

Sreenayya Pledges Transparent Governance, Major Development for Jubilee Hills Society

“Hyderabad Correspondent, August 29 (Indian Chronicle): Promising to transform the Jubilee Hills Cooperative House Building Society into a model institution with transparent administration and modern facilities, president candidate Sreenayya appealed to members to support his panel in the upcoming elections. Addressing a press conference at the Jubilee Hills Club along with panel members Potluri Srinivas and Nadimpalli Durga Sravanti, Sreenayya said his priority would be to place the society's development and members' interests above internal politics. He urged those indulging in personal criticism and “petty politics” during the election campaign to refrain from such practices and focus instead on the society's future. Sreenayya claimed that he had maintained an unblemished record throughout his public and professional life and promised a thorough review of alleged irregularities in the society if his panel was elected. He also proposed reviewing and amending the existing society bylaws through a transparent process



and with the consent of members. The objective, he said, was to strengthen accountability, improve ad-

ministration and develop both the Jubilee Hills Housing Society and its club into among the best in the country.

Pardipuri Narsimha's Funeral Concludes Amid Tears

Thousands Join Final Procession; Several Prominent Leaders Pay Their Last Respects

“Nacharam, August 29 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):” The final rites of Pardipuri Narsimha, a prominent Telangana activist and founder of the Jana Shankharavam Party, were performed on Saturday amid an outpouring of grief. A large number of people, including family members, friends, political leaders, activists, colleagues and admirers, participated in his final journey and paid their last respects. “The final procession commenced from his residence at Karthikeya Nagar in Nacharam and proceeded towards the Vaikuntadhamam at Elephant Chowrasta in Mallapur. The procession witnessed the participation of a large number of people who gathered to bid a final farewell to the Telangana movement activist. “The atmosphere turned emotional as the procession moved through the streets. Artists accompanied the final journey with the beats of traditional drums, while dance performances were also held as a mark of respect to the departed leader. Supporters and admirers raised slogans remembering Narsimha's contribution to the Telangana movement and his public service. “Several prominent political leaders and representatives of various organisations attended the funeral. Former MLA Bethi Subhash Reddy, Jana Sena State President Shankar Goud, BRS State leader Saizen Shekhar, former BJP Urban President Meesala Chandraiah, Dalit Sangharshana Samithi founder Nalla Radhakrishna, DICCI President Nalla Babu, along with



leaders and activists from the BJP, Congress, Jana Sena, MRPS and other organisations, were present. “The leaders placed floral wreaths on Narsimha's mortal remains and offered their condolences to the bereaved family. They recalled his association with the Telangana movement and his efforts to raise public issues and work for social causes. “The demise of the young leader came as a shock to his family members, associates and followers. Many of his colleagues and admirers became emotional and broke down in tears while bidding him their final farewell. “The large turnout at the funeral reflected the affection and respect that Narsimha had earned among people, political activists and various sections of society during his public life.

Legal Action Against Those Forcibly Entering Jubilee Hills Club: Dr Vasanth Kumar



“Hyderabad Correspondent, August 29 (Indian Chronicle): Jubilee Hills International Club president Dr Vasanth Kumar said legal action would be initiated against suspended former members who allegedly entered the club premises forcibly and disrupted its functioning. Addressing the issue, Vasanth Kumar said the individuals had been suspended following allegations of financial irregularities after a General Body meeting was convened and the decision was approved by the members. Despite their suspension, they allegedly entered the club and occupied the office while claiming to be the president and secretary, he

said. He alleged that their conduct not only caused inconvenience to senior club employees but also affected the reputation and functioning of the institution. Vasanth Kumar said the suspended members had relied on a few lines from a magistrate's notice to justify their actions, while overlooking the provision that allowed them to approach the appropriate court if they had any objections. He said the present management would not tolerate any attempt to disrupt the club's administration and would approach both the police and the court to initiate appropriate legal proceedings.



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 29):- ““On the occasion of the completion of 1000 days of the Congress government in power, BRS Party Working President KTR called on the BRS Party to make the 1000-day Samarabheri program on the failed rule of Congress a success. Senior state leaders of BRS Party Chintala Venkateswar Reddy, former legislator of Bhuvanagiri, Paylla Sekhar Reddy, BRS Party District President Kancharla Ramakrishna Reddy and key leaders of the constituency participated in the BRS Party office in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Saturday.

SBI Expands Banking Access and Community Outreach Across Telangana



Hyderabad, August 29, 2026: State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Shri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty today inaugurated seven new SBI branches and four digital kiosks in Telangana, reinforcing the Bank's commitment towards expanding banking access and delivering convenient digital banking services to customers across the state. The seven branches virtually inaugurated by the Chairman are located at Chitrapuri Colony, Satamrai, Chengicherla, Doulthabad, Bhoompally, Theegalguttapally and Yellareddypet. The new branches will further strengthen SBI's presence in emerging and underserved locations and provide customers with a comprehensive range of banking and financial services closer to their homes and businesses. As part of SBI's endeavour to promote digital banking and enhance customer convenience at important public and religious destinations, Shri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty also virtually inaugurated four Digital Kiosks located at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple (Chinna Tirupati), Vattam; Sri Lakshmi Goda Sametha Sri Virat Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Sangareddy; Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam; and Sri Bhadrakali Temple, Warangal. These kiosks are aimed at facilitating easy access to SBI's digital banking services for devotees and visitors. As part of

SBI's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, buses were also donated to Akshaya Vidya Foundation, Hyderabad and Gnana Saraswathi Devasthanam, Basar, supporting their efforts in the areas of education and community welfare. Shri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty flagged off the buses and handed over the keys to the representatives of the beneficiary organisations.

Shri E. Srinivasa Rao, Additional Commissioner, Endowments Department, Government of Telangana, and Shri S. Janardhan, Founder Trustee, Akshaya Vidya Foundation, received the bus keys from the Chairman. The initiatives reflect SBI's continued focus on financial inclusion, digital accessibility and inclusive community development, in line with its commitment to contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of the communities it serves. The event was attended by Shri Neelesh Dwivedi, Chief General Manager, Hyderabad Circle; Shri Satish Kumar, General Manager (NW-II); Shri Ranvijay Pratap, General Manager (NW-I); Shri Surajit Tripathy, DGM & CDO, along with other senior officials, staff members and dignitaries. Through such initiatives, SBI continues to strengthen its banking network while leveraging technology and CSR interventions to create a positive and sustainable impact across Telangana.

GST 2.0 Can Drive Sectoral Growth and Strengthen India's Path to Viksit Bharat @ 2047



““““Hyderabad: ““““The emerging opportunities and challenges associated with GST 2.0 reforms, economic integration and sectoral competitiveness came under extensive discussion at an International Conference organised by Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad, with sponsorship from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).“““The conference, titled “Economic Integration and Sectoral Competitiveness: Targeting Growth Potential in Agriculture, Manufacturing, Services, E-Commerce, Insurance, Healthcare, Real Estate and Rural Industries in the GST-Driven Economy,” brought together leading academicians, researchers, policymakers, industry experts and scholars from India and abroad to deliberate on the role of tax reforms in advancing India’s economic growth and the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.““The conference was organised under the encouragement and guidance of Prof. S. B. Majumder, Founder President; Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar,

Chancellor; Dr. Ramakrishna Raman, Vice-Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University); and Prof. (Dr.) Sunil George, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad.““Mr. Krishna Koundinya, IRS, Joint Commissioner, Directorate of Vigilance, Hyderabad, was the Chief Guest, while Prof. Rajesh Kumar Dubey, Director, UGC-MMTTC, attended as the Guest of Honour. Prof. Rajinikanth Aluvalu, Director, Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, was also present at the conference.““The conference witnessed international participation from experts representing Vietnam, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Dubai, Australia, the United States and Malaysia, besides participants from across India. The speakers shared perspectives on the changing tax environment and examined how GST reforms could contribute to greater economic integration, competitiveness, investment and ease of doing business.

Banning a pesticide will not stop farmer suicides. Need science-based approach to address the root cause

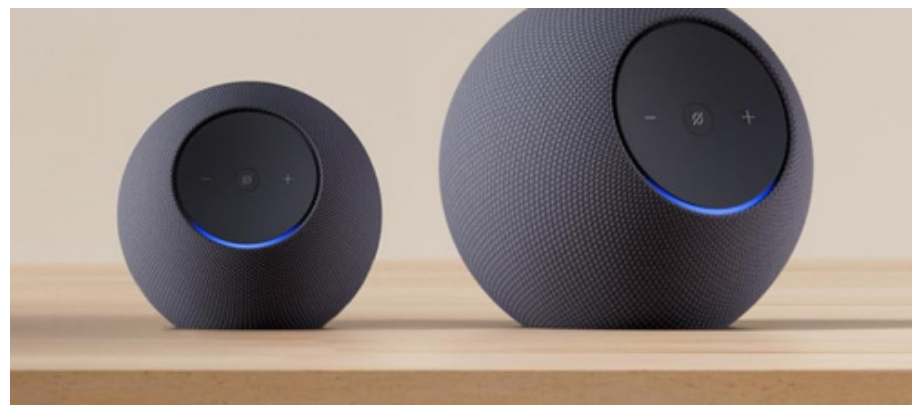
“Hyderabad:” “The Government reviews the sale of crop-protection products Paraquat Dichloride and Carbosulfan, following a restriction in Telangana and concern over poisoning deaths, CropLife India urges that any decision must be guided by a clear understanding of what actually drives farmer suicides, and by a realistic view of what a ban would mean for farmers already under severe strain. A restriction removes the means, but it does not remove the root cause. In fact, restricting a product may deepen the distress that drives a farmer to take his or her life.” “The evidence is well documented. The drivers identified across the scientific literature are consistent, including debt, crop failure, the absence of alternative livelihoods, and the inability to repay loans when the harvest fails. For instance, a 2024 qualitative study of farmer suicides in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, published in the Indian Journal of Community Medicine, concluded that



the main causes are economic rather than related to the mental health of farmers, identifying debt and the resulting debt-trap as the central driver. Another study, by the International Institute for Environment and Development, analysing data from 2014-15 to 2020-21 across five high-burden states, found that farmer suicides rise and fall with rainfall – at a 5% rainfall deviation the average was about 810 farmer suicides a year, rising to a projected 1,188 in a year of 25% rainfall deficit. The same study found that where guaranteed employment and social protection were available, suicide numbers stayed lower even after crop failure. Taken together, the evidence makes clear that suicide is the symptom of a deeper crisis, and that restrictions on vital crop-protection products may only exacerbate it. The Government has, over the years, steadily strengthened the safety net for farmers through income support, crop insurance, institutional credit and rural employment guarantees, and CropLife India urges all stakeholders, industry included, to build on this foundation and double down to empower the farmer against the distress at the heart of the crisis.” “The timing makes this especially urgent. CropLife India urges the Government to take into consideration the needs at the farm, especially as the kharif sowing season begins, when farmers have already planned and committed to their inputs for the year. Disrupting affordable, established weed and pest control mid-season would raise costs and add to the financial pressure on farmers at the very moment they can least absorb it, the same pressure the evidence identifies as the real driver of these tragedies.

Amazon launches Echo Dot Max and Echo Studio featuring premium audio and new modern design

“Hyderabad” “Amazon today announced the launch of its Echo Dot Max and Echo Studio smart speakers with Alexa in India, built to offer premium audio experiences. Echo Dot Max delivers nearly 3x the bass of Echo Dot (5th Gen), and Echo Studio offers spatial audio with Dolby Atmos. Both devices are powered by Amazon’s AZ3 custom silicon chips for fast performance, and feature Omnisense technology which enables automated smart home routines using presence, motion, and temperature detection.” “Echo Dot Max and Echo Studio come



with Alexa built in, making it easy for customers to play music, manage Alexa-compatible smart home appliances, and handle everyday tasks like setting timers/alarms, checking the weather, or making shopping lists—all with just their voice.” “With Echo Dot Max and Echo Studio, we’re delivering premium audio experiences that raise the bar for smart speakers. Echo Dot Max delivers improved bass through a redesigned audio architecture and Echo Studio offers spatial audio with Dolby Atmos, with Alexa built into both. But we also know that smart speakers today go far beyond audio—our customers use them as their smart home control centre, daily assistant, and family companion. Both these devices feature Omnisense, our custom sensor platform that senses presence in the room, detects motion, and reads temperature, so the smart home responds proactively,” said Malvika Jethwani, Echo and Smart Home Country Lead, Amazon India. “We can’t wait for customers in India to experience these new devices that offer premium audio, intelligent automation, and Alexa—all in one device.” “Echo Dot Max is Amazon’s best Echo Dot yet. It features nearly 3x bass compared to Echo Dot (5th Gen) with room-filling sound that automatically adapts to any space. Echo Dot Max features a sophisticated two-way speaker system with a high-excursion woofer optimised for deep bass and a custom tweeter for crisp high notes. The redesigned audio architecture provides double the air space compared to the previous generation Echo Dot, improving the performance and efficiency of bass generation.

Amazon launches all-new Fire TV Stick HD in India —its slimmest and fastest HD streaming stick yet

“Hyderabad:” “Amazon has announced the launch of the all-new Fire TV Stick HD in India. This is Amazon’s fastest HD streaming stick yet, delivering over 30% faster performance on average than the previous generation. It provides customers access to full HD streaming with HDR10+ and Wi-Fi 6 support, a slimmer, more portable design, and a new Fire TV experience, redesigned for faster, more organised navigation. With Fire TV Stick HD, customers can stream lakhs of movies and TV episodes across content providers and enjoy Xbox cloud gaming without the need for a console (subscription fees may apply).” “Customers expect their TV streaming experience to be fast and responsive—apps that load quickly, content that’s easy to find, and streaming that’s smooth and lag-free. Our latest Fire TV Stick HD delivers exactly that. It’s over 30% faster on average than the previous generation and comes with our new, faster Fire TV interface for seamless streaming. It’s also our slimmest, most portable Fire TV Stick yet, designed to fit neatly behind a TV, offering a clutter-free setup,” said Sayantani Choudhuri, Head of Fire TV, Amazon India. “From performance to design, we’ve built this device to offer a streaming experience that’s fast, smooth, and convenient. We’re excited to bring it to our customers in India.” “Enjoy fast HD streaming performance with quicker app launches” “Fire TV Stick HD delivers noticeable speed improvements compared to previous HD models. It is more than 30% faster on average than the previous generation, which means it turns on faster and opens apps more quickly. It provides access to 1080p full HD streaming with HDR10+ and comes with Bluetooth 5.3 support and Wi-Fi 6 for reliable and better-quality video streaming, even with slower internet connections” “Take the streaming experience anywhere with the slimmest Fire TV stick yet” “The new Fire TV Stick HD is Amazon’s slimmest streaming stick yet—about 30% slimmer than other sticks in the Fire TV range. It can be powered through a TV’s USB port via Direct Power, fitting more neatly behind the TV with no need for a wall adapter. The new device is also designed to fit easily into a carry-on bag or in small pockets so that customers can take it on-the-go and continue to stream their favourite content while traveling.



Ground Zero | Along the Indian-Myanmar border, living in a limbo

Soon after the Tatmadaw, or Myanmar's military, seized power in a coup d'etat in February 2021 by displacing the National League for Democracy (NLD)-led government, Sumi, 18, fled the country. She crossed the border into India and finally secured a job in Treasury Square, the administrative hub of Aizawl, Mizoram's capital. Sumi was not too worried about leaving her home in Tedim, the second largest town in Myanmar's Chin State, for Aizawl, covering 255 kilometres over five days by public transport. "She knew she would be among her own people in this foreign land that is much safer and more peaceful than ours," says Margaret Ngaihi, Sumi's family acquaintance.

Sumi became Margaret's apprentice. Margaret, too, had left Tedim about 40 years ago to work at the house of L.R. Sailo, a former director of Mizoram's Information and Public Relations Department at Treasury Square. Margaret says Sumi, from the Chin community, did not take long to settle down at the house of Sailo, a Mizo.

Margaret had left Tedim under similar circumstances in the 1980s. Myanmar, then called Burma, was under the military dictatorship of Ne Win. The Free Movement Regime (FMR) which promotes local trade and allows residents along the 1,643 km-long India-Myanmar border to move up to 16 km into each other's territory without travel documents, was not in place then; the agreement between India and Myanmar was implemented only in 2018. She married a Mizo and they had two sons. "The Chins and Mizos belong to the same ethnic stock. They were inhabiting Zogam (the land of the Zo people) for ages before the British divided our homeland in the 1800s. Marriages and other social interactions between people on either side of the international border are quite common in these parts. It is also not unusual for children in Myanmar to study in Mizoram," says Sailo. Zogam comprises present-day Mizoram, the Chin State of Myanmar, and areas beyond.

Margaret has occasionally visited her relatives in Tedim. "The civil war has been forcing our people to hunt for jobs abroad. The younger lot in Myanmar prefer Malaysia, which is where Sumi lives now, but we cannot think of a better place than Mizoram, the land of our own people," Margaret says. Mizoram currently shelters about 35,000 people displaced from Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Manipur. She is not aware of the geopolitics in the region, specifically about Manipur's insistence on fencing the India-Myanmar border to block the entry of refugee-seekers from the civil war-torn country. In January, Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Centre would fence the entire border to restrict free movement into India. But discussions in the neighbourhood on the fencing have made her understand that it might not be easy for her people to travel across the border as easily as she and Sumi did, four decades apart. In January, Sangthankima, 63, a social worker who runs Mizoram's largest orphanage, Thutak Nunpuitute Team, was

awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government. While he is happy about the recognition, he is now worried. He faces the prospect of losing easy access to the orphanage and rehabilitation centre run by his charitable organisation at Tahan, in the Sagaing Division of Myanmar. The centre at Tahan houses about 100 orphans and is the smallest of his five centres. The other centres are in Champhai, Kolasib, Aizawl, and Lunglei — all in Mizoram. Waiting for calm

Not everyone eyes Mizoram for a living. Unlike Margaret and Sumi, Julali, who is in her late 20s, was working as a nurse at a 200-bed government-run hospital in Falam, the former headquarters of Myanmar's Chin State. She joined the Civil Disobedience Movement after the military coup in 2021. She was forced to quit her job and be on the run until she reached Zokhawthar, a border town in Mizoram, in the autumn of 2022. Two of her pro-democracy colleagues at the Falam hospital also made it to Zokhawthar. Julali, a nurse from a Myanmar government-run hospital in Falam, yearns to go back home. The door of the Lailun Medical Centre in Zokhawthar faces the road that brought Julali from Falam to Khawmawi, Myanmar's border town connected to Zokhawthar by a 30-metre steel bridge across the Tiau river.

Julali, a nurse from a Myanmar government-run hospital in Falam, yearns to go back home. The door of the Lailun Medical Centre in Zokhawthar faces the road that brought Julali from Falam to Khawmawi, Myanmar's border town connected to Zokhawthar by a 30-metre steel bridge across the Tiau river. | Photo Credit: Rahul Karmakar The three of them were entrusted with running the makeshift Lailun Medical Centre in Zokhawthar, referred to as the 'refugee clinic' by the Mizo people. The centre primarily treats sick or injured Myanmar nationals who have been displaced. It is located about 110 km from their hospital at Falam, which had the highest concentration of Myanmar nationals displaced by the civil war, which is being fought between armed civilian groups called the People's Defence Forces (PDF), which are allied to the self-declared National Unity Government in exile, and the Buddhist-dominated military.

The Lailun Medical Centre was set up by the Myanmar-based Institute of Chin Affairs with help from community-based organisations such as the Young Mizo Association and church bodies. The Mizos, the dominant community in Mizoram, are ethnically related to the Chins of Myanmar, the Kuki-Zos of Manipur, and the Kuki-Chins of Bangladesh. The door of the medical centre faces the road that brought Julali from Falam to Khawmawi, Myanmar's border town, which is connected to Zokhawthar by a 30-metre steel bridge across the Tiau River. Once the passage for formal trade between India and Myanmar, the bridge has been closed to traffic since the COVID-19 pandemic but residents are allowed to walk across up to a certain point on either side of the border.



The PDF and its associated groups have taken control of much of Chin State over the past few months forcing more than 500 Myanmar soldiers to flee to India from where they have been evacuated to Mandalay and other Myanmar military bases. Thanks to intuition, and knowledge of the history of the conflict, Julali knows that it could be months before she can return to Falam. "Thankfully, the fighting cannot get any closer than this (800-900 metres beyond the Tiau river). We can only go back when the fighting stops completely, and I am not sure if it will be anytime soon although I hear the junta (military) is losing ground," Julali says. She yearns to work again at the Falam hospital in a peaceful atmosphere. Her co-workers at the hospital are currently divided unequally into pro-democracy and pro-junta groups. Her biggest worry is India's move to fence the border and end the FMR, which might not let her take refuge in Mizoram if things at home go wrong again. "We cannot stay here forever. Our country has been caught in one conflict or the other, and we may have to seek refuge in India again after we go back home," she says.

Large swathes of India's present-day Northeast were under the reign of Burmese king Bagyidaw until he lost the first of the three Anglo-Burmese Wars in 1826 and signed the Treaty of Yandaboo. This led to the demarcation of the territories of British-ruled India and Burma, similar to the current alignment of the border between the two countries. The invisible border through hills and jungles hardly made a difference for "separated" locals, belonging to the same ethnic stock and dependent on each other for local trade, farming, and social events. India's independence in 1947 and Burma's in 1948 did not impact the movement of people across the porous border much, except during military operations against Northeast-based extremist outfits that have been using Myanmar as a haven. The visits across the border became more frequent when the two countries

agreed in 2018 to implement the FMR. India suspended the FMR in September 2022, given the continued escalation of the refugee crisis after the military coup in Myanmar. While some 2,000 Myanmar nationals, mostly the Chin people, took refuge in Manipur, the number of displaced people who entered Mizoram touched the 40,000-mark within a year of the coup. The number dropped to about 33,000 by the end of October last year and increased again less than a month later after the civil war reached the Mizoram border.

"The number fluctuates as the Myanmar nationals living close to the border with India come and go depending on gunfights or bombings from the air. The Champhai district is currently sheltering 12,432 Myanmar nationals," says V.L. Hruaimawia, the Mizoram government-appointed liaison officer for the District-Level Committee on Myanmar Refugees. Almost half the refugees in the district are in Zokhawthar and adjoining villages. Among them is Mawihlengkim, a primary school teacher from Lumbang near Falam. She is among the earliest inmates of Bethel Camp, the largest of the three in and around Zokhawthar housing 503 people.

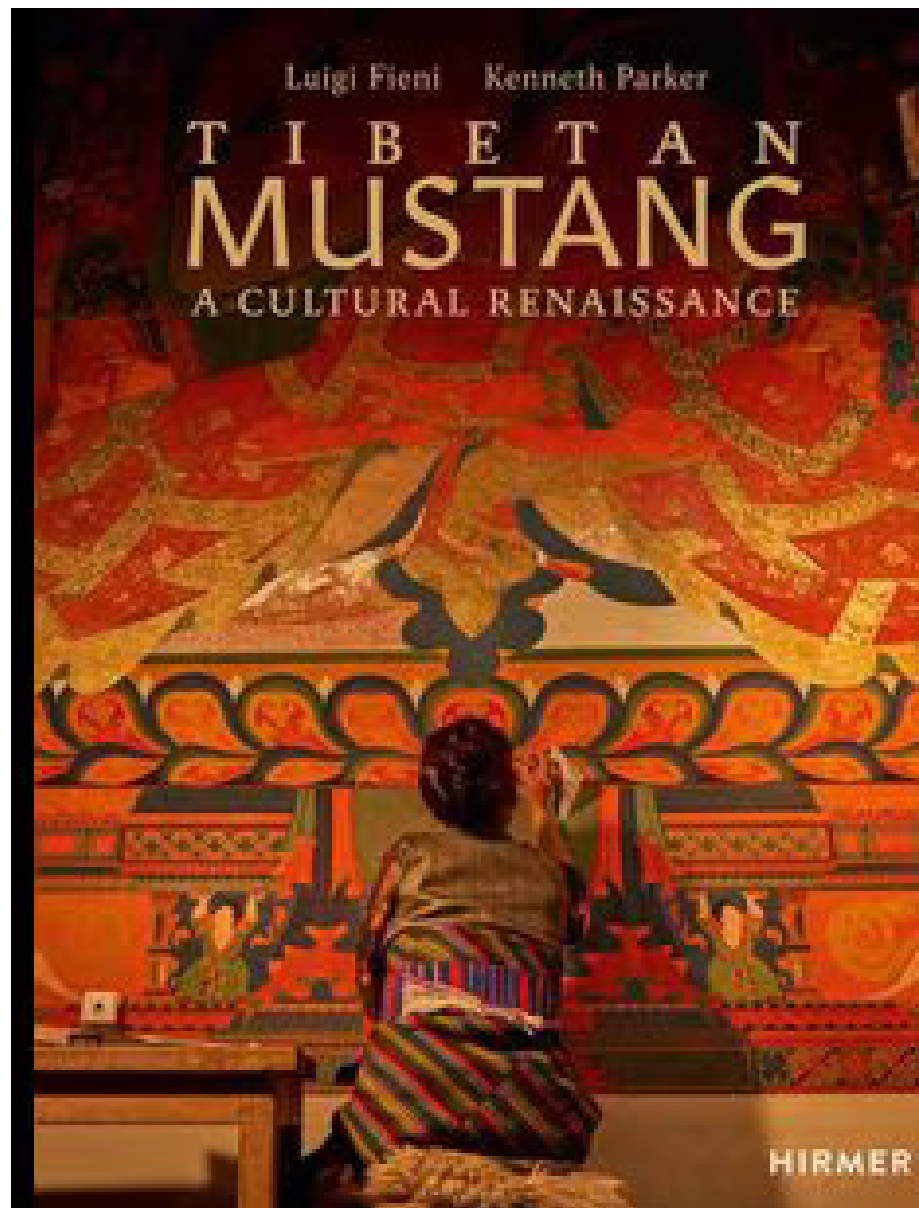
"We were four teachers at a government-run school teaching all subjects to about 30 students from nursery to Class 4. The other teachers who joined the Civil Disobedience Movement and the students are hopefully safe wherever they are," she says, insisting that life in Myanmar was not so uncertain before the Tatmadaw overthrew the NLD-led government in February 2021. She arrived in Zokhawthar with her three children on the back of a mini-truck almost two years ago. "Do they have any chance of growing up and studying in the land of our ancestors," she asks. Two of her children are among the 20 from the refugee camp enrolled at the Zokhawthar Government Primary School, about 1.5 km away. The school has 420 students and only 60 of them are locals.

Read an excerpt from a photobook on a cultural renaissance in Nepal

In the late 1990s Lo Monthang village, set at an average altitude of 3,850 meters, was disconnected from modern civilization. The village lacked basic forms of communication (e.g. telephone and Internet), and there was no electricity. Three days by horseback were necessary to reach Lo Monthang from the nearest airport, Jomsom, while walking could take nearly a week. To work in such a remote site required very meticulous planning for each season's work. The amount and the selection of needed materials had to be chosen judiciously since it was not possible to purchase additional supplies on site. Besides, because of the lack of telephones, Internet and a feasible way to ship whatever was needed, it was impossible to get anything from Europe or even Nepal before the end of each season.

Since there was no electricity, it was crucial to carry more than an electric generator, enough fuel, and spare parts to provide adequate lighting in the dark worksites throughout the summer. From a technical point of view, it was challenging to have enough power for the professional lights to produce the right color temperature in order to avoid as much as possible metamerism problems in the retouching process. One more challenging task was the transportation of bulky or fragile equipment on site, since the only way to deliver these items was on horseback or by porters. Chemicals, consolidators, generators and light bulbs had to be packed extremely well to prevent damaging or breaking key materials that could not be replaced on site. Practical solutions were devised on site even for the simplest of operations...What would be very easy to buy ready-made in the Western world became a challenge to be made ex-novo in the Himalayan environment.

Material storage during the cold season was a serious concern as well: because of very low temperatures, Himalayan winters could have affected the chemical, physical and mechanical properties of some conservation materials. Thus, the amount of required chemicals had to be carefully estimated in order not to leave any leftovers on site. When it was not possible, a storage system was implemented to protect the chemicals in a warmer environment by wrapping them in several layers of blankets during the cold season. Furthermore, given the extreme temperatures of the winter months, it was possible to run the project only between spring and fall. On August 8, 2018, HH the 42nd Sakya Trizin held the first Monlam Chenmo Puja in Tubchen Monastery after ages of oblivion. Thousands of people gathered from all over Mustang to listen to his teachings and to pray together with their religious leader. For the occasion all scaffoldings were dismantled—though Restoration Phase II was still ongoing—and the whole assembly hall was packed with monks and all members of the royal family. There was not a single square centimeter without a praying soul in it. Villagers were all dressed up in their best traditional attires, and an endless procession queued for hours to get a blessing from HH the 42nd Sakya Trizin. Witnessing those moments was like a jump back in time. The sight and the atmosphere in front of my eyes appeared as if they were coming out from a movie trying to depict how a religious ceremony would be held in the 15th century. On August 8, 2018, the Mustang conservation project received the best reward ever conceivable. There were no medals, no garlands or gold. There were just believers. Enlightening a 15th-century monastery once again.



Digital data protection bill showcases India's commitment to user safety: Centre



New Delhi: Amid the changing landscape where cyber-criminals use novel methods to steal personal data, the Digital

Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 upholds individuals' rights to safeguard their data, incorporating established prin-

ciples for its protection, the government has said. According to Ministry of Electronics & IT, these principles include obtaining consent for lawful and transparent use of personal data, limiting its use to specified purposes, minimising data collection to necessary levels, ensuring data accuracy and timely updates, restricting storage duration to the required period, implementing robust security measures, and enforcing accountability through penalties for breaches and data adjudication.

The Act also imposes stringent protections on personal data transfers, as exemplified by the Reserve Bank of India's directive under Section 10(2) and Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, mandating the storage of payment system data within India. "These provisions underscore the Act's commitment to robust data protection standards and restrictions on personal data transfers,

which remain in effect under its framework," said the IT Ministry. As the country continues to harness the benefits of digital transformation, maintaining stringent data protection standards will be crucial in fostering trust, resilience, and sustainable growth in its digital economy. The country has emerged as a global leader in the digital landscape, with more than 936 million Internet subscribers. Keeping such a staggering figure in mind, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has registered several cases of cybercrimes during the last three years. The Centre has also established the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14C) to enhance the coordinated response of law enforcement agencies to cybercrimes. The government launched the 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' to facilitate the immediate reporting of financial frauds and prevent fund siphoning by fraudsters.

Bhadrachalam MLA's PA dupes job seekers, absconds, booked by police

Kothagudem: A cheating case was registered against Bhadrachalam MLA's personal assistant (PA), Korla Kalyan Kumar for allegedly duping an auto-rickshaw driver of Rs 10 lakh on the pretext of securing a government job for his son.

The complainant Rayala Srinu of Bhadrachalam alleged that Kalyan Kumar in February 2026 promised to secure a permanent job for his son Manikantha at Bhadradi Thermal Power Station (BTPS) Power Plant near Manuguru for a payment of Rs.10 lakh.

The complainant and his family members paid him an amount of Rs.9.95 lakh on various dates. After receiving the amount, Kalyan Kumar handed over a joining letter containing the name of Manikantha along with some other persons and told him that he would inform him when to join.

However, after waiting for the stipulated time, he kept postponing the joining date. Srinu came to know that the joining letter was a fake one and Kalyan Kumar cheated him by making false promises. He also learnt that several others were also cheated in a similar manner by the MLA's PA.

It was said that Kalyan Kumar, a revenue department employee who worked earlier as a camp clerk at Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector office, swindled crores of

rupees from several unemployed youths promising them jobs before eventually absconding.

As his fraudulent activities came to light, several victims approached the local police and the MLA pleading for justice. According to preliminary estimates Kalyan Kumar allegedly collected around Rs 10 crore from unemployed youths from Manuguru, Burgampad, Aswaraopet and other areas in erstwhile Khammam promising jobs in companies like ITC, Singareni and Genco. He was said to have cheated several persons at Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, where his in-laws live.

The MLA Dr. Venkat Rao reportedly told the people who approached him with complaints against Kalyan Kumar that police teams were formed to nab him. He also stated that he had asked officials to surrender his personal assistant to the department.

Meanwhile, Kalyan Kumar reportedly surrendered to police at Kothagudem and it was yet to be confirmed officially. A case under Section 318 (4) of BNS was registered at Bhadrachalam police station against him based on the complaint of Srinu late on Friday.

Cipla launches Yurpeak® (tirzepatide) for the treatment of Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes



Vizag Cipla Limited (BSE: 500087; NSE: CIPLA; and hereafter referred to as "Cipla") today announced the launch of Yurpeak® (tirzepatide), a one-weekly injectable therapy for managing obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) — two of the country's most pressing health challenges. Cipla has the rights to distribute and promote Yurpeak® — the second brand of Lilly's tirzepatide in India, after Lilly received DCGI approval.

Commenting on the launch, Achin Gupta, Global Chief Operating Officer, Cipla Limited, said: "The launch of Yurpeak® marks a transformative moment in the fight against obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus, two of India's chronic conditions with a heavy burden.

Cipla is entering this space with the same depth of expertise and scientific commitment that define our leadership in chronic diseases and in respiratory care. Our focus remains on accelerating access to globally benchmarked, future-ready therapies through collaborations like ours with Lilly, which bring together innovation, purpose, and scale to ensure advanced care reaches patients wherever they are."

Tirzepatide is the first and only dual agonist glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) and glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptors, indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes and Chronic weight management

in adults with obesity (BMI = 30) or overweight (BMI = 27) with at least one weight-related comorbidity.

Yurpeak® will be available on prescription in the KwikPen® device format in six strengths: 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 12.5 mg, and 15 mg, allowing for precise, convenient, and patient-friendly dosing.

Launch of Yurpeak® in India will help expand access to tirzepatide so that more patients can benefit from this innovative therapy. Cipla's strategic priority is to make it available across India, including regions beyond metro cities, leveraging its strong distribution network and deep market insights to drive greater nationwide reach and ac-

cessibility. Lilly will manufacture and supply Yurpeak® to Cipla, and the price will be the same as Mounjaro®.

Cipla will complement the launch of Yurpeak® with comprehensive patient education and support programs, including guidance on dosing, self-administration, and safe, informed use of the therapy. These initiatives are designed to help patients navigate their treatment confidently and responsibly, in consultation with their healthcare professionals. This approach is backed by Cipla's long-standing commitment to evidence-based communication and responsible care, empowering individuals to make timely health decisions and adopt sustainable wellness practices.