enhance joint flexibility but also reduce inflammation. This safe, controlled environment is critical for preventing and managing complications such as muscle weakness and decreased activity, which are common in patients with autoimmune diseases. Additionally, the calming nature of waterbased exercises helps in managing stress, which is crucial in controlling flare-ups of autoimmune

Hydrotherapy is increasingly being recognised as a valuable component of comprehensive treatment plans for chronic pain and joint inflammation. These sessions often involve light weights movements that do not stress the joints



but rather improve their range of motion and decrease swelling. The aquatic environment allows patients to exercise with minimal pain, making hydrotherapy a complementary therapy alongside medication or physiotherapy, thus enhancing overall pain management.

However, he cautions that patients with severe joint damage should approach hydrotherapy with care. "Patients should begin with gentle exercises and ensure that the water temperature is neither too hot nor too cold," he advises.

Unlike land-based exercises, the low-impact nature of hydrotherapy is particularly advantageous for patients suffering from severe joint pain. Many patients report enhanced physical function and a greater sense of well-being, making hydrotherapy a valuable adjunct in a comprehensive rheumatic treatment plan.

Dr. Pramila Sharma, Head of Department, Physiotherapy, at Paras Health, says that one major concern is the risk of infections, as public pools and shared hydrotherapy equipment can harbour bacteria if not cleaned thoroughly. Common infections include folliculitis and athlete's foot, which can be particularly troublesome for individuals with weakened immune systems or open wounds. Another risk is overheating, prolonged exposure to hot water can lead to heat exhaustion, charac-

terised by dizziness and nausea and in severe cases, heat stroke. This risk is heightened for individuals with cardiovascular conditions, as hot water can increase heart rate and blood pressure. "Dehydration is also a concern, as extended periods in hot water can cause significant fluid loss, leading to symptoms like dry mouth, fatigue and dizziness" she adds. Water temperature should be regulated to avoid overheating, with sessions generally kept below 40°C (104°F).

Dr. J Karthik, Head of Therapy at Sukino Healthcare Solutions, explains that hydrotherapy, also known as water therapy, encompasses a wide range of treatments using water to address various symptoms throughout the body.

Common hydrotherapy methods offered in healthcare settings include contrast water bath therapy, sitz baths, saunas, aquatic therapy and water circuit therapy.

The future of hydrotherapy is promising, with advancements in digital and smart hydrotherapy systems, personalised protocols using AI and the integration of hydrotherapy with mental health treatments. He highlights the growing trend of combining hydrotherapy with mindfulness practices and its use in cognitive rehabilitation programs.

Dr. Subedha Rao, an expert in orthopaedic physiotherapy and sports injury rehabilitation, explains

that hydrotherapy makes use of water's physical properties, like temperature and pressure, for therapeutic purposes. This method not only promotes blood flow and alleviates symptoms of specific illnesses but also aids in cardiovascular workouts and enhances the management of pain through heightened peripheral sensory stimulation. Additionally, chilled water can help reduce swelling, while the reduction of pressure on joints improves overall mobility and supports a comprehensive rehabilitation process.

Dr. Dharmesh Shah, Founder and Director of Holistica World, has dedicated his career to exploring the profound benefits of hydrotherapy. For patients grappling with rheumatoid arthritis and other rheumatic conditions, he sees hydrotherapy as a hope of relief. "In warm water, hydrotherapy works wonders, he explains. "The heat soothes inflammation and relaxes the body, offering a reprieve from the relentless pain of arthritis. The buoyancy of the water reduces stress on the joints, facilitating greater flexibility and ease of movement."

He highlights the unique attributes of hydrotherapy in managing autoimmune diseases. "This therapy harnesses the soothing properties of warm water, essential oils and water jets to tackle the symptoms of autoimmune disorders. The reduced joint stress during exercises is crucial for these patients. The warm water alleviates inflammation, while the water's buoyancy minimises joint damage, enhancing mobility and muscle strength. Moreover, the relaxing nature of hydrotherapy helps reduce stress and anxiety, improving overall quality of life."

For patients with severe joint damage, he advises a cautious approach. "Hydrotherapy can be beneficial, but it must be carefully managed. Begin gradually and monitor for any signs of discomfort. The use of supportive devices should be approached with care to avoid exacerbating joint issues."

He compares hydrotherapy to other treatments for rheumatic conditions. "While hydrotherapy doesn't address the root causes of rheumatic diseases like medications do, it offers significant symptom relief. It improves pain management, range of motion, and muscle strength, contributing to a better quality of life. When combined with other therapies, such as physiotherapy and complementary practices like yoga, hydrotherapy can greatly enhance both physical and emotional well-being."



Focused on harnessing

RAPID FIRE

Favourite colour: White and pink Favourite food: Natu Kodi Favourite movie: Dana Veera Sura Karna, particularly the dialogue of NTR on social justice Favourite holiday destination: My village and constituency Are you religious/spiritual: Religious but not pious Favourite actor: Chiranjeevi and NTR **Hobbies/passions:** Watching

movies is my hobby. Along with

my wife, I watch movies in theatres. Politics is my passion.

Your nickname: Saradhianna

DOWE

Seasoned politician and Andhra Pradesh's Information & Public Relations and Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy is keen on working for social justice and fostering leadership qualities among those representing downtrodden people. He wants to transform his constituency Nuzvid so that posterity would hail him as a tall leader.

In a conversation with **C Pradeep Kumar** of *The* **Pioneer**, Parthasarathy sheds light on his journey from a small village in Krishna district to his position as Minister in the AP Cabinet with his eyes trained on harnessing youth power.



Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. My dad was initially an employee of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB). He used to also take up electrical contracts and later entered politics. My dad was elected as an MLA and as an MP in his brief political career. My mother is a homemaker. We are three siblings. I am the eldest and my immediate younger brother, Dr Subba Rao, is settled in the UK and my youngest brother, Krishna Kanth Yadav, is into business and agriculture. I was more attached to my dad and mom as during our early days of struggle, I was their only child - my immediate younger brother is eight years junior to me. In those days our financial struggles were so severe that ve could not save our sister through medicines when she ad fallen seriously ill as a two-year-old. Besides, I still emember how my mother used to convince me whenever I asked my parents to buy me



now, he is looking after my businesses.

A politician hardly finds free time. However, whenever I get some free time, I prefer going to my village and spending time in the fields. I love the rustic environment there. My love for my village is evergreen and I still wish to spend time there whenever possible.

LOVES RUSTIC ENVIRONMENT

POLITICAL PLUNGE

My political career started when my dad was active in politics. In 1994, I had tried for a ticket to contest as MLA, but could not get one. I tried again in 1999 quite seriously but in vain. My political plunge was formalised when I contested the 2002 byelections from the Vuyyuru constituency for the first time. But I lost in that election. Again in 2004, I contested the elections and won as an MLA for the first time.

I have met former PMs Rajiv Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao among stalwarts in Indian politics during my political journey. I met BP Mandal in Hyderabad and was lucky to have breakfast with him. The whole day I was with him when during Intermediate second year. My dad used to host meetings of BCs. I met BSP founder Kanshiram and also Mrs Ambedkar and many leaders, which inspired me to become a politician.

Present-day youth are very responsible, though a few of them are getting diverted. The

MESSAGE TO YOUTH

system is responsible for this and we should change it. Youth should be strong and not get depressed at petty things. They have ample opportunity and should aim high and achieve their goals with sincerity.



EARLY CHILDHOOD UNDER **GRANDPARENTS' WATCH**

I spent my early childhood in Karatampadu village and I still cherish very good memories of my days at my grand-parents' village. My initial schooling was at the Government Primary School, Iyanapudu in Krishna district, where I studied from Class 1 to 3. I was an active kid, but an average student. I had switched many schools and colleges before joining the Chaitanya Bharati Institute of Technology in Hyderabad.

EDUCATION IN MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS

I have a big list of educational institutions where I had studied before finally joining CBIT Hyderabad to pursue engineering. From class 1 to 3, I was at the Government Primary School, Iyanapudu in Krishna district. I studied class 4 at Erramanzil Government High School in Hyderabad. From class 5 to 9, I studied at the Raj Bhavan High School, Hyderabad. For class 10, I was enrolled in Rama Rao Gurukulam, Chilumuru village. As for Intermediate, I had opted for MPC and did my first year at the Siddhartha College, Vijayawada. For the second year, I relocated to Hyderabad and joined St Joseph College. Later, I joined Mechanical Engineering (Production) at the Government College of Technology,
Coimbatore. After completing

first year of engineering there, I joined

GOALS

I wish to bring substantive

changes in the system so that the administration becomes peoplefriendly. Officials should help the poor and not make them go round offices. I advise police to be friendly with people in pain and treat them well so as to build confidence among the common people.

CBIT. During my days at school, I was an average student. But once I entered college, I became studious. I was not much into any co-curricular or extracurricular activities. I ave a good number of friends, including those whom I know from my days at school, college and univer-

CHILDHOOD DREAM

I wanted to become an engineer or a good businessman like my father. My father did contractual electrical works across the country. After studies, though I wanted to develop my dad's businesses, I could not succeed. We closed that business later. Due to lingering interest in business, during my second year in CBIT, I floated a company, KS Constructions and later, after my marriage, commenced Nitin Sai Constructions as well.

CONSTANT SUPPORT FROM PARENTS

Coming from a Backward Class community (Yadav), my father did not have much support from my grandparents to go to school in those days. However, since my father was stubborn, he somehow convinced my grandparents to let him go to school. But I had very good support from my parents to study. Despite being busy with his business interests, my father kept track of my studies and encouraged me in my academic career.

MARRIAGE AND SUPPORT FROM

I got married in 1990 to Kamala Lakshmi; it was a love-cum-arranged marriage. The marriage ceremony was performed at Siddhartha College, Vijayawada in a grand manner. We are blessed with a son, Nithin Krishna, who is an engineer. My daughter-in-law is Amrutha Bhargavi. My son worked for an MNC for a couple of years and is now looking after our busi-

COURTSHIP AND CAPERS

Having been in love for nine years, we got married in 1990 after convincing parents from both sides. We cherish memories of those nine years. We both were residing at Shalivan in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad. My friends and my cousin helped us a lot to steal moments together and to go to movies etc. Of course, we were

crackers to celebrate Diwali. caught many times on the streets. Although my father did not take those occasions seriously, my mother used to scold me whenever I was caught. Once, in an effort to give a packet of peanuts to Lakshmi, I lobbed it in her direction on the first floor of our apartment block where they were staying. She could not catch it and the packet fell on the lap of my mother-in-law, who happened to be sitting in the other

QUALITY TIME

For a politician with business interests, usually spouse plays an important role when it comes to taking care of the children and the family. My wife Lakshmi does it very well. As a politician, I had to make myself available to the public always and our businesses kept me occupied otherwise. Though I was busy with my activities, my wife used to take care of my son, for which I am very happy. My son was good at studies. He is calm and composed. He is well-behaved and I feel very lucky. During my leisure, I spend time with my son, try-ing to know his aims and ambition. As of

DAD ROLE MODEL

My dad is my role model and influencer in life. I grew up looking at him, admiring his hardworking nature. My father came from a very poor background, having just one acre of cultivated land. He faced many hardships before becoming a successful businessman and a good politician. So, my father's influence has been significant on me throughout my career.

All the moments spent with my dad and mom are memorable and happiest moments, besides marriage. I was elated when my son was born.

LOWEST MOMENTS

Following a heated argument with my dad over a small

was very painful.

business

vears, I did not talk to my

father, though at times I used

to talk to my mother during that period. The whole thing

issue, I came out of

the joint family.
Initially, I faced a lot

period was very low for me. For eight

of struggles. That

I have a clear-cut plan for the coming five years. I want to develop my constituency, which is a backward area and which has more BC and SC community people. We should engender leadership qualities among the downtrodden people. I want to make a mark by doing well so that they remember me as a tall leader. I want to complete the Chintalapudi project at the earliest.