

QUOTE OF THE DAY
 The historic judgement given by the High Court on defections is like a slap in the face to the Congress government. In the past, Congress party MLAs were accused of defection. The Congress party had fought against it. When Revanth Reddy was the chief of PCC, if MLAs switched parties, Revanth Reddy gave a call to play death knell in front of their houses. However, CM is now inducting MLAs of other parties into his party unethically. How reasonable is this..?
 - Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, BJLP P4

Need to remove obstacles in research ecosystem: PM
 5

DEEPENING INDO-UAE TIES WILL BE ENVY FOR REST OF WORLD: GOYAL
 8

'Independent women would relate to my character in UTSAVAM'
 P12

DON'T MISS...
 10 days on, city still grapples with...
 Even after 10 days, the people of Vijayawada continue to grapple with the devastating impact of the flash floods caused by the breach of the Budameru canal bund in three locations. These breaches led to widespread flooding, and many areas of the city remain submerged. Streets in colonies like Pipula Road, Rajarajeswaripeta (both new and old), Jakkampudi, and Devi Nagar are still waterlogged, leaving residents in distress, primarily due to a lack of access to clean drinking water and food. While authorities have managed to drain...
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1 dead, 2 hurt in city landslide
 PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
 A man lost his life, and two others were injured in a landslide at Machavaram in the city on Tuesday. The incident occurred when tree-cutters were at work, and a sudden landslide led to the tragedy. The deceased has been identified as 55-year-old Ijjada Ramu from Karmika Nagar, while Kamayya and Hussain sustained severe injuries.
 According to locals, G Gopi Kumar had hired three tree-cutters to remove a tree near his house, which was adjacent to a hill. On Tuesday morning, as they were cutting the branches, a large boulder rolled down and struck the workers, killing Ramu instantly and seriously injuring the other two.
 Police and municipal staff quickly launched a rescue operation, with local MLA Gadde Ramamohan Rao personally supervising the efforts.

NAIDU TO VISIT NORTH AP TODAY
'Operation Budameru' in city

Minister Narayana announces CM Naidu's nod for encroachment removal

- Alternative arrangements:** Govt will make arrangements for those affected before removal.
- New legislation:** A new Act may be introduced if current rules are insufficient.
- Floodwater management:** Aim to remove stagnant water by September 11; surveys for property losses to follow.
- Sanitation efforts:** 10,000 workers from various municipalities are improving sanitation; 26 of 64 divisions have been cleared of water.

CM inspects breached Budameru drain
 PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
 Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has said that, with the cooperation of both the public and officials, the State has effectively managed the flood crisis over the past ten days. On his tenth consecutive day of touring flood-affected areas, the CM inspected the breached Budameru canal, where officials briefed him on how the breach occurred and the flow of floodwaters.
 The Chief Minister announced that he would begin touring North

Be vigilant, Naidu tells collectors
 PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
 Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the heavy rainfall situation and its impact with the District Collectors of North Andhra, Kakinada, East Godavari, and Ambedkar Konaseema districts on Tuesday. He mentioned that relief operations have been ongoing in the flood-affected areas of Vijayawada for ten consecutive days.
 The Chief Minister instructed officials to complete the assessment of flood damage by Wednesday evening. He also stated that normalcy in Vijayawada is expected to return by Tuesday evening, with sanitation efforts continuing consistently.
 He added that the distribution of essential supplies is progressing smoothly and should be completed by the end of the day. The CM emphasised that effective disaster management can help reduce loss of life and property.
 The Chief Minister noted that North Andhra is prone to cyclones and called for a comprehensive strategy to handle them efficiently. District officials informed him that early warnings and weather forecasts helped prevent loss of life. Collectors from East Godavari, Ambedkar Konaseema, Alluri Sitaramaraju, and Kakinada districts reported that the situation remains under control due to proactive measures. The CM directed officials to remain alert, monitoring rainfall, streams, and ponds in the agency areas.

Rahul trying to set dangerous...
 The BJP came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in the US about the Sikh community, saying the Congress leader is trying to create a 'dangerous narrative' by speaking on 'sensitive issues' abroad. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here that Gandhi's remarks were 'sinister' in nature as he tried to spread falsehood among the members of the Sikh community living abroad to 'eke out a living' and do not have much connection with India...
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IFFCO invested Rs 2k cr on nano...
 Fertiliser major IFFCO has invested around Rs 2,000 crore since 2017 on its two new innovative products nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP and is hopeful that farmers will adopt these key nutrients in a big way over the next 2-3 years, its Managing Director U S Awasthi said. Cooperative IFFCO launched the world's first 'Nano Liquid Urea' fertiliser in June 2021. Thereafter, it came up with Nano-DAP (diammonium phosphate) fertiliser in April 2023. Nano urea is available at around Rs 240 per bottle of 500 ml while nano liquid...
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'HAPPY NEST' BACK ON TRACK
 CRDA gears up to invite tenders
 PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
 The Happy Nest project in Amaravati is making progress, with the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) preparing to invite tenders, marking a key step forward for the residential development. Originally estimated to cost Rs 930 crore, the project's expenses have risen by more than Rs 200 crore due to delays, bringing the total cost to Rs 1,130 crore. The CRDA now aims to speed up the process, with tenders for the construction of 1,200 apartments across

SW monsoon normal in coastal AP, weak in Rayalaseema
 PNS ■ GUNTUR
 The depression over North Chhattisgarh and adjoining interior of Odisha moved west-northwestwards at a speed of 20 km/h on Tuesday.
 The depression was centred at 0830 hours over North Chhattisgarh, 70 km east-southeast of Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), 140 km northeast of Raipur (Chhattisgarh), and 220 km east of Malanjkhanda (East Madhya Pradesh), according to the Meteorological Centre.
 In a daily weather report issued here, the centre stated that the depression is expected to continue moving west-northwestwards across northern Chhattisgarh and is likely to weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area over Chhattisgarh and adjoining eastern Madhya Pradesh by this evening. The southwest monsoon remains normal in Coastal Andhra Pradesh but weak in Rayalaseema.
 Under its influence, heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

Lokesh sees 'plot' by Jagan to damage barrage
 PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
 Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has sharply criticised the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) for spreading false allegations against the State government. He refuted claims that the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh was responsible for the recent floods, which have affected lakhs of families. Lokesh accused the YSRCP of trying to divert public attention from their own misdeeds by blaming the government for the disaster.
 In a series of posts on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Lokesh alleged that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had conspired to endanger lakhs of lives by attempting to damage the Prakasam Barrage. He claimed that during YSRCP's rule, Jagan had devised a plan to ensure

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

CRDA gears up to invite tenders
 PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
 The Happy Nest project in Amaravati is making progress, with the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) preparing to invite tenders, marking a key step forward for the residential development. Originally estimated to cost Rs 930 crore, the project's expenses have risen by more than Rs 200 crore due to delays, bringing the total cost to Rs 1,130 crore. The CRDA now aims to speed up the process, with tenders for the construction of 1,200 apartments across

Equity mutual funds attract Rs 38,239 crore
 P8

the collapse of the Annamayya dam, which led to the deaths of 50 people and the destruction of five villages, supposedly to benefit his illegal sand mafia.
 The minister further claimed that a similar plot was in place for the Prakasam Barrage. According to Lokesh, the barrage was deliberately struck by large boats to cause damage, which would result in villages and islands downstream being washed away.
 Lokesh also accused Jagan of masterminding the plan, with YSRCP MLC Talasila Raghuram and former MP Nandigam Suresh executing the conspiracy.

Shortage of engineers hits Srisaileam Dam upkeep
 THE DAM IS CRUCIAL FOR POWER GENERATION AND IRRIGATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH & TG

C PRADEEP KUMAR
 cpk007@gmail.com
 ■ VIJAYAWADA
 The Srisaileam project, a crucial source of power and irrigation for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, is facing a critical shortage of engineering staff. With less than half of the necessary personnel in place, the maintenance of the dam is severely impacted, raising concerns about the safety and sustainability of the project.
 Experts warn that this shortage could lead to serious risks, especially as the dam is expected to handle increasing volumes of floodwater in the coming years.
 Timely maintenance is key to ensuring the dam's safe operation,

and lapses could result in severe consequences.
 The Srisaileam project is vital for generating electricity and supporting the irrigation needs of the Rayalaseema region.
 However, the current lack of Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, and Deputy Executive Engineers has made it difficult for the remaining staff to manage essential tasks. These include dam gate operations, gallery maintenance, and monitoring crucial readings.
 A senior official of the project, who pleaded anonymity, said, "At present, the dam maintenance circle office is functioning with minimal staff."
 Continued on Page 2

Key engineering roles like Assistant Engineers and Deputy Executive Engineers are largely vacant.
Maintenance tasks, including dam gate operations and safety monitoring, are becoming difficult to manage.
Staff have appealed to the government to urgently fill vacancies to avoid potential risks.
Rising floodwaters and a lack of proper upkeep could lead to serious consequences for the dam's safety.

Flood ravage continues in north Andhra Pradesh
 PNS ■ ANAKAPALLI
 The flood devastation continued across the northern coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, with rivers, rivulets, and streams overflowing due to a depression.
 Alluri Sitarama Raju district bore the brunt of the floods, experiencing three days of incessant rain, which caused streams, rivulets, and canals to overflow. The Gedgedda stream was inundated, cutting off road connectivity to 80 villages as roads were submerged.
 In Munchiputtam mandal, the bridge over the Muntagummi stream was washed away, isolating 30 villages. A bridge under construction in GK mandal near the Odisha border was also swept away,
 along with construction equipment, disrupting the Chittrakonda-Bhadrachalam route.
 Both the Musurumilli and Bhupathipalem reservoirs reached full capacity, prompting authorities to open three crest gates at Bhupathipalem to release water into the Seethepalli stream. The overflow also cut off road access to Mareduvilli and Y Ramavaram via the bridge over the Pandiri Mamidi stream.
 ITDA PO Abhishek reported that relief camps were established for flood victims in Chatrapatti village. After inspecting a damaged culvert, he instructed officials to relocate affected residents to a tribal welfare school in Sapsarla.
 Continued on Page 2

The current lack of Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, and Deputy Executive Engineers has made it difficult for the remaining staff to manage essential tasks. These include dam gate operations, gallery maintenance, and monitoring crucial readings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Hanumantha Rao(VH). In fact, during the Republic Day celebrations of 1991, the PCC

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

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

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

the state level.

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

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

Anitha urges officials to stay alert during natural calamities

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha has called upon District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, and other officials to remain vigilant during natural disasters, emphasising the need for quick and effective rescue and relief efforts. Speaking at a video conference on Tuesday at the Visakhapatnam Collectorate, she stated, "In times of calamity, every second counts. We must act swiftly to prevent any loss of life or damage to property."

The meeting, which involved officials from Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Anaparthi, Alluri Sitarama Raju, and Manyam districts, was held to assess the damage caused by recent heavy rains and the ongoing relief operations.

Anitha pointed out the impact of two cyclones that had struck the state in the last 15 days, with heavy rains occurring



on the 8th and 9th of the month. "The effects of these cyclones have been severe, and we need to stay alert. The relief efforts in Vijayawada should serve as a model for all districts," she said. She urged District Collectors to take full responsibility for monitoring the situation, particularly the condition of reservoirs.

The Home Minister called for regular inspections of reservoir gates and the immediate repair of any issues. She stressed that there should be no delays when it comes to public safety.

Anitha also highlighted the importance of receiving advance information from neighbouring

while boosting the image of the ruling Congress party in the state. After all, it was indeed a rude shock for the Congress to taste ignominious defeats in 2014 as well as 2018 at the hands of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi. So, it has to capitalize on its advantages as a ruling party now in TG.

During the early Nineties, there were unseen clashes between then chief minister N Janardhan Reddy and then PCC president V.

To improve communication during emergencies, Anitha recommended setting up permanent toll-free and landline numbers in control rooms in every district and mandal, ensuring the public can quickly seek help when necessary.

District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad provided an update on the situation, mentioning that while heavy rains had caused some damage, relief efforts were ongoing. He informed the Home Minister that a holiday had been declared for all educational institutions and that damaged schools were being identified for demolition. Officials from various departments, including GVMC, Civil Supplies, Medical Health, Fisheries, Agriculture, Horticulture, Irrigation, and Fire Services, participated in the video conference and shared updates on their efforts to manage the situation.

states to better prepare for future disasters. She noted that evacuating people from flood-prone areas promptly could save lives.

She encouraged closer cooperation with local communities, particularly fishermen, advising them to avoid going out in dangerous conditions but suggesting that their boats could be used in rescue operations alongside NDRF and SDRF teams. Anitha proposed forming emergency teams in every village, trained to respond quickly in times of disaster. "By training local communities, we can ensure a faster response when it's needed most," she added.

Shortage of..

Continued from Page 1

While the position of Superintending Engineer is filled, most other roles, including those of Deputy Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers, remain vacant. In the Dam Maintenance Division, out of the 20 sanctioned posts for engineers, 12 are vacant.

Similarly, in the Camps and Buildings Division, 15 out of 18 engineering positions are unfilled, leaving the department struggling to carry out regular maintenance." HBe further said the Protection Works Division in Kurnool is the only part of the project that is fully staffed. However, this offers little comfort to the engineering staff who are spread thin across other divisions. They highlight the growing challenge of maintaining the colony at Sundipenta, which has now been placed under the Water Resources Department's control. The decision to retain colony maintenance with this department has added to the burden on the limited engineering staff, making it harder to prevent encroachments and keep up with basic upkeep.

The situation has reached a point where the existing staff have appealed to the Engineer-in-Chief not to transfer any more personnel and to urgently fill the vacant posts. They stress that without adequate staffing, it is becoming increasingly difficult to communicate with higher offices, such as the Central Water Commission (CWC), and ensure the smooth running of the project. With floodwaters rising each year and the dam playing a crucial role in both power generation and irrigation, the call to address the staffing shortage has become more urgent than ever. The government is being urged to take swift action to avoid potential catastrophes and ensure the long-term safety and efficiency of the Srisailem project.

Flood ravage..

Continued from Page 1

In addition, a large tree fell across the Paderu ghat road, disrupting traffic. The Jalapur reservoir also reached full capacity, with authorities opening the gates to release water, attracting numerous tourists eager to witness the spectacle. In Parvathipuram Manyam district, the Vegavathi River swelled, cutting off road access to 10 villages in Saluru mandal as floodwater engulfed the road at Sivaramapuram village. In the Anakapalli district, the Tandava, Varaha, and Sarada rivers were in spate with heavy inflows. The Indesamma stream caused significant road damage in S Rayavaram, isolating several villages. In Satyavaram, the Tandava River left Chakalipet colony under three to five feet of water. Several residential areas in Anakapalli and Payakaraopeta were also flooded. Home Minister V Anitha visited affected areas and assured residents that necessary aid would be provided. In Kakinada district, the Yeleru rivulet overflowed, flooding 84 villages across 10 mandals. The Yeleru received over 46,000 cusecs of water, while 27,000 cusecs were discharged. Paddy fields covering more than 2,500 acres were submerged in Yelawaram, Kirlampudi, and Annavaram mandals. In Vizianagaram district, the depression caused extensive damage. The causeway at Kasumuru-China Vantaram was swept away by the Uppugadda stream's floodwaters. Officials reported that crops in 97,957 hectares, including 80,177 hectares of paddy, were impacted. Over 2,000 hectares of crops in 17 mandals were submerged, with horticultural crops suffering the most. The Nagavali River in Srikakulam district was in spate, receiving over 35,000 cusecs of water.

SW monsoon normal in coastal AP...

Continued from Page 1

Thunderstorms, accompanied by lightning, are also expected at isolated places in both North and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next 24 hours. Strong surface winds, ranging from 30 to 40 km/h, are forecasted to prevail at isolated places in North and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, as well as Rayalaseema, over the next five days. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected at a few places, or in one or two locations, in these regions over the next seven days.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Ashtami: Sep 10 11:12 PM to Sep 11 11:46 PM
Navami: Sep 11 11:46 PM to Sep 12 11:33 PM
Nakshatram: Jyestha: Sep 10 08:04 PM to Sep 11 09:21 PM
Moola: Sep 11 09:22 PM to Sep 12 09:52 PM
Rahukalam: 12:12 PM to 1:43 PM
Yamagandam: 7:38 AM to 9:09 AM
Varjyam: 08:14 PM to 09:52 PM
Gulika: 10:41 AM to 12:12 PM
Amritakalam: 12:05 PM to 01:46 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil
VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
Forecast: Partly Cloudy
Temp: 34°C
Humidity: 67 %
Sunrise: 5:55 AM
Sunset: 6:12 PM
Updated: September 10, 2024 5:00 PM

'Operation Budameru'..

Continued from Page 1

Speaking to the media, Minister Narayana revealed that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has approved the removal of encroachments in the Budameru catchment area. Over the years, several individuals have constructed homes and commercial buildings on Budameru land, causing flooding issues.

In line with the CM's directions, the government will make alternative arrangements for those affected before removing the encroachments. Narayana highlighted that if current regulations under the Municipal Act are inadequate, the government may introduce new legislation to address the Budameru encroachments.

He also mentioned that 32 of the 64 divisions under the VMC's jurisdiction have been submerged due to Budameru flooding. The government aims to remove all stagnant floodwater by Wednesday, September 11. After this, household surveys will be conducted to record property losses, even if homeowners are not present during the survey.

Additionally, Minister Narayana noted that around 10,000 sanitation workers from various municipal corporations across the state are working to improve the city's sanitation. So far, water has been cleared from 26 divisions, with efforts ongoing to address the remaining areas.

Gemini contributes Rs 2 crore to AP flood relief ops

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd (GEF India) on Tuesday contributed a sum of Rs 2 crore towards the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Fund to support the relief and rehabilitation work being undertaken by the State government.

The GEF India officials including Akshay Chowdhry, group vice president, P Chandrashekhara Reddy, Sr vice president, Sales and Marketing, handed over the cheque for Rs 2 crore to CM N Chandrababu Naidu.

Energy Dept employees present over Rs 10 crore to CMRF

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Under the leadership of Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Special Chief Secretary for Energy, K Vijayanand, employees of the Andhra Pradesh Energy Department generously contributed one day's salary, amounting to Rs 10,61,81,614, to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). The donation was officially handed over to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday.

On the occasion, Minister Ravi Kumar expressed deep gratitude and pride in the department's workforce. He stated, "I am immensely proud that our electricity staff have stepped up to support the flood victims during this critical time. Their contribution of Rs 10,61,81,614 is a testament to their commitment to the community." The Minister also



praised the Chief Minister's relentless efforts over the past ten days in Vijayawada, highlighting how his proactive measures have been instrumental in saving lives and protecting property.

Special Chief Secretary Vijayanand emphasized the department's enduring commitment to serving the people, particularly in times of emergency. "Our department not only illuminates lives but also stands ready to support those

in distress. Even in dire situations, our workers are known for their selfless dedication. It is heartening to see them come forward to assist the flood victims," he said.

AP Genco MD KVN Chakradhar Babu, AP Transco JMD Keerthy Chekuri, CPDCL CMD Pattan Shetty Ravi Subhash, and representatives from the Association of Electrical Engineers and the Electricity Employees JAC were present.

CII AP donates Rs 6.77 cr to CMRF

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, members of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Andhra Pradesh have donated Rs 6.77 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). This contribution was presented to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday to aid ongoing flood relief efforts in Vijayawada and



other affected regions across Andhra Pradesh.

The delegation was led by Dr V Murali Krishna, Chairman of

CII Andhra Pradesh, and Murali Krishna Gannamani, Vice Chairman, along with other senior office bearers.

CM urges firms to extend service support to flood-hit customers

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday held a meeting with electronic appliance manufacturers and urged them to undertake repair of the damaged products of flood-hit customers as a social responsibility.

Thousands of electronic products were damaged in households across the state due to the recent deluge, triggered by torrential downpours.

The Chief Minister called on the companies to take this opportunity as a social responsibility. "As electronic appliances in people's houses were damaged due to the floods, companies should come forward to repair them as a social responsibility," said Naidu in an official press release.

Further, he asked the manufacturers to set up helplines and make additional technicians available.

Kolusu urges Centre to hike unit cost of houses under PMAY

Launch of 2.0 version of the scheme on Sept 15
PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

State Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy has urged the Union government to increase the unit cost set for constructing houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin 2.0 scheme on September 15.

Minister Parthasarathy, who attended the meeting virtually from Vijayawada, pointed out that the Centre has allocated Rs 1.20 lakh per house under the scheme, of which Rs 72,000 is provided by the Centre, with the remainder covered by the states. He highlighted that the Centre has been offering the same financial support for rural

and Rural Development Ministers from all states in preparation for the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin 2.0 scheme on September 15.

Minister Parthasarathy, who attended the meeting virtually from Vijayawada, pointed out that the Centre has allocated Rs 1.20 lakh per house under the scheme, of which Rs 72,000 is provided by the Centre, with the remainder covered by the states. He highlighted that the Centre has been offering the same financial support for rural housing since 2016-17, and suggested that the amount should be increased.

The nationwide launch of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin 2.0 scheme is scheduled for 15th September in Jamshepur. Under this scheme, 684 beneficiaries from Andhra Pradesh have been selected for the 2024-25 financial year. Additionally, house keys will be handed over to 28,736 beneficiaries whose homes were completed during the 2023-24 period, with housewarming ceremonies to follow.

CM inspects breached...

Continued from Page 1

He mentioned that excavation work was monitored live via drones, with authorities working tirelessly.

The CM also shared that daily relief efforts included the delivery of 10 lakh food parcels and drinking water to affected residents, aided by helicopters and drones. He accused the YSRCP of attempting to damage the 170-year-old Prakasam Barrage by using heavy boats during the flood, when Krishna River's flow reached 11.20 lakh cusecs. According to him, a potential disaster was narrowly avoided when the boats struck a 15-tonne counterweight instead of a key structural column.

Ministers, officials, and sanitation workers have worked diligently in flood-affected areas for the past ten days, for which the CM expressed his gratitude, acknowledging the sacrifices made by state and district authorities. He noted that flood relief efforts, supported by the NDRF, SDRF, Navy, and Army, were promptly undertaken. While reviewing the flood situation through teleconferences, the CM said they managed to minimise loss of life and crops, though property damage remained extensive. Household appliances in many homes were submerged, and firefighters were dispatched to assist with cleaning. Enumeration teams have been deployed to each household, gathering data through an app, with one lakh families' details updated so far. In addition to Vijayawada, damage has been reported in island areas, Kolleru, low-lying parts of Eluru, and some regions of Visakhapatnam due to landslides.

Alert sounded as inflows rise in River Godavari

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

The East Godavari district administration on Tuesday issued a flood alert to people living in low-lying areas following heavy water inflows into the Godavari River.

Following heavy rainfall, the Dowleswaram Barrage near Rajahmundry is expected to receive up to 12 to 13 lakh cusecs of water by Wednesday morning, said an official. "By Wednesday morning 12 to 13 lakh cusecs of floodwater is likely and the second level warning could be issued," said East Godavari district collector in an official press release.

She also said immersion of Ganesha idols in the river will not be allowed.

The collector noted that the idols must be handed over to the district officials stationed at various ghats for the immersion.

In view of huge inflows, Konaseema and Kakinada district administrations have set up control room numbers.

North Andhra region received heavy rainfall in the past two days while an overflowing Yeleru canal has flooded the National Highway number 216 between Pithapuram and Gollaprolu in Kakinada district.

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10 days on, city still grapples with flood havoc

C PRADEEP KUMAR
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VIJAYAWADA

Even after 10 days, the people of Vijayawada continue to grapple with the devastating impact of the flash floods caused by the breach of the Budameru canal bund in three locations. These breaches led to widespread flooding, and many areas of the city remain submerged. Streets in colonies like Pipula Road, Rajarajeswaripeta (both new and old), Jakkampudi, and Devi Nagar are still water-logged, leaving residents in a

struggle to keep up with the demand. For the people of Vijayawada, the path to recovery is slow, but they remain hopeful that normalcy will return soon.

of access to clean drinking water and food. While authorities have managed to drain water from some main roads, many inner colonies are still trapped under stagnant floodwaters. The foul odour that now permeates these areas highlights the deteriorating sanitary conditions. Residents fear the spread of skin infections and contagious diseases, a real concern given the current unhygienic environment. In some of the most severely affected areas, personnel from the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (APSDRF) have been assisting residents with boats, as water levels in certain spots remain waist-deep. It may take several weeks for the water to fully recede. Though electricity has been restored in many parts, a few colonies remain in darkness. Even in areas where power has returned, frequent outages add to the woes of the already beleaguered residents. The authorities are working hard to support those affected. Fire engines are being used to clear houses filled with mud, and garbage piled up in front of homes is being regularly cleared by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) staff.

Health camps have also been set up to prevent the spread of diseases. B Srinivas Rao, a resident of Ajithsingh Nagar, shared that since the second day of the disaster, authorities have been providing essentials such as food, water, milk, and biscuits. College students have now joined the efforts, assisting secretariat staff with documenting the details of the flood victims. The VMC is ensuring a steady supply of water for cleaning houses and utensils, although residents have been warned not to drink it. Instead, sufficient quantities of drink-



ing water are being distributed. Rao also mentioned that



schools and colleges are temporarily closed, with cleaning and sanitation processes underway, after which they



will reopen. Repairing water motors, gas stoves, and motorcycles—many of which were submerged—has become an overwhelming task, as mechanics

Steps on to remove boats stuck at Prakasam Barrage

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Engineers from the Water Resources Department are working meticulously to remove four sand boats that are stuck at gates 67, 68, and 69 of the Prakasam Barrage. Despite the release of over 2.09 lakh cusecs of floodwater from upstream, the engineers are focusing on removing the boats without causing further damage to the gates. The delicate operation is conducted using two large cranes, each with a capacity to lift around 50 tonnes. The recent floods in River Krishna caused the boats to hit the barrage gates on September 1, damaging three counterweights in the process. Under the supervision of WRD Mechanical Wing Advisor K. Kannayya Naidu, the engineers have already installed replacement counterweights. Efforts to remove the sand boats began on Monday, with gates 68 and 69 closed to facilitate the operation. The engineers are working to extract the boats from the river without affecting the structural integrity of the barrage.

The delicate operation is conducted using two large cranes, each with a capacity to lift around 50 tonnes.



Workers removing the boats that are stuck at the gates of Prakasam Barrage in River Krishna in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The boats damaged crust gates and counterweights in recent floods (Photo: Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar)

PVR Krishna Rao, of the Krishna Central (KC) Division of the Irrigation Circle, Vijayawada, confirmed that

while over 2.09 lakh cusecs of floodwater continues to flow into the barrage, engineers

are confident that they can remove the sand boats safely. Currently, five gates remain

closed, and floodwater is being discharged through 65 other gates.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Endowments Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, along with Principal Secretary S Satyanarayana, inspected the collapsed retaining wall adjacent to the National Highway on the Ghat Road leading to the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The collapse, caused by boulders during the recent rains, has raised concerns about the safety of devotees travelling on this busy route to the temple. During the inspection, the Minister reviewed the progress of the new retaining wall and spoke to the engineers, who explained the steps being taken to prevent further incidents. Minister Reddy also visited the ongoing rock fall mitigation works at the Om Turn, where engineers explained the project's progress and its importance for preventing future rock falls. Temple Executive Officer (EO) KS Rama Rao briefed the Minister on preparations for the upcoming Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities, scheduled to begin next month. A full meeting with officials and local representatives, chaired by the Minister, will be held to finalise the plans for the festivities. Reddy emphasised that the new retaining wall must be completed before the festivities commence to ensure the safety of the thousands of devotees expected to visit the temple. EO Rama Rao assured the Minister that the retaining wall on the Ghat Road will be

Minister inspects works of retaining wall on Ghat Road



Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, along with Principal Secretary S Satyanarayana, speaking to Durga Temple officials and engineers regarding the construction of the new retaining wall atop the Indrakeeladri hill on Tuesday

completed within a month, pledging that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure the safety of devotees visiting the temple for the darshan of Durga Devi. After the inspection, temple authorities arranged a dar-

shan for Minister Ramanarayana Reddy, and Vedic scholars offered their blessings to both him and Commissioner Satyanarayana. Several officials, including Endowment Department Chief Engineer GV Sekhar,

Siddhartha Engineering College Civil Department Dean Prof. Pandu Ranga Rao, Executive Engineers KVS Koteswara Rao and L Rama Devi, and Endowment Department EE Gangadhar, were present during the visit.

All reservoirs in Vizag dist reach their full capacities

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Due to continuous heavy rains, reservoirs across the region have reached their full capacities, leading officials to open spillway gates and release thousands of cusecs of water downstream. Except for the Raiwada reservoir, all reservoirs are now overflowing, causing rivers to swell and raising concerns about potential floods in nearby areas. In the Kalyanapulova reservoir, located in Ravikamatham, persistent rainfall in the upper hills has resulted in significant inflows. On Monday, the reservoir saw an inflow of 450 cusecs, bringing it close to its maximum capacity of 460 feet. To manage this, four spillway gates were opened, releasing 400 cusecs into the Sarpa river. "We are maintaining the water level at 459.1 feet to prevent flooding downstream," said Assistant Engineer Satyanarayana. Residents of nearby villages, including Ravikamatham, Rolugunta, and Makavarapalem mandals, have been put on alert. Similarly, the Pedderu reservoir experienced an inflow of 700 cusecs, and officials have released 600 cusecs to keep the water level at 135.6 metres. "Our main focus is to keep the water level below the maximum capacity of 137 metres," explained Assistant Engineer Sudhakara Reddy, stressing the need for careful management of floodwaters to prevent damage. The situation at Raiwada reservoir remains concerning, with 2,500 cusecs of water flowing in due to

The situation at Raiwada reservoir remains concerning, with 2,500 cusecs of water flowing in due to heavy rain on Sunday. The water level has reached 111.5 metres, close to the reservoir's maximum capacity of 114 metres.

heavy rain on Sunday. The water level has reached 111.5 metres, close to the reservoir's maximum capacity of 114 metres. "If the water level rises by just two more metres, we will need to open the spillway gates," warned Deputy Executive Engineer Satyam Naidu. Currently, 50 cusecs are being supplied to GVMC, while 100 cusecs are being diverted through canals to Ayakattu. The Ravanapalli reservoir in Gologonda has also reached full capacity, with 250 cusecs of water being discharged to manage the overflow. At the Tandava reservoir, three spillway gates were opened after an inflow of 8,700 cusecs raised the water level to 379.5 feet, just below its 380-foot limit. Similarly, the Konam reservoir received an inflow of 1,000 cusecs, prompting the release of 500 cusecs to keep the water level at 98.2 metres, close to its 101.25-metre capacity. With floodwaters rising, local authorities remain on high alert, urging residents to stay vigilant and take necessary precautions. The scheme, which has been

Naidu's relief efforts set benchmark for disaster response: Home Minister

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha has lauded Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for his exemplary leadership during the recent devastating floods in Vijayawada. In a press briefing on Tuesday, she highlighted the CM's effective disaster management strategies, comparing his approach to past crises like Hud-Hud, Titli, and the current floods. "CM Naidu's immediate relief efforts, constant reviews, and field visits have set a benchmark for disaster response," Anitha stated. She commended the government's swift actions, including the allocation of funds for restoration and relief work, and the innovative use of technologies like drone-based food delivery and chlorination. The Minister also took a critical stance against the Opposition, accusing them of downplaying the severity of the floods and alleging a conspiracy to damage the Prakasam Barrage led by former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. "Instead of supporting the flood victims, the Opposition seems more interested in undermining the efforts of the government," she said.



The Minister also took a critical stance against the Opposition, accusing them of downplaying the severity of the floods and alleging a conspiracy to damage the Prakasam Barrage led by former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. "Instead of supporting the flood victims, the Opposition seems more interested in undermining the efforts of the government," she said.

In response to the floods, electricity and water services were restored within 3-4 days. Senior IAS officers and a dedicated minister were assigned to assist the victims. However, concerns were raised about the effectiveness of nylon ropes in securing boats and the whereabouts of boats intended for Uddandaryunipalem. Anitha addressed fears regarding the potential risks posed by boats to the barrage gates, mentioning allegations involving Ushasri Charan and Komati Ram Mohan. "Investigations are underway into these concerns, including the involvement of boats bearing YSR Congress party

colours and the actions of former MP Nandigam Suresh and former programme coordinator of CM Thalashila Raghuram," she noted. Anitha defended Naidu's performance, emphasising his commitment to addressing the situation with efficiency. "It is unfair to criticise Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who, at 74, is actively working to manage these disasters. His leadership remains instrumental in our ongoing response," she asserted. Efforts are underway to register flood victims across districts, with an app facilitating the process. Anitha concluded that the government's response

to the Vijayawada floods will serve as a valuable case study for future disaster management strategies. Looking ahead, government efforts will focus on tackling encroachments in Kolleru, Budameru, and Eleru catchment areas. "We are committed to addressing the issues identified by past administrations and are enhancing our disaster management protocols accordingly," Anitha affirmed. Plans are also in place to prevent landslides in vulnerable areas of Visakhapatnam, with a comprehensive report expected after a thorough investigation.

Ambati slams CM for 'diversionary tactics'

CM blames YSRCP for boat mishap to deflect attention from Govt's failure to handle flood crisis

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former minister Ambati Rambabu has come down heavily on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for 'engaging in diversionary politics' by blaming YSRCP for the boat mishap at the Prakasam Barrage, and said it is a deliberate conspiracy to deflect attention from the government's failure to handle the flood crisis. Speaking to the media at the party's central office on Tuesday, the former minister condemned CM Naidu's actions, alleging that he was stooping to a new low by making such allegations. Rambabu pointed out that not only private boats, but also tourism boats had been caught in the floodwaters. Rambabu criticised Chandrababu Naidu for using every crisis, including the recent floods in the Budameru and Krishna rivers, to target YSRCP leaders. He stated that during the floods, the water level reached an unusually high level of 11.43 lakh cusecs. He added that the floods caused several boats, including tourism boats, to be damaged. According to government reports, 202 boats were partially damaged, and 432 were completely destroyed, he said. He found it ridiculous that the three large boats that hit the



gates at the Prakasam Barrage were used to spread rumours of a conspiracy against YSRCP. He clarified that Komati Rammohan is closely related to Komati Jayaram, the TDP NRI wing head, and Ushaadri had also been photographed with Nara Lokesh. He stated that this shows the baseless nature of the claims against YSRCP leaders like former MP Nandigam Suresh and MLC Talasila Raghuram. He also expressed deep concern over the recent attempt to attack former MLA Namburi Shankar Rao, who was visiting flood-affected areas in Pedakurapadu. His vehicles were vandalised, and the attack, which was captured in visuals, raised serious questions about the law and order situation in the State. Rambabu criticised the police for not taking immediate action and demanded the arrest of those responsible for the violence.

Officials collude with lorry owners for illegal sand sale

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

A massive corruption scandal has come to light at the Aganampudi Sand Depot. Officials from the Mines and Revenue Departments, in collusion with local lorry owners, have been allegedly siphoning off vast sums of money through illegal sand sales. "It's a disgrace," said one res-

operating under the noses of higher authorities, involves officials allowing lorry operators to load far more sand than is permitted, charging exorbitant rates for the excess. This blatant disregard for the law has resulted in a significant shortage of sand for legitimate buyers, who are forced to endure harassment and delays.



ident. "These officials and lorry owners are lining their pockets while we suffer. They're taking advantage of our need for sand." Reports indicate that an additional 40 to 50 tonnes of sand is being smuggled out of the depot each day, a figure that officials have been unable to explain. This suggests that the scam has been going on for a considerable amount of time,

with the officials and lorry owners amassing significant profits. Residents are demanding a swift and thorough investigation into the matter, calling for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. "We want these corrupt officials and lorry owners to pay for their crimes," said another resident. "They've betrayed our trust and exploited our needs."

Sabari River in spate, 30 villages submerged

PNS ■ ELURU

The Sabari River is in a spate with heavy inflows following the incessant rain in the catchment areas under the influence of depression. The river Sabari and the Kinnerasani which are the tributaries to the river Godavari are in spate inundating several villages.

The first danger signal was issued at Bhadrachalam as the flood water in the river Godavari crossed 43 feet in the morning on Tuesday. The water level rose to 48.06 feet in the evening. The officials warned of raising the Godavari flood water to 51 feet tonight and issued a second danger signal.

The road connecting the six merged mandals was cut off as water overflowed on the road. The Bridge across the Peddavagu stream was submerged in the flood water and the road connectivity to Velelurupadu, Repakagommu



and Rudramkota villages was cut off. The villagers were seen reaching the villages on a boat. Official sources said that 30 villages were surrounded by the Godavari flood water.

The flood victims told the media that they were in relief camps during the month of July and they were asked to go to relief camps now. The flood

victims lamented that during every rainy season their villages are inundated in the Godavari flood water and they are forced to move to safer places.

Adding woes to the villages, the Sabari and Kinnerasani are also receiving heavy inflows now. The Sabari River merged in the Godavari at Repakagommu and

Kunavaram villages.

Over 35 villages were struck in the Sabari River flood water in Eluru and ASR district. The officials made arrangements to shift essential commodities, boats and generators to the flood victims. The officials said that over 2000 flood victims would be shifted to safer places.

10 red sanders logs seized; 3 smugglers arrested

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) seized 10 red sanders logs and arrested three smugglers at Papavinasanam near here.

RSASTF SP P Srinivas said that a task force team led by RI (Operations) Suresh Kumar Reddy and RSI T Vishnuvardhan conducted combing.

The task force personnel saw the smugglers carrying red sander logs. When the task force personnel were approaching them, they dumped the logs there and tried to flee.

However, the task force personnel chased and apprehended three of them. The arrested red sander smugglers belong to Jamunamarathur in Tiruvannamailai district of Tamil Nadu. SI Rafi registered a case and investigated.

Steel workers protest seeking VSP-SAIL merger

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Steel workers took to the streets here on Tuesday, demanding the merger of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Members of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Protection Committee, accompanied by hundreds of workers, staged a high-profile protest at the Kurmannapalem intersection, expressing deep frustration over the Central government's inaction regarding the merger.

The protest came in response to a promise made two months ago by government officials, assuring workers that the merger was under active consideration. However, with no concrete decision in sight, the workers' patience has worn thin. "We were assured that the merger would be finalised, but two months have passed, and nothing has moved forward," said a spokesperson for the Protection Committee. "Our livelihoods depend on this decision. The government cannot keep delaying indefinitely."



CITU State secretary Ch Narasinga Rao being whisked away by the police during a 'rasta roko' organised against privatisation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, at Kurmannapalem in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

The protesters blocked the National Highway, causing traffic disruptions and prompting local law enforcement to intervene. The police quickly deployed a heavy presence at Kurmannapalem to manage the escalating tensions. "Our primary focus is to maintain law and order while allowing the protesters to voice their concerns," said a senior police officer overseeing the security arrangements. Earlier in the day, workers

also took part in a large-scale demonstration, marching from the Gandhi statue near the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) building to the RTC complex, calling for immediate action on the merger. One of the protesters said, "This is not just a corporate decision—it's about the survival of thousands of families dependent on this plant. If the government fails to act, we will continue our protests."

Work hard to achieve targets, bankers told

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Prakasam District Collector A Tameem Ansariya has said that district officials and bank officials should work in coordination and achieve the specified targets.

District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC) bankers meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Collector Tameem Ansariya on Tuesday.

The Collector reviewed various loan targets set for all the banks in the district and the progress achieved with the representatives of the respective banks. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that for the financial year 2023-24, as of March 31, 2024, against the district credit plan target of Rs 17,988 crore, loans of Rs.30,975.15 crore have



The Collector reviewed various loan targets set for all the banks in the district and the progress achieved with the representatives of the respective banks.

been sanctioned and 172.19 percent financial progress has been achieved.

"For the financial year 2024-25, the target of the district credit plan has been set at Rs 20,591.18 crores. The target of Rs.3900.40 crores for the crop loans in this financial year, loans of Rs.2,368.97 crores worth loans have been extended by June 30, 2024, which is

60.73 per cent," the Collector revealed.

While the target of granting loans of Rs 1671.03 crore to 32,657 self-help societies in this financial year by the District Rural Development Corporation, by June 30, 2024, loans to the tune of Rs 616.19 crore have been granted to 7982 self-help societies, she said adding that 24.44 per

cent of the target has been achieved.

The Collector said that the target of granting loans of Rs 5940 crore to 1485 self-help societies in this financial year through MEPMA, Rs 5555.65 crore worth of loans has been sanctioned to 430 self-help societies by June 30, 2024.

Collector Tameem Ansariya told the bankers that everyone who has a CCRC card should be extended a loan this year. He asked the bankers to encourage all the farmers who have CCRC cards to provide crop loans and cattle loans to them so that they are eligible and that there is no doubt about them.

DRO Srilata, Lead Manager Ramesh, DRDA MEPMA PD Vasundhara, and Agriculture and Fisheries JD Srinivasulu were among those a host of officials who attended the meeting.

7 injured as school bus plunges into field



PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

As many as seven students were injured as the school bus in which they were returning from school veered off the road and plunged into an agricultural land at Palakoderu village in Undi mandal on Tuesday.

Police said that the Sri Chaitanya School was taking 21 students to their homes from the school. The bus driver lost control of the bus resulting in it veering off the road and plunging into an agricultural land.

As many as seven students suffered injuries in the mishap and they were admitted to the GGH at Palakoderu. The officials and the school management heaved a sigh of relief as all students escaped with injuries in the mishap.

Eluru MP donates Rs 25 lakh to CMRF



PNS ■ ELURU

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has donated Rs 25 lakh for the flood relief operations in the flood-hit areas.

The MP handed over a Rs 25 lakh cheque to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu personally in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the MP said that he donated Rs 25 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund as his contribution to the relief operations being carried out in the flood hit areas. He appealed to all to contribute their mite to carry out relief operations in the flood-affected areas. Later the MP visited Kalidindi village and interacted with the villagers and listened to their grievances.

VMC restores water supply in flood-affected areas

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra has announced that the drinking water supply through taps has been completely restored in the flood-affected areas of the city.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the Commissioner stated that 77,500 tap connections in areas such as KL Rao Nagar, Urmila Nagar, Nizam Gate, Kabela, Iron Yard, HB Colony, Ajith Singh Nagar, Vambay Colony, Nandamuri Nagar, Shantinagar, Old Rajarajeswari Peta, and New Rajarajeswari Peta have been activated to provide water. However, he advised residents of these areas not to drink the tap water directly due to potential contamination from floodwater. In addition to restoring tap connections, the VMC is supplying 25 lakh litres of drinking water daily through 229 water tankers to ensure safe drinking water for the public.

The Commissioner emphasised that the VMC is informing residents about these precautions through loudspeaker announcements.



CREDAI Vizag donates Rs 10 lakh to CMRF for V'wada flood victims

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The CREDAI Visakhapatnam Chapter has donated Rs 10 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), aimed at supporting the relief efforts for those affected by the devastating floods in Vijayawada. The donation was made through CREDAI Andhra Pradesh, with the backing of city chapters across the state.

The recent floods in Vijayawada have caused severe damage to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. In response to the crisis, the CREDAI Visakhapatnam Chapter has stepped up to offer vital support, highlighting its commitment to the communi-

ty and disaster relief. "The situation in Vijayawada is serious, and immediate support is needed. As a responsible organisation, we felt it was our duty to contribute," said KSRK Raju (Sai), Chairman of CREDAI Visakhapatnam. "Our donation reflects our solidarity with those affected and our commitment to aiding their recovery," added V Dharmender.

The contribution by CREDAI Visakhapatnam emphasises the importance of collective efforts during crises and sets an example for corporate social responsibility. The chapter also expressed its gratitude to its members and supporters for making this donation possible.

Budameru floods cripple printing sector

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Budameru, which has earned the dubious distinction of 'Sorrow of Vijayawada', has crippled the printing sector as many printing units were inundated in flood water.

The printing industry was badly affected by the Budameru floods. Many major printing press units were established in Payakapuram and at Kabela. They provided jobs to hundreds of workers. Moreover, all the printing units were doing good business.

However, the deluge,



caused by the Budameru, ruined the printing industry. All the printing units were inundated in five feet of water.

The machinery, printed books, and a huge quantity of newsprint were damaged in the flood.

A printing unit owner said that they printed thousands of books on orders and were making preparations to dispatch them.

The flood water badly damaged all the books, newsprint and equipment, he lamented. He pegged the loss at several crores.

The Krishna binding unit located at Kabela centre was marooned in the flood water and the loss was estimated as Rs 4 crore.

As the flood water receded, the printing press owners and workers opened the units only to find accumulated slush and damaged printing equipment.

"I was shocked to see my printing unit, which I have established by spending crores of rupees, in the flood water. The loss will be in several crores which I can not afford," a printing press unit told the media.

PAC Chairman's appointment unconstitutional: Alleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

Maheshwar Reddy said, "In the past, when Congress party MLAs were accused of defection, the Congress party fought against it. When Revanth Reddy was the PCC chief, if MLAs switched parties, Revanth Reddy

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

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

The decisions of the Indira Congress are not implemented here! The situation in the Congress party is like 'Indira Congress versus RR (Revanth Reddy) Congress'. There is a gap between the AICC and RR Congress in the State. It seems that RR Congress is going against the decision of AICC. In the case of the PAC chairman, the Congress government has acted contrary to tradition.

Scientists asked to work on profitability of paddy seeds

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani has appealed to the scientists to invent paddy seeds which would be profitable to the farmers.

Collector Nagarani made a surprise visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra located in Undi mandal on Tuesday. On the occasion, she met with the scientists and inquired about the ongoing research at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra. She told them to expand the research and provide better paddy floriculture and horticulture seeds to the farmers.

"Due to the incessant rains, water stagnated in the agriculture fields and horticulture fields. The scientists should create awareness about the immediate measures to be taken after the water is receded. The scientist should also create wide awareness among the farmers about the cultivation of millets and cultivation



of intercrops," she said. The Collector asked the scientists to provide suitable plants for kitchen gardens and terrace gardens. The use of drones in agriculture activity

including spraying pesticides should be increased and further promoted. Apart from spraying more area in less time, pesticides could also be saved, the Collector opined.

Collector Nagarani advised the DRDA PD to identify 100 people to provide training on the use of drones. Six drones have already been handed over to the women members in the

district and they have been ordered to be put into use immediately," the Collector said. She examined the plants identified after conducting research on various seeds at the Krishi Science Center and asked the scientists for details.

She examined the 16-acre agriculture fields where cultivation was taken up using various varieties of paddy seeds. She also visited the fish and prawns disease testing laboratory. The Collector asked the scientist to take steps to bring equipment which is not available carry out the tests on a large scale and provide extensive services to the farmers.

KVK scientists Dr N. Mallikarjuna Rao, Programme Coordinator, Fisheries Research Head Dr Chandrasekhara Rao, Community Science Dr N. Deborah Messiana, Fisheries Dr A. Sreenivasa Rao and Crop Production Dr P. Vinaya Lakshmi were among those who were present.

ACROSS THE STATES



Over 900 people died by suicide in 10 yrs in Mizoram

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



Former BARC scientist goes missing from his home

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



Mpox patient stable, no need to panic: Delhi Min

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

Need to remove obstacles in research ecosystem: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



No question of CM change at present

Asserts Karnataka Home Minister Parameshwara

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

Fielding questions from

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

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

Rahul trying to set dangerous narrative: BJP

Terms his remarks about Sikhs sinister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Supreme Court asks Punjab government

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"Will there be no uncertainty if one political party comes in power and brings a law for a university and when another political party comes in power, it repeals it (Act)?" the bench asked the counsel appearing for Punjab.

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

Khalsa University and Khalsa College Charitable Society have approached the

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

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

The counsel appearing for Punjab said there was nothing arbitrary about it.

The state's counsel said the then state government in 2016 brought the law, and after the new government came to power in 2017, it repealed the Act. The Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP government had brought the Khalsa University Act in 2016 and the successor Congress dispensation led by Captain Amarinder Singh had repealed it.

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

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



for women already being run by the society were fused into the university.

It had also noted that on May 30, 2017, an ordinance was issued repealing the Khalsa University Act and, subsequently, the Repeal Act, 2017 was passed.

Cong ups ante over SEBI row

Levels more allegations against Buch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday claimed that SEBI chairperson Madhavi Buch had a 99 per cent stake in a firm when it provided consultancy services to the Mahindra and Mahindra Group and her husband received Rs 4.78 crore as income from the conglomerate while she was adjudicating cases of the same group.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the SEBI's institutional integrity as a robust market regulator has been "tarnished" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to save his "crony friends".

The Mahindra and Mahindra Group dismissed

the allegations as "false and misleading in nature". The group categorically stated that it had not at any point requested the SEBI for any preferential treatment.

"We maintain the highest standards of corporate governance," a spokesperson of the Mahindra and Mahindra Group said. In a post on X, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said, "The Mega Modi-Adani Scam is being investigated by SEBI. SEBI Chairperson has multiple issues of conflict of interest. Congress party has now revealed numerous such instances."

"Modi-Shah led committee appointed the SEBI Chairperson. Did they deliberately appoint her to benefit

their crony friends? Or were they unaware of the shady financial dealings? Are SEBI orders on regulated companies, now, contingent on the consultancy fees its Chairperson receives through a shady company? Is this 'Na Khaunga, Na Khane Doonga'?" he said.

"The hard-earned money of 10 crore stock market investors has been jeopardised by this mega scandal choreographed by Modi ji!" he alleged.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked whether Prime Minister Modi was aware that Buch owns 99 per cent of Agora Advisory Private Limited and is receiving significant fees from listed entities, including Mahindra and Mahindra.

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

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Gram Panchayats -- elected village bodies -- have no power to levy a tax on motor vehicles, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has said.

In an order passed on September 3, the court dismissed a petition on the issue, filed by Hargarh Gram Panchayat in Jabalpur district. The ruling became available on Tuesday.

All vehicles driven by motors fall within the definition of 'motor vehicles', and a Gram Panchayat does not have any power to impose tax on motor vehicles, said Justice Vishal Dhagat. The Gram Panchayat of Hargarh, an industrial area, had challenged before the high court a letter



sent by the state revenue department taking objection to the Panchayat collecting commercial tax from vehicles within its jurisdiction.

During the hearing, the state government opposed the petition's maintainability. No resolution in accordance with law had been passed authorizing the sarpanch to file the petition as the said resolution did not have names and signatures of Panchayat members, the government lawyer said.

CPI (M)'s pseudo-secularism exposed, alleges Congress in Kerala

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The opposition Congress in Kerala on Tuesday accused the ruling CPI(M) of 'hypocrisy' over secularism, saying its alleged links to a controversial 'kafir' screenshot issue and ties with RSS have exposed its 'pseudo-secular facade'.

Attacking the Marxist party-led government over the raging row on the meeting between an IPS officer and a senior RSS leader, the Congress said its long-drawn allegations about the unholy nexus of the Left party and the BJP have come true now.

Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheesan alleged that some of the names of persons, who were part of a coterie controlling the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), have been exposed and more would come out soon.

"Through the propagation of kafir screenshots during the Lok Sabha poll campaign, the meeting of ADGP Ajith Kumar with the RSS leader last

tried to gain political advantage, he claimed. The 'kafir' campaign controversy involves a social media post that asked Vadakara voters to reject LDF candidate K K Shailaja, calling her a 'kafir' (non-believer), ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Reportedly, police recently found that the post in question was circulated on some CPI(M) online pages and WhatsApp groups.

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Cong conspiring for years to 'end reservation': Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Latching on to Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the issue of reservation, BSP chief Mayawati on Tuesday claimed that the Congress is conspiring to end reservation and asked people belonging to the deprived sections to be cautious in the wake of his "dangerous" statement.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister was reacting to Gandhi's remarks that Congress will think of scrapping reservations when India is a fair place, which is not the case right now. The BSP chief said the Congress never implemented OBC reservation nor conducted caste census when it was in power.

Haryana poll battle heats up

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Haryana poll battle intensified on Tuesday with prominent leaders including Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and state Congress president Udai Bhan filing their nominations for the October 5 assembly elections, even as the ruling BJP released its second list of

21 candidates. The AAP, which could not



forge an alliance with the main opposition Congress in the state, also released its second list of nine candidates for the

polls, fielding former minister Chhatar Pal Singh from Barwala a day after he switched over from the BJP.

Chief Minister Saini filed his nomination papers from the Ladwa constituency. He was accompanied by Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal.

Himachal to levy milk, environment cess on power bills

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday passed an amendment bill to pave way for the levy of a milk cess and an environment cess on consumption of electricity.

The Himachal Pradesh Electricity (Duty) Amendment Bill 2024, which seeks to amend the Himachal Pradesh

Electricity (Duty) Act, 2009, with insertion of Sections 3-A for levy of milk cess and 3-B for environment cess, was passed by voice vote. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had introduced the bill on Monday.

The milk cess is aimed at strengthening milk producers and upliftment of farmers while the environment cess will be levied for a clean



environment to boost the tourism industry. The milk

cess would be 10 paise per unit for all consumers barring

the zero billing consumers.

The environment cess would be 2 paise per unit for small industrial power consumption, 4 paise for medium industrial power consumption, 10 paise per unit for large industrial power consumption and commercial consumers, Rs 2 per unit for temporary connections and stone crushers and Rs 6 per unit on charging station.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Strategic partnership

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

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



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

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PICTALK



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

9/11: The day that changed the world



SANTHOSH MATHEW

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WARRIORS OF INDIA

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

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

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

Bal Govind | Noida

PHOGAT JOINS CONGRESS

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

India's efforts to foster peace



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

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

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

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

SUICIDAL IDEATION RISING

A sustained campaign is needed to thwart suicide attempts, and bring lives back on track. World Suicide Prevention Day falls on September 10. Everything in this mankind can be prevented, and suicide is not an exception. There are many "foundations", easily accessible through internet, to come to the rescue of the suicide attempter. It is always good to directly start a conversation with those contemplating suicide with compassion and empathy taking care not to further push them to the brink. "Talk with them; don't argue with them" is the familiar refrain in the international community of experts. The mountains of problems men and women carry with them are only supposed to be climbed.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Fintech: Paving the way for sustainable development

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

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



The regulatory landscape is robust, with the government's initiatives and support in mobile connectivity; policies like Direct Benefit Transfer and Atal Pension Yojna have accelerated the digital revolution, bringing citizens, especially in rural areas within the digital financial services domain. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Payments Vision 2025 outlines ambitious goals including a substantial increase in digital and payment transactions. The fast expansion of Fintech puts forth optimistic growth numbers, it can also be pivotal in advancing sustainability by leveraging digital innovations to promote environmentally and socially responsible financial practices. India's fintech ecosystem per se has seen significant growth initiatives that support sustainable development goals, enhance financial inclusion and foster green economic activities. The path of Green Financial Measures encompassing green investment tax credits, mandatory environmental disclosure and reporting, and development of sustainable financial standards has experienced a steady and robust expansion from 188 to 784 Measures and a Year-to-Year growth from 40 per cent to 100 per cent between 2015 and 2022. Financial institutions adopt environmental and social governance (ESG) criteria in their investment

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

Furthermore, there is also provision of crowdfunding for renewable and green projects particularly solar and wind energy initiatives. The banking sector, which plays an instrumental role in funds dispersion is increasingly incorporating green investment policies, such as providing sustainable loans and adopting environmentally friendly banking practices. Similarly, insurance companies are integrating environmental risk assessment into their underwriting processes and product development. The government has launched several schemes and initiatives to promote green financing such as the Green Energy Finance Scheme and the National Clean Energy Fund. The RBI has also issued guidelines for green bonds, which are designed to finance environmentally sustainable projects. The SEBI has issued guidelines for sustainability reporting by listed companies, where companies must disclose their ESG performance for greater transparency and accountability. India's fintech sector is leading the way in advancing sustainability through the development of novel financial services that promote social and environmental objectives. Given the favourable regulatory environments and ongoing technical progress, the fintech industry is in a strong position to increase its influence on sustainable development in India.

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



KAJLEEN KAUR





FIRST COLUMN

TRANSFORMING DISLIKE INTO COMPASSION

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

India needs to excel in 'Olympics of skilling'



DINESH SOOD

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The silent crisis: Rising suicide cases demand urgent attention

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

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

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



VIVEK SHUKLA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN BRIEF



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

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



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

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



RBI slaps penalty on Axis Bank, HDFC Bank

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Govt working on policy for decarbonisation of steel sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Credit growth could lead to liquidity problems: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Sectoral/thematic category of schemes witnessed strong inflows due to NFO. NFOs seem to be the preferred route for investors to take a lump sum allocation to mutual funds since schemes have the flexibility to invest over a stipulated time period," Manish Mehta, National Head - Sales, Marketing & Digital Business, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said.

Overall, the mutual fund industry has witnessed an inflow of Rs 1.08 lakh crore in the month under review as compared to Rs 1.9 lakh crore in July.

India remains committed to reducing budget deficit: Fitch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Fitch said India using RBI dividend to lower its fiscal deficit target for the fiscal year ending March 2025, reinforces its view that the country prefers fiscal consolidation over additional spending. Still, India's deficit, and interest-to-revenue and debt ratios remain high compared with the 'BBB' category sovereign peers, Fitch said.

In the full Budget presented in July, the government lowered the fiscal deficit target to 4.9 per cent for the current financial year.

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 361.75 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 81,921.29 driven by gains in IT, telecom and select banking shares. During the day, it jumped 637.01 points or 0.78 per cent to 82,196.55. The NSE Nifty surged 104.70 points or 0.42 per cent to 25,041.10.

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

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

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

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

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

SCRAPPAGE OF VEHICLES

Working on policy based on pollution, not age: Official

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IFFCO invested Rs 2k cr on nano fertilisers: MD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"We have invested around Rs 2,000 crore since 2017 on nano

fertilisers," he said.

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

Awasthi said the co-operative is also investing Rs 200 crore annually in the promotion of nano-urea and nano-DAP and increasing awareness among farmers about how to use these products along with conventional urea and DAP.

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

To promote the use of nano fertilisers across the country, IFFCO had announced last



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

year that it would procure 2,500 agri-drones and train 5,000-odd rural entrepreneurs. It is also procuring 2,500 electric three-wheelers (loader

types) to carry drones to farmers' fields.

Awasthi said IFFCO currently has a total annual manufacturing capacity of 16 crore

bottles of nano liquid urea and 7 crore bottles of nano liquid DAP.

"We are currently operating at around 15 per cent of the installed capacity," he said.

Asked when the company would reach a reasonable level of around 80 per cent capacity utilisation, Awasthi said, "We are hopeful of reaching that level in the next 2-3 years."

He said the company is making efforts to educate farmers to use 50 per cent of conventional granular urea and 50 per cent of nano-liquid urea.

Awasthi noted that nano fertilisers help in improving crop productivity in a range of 3 per cent to 20 per cent if applied in the right manner and also protect soil health



Vijayawada

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

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



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

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

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

Prior to *Call Me Bae*, Vihaan starred in his first American movie, *Worth*, which came out in 2020. "In this series, emotions are the main theme. Demographics wouldn't be relevant. Even someone in poverty who watches *Call Me Bae* can relate to what it's like to be misinterpreted. Glamour

and wealth are prevalent themes! Aspirational films are popular among certain audiences, with Yash Raj films being one of the best examples. Even if they were shooting in far-off places like Switzerland, we could still relate to them. In the 2000s, we relished every aspect of a Yash Raj film. What makes *Call Me Bae* unique is how we make fun of ourselves. Another popular show is called *Succession*. Truly, every one of the primary characters is a billionaire. It has an enormous fan base and has won numerous Emmys! Why do you believe that? Because viewers were able to relate to their world because it was depicted in an authentic manner. They were acting sincere. We are demonstrating Ananya Panday's struggles in a glamorous society in a similar way," adds the *Mismatched* fame.

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

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



India's ironwoman spreading guffaw & chuckles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That being said, she has had to make peace with the fact that, like any profession, there are aspects of the job she won't love all the time. "While I don't enjoy the constant travel, I've learned to balance it by reminding myself why I do it and by giving myself time to recover. For instance, August was particularly tough, with back-to-back performances that required much more than just being on stage for two hours a day. The behind-the-scenes work, attending other shows and dealing with production issues often stretched my days to 19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The project I'm most excited about right now is a book of comedic writing titled *BCAD-Before Children and After Diapers*. This book is inspired by my inaugural comedy show and reflects my ongoing love for writing. I'm eagerly looking forward to sharing it with the world once it's ready and that feature film, which exists in my own liminal space between self-belief and the golden words of *Boss Baby* who said 'cookies are for closers,' signs off the multifaceted Anu, bringing us to the end of this conversation.

Preparing 'bhoga' for Radhashtami

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO PLAY ON 2ND DAY AS DDCA SENDS COVERS

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

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

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

GREATER NOIDA FAILS 'TEST' CASE



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

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



Rinku picked for second round as stars leave for national duty

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR

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

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

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

PTI ■ DHAKA

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



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

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

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



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

SAI, Steel Plants Sports Board make quarters

PTI ■ PUNE

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



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

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

AP ■ SILVERSTONE (ENGLAND)

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

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



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

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

'INDEPENDENT WOMEN WOULD RELATE TO MY CHARACTER IN UTSAVAM'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and an older woman."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Devara trailer shows mass avatar of Jr NTR

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

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

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

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

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



SUHAS' FILM POINTS FOR DASARA RELEASE

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

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

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

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

TJ Gnanavel announces *Dosa King*

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

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

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

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



Rashmika gets injured

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

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

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



Director Harish Shankar releases teaser of *Pailam Pilaga*



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

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

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

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

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

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