

### Married man dies by suicide in Khammam’s Konijerla

Khammam: A married man allegedly died by suicide at Tanikella of Konijerla mandal in the district.

The deceased Peddagoundla Gopal Rao (30) was said to be distressed following a family dispute and his wife leaving for her parents' home. He hanged himself from the ceiling fan with a saree at his home on Saturday when no one was at home.Based on a complaint by the deceased man's mother, Shanthamma, Konijerla police registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

### Notorious house burglar arrested in Peddapalli

Peddapalli: A notorious thief from Jagtial was arrested on charges of house burglaries in Manthani town on Saturday.

Briefing media persons on the details of the arrest, Godavarikhani ACP M Ramesh said that Vanam Ramu of Tharakarama Nagar in Jagtial was apprehended for committing offences at regular intervals. He was detained while moving suspiciously in the town during night patrolling by the police.



## Question accepted ideas, find solutions: Modi to IIT-Delhi graduates

New Delhi, August 8

In his first public address after the students' protest at Jantar Mantar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at the 57th convocation ceremony of IIT-Delhi on Saturday, urged graduates to question ideas and practices that are accepted without scrutiny.

However, he advised them not to stop at questioning, but to have the courage to find solutions to the problems they identify.

Recalling his virtual participation in the institute's convocation during the Covid-19 pandemic, Modi told the 3,036 graduating students that, unlike university examinations, life's most significant challenges are often entirely "out of syllabus". He stressed that true success lies not merely in answering pre-defined questions, but in identifying and solving problems that society has come to accept complacently.

Reflecting on the historical burdens borne by earlier generations, the PM recalled how the singular goal of achieving Independence defined an era marked by immense sacrifice and perseverance. He challenged the current generation to define its own legacy by aligning career aspirations with the nation's developmental goals over the next three decades.

"The basis of every decision of yours should absolutely be what the benefit to the country will be and which national need will be fulfilled," Modi said.

Emphasising sectors such as artificial intelligence, data centres, critical minerals, deep-sea exploration and quantum computing as crucial to the nation's future, he encouraged graduates to seize opportunities in these emerging domains.

Highlighting the rapid growth of the space sector following government reforms, Modi lauded young engineers who are now designing and launching rockets, a feat once limited to a handful of countries.

"Today, that same space sector has beautifully become a sky of new opportunities for thousands of our youths," he said.

Pointing to advances in semiconductor manufacturing, Modi noted that the first production units were already operational and helping build confidence in India's technological capabilities.

He also spoke about how young innovators were transforming agriculture, healthcare delivery and defence through the use of drones.

Warning graduates against the distractions of the social media era, Modi urged them not to compare their salaries, placements or startup achievements with those of their peers. Instead, he advised them to prioritise their mental and physical wellbeing while focusing on self-improvement.

The PM also remotely inaugurated Param Pragya, an AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility established at IIT Delhi's Sonapat campus.

IIT Delhi Director Prof Rangan Banerjee said: "As you go out into the world, let me offer you a few words of advice. Remember what you have learnt, but continue learning throughout your life. Always choose the ethical and right path. Focus on larger societal goals — your individual goals will automatically be met. Strike a balance in your lives. Make time for the passions you enjoy and the people you love."

In his first address at an educational institution since assuming charge as Union Education Minister, Pralhad Joshi said India's education ecosystem had become research-driven and future-ready, asserting that the country's youth were no longer merely competing with the world but were helping lead it.

The first batch of students from the Bachelor of Design (BDes), Executive MBA, MSc in Biological Sciences and MA in Culture, Society and Thought programmes, who graduated in 2026, also received their degrees at the ceremony.

Anish Tanwar (19), a BTech graduate in Civil Engineering, was the youngest graduate, while 74-year-old PhD scholar Chandra Shekhar Prasad was the oldest among those who received degrees at the convocation. Of the 587 PhD graduates, 245 were women.

## Take everyone along: Nabin to Dhillon amid dissent in Punjab unit

New Delhi, August 8

With dissent brewing in the Punjab BJP over the constitution of a new state executive, the top BJP brass on Saturday reviewed organisational challenges in the election-bound state and directed senior leaders to take everyone along.

BJP president Nitin Nabin today summoned Punjab unit chief Kewal Singh Dhillon and state organisational secretary Manthri Srinivasulu to Delhi for a meeting and took stock of the situation in the state. He instructed state leaders to ensure corrections in the organisational processes and strengthen the Punjab unit ahead of polls.

Dhillon and Srinivasulu were attending pre-scheduled meetings of Punjab BJP's new executive and newly appointed district presidents in Ludhiana when they were asked to rush to the national capital for the meeting.

The meeting, held at the New Delhi residence of Nabin, was attended by BJP national general secretary organisation BL Santosh and party observer for Punjab organisation Satish Poonia.

Sources confirmed to The Tribune that the meeting reviewed the recent spate of resignations in the Punjab BJP, with Nabin asking the state chief to assuage prevailing anxieties and pacify those who are disgruntled.

"The meeting was purely devoted to organisational matters and ways to strengthen the BJP in Punjab. It was noted that dissatisfaction with appointments is part and parcel of any organisational change but at the same time, sincere efforts must be made by those in responsible positions to reach out to the leaders and cadres who are upset," said a source privy to developments.

The source said the open expression of anxieties by a section of Punjab BJP leaders was not surprising.

"For decades, we have been a 23-segment party in the Assembly elections in Punjab. It is only now that we are beginning to build a base in the state. In places like Rajasthan, MP and Gujarat where we have a well-established organisation, internal dissent is well-managed and



differences are easily reconciled. What we are witnessing in Punjab is part of the process of setting up a base. We have to reach out to everyone who feels left out and move forward together," said sources.

The meeting discussed plans to expand the BJP's presence to all 24,000 polling booths in Punjab. Currently, the BJP has a presence in 19,000 booths.

Talks were also held on Punjab BJP programmes to mark August 14 — Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas (Partition Horrors Remembrance Day).

On whether the meeting discussed the interaction between Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament yesterday, and speculation about a potential alliance between the two parties, sources said it did not.

"Those matters have not yet percolated down. Those discussions, even if there, may be at the highest levels. But the meeting between the two leaders is significant," said the sources.

## Revanth Plans Telangana Tour With Welfare Outreach

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will undertake district tours from August 10 to 16 to, among others, initiate the distribution of smart ration cards and the launch of development works at the Sammakka-Saralamma temple in Medaram. Notably, he will inaugurate Indiramma houses at a ceremony in a village adopted by his predecessor K. Chandrashekar Rao.

The Chief Minister was scheduled to visit Nalgonda, Yadadri-Bhongir, Sangareddy and Mulugu districts over the week. On August 10, Revanth Reddy will visit the Nagarjunasagar dam and perform Varuna Yagam seeking abundant rainfall amid concerns over deficient monsoon rainfall. The Chief Minister is also expected to review the water situation and irrigation requirements during the visit.

On August 13, Revanth Reddy will visit Vasalamarri in Yadadri-Bhongir district and hand over 143 Indiramma houses to beneficiaries in a mass housewarming ceremony. The village had been adopted by then-Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who visited it in August 2021, inspected houses in a dilapidated condition and promised to construct 2BHK houses if villagers came forward to demolish their existing houses.

Several villagers demolished their houses and began living in temporary accommodation since then. The previous BRS government failed to construct the promised houses.

After assuming office in December 2023, the Congress gave special attention to Vasalamarri and sanctioned Indiramma houses for the affected families. The construction of 143 houses has now been completed and the houses are ready for inauguration.

On August 15, the Chief Minister will visit Sangareddy district and formally launch the distribution of 1.05 crore new smart ration cards to beneficiaries



across. The government has so far sanctioned 16.32 lakh new ration cards, bringing an additional 61.09 lakh people under the food security net.

With the sanction of the new cards, the total number of ration cards in Telangana has risen to 1.05 crore, covering around 3.42 crore beneficiaries. The state government is distributing around 2.16 lakh metric tonnes of fine rice every month to ration card holders. The cards are stated to be secure and tamper-proof to enhance transparency in the public distribution system. On August 16, Revanth Reddy will visit Medaram in Mulugu district and launch the second-phase development works at the famous Sammakka-Saralamma temple. The government has been taking up infrastructure and development works at Medaram with the objective of improving facilities for devotees and strengthening the temple's pilgrimage infrastructure.

## Hyderabad: Old City Bonalu celebrations set to begin amid tight security

Hyderabad: , August 8

The stage is set for the grand Old City Bonalu celebrations on Sunday, with elaborate arrangements made by temple committees and the police amid tight security.

A large number of VIPs, including politicians, sports personalities, bureaucrats and film personalities, are expected to visit various temples and participate in the festivities.

The lanes and bylanes of the Old City, particularly Lal Darwaza, Sultan Shahi, Hari Bowli, Bela and Uppuguda, have taken on a festive look, with temples and streets illuminated with colourful lights and decorations.Hinduism

Large crowds of devotees are expected at the Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Temple in Lal Darwaza, Sri Akkanna Madanna Mahankali Temple in Hari Bowli and Sri Mahankali Temple in Uppuguda. Temple committees, in coordination with the police, have made arrangements for orderly queues to facilitate hassle-free darshan. Separate queues have also been



arranged for women carrying Bonam.

Popular film actor Vijay Deverakonda and his family are expected to offer prayers at the Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Temple. Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar are scheduled to offer silk clothes to Goddess Mahankali at around 10 am.

Around 2,000 policemen will be deployed across the Old City to regulate traffic, manage crowds and maintain law and order during the celebrations. Police personnel will be positioned at key junctions, temples and along the procession route.

The festivities will culminate on Monday with the traditional Ghatam processions from various temples. The processions will pass through Lal Darwaza, Shahalibanda, Charminar and Pathergatti before culminating at the Nayapool temple near the Musi River.

With large crowds and several VIPs expected to participate, police and civic authorities have stepped up security and crowd-management measures to ensure the celebrations pass off peacefully.

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## A framework to assess teacher quality

education landscape centres on students' learning achievement and the quality of education. Teacher quality is widely recognised as one of the most important school-based factors influencing students' academic achievement. Research has consistently demonstrated that teacher effectiveness not only affects students' academic outcomes but also has broader economic implications through its influence on the quality and productivity of the future workforce. Evidence from natural and quasi-experimental studies using value-added methods indicates that students taught by effective teachers achieve significantly better academic outcomes and experience substantial long-term benefits in adulthood, including higher educational attainment, improved employment prospects, and increased earnings.

Having recognised its importance, defining and measuring teacher quality remains challenging because it encompasses multiple dimensions, including subject knowledge, pedagogical skills, classroom management, and professionalism. Conceptually, teacher quality refers to the characteristics, competencies, and instructional practices of teachers that positively influence student learning and achievement. Over time, frameworks for assessing teacher quality have evolved from an emphasis on teachers' credentials to a greater focus on their effectiveness in promoting student learning. Traditionally, teacher quality was measured through observable qualifications such as academic degrees, certification status, professional training, and teaching experience. However, empirical evidence has shown that these credentials alone are often weak predictors of teacher effectiveness and student achievement.

## UPPAL DI RAVI KUMAR Creates Awareness Among Residents on Importance of CCTV Cameras



“RAMANTHAPUR, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Detective Inspector (DI) Ravikumar said that CCTV cameras play a crucial role in ensuring public safety and preventing crimes. An awareness programme on the importance of CCTV cameras was conducted for residents of Srinivasapuram in Ramanthapur. “Speaking on the occasion, DI Ravikumar said that in the present circumstances, it is essential to install CCTV cameras in every residential colony, apartment complex, major junction, road and commercial establishment. He explained that CCTV footage helps police identify suspicious persons and vehicle movements and also provides crucial evidence during the investigation of thefts, burglaries and other crimes.” He advised residents to install quality CCTV cameras in their houses, colonies and apartment complexes. He stressed that merely installing cameras is not enough and that residents should ensure they remain operational round the clock and that recorded footage is safely preserved. “He particularly advised residents to position cameras in such a way that they cover streets, entry and exit points, parking areas and major roads, especially during night hours. The installation of CCTV cameras not only enhances the sense of security among residents but also creates fear among those intending to commit crimes, he said. “DI Ravikumar urged people to immediately inform the police if they notice any suspicious activities or if any crime takes place. He said that effective crime prevention is possible only with the cooperation of the public and called upon colony welfare associations, apartment associations and traders to come forward and install CCTV cameras. “Local residents, colony representatives and others participated in the awareness programme and gained valuable information about the importance of CCTV cameras for public safety and crime prevention.

## Youth Dies by Suicide Amid Family Dispute

“Khammam, Konijerla, August 8 – Indian Chronicle” “A young man allegedly died by suicide following family disputes in Tanikella village under Konijerla mandal of Khammam district on Saturday.” “According to local residents and the deceased's mother, Shantamma, Pedda Goundla Gopi (28) had reportedly been facing family disputes for some time. While no one was at home on Saturday, he took the extreme step.”



After noticing the incident, local residents immediately informed the police. Based on a complaint lodged by the deceased's mother, police reached the spot and shifted the body to the Khammam Government Hospital for post-mortem examination. A case was registered and an investigation is underway. “The deceased is survived by his three-year-old son. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the village.

## Awareness Meeting on Uniform Service Line Charges Held



“Power Koteswara Rao Explains Benefits of New Electricity Connection System” “Khammam Nelakondapalli, August 8 (Indian Chronicle): ““An awareness meeting on the Uniform Service Line Charges system was organised on Saturday for residents of Mangapuram Thanda Gram Panchayat in Nelakondapalli Mandal of Khammam district.” “Speaking at the awareness programme, noted Electricity Department Engineer Power Koteswara Rao explained the benefits of the new system and the procedure for obtaining electricity connections.” “He said that in the past, consumers faced several difficulties in obtaining electricity connections. In some cases, people had to spend thousands of rupees, and in certain cases even lakhs of rupees, to obtain a single connection. The new system has been introduced with the objective of making electricity connections easier and more affordable, particularly for poor and economically weaker sections.” “What are Uniform Service Line Charges?” “Power Koteswara Rao explained that the Uniform Service Line Charges system is applicable to various categories of electricity connections, including domestic, commercial, agricultural and industrial connections.” “Under the new system, charges are calculated on the basis of the sanctioned load in kilowatts. The system has been introduced to simplify the process and reduce the burden on consumers arising from various de-

velopment and service-related charges.” “For domestic connections, he said that the Electricity Department would arrange the required service line up to a distance of one kilometre from the existing electrical network, subject to the applicable rules. Consumers would have to arrange the required service wire from the pole to the meter along with the meter box, as per the prescribed procedure.” “Agricultural Connections” “He said that farmers seeking agricultural electricity connections should apply through the prescribed procedure. If the existing transformer does not have sufficient capacity, the Electricity Department would take necessary steps to enhance its capacity. Where required, a new transformer would also be arranged to facilitate the electricity connection, subject to the applicable technical and regulatory requirements.” “He appealed to farmers not to hesitate to apply for electricity connections under the Uniform Service Line Charges system.” “Charges Based on Load” “Koteswara Rao explained that the Uniform Service Line Charges vary depending on the category and sanctioned load of the connection. Different rates are applicable for domestic and commercial connections based on the number of kilowatts.” “He said that the system would also be useful for agricultural, commercial, industrial, Category-III and cottage industry connections, among others.” “Consumers Can Approach Electricity Officials” “He advised consumers who have doubts regarding the new system to first approach their nearest electricity department officials and obtain the necessary information. If they are unable to get satisfactory clarification, they may contact him on 94944 456 16 for further assistance.” “Power Koteswara Rao appreciated the efforts being made by senior officials of the Electricity Department, including CMD-level authorities, to ensure effective implementation of the system at the field level and to create awareness among employees and consumers.” “He appealed to consumers, particularly farmers, poor people and economically weaker sections, to make use of the Uniform Service Line Charges system and avail themselves of the benefits available under the new procedure.

## Bonalu Celebrations Held Grandly at Sri Chaitanya Techno School – Mamillagudem Branch

“Khammam, August 8 – Indian Chronicle” “Bonalu festival celebrations were held with great enthusiasm at Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Mamillagudem, Khammam. Students and teachers participated in the celebrations dressed in traditional attire, showcasing the rich culture and traditions of Telangana.” “On the occasion, teachers explained the significance of the Bonalu festival to the students and emphasized that everyone has a responsibility to preserve and promote Telangana's culture and traditions.” “School Chairman Mallampati Sridhar, Director Srividya, AGM Chetan, Principal Neeraja, Pre-Primary Coordinator Gauthami, Primary In-Charge Kalyani, Pre-Primary In-Charge Geetha, along with teachers and students, participated in the celebrations.



## MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Reviews Development Works in HMT Nagar and Nacharam Divisions

“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, August 8: ““Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy held a review meeting with Uppal Zone Superintending Engineer (SE) Ramesh Babu to discuss the progress of various development works proposed in HMT Nagar and Nacharam divisions. “During the meeting, the MLA directed officials to complete the tender process for all already sanctioned works without any delay and take immediate steps to commence the works. He emphasized that the government's objective is to provide better basic infrastructure and civic amenities to the people. He also instructed officials to ensure that all works are completed at the earliest without compromising on quality. Construction of a box drain from Sai Baba Temple and Raghavendra Nagar to the Indiranagar Silt Chamber at an estimated cost of ₹3.70 crore. “ Construction of a 600 mm diameter drainage pipeline from Anjaneya Swamy Temple to Peddanala on Bhavani Nagar Main Road at a cost of ₹65 lakh. “ Construction of a 450 mm diameter drainage pipeline from Erukala Basti to Peddanala to address the drainage problem in the locality at a cost of ₹40 lakh. Establishment of two open gyms at Saraswathi Nagar Park and the park premises adjacent to St. Peter's School at a cost of 15 lakh.



Completion of the pending development works at the Budaga Jangala crematorium in Annapurna Colony at a cost of 15 lakh. “The MLA reiterated that the sanctioned works should be taken up on a priority basis and completed within the stipulated time to provide relief and improved infrastructure to local residents. “BRS State leaders Saizen Shekhar, Medala Mallikarjun Goud, and others participated in the meeting.

## Bonalu Celebrations Held with Traditional Fervour at Deccan Springs Global School



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, August 8: ““Deccan Springs Global School celebrated the traditional Telangana festival of Bonalu with great devotion, enthusiasm and cultural fervour. The celebrations provided students with an opportunity to understand, experience and appreciate the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Telangana. “The school campus wore a festive look with colourful decorations and beautifully designed rangoli adding to the celebratory atmosphere. The programme was attended by Chairman Shri K. Navaneetha Rao, Managing Director Shri Naveen Kumar, Director Dr. Kamala Manohar Rao, Core Head Operations

Shri Kishore Kumar Reddy, Principal Ms. Swarna Akkineni, members of the core team, faculty and students. Their presence added grandeur to the occasion. “The programme commenced with a solemn prayer seeking the blessings of Goddess Mahankali. This was followed by an informative student address highlighting the significance of Bonalu and explaining its importance as a festival associated with gratitude, devotion and Telangana's cultural traditions. “A major attraction of the celebrations was the participation of students in traditional attire. Elegantly dressed girls carried beautifully decorated Bonam pots, reflecting the traditional spirit of the festival. The energetic performance of Potharaju further captivated the audience and added to the festive atmosphere. “Traditional folk dances and devotional songs were also presented by the students, filling the school premises with music, colour and cultural vibrancy. The performances showcased the enthusiasm and creativity of the students while giving them a platform to connect with the traditions of Telangana. “Addressing the gathering, Principal Ms. Swarna Akkineni encouraged the students to value, cherish and preserve the cultural traditions of Telangana. She emphasized that cultural preservation is an important part of education and plays a significant role in helping young people remain connected to their roots. “The teachers also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students and highlighted the importance of respecting and celebrating India's diverse cultural heritage. The celebrations served not only as a festive occasion but also as an educational experience, enabling students to learn about the cultural significance of Bonalu through active participation. “The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks. The celebrations left the students and faculty with a strong sense of pride, unity and cultural awareness. The Bonalu programme emerged as a meaningful platform for students to reconnect with their cultural roots and understand the values of devotion, tradition, togetherness and respect for heritage.”

## UPPAL MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Urges MP Etela Rajender to Provide 30,000 Tree Guards



“UPPAL, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy submitted a representation to Malkajigiri MP Etela Rajender, requesting ₹60 lakh in CSR funds for providing 30,000 tree guards to protect saplings planted as part of extensive green initiatives being undertaken in the Uppal constituency. “The MLA stated that although large-scale plantation programmes are being carried out across the constituency, providing adequate protection to the newly planted saplings is equally important. He said that installing tree guards would protect the saplings from cattle and other damage and help achieve the objectives of the green initiatives more effectively. Lakshma Reddy said that a proposal had already been submitted to ECIL, under the supervision of the Uppal Zone Zonal Commissioner, seeking tree guards or financial assistance through CSR funds. Supporting the proposal, he submitted a representation to MP Etela Rajender and appealed to him to extend the necessary cooperation for the initiative. “The MLA said that increasing greenery in the Uppal constituency would be possible not only by planting saplings but also by ensuring their proper protection and maintenance. He added that the green initiatives were being continued with the objective of protecting the environment and providing people with a healthy and pleasant atmosphere. Former corporator Kotha Rama Rao, BRS leaders Nagaram Babu, along with other leaders and party workers, were present.

## Darpan Furnishings Opens Its 10th Store in Hyd



“Hyderabad, August 08 (Indian Chronicle) : Leading home furnishings brand Darpan Furnishings has opened its 10th store at Unispace, Miyapur, Hyderabad. The new store was inaugurated by Aparna Enterprises Limited Managing Director Ashwin Reddy and Executive Director Aparna Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Darpan Furnishings Founder and Managing Director Suleman Hirani said that the opening of the 10th store marks a significant milestone in the company's 25-year journey. He announced that the brand's 11th store is scheduled to open in Tellapur next month. The company offers a range of services, including design consultation and doorstep services, he said. Established in 2001, Darpan Furnishings currently operates 10 stores across Hyderabad and has served more than 2.5 lakh customers. Under its tagline 'Bringing Homes Alive,' the company is expanding its presence in the home furnishings sector, Hirani said. Architects, interior designers and industry partners attended the store inauguration ceremony.

## Warning to Rowdy-Sheeters Not to Disturb Law and Order During Bonalu and Ganesh Festivals:



MEDIPALLY SHO D. JALANDHAR REDDY “Medipally, August 8 (Indian Chronicle): In view of the upcoming Bonalu and Ganesh festivals, Medipally police have taken precautionary measures to ensure that law and order is maintained peacefully within the police station limits. As part of these preventive measures, Medipally Police Station SHO D. Jalandhar Reddy called the rowdy-sheeters of the area to the police station and conducted counselling for them. “During the counselling, the rowdy-sheeters were advised to maintain good behaviour and refrain from any anti-social activities. They were particularly warned not to create any inconvenience to the public or indulge in activities that could disturb peace and public order during the Bonalu and Ganesh festivals. “The SHO directed them to cooperate with the police in maintaining law and order and warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone involved in fights, disputes, anti-social activities or any acts that disturb public peace. “The police appealed to everyone to act responsibly and ensure that the festivals are celebrated peacefully and harmoniously, without causing inconvenience to others.

## Grand Celebrations of Panduga Sayanna Jayanti at Ramanthapur Mini Tank –



FORMER UPPAL MLA N.V.S.S. PRABHAKAR Attends as Chief Guest“UPPAL, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The birth anniversary celebrations of Panduga Sayanna, popularly known as the “Gun of Telangana,” a people’s warrior and a son of Palamuru, were held in a grand manner at the Ramanthapur Mini Tank on Friday under the aegis of the Ramanthapur Mudiraj Sangham United Forum. Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar attended the programme as the chief guest and paid floral tributes to the statue of Panduga Sayanna. Speaking on the occasion, N.V.S.S. Prabhakar said that there was a need for the BC communities to

achieve political power in accordance with the aspirations of Panduga Sayanna. He said Sayanna’s struggle was not merely against economic exploitation, but was also a fight for social justice and a rightful share for BCs in political power. “He recalled that Panduga Sayanna questioned the autocratic rule of the Nizam and fought for the establishment of a Bahujan Rajya. He said the time had come for the present generation to carry forward the ideals and aspirations of Panduga Sayanna. Prabhakar stated that if all Bahujan communities remained united, they could achieve political power. He said Panduga Sayanna earned recognition as a people’s warrior for taking away wealth from feudal landlords during his time and distributing it among the poor. He further said that Sayanna’s struggle for the poor and weaker sections of society continues to inspire the younger generation. He called upon the youth to take Panduga Sayanna as their role model and work for the development and welfare of society. “Mudiraj Sangham leaders Kompally Upender, Pisari Shankar, Suresh, Lingam, Praveen Kumar, Manoj Kumar, Dinesh, Narender, Srinivas, Krishna and Dharmender, Ramanthapur Division President Vangala Santosh Gupta, BJP leaders Mahankali Laxman, Gopal Goud, Etikala Venkatesham, Jagan Yadav, Thalla Balakrishna, Revuri Narasimha, Upender Yadav, Maisireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Boddupalli Anandu and Suresh, among others, participated in the programme and paid tributes to Panduga Sayanna.

## Invitation to Uppal Congress Party In-Charge Parameshwar Reddy for Bonalu Celebrations

“UPPAL, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Members of various temple committees invited Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy to attend the Ashada Masam Bonalu celebrations and Phalahara Bandi procession to be held across the Uppal constituency as the chief guest. “Members of various temple committees visited Parameshwar Reddy’s residence in Uppal and met him courteously. They presented invitation cards for the upcoming Bonalu celebrations and Phalahara Bandi processions and requested him to attend the festivities as the chief guest and seek the blessings of the Goddess. “The temple committee members said that Bonalu celebrations held during Ashada Masam hold special significance in Telangana. A large number of devotees are expected to participate in the festivities, offer Bonam to the Goddess, seek her blessings and fulfill their vows. “They stated that elaborate arrangements are being made to conduct the celebrations in a grand and devotional manner while ensuring the convenience of devotees. Members of various temple committees, along with local Congress Party lead-



ers and activists, participated in the programme in large numbers.

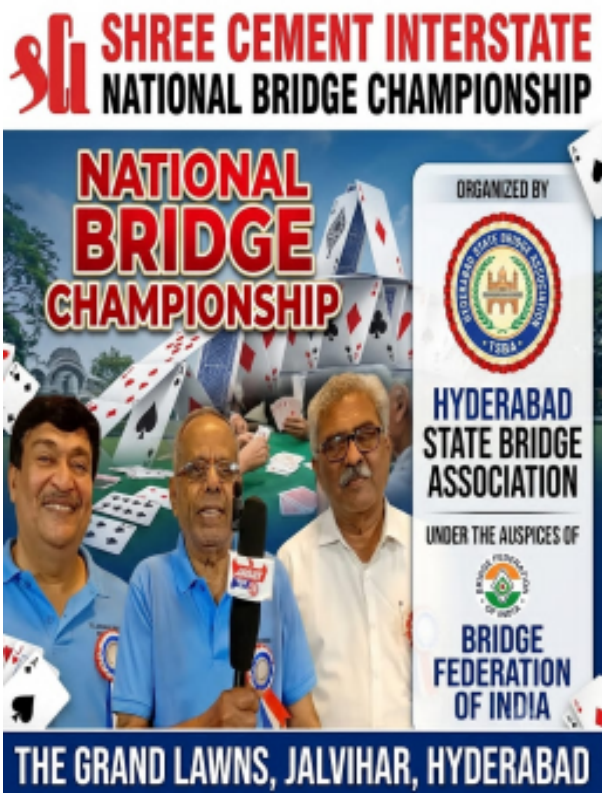
## Students Take Out Rally to Mark Quit India Movement Day



Hyderabad, August 08 (Indian Chronicle) : A programme was organised at the Geetha High School

Grounds in the Old City on the occasion of Quit India Movement Day under the leadership of Telangana Citizens Council (TCC) State President Dr. Rajanarayana Mudiraj and Old City President Uttam Kothari. Osmania University Admissions Joint Director Dr. Akhtar Ali attended the programme as the chief guest and paid tribute to the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Later, students took out a rally carrying the national flag and placards and paid homage to the martyrs. TCC General Secretary Mohammed Akhtar Sharief, D.R. Prabhakar Rao, Venkat, Ramadevi, Ramana, Govind, Gajendra Singh, P. Siddheshwar Mudiraj, G. Venugopal, Mohammed Shahid Ali, and R. Kiran Kumar, along with Javid Ali, participated in the programme.

## Record Participation Marks Record-Breaking Kickoff for 3rd Shree Cement Interstate National Bridge Championship



HYDERABAD — Mind sports enthusiasts from across the nation have converged in Hyderabad for one of the most prestigious events on the Indian card sports calendar—the 3rd Shree Cement Interstate National Bridge Championship. “Hosted at the scenic Grand Lawns, Jalvihar, along the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake, the elite four-day tournament kicked off with unprecedented enthusiasm. “Record-Breaking Turnout Organized by the Telangana State Bridge Association (TSBA) under the auspices of the Bridge Federation of India (BFI), this year’s championship has achieved a monumental milestone in registration numbers. “The tournament features: “236 Open Teams competing for the coveted national title. “17 Women’s Teams battling for top honors. “This total represents the highest level of participation the championship has witnessed in recent years, reflecting a surging interest and deep com-

petitive field in national Bridge. “High Stakes and Elite Strategy” The event brings together India’s top Bridge players and state-representative squads testing their tactical prowess, communication, and strategic endurance. With intense rounds planned across Open and Women categories, participating teams will contend for national glory and valuable ranking points under the BFI national guidelines. “Organizers at the Telangana State Bridge Association expressed immense pride in hosting an event of this scale. The stunning open-air ambiance of Jalvihar’s Grand Lawns offers a world-class backdrop for the cerebral competition unfolding over the four-day event. “For news highlights, check out the video

## Free Medical Camp Organised by Lee Foundation“

“Hyderabad, August 08 (Indian Chronicle) : A free medical camp focusing on bone and joint health was organised on Saturday at the Maruti Agency premises in Narayanguda under the joint aegis of the Lee Foundation and Maruti Agency. More than 130 people participated in



the camp, where several health screenings, including Bone Mineral Density (BMD), body composition, haemoglobin, blood sugar and blood pressure tests, were conducted. Medical advice and medicines were provided free of cost to the participants. Speaking on the occasion, Lee Foundation Trustee Alla Leela Rani said that creating awareness among people about comprehensive health

and well-being was the primary objective of the foundation. Lee Health Manager Suresh, camp coordinators Jayalakshmi and Sarojini, clinical nutritionists Madhuri, Shiva Priya and Shanthi, Lee representatives Gaurav and Ajith, members of the Lee team, Maruti Agency proprietor Ratnesh Kumar Agarwal, Madhu Agarwal, and others participated in the programme. Leela Rani said the medical camp received an overwhelming response from the public.

## Boddu Ramesh Kumar Appointed TPCC Legal, Human Rights and RTI Wing Convenor



““MEDIPALLY, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Prominent advocate Boddu Ramesh Kumar, a native of Chengicherla in Medipally Mandal of Medchal–Malkajgiri district, has been appointed as the Convenor of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Legal, Human Rights and Right to Information (RTI) Wing. “TPCC

Legal Department President Ponnamm Ashok Goud issued the appointment orders on Friday. The orders stated that Boddu Ramesh Kumar had been appointed to the key position with immediate effect. “Ponnamm Ashok Goud expressed confidence that Ramesh Kumar would work continuously to strengthen the Congress party and stand by the people in the areas of law, human rights and the Right to Information, in accordance with the directions and aspirations of the party’s senior leadership. “Speaking on the occasion, Boddu Ramesh Kumar thanked the party leadership for entrusting him with the important responsibility. He said he would remain accessible to the public on matters concerning law, human rights and RTI and make every effort to help resolve their issues. “He further stated that he would discharge the responsibilities entrusted to him effectively and work towards strengthening the Congress party. Ramesh Kumar expressed his special gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President Bomma Mahesh Goud and TPCC Legal Department President Ponnamm Ashok Goud for placing their trust in him and assigning him the responsibility. “Ramesh Kumar said he was happy to have been entrusted with responsibilities in the Legal, Human Rights and RTI Wing, particularly as his experience as an advocate had given him a good understanding of public issues. He stated that he would work to take party programmes to a wider section of the public and create greater legal awareness among people. “Congress leaders, party workers, advocates and supporters from Chengicherla and Medipally welcomed the appointment of Boddu Ramesh Kumar to the key TPCC-level position. They congratulated him and extended their best wishes for his new responsibility.

## BANNALA PRAVEEN MUDURAJ Keeps His Word: CC Road Works Taken Up at a Cost of 51 Lakh in Chilkanagar

“UPPAL, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Development works are progressing rapidly in Chilkanagar Division of Uppal constituency, said BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj. He stated that priority is being given to improving basic infrastructure in Chilkanagar with the support of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. “On Saturday, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, along with BRS division leaders, inspected the ongoing construction of a new CC road at a cost of 751 lakh in the vicinity of the Marla Maisamma Temple and Chilkanagar Pedda Masjid. He reviewed the progress of the works along with MMC officials. Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said that, keeping in view the Bonalu festival scheduled for next week, he had instructed the contractor and Work Inspector Krishna to complete the CC road works at the earliest. He also directed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that women and devotees carrying Bonam do not face any inconvenience while visiting the temples during the festival. “I gave my word, and I am fulfilling it by getting the work completed,” Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said. He added that, with the support of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, the remaining roads in Chilkanagar would also be developed in a phased manner. “Masjid Committee Appreciates Bannala” Chilkanagar Pedda Masjid President Yusuf Bhai and committee members M.D. Hanif, M.D. Shafi, M.D.



Fareed and others felicitated Bannala Praveen Mudiraj with a shawl. “The committee members recalled that Bannala had earlier promised to lay a new CC road around the mosque before the construction of the new mosque was completed. They expressed their gratitude to him for fulfilling his promise and taking up the CC road works even before the mosque construction was completed. “BRS senior leaders Edula Kondal Reddy, Jalli Mohan, Masa Shekhar, Indunuri Ravinder Goud, Sakinala Chandu, members of the Pedda Masjid committee, BRS leaders and others participated in the programme.”

## Amazon Nutrition Programme Launched in 130 Government Schools



“Hyderabad, August 08 (Indian chronicle) : A supplementary nutrition programme has been launched in 130 government schools across Kandukur, Yacharam and Shabad mandals of Rangareddy district, benefiting more than 9,071 students. The initiative, aimed at reducing absenteeism caused by hunger and improving students’ concentration in classrooms, is being implemented by Amazon in collaboration with the Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna Trust. Representatives of the organisations said in a statement on Saturday

that the programme was inaugurated at J.P.H.S., Haihabad, in Shabad mandal. As part of the initiative, students are being provided with ragi malt, multigrain cookies, and millet-peanut-sesame chikkis six days a week. The programme has so far provided more than 50 lakh meals, with over 2.5 lakh meals being served every month, the representatives said. Rangareddy District Library Organisation Chairman A. Madhusudhan Reddy and District Education Officer Venkateshwarlu were among those present at the programme.

## Man Dies by Suicide Amid Financial Distress



“MEDIPALLY, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A 47-year-old private employee allegedly died by suicide after becoming distressed over financial difficulties in the Medipally Police Station limits. “According to Medipally Police Station SHO D. Jalandhar Reddy, the deceased was identified as Ambati Ramesh (47), a resident of Chengicherla. Based on a complaint lodged by his wife, Ambati Saidamma, police registered a case and launched an investigation. Ramesh reportedly left his residence in his car without informing anyone at around 8 p.m. on August 6. At around 11 p.m. the same night, he reportedly called his

elder daughter and told her that he was distressed due to financial problems and had lost interest in continuing his life, family members said. Worried over his disappearance, the family approached Medipally police on the morning of August 8 and lodged a missing complaint. Police registered the case and launched a search for Ramesh. Meanwhile, at around 12 noon on August 8, motorists noticed a person lying unconscious inside a car on the main road leading towards Cherlapally and alerted the police through Dial 100. Police immediately reached the spot and found that the unconscious person was the missing Ramesh. His family members were informed, and his body was shifted to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem examination. Based on the preliminary investigation, police suspect that Ramesh, who was reportedly distressed over financial difficulties, consumed an unidentified poisonous substance and died by suicide. Medipally police are continuing their investigation into the incident.

## Suspicion over husband's alleged affair drives woman to suicide

Hyderabad: A 28-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide reportedly amid marital disputes and suspicions about her husband’s alleged relationship with another woman in Balanagar on Saturday.

# Girivardhan Reddy Appointed as Medchal–Malkajgiri Urban BJP District President



Kukatpally:“Girivardhan Reddy has been appointed as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Medchal–Malkajgiri Urban District. On this occasion, a felicitation programme was held at his residence.”“Led by senior BJP leader Kanchi Mahender, BJP leaders and party workers from the division visited Girivardhan Reddy and extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on his appointment. They felicitated him by presenting him with a party scarf and expressed confidence that the BJP would become stronger across the Medchal–Malkajgiri Urban district under his leadership.”“The leaders said that the new

president’s leadership would play a crucial role in strengthening the party at the grassroots level. They stressed the need to coordinate party workers across every division, continuously raise public issues, and explain the policies and welfare programmes of the Central Government to the people.”“BJP leaders expressed confidence that Girivardhan Reddy’s leadership would bring renewed enthusiasm and provide a new direction to the party. They also called for strengthening the organisation by coordinating with leaders and workers who are working actively for the party.”“Senior BJP leader Kanchi Mahender, along with division-level BJP leaders, workers and party cadres, participated in the programme and conveyed their best wishes to the newly appointed district president. Discussions were also held on strengthening the party, addressing public issues and planning future programmes.”““Strengthening the Party Is Our Goal”“

The widespread congratulations extended to Girivardhan Reddy by BJP leaders and workers after he assumed his new responsibility brought renewed enthusiasm among party cadres. Leaders called upon all workers to work collectively to transform the BJP into a stronger political force across the Medchal–Malkajgiri Urban district.

# Remaining Bhoodan Land Victims Demand Houses in Velugumatla

““Construct houses for all remaining beneficiaries in Velugumatla immediately”““If the demand is not fulfilled, we will intensify the movement in Delhi with lakhs of people”““Khammam, August 8 – Indian Chronicle”“A meeting of the Velugumatla Bhoodan Land Victims Fact-Finding Committee was held at the Phule-Ambedkar Study Forum under the chairmanship of Matta Navya in Khammam on Saturday.”“Speaking as the chief guest, JAC State Secretary Pokanti Rambabu demanded that the government immediately construct houses for all the remaining Bhoodan land victims in Velugumatla itself.”“He said that during the protest rally held on August 1, Justice Chandra Kumar, Dr. Bhimrao Yashwant Ambedkar and Visharadan Maharaj had given the government an ultimatum to announce houses for the remaining beneficiaries by September 1. He warned that the government would be responsible for the consequences if it failed to respond to their demand.”“Rambabu further said that national political parties had already been brought together on the issue and that several Members of Parliament had also been mobilised. He said the committee would decide after September 1 whether to organise a massive protest in Delhi, including a march towards Rahul Gandhi’s residence, or launch an intensified movement in Khammam.”“Committee Chairman Kethavarapu Krishna Rao said they had been fighting for the past six months to ensure that houses were constructed for the remaining Bhoodan land victims in Velugumatla. He alleged that the



government had failed to respond to their demands.”“He demanded that the houses be constructed and handed over to the beneficiaries by September 1, warning that otherwise a major movement would be launched in Khammam.”“He also urged the government to take note of the statement attributed to RBI Party National President Yashwant Ambedkar that a large-scale movement would be intensified in Delhi with lakhs of people if the houses were not provided by September 1.”“Vatte Uday, Shivaratri Krishna, Uyyala Ravi, Khader Pasha, Sumalatha, Mangamma and other Velugumatla Bhoodan land victims participated in the meeting.

# 15,000 Cash Stolen from Differently-abled Man on Pretext of Offering Help

“Khammam, Nelakondapalli, August 8 – Indian Chronicle”“A man allegedly deceived a differently-abled person by claiming that he would provide financial assistance and fled with 15,000 in cash at Nelakondapalli mandal headquarters.”“According to eyewitness and fellow differently-abled person Korivi Veeraiah of Chennaram village, the victim was speaking on his phone near a petrol station in Nelakondapalli while sitting on his scooter. At that time, an unidentified youth wearing a mask approached him on a Pulsar motorcycle.”“The youth reportedly told the victim that he helped differently-abled persons and that he would give him additional money beyond the amount he already had. Believing his words, the victim showed him the 15,000 he

was carrying. The suspect allegedly took the cash, claiming that he would count it himself, and immediately fled from the spot on his motorcycle.”“The victim and Veeraiah chased the suspect on their vehicles, but he managed to escape. The victim was reportedly left deeply distressed following the incident.”“The victims said the suspect was riding a Pulsar motorcycle without a number plate and was wearing a mask. Several differently-abled persons have urged the police to examine CCTV footage from the surrounding areas and identify and apprehend the suspect.”“They also appealed to the police to take strict action against vehicles operating without number plates and seize such vehicles in accordance with the rules.

# Young Talent Gets a Chance in Upcoming Film ‘Game Drug’; Auditions Begin Today

“BODUPPAL, AUGUST 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Youngsters with a passion for acting and dreams of making a mark in the film industry have been given a golden opportunity to showcase their talent through auditions for the upcoming Telugu film ‘Game Drug’.“The film is being made under the direction of filmmakers Sharath and Sai, with Dr. Ram Veerala as the producer. The film unit has announced that fresh talent from Boduppal, Peerzadiguda, Uppal and surrounding areas will be given an opportunity to act in the movie.”“The auditions will be held from August 8 to 10, between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. each day. Interested young men and women who aspire to enter the film industry and have a keen interest in acting are encouraged to make use of this opportunity. The auditions are being conducted at Dr. Ram Clinic, opposite Global International School in Peerzadiguda. The film team appealed to aspiring actors from the surrounding areas to attend the auditions and showcase their talent.”“The makers said the



initiative aims to identify and encourage hidden acting talent among local youth and provide newcomers with an opportunity to enter the film industry.

# Jail Bharo Programme to Be Made a Success



““Khammam Madhira, August 8 – Indian Chronicle”“Leaders of the Agricultural Workers’ Union, CITU and Farmers’ Association have called upon workers and farmers to make the nationwide Jail Bharo programme scheduled for August 10 a grand success.”“Speaking at a general body meeting of the Hamal Workers, CITU State Committee Member Sheelam Narasimha Rao and Madhira Mandal Convener Padakanti Murali urged workers to participate in large numbers. Representatives of various people’s organisations subsequently unveiled a campaign pamphlet.”“On the occasion, the leaders said that just as the Quit India Movement was launched to drive the British out of the country, people today are raising their voices

against corruption, irregularities and the alleged exploitation of the country by those in power.”“They demanded that the problems faced by agricultural labourers, CITU workers and farmers be resolved immediately. They called upon the people to participate in the Jail Bharo programme to be held on August 10 at Bonakal Mandal headquarters, with the slogan, “If you cannot solve our problems, put us in jail.”“Hamal workers and others, including Namala Srinu, Yerraboyina Ramu, Reddappangi Adam, Durgayya, Srinu, Pullayya and Gogula Nagamalleswara Rao, participated in the programme.

# Telangana EAGLE Force busts interstate drug network, arrests seven

Hyderabad: Telangana EAGLE Force, in coordination with local police, busted an interstate drug trafficking network operating between Rajasthan and Hyderabad and arrested seven persons in two cases on Friday. Police seized 1.031 kg of opium worth Rs 5.15 lakh and 25 grams of mephedrone valued at Rs 7.5 lakh, along with other material.

# Triveni Talent School Students Showcase the Spirit of Quit India Movement



“Khammam, August 8 – Indian Chronicle”“An awareness programme was organised at Triveni Talent Schools, Khammam branch, to commemorate the historic Quit In-

dia Movement. Teachers explained to the students that the “Quit India” call given by Mahatma Gandhi on August 8, 1942, became a symbol of unity and sacrifice during India’s freedom struggle.”“Students participated in the programme carrying the national flag and remembered the freedom fighters through patriotic songs, speeches and slogans. They paid floral tributes to the portraits of freedom fighters and were encouraged to uphold the values of patriotism, unity and responsible citizenship.”

“School Director Dr. Veerendra Choudary said educational institutions have a responsibility to introduce the sacrifices of freedom fighters to future generations.”“Principal Rajendra Prasad said he hoped students would carry forward the spirit of the Quit India Movement through discipline, unity and service to the nation.”“Vice-Principals Swapna and Mustafa, CRO Katragadda Muralikrishna, Campus In-Charge Victor Charles, Transport In-Charge Sandeep, teachers and students participated in the programme.

# Country’s Economy on the Brink of Collapse, Says CPI Leader Hemant Rao

“Modi is Misleading People in the Name of Lord Rama”““Telangana Government Has Become a Government of Words, Not Action”““Grand Welcome to CPI Jana Chaitanya Yatra on Its Third Day in Chintakani Mandal”“Khammam, Chandrakanta, August 8 – Indian Chronicle”“Chintakani: CPI National Council Member Bhagam Hemant Rao alleged that the country’s economy has reached the verge of collapse due to the policies being followed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past decade.”“He alleged that the publicity surrounding India becoming the world’s fourth-largest economy was aimed at serving corporate interests. As part of the CPI Jana Chaitanya Yatra, the party conducted a campaign across several villages in Chintakani mandal on Saturday.”“The yatra began at Chinna Mandava and passed through Seethampeta, Nagulavancha, Patharlapadu, Prodduturu, Nagiligonda, Komatlagudem, Nereda, Lachagudem, Chintakani, Ananthasagar, Ramakrishnapuram, Baswapuram, Raghavapuram, Kodumuru and Vandanam. The padyatra received a warm welcome from residents in various villages, where large rallies were also organised.”“Addressing meetings held in the villages, Hemant Rao alleged that the Modi government was functioning not for the common people but in the interests of billionaires such as Adani and Ambani and large corporate organisations. He warned that the concentration of the country’s wealth in the hands of a few could become extremely dangerous in the future.”“He further alleged that laws under the Modi government had effectively become “corporate laws” and claimed that corporate interests were behind the introduction or withdrawal of various policies and legislation.”“Hemant Rao said democracy in the country would be in danger if the Modi government was not removed. He said the CPI was conducting the Jana Chaitanya Yatra to explain the political, economic and social conditions prevailing in the country to the people and create awareness among them.”“He also alleged that Modi was misleading people in the name of Lord Rama and portraying those who criticised his government as anti-national.”“Congress Government in Telangana Has Become a Government of Words”““Commenting on the Telangana government, Hemant Rao alleged that the Congress government had become a government of words rather than action. He said the failure of ministers to respond to several election promises was evidence of this.”“He alleged that although the government had extensively publicised the Indiramma Housing Scheme, houses were being sanctioned based on political recommendations rather than genuinely benefiting poor people.”“He cautioned that the government should not assume that people would vote for it merely because they received some benefits, stating that voters consider all aspects of governance before making their political



choice.”“Hemant Rao pointed out that more than 10,000 families in Chintakani mandal had reportedly received Dalit Bandhu assistance under the BRS government, yet the Congress secured a majority of around 6,800 votes in the 2023 elections. He advised the present ruling party to take note of this and correct shortcomings in governance.”“Will the Government Implement Only Four Promises Out of 400?”“CPI District Secretary Dandi Suresh questioned whether the Congress government would fulfil only four or five promises after making more than 400 promises during the elections.”“Speaking at meetings in various villages, Suresh alleged that, apart from the free bus travel scheme, the government had failed to fulfil most of its major promises. He said the loan waiver was incomplete and alleged that there had been no progress on promises such as one tola of gold, Rythu Bima, crop insurance and scooters for female students.”“He also alleged that the government had failed to take favourable decisions concerning the agricultural sector. He warned that if the government did not respond positively to its election promises, the Congress could face a similar verdict to those faced by previous governments.”“He demanded that political discrimination be avoided in the sanctioning of Indiramma houses.”“CPI District Assistant Secretary Jammula Jithender Reddy and other leaders also addressed the meetings. Leaders of the CPI(M) and BRS welcomed the yatra at several villages.”“CPI State Council members Erra Babu, Shaik Janimiya, Aepuri Latadevi, Kondaparthi Govindarao, Siddineni Karna Kumar and Ajmeera Ramamurthy, along with district executive members Pothu Kalavathi, Ravi Sivaramakrishna, Medikanti Chinna Venkata Reddy, Aepuri Ravindra Babu, C. H. Seethamahalakshmi, Enugu Gandhi and Pavuluri Mallikarjun, participated in the yatra.”“CPI Mandal Secretary Dusari Gopal Rao, district committee members Kanneboyina Vijayamma, Rasala Mohan Rao and Narapogu Hema, sarpanches Parsa Ramachandra Rao, Aepuri Padma and Avula Narasimha Rao, and several other party and public-organisation leaders and activists also took part in the programme.

# Ajay Kumar Yadav Discusses BC Issues with Retired IAS Officer Vishnu

“Hyderabad, August 08 (Indian Chronicle) : Dr.Dasari Ajay Kumar Yadav, National President of the BC Jana Chaitanya Vedika, paid a courtesy visit to retired IAS officer Vishnu at his residence in Hyderabad on Saturday. During the meeting, they held detailed discussions on various issues faced by the Backward Classes(BCs) across the country, including political and other social concerns. They also exchanged views on measures to address the challenges confronting the BC community. BC Jana Chaitanya Vedika State Media Convener Prashanth Yadav and others were present on the occasion.



# Call Groups Prominent Builder Suryakrishna Celebrates Birthday Grandly



“Khammam, August 8 – Indian Chronicle”“The birthday celebrations of Call Groups’ prominent builder Suryakrishna were held grandly at the Call Groups office in Gandhi Chowk, Khammam. On the occasion, carpenter mason Nageswara Rao, painting mason Macherla Tirumala Rao, electrical mason Narasimha Rao, sanitary mason Ramesh, and Call Groups staff presented Suryakrishna with a bouquet and felicitated him with a shawl. Later, he cut the birthday cake amid warm wishes from the gathering.”“Speaking on the occasion, the masons praised Suryakrishna’s services, stating that he has been continuously providing employment opportunities to thousands of workers and contractors in the construction sector.”“Later, Suryakrishna expressed his gratitude, saying, “The bless-

ings and support of all of you are the reason behind my success. With the same inspiration, I will continue to work towards providing employment opportunities to many more workers in the future.”“Call Groups staff, several masons and workers participated in the celebrations and conveyed their heartfelt birthday wishes to Suryakrishna. They wished him good health, long life and many more successes in the years ahead.

# Worker attacked over pending dues at jewellery workshop in Secunderabad

Hyderabad: A worker was seriously injured after allegedly being attacked with a sharp object at a gold jewellery-making workshop at General Bazaar in Secunderabad. The injured man, identified as Srinivas Chary, a native of Rajanna-Sircilla, had been working at a jewellery-making workshop attached to a gold shop in General Bazaar.

According to police, an argument broke out between Srinivas Chary and the shop owner, Raju, over payment of money allegedly due to the worker on Friday.

## 2 Nepali women moved to Bengaluru to build a life: Days later, both die by suicide



GNS News Agency, August 8

The bodies of two women, who came to Bengaluru from Nepal in search of work barely 15 days ago, were found near Jakkur Main Road in the city on Thursday morning. The deceased have been identified as Sirjana, 22, and Rita, 23. The Bengaluru police have confirmed the two women died by suicide.

A relative of Rita, who works as a domestic help in Yelahanka, said he became concerned when she did not return home on Wednesday night. "I tried calling her, but her phone was switched off. I assumed that she stayed

back at her friends or relatives; there was nothing suspicious at the time," Rita's relative told The Indian Express.Police InvestigationAccording to the police investigation so far, Sirjana and Rita were childhood friends and also relatives. They had grown up together in Nepal and, over the years, their close friendship had reportedly developed into a relationship.

As their relationship became known, opposition reportedly came from their families and others in their hometown. Sources said the two women were also subjected to teasing and social pressure in Nepal. The police said they came to Bengaluru, hoping to find work as domestic helps and live together.However, the two women were living separately in Bengaluru. While Sirjana was staying in Fraser Town, Rita was living in Jakkur. Despite this, the police said, they met frequently."On Wednesday evening, the two had gone to a relative's house near Jakkur for dinner. During the gathering, the relatives reportedly discussed finding suitable men and arranging their marriages. We suspect that this conversation might have triggered them to take such an extreme step," the police said.The police are now examining their phone records, relatives' statements, and other evidence to establish the exact sequence of events leading to their deaths.

## Case of the ‘missing’ paddy: How Telangana’s hunt for missing stocks uncovered a multi-crore scam

It was based on a hunch that the Telangana Vigilance and Enforcement department began searching in Suryapet, Nalgonda, Medak and Warangal in connection with an unusual case – that of missing paddy. What it was unprepared for was the scale: over the next month, it uncovered an alleged multi-crore scam involving at least 2.7 lakh metric tonnes of missing paddy from the last three years.It allegedly began with the state government's paddy procurement in 2023. Typically, the state government procured paddy from farmers and routed it to millers, who would first safekeep and later mill the grain to produce rice.

Per 100 kg of paddy, 67 kg of milled rice would be the output. This would then be directed back to the state government's public distribution system (PDS) or ration shops.Here is what went wrong: at least 58 millers did not route rice back to the ration shops. Instead, they allegedly sold it in the open market for a profit. Officials estimate that the state lost 2.7 lakh metric tonnes of paddy worth Rs 680 crore between 2023 and 2026."The government had a doubt and ordered a probe, and we unearthed a multi-crore scam," Director of Vigilance and Enforcement AR Srinivas told The Indian Express.

The raids began on July 20, Srinivas added."The millers didn't possess the paddy stocks given to them and had also failed to return the corresponding quantity of custom-milled rice to the govt," Srinivas explained. The rice varieties that should have returned to the ration shops include fine rice and parboiled rice, he said.According to officials, the gaps surfaced when authorities tallied millers' records to their own.

The V&E department's preliminary findings allegedly unearthed a Rs 120 crore paddy deficit that they suspect ended up in the open market."We expanded the search and realised that this was happening across the state," said Srinivas. The inspections were conducted under the supervision of V&E DIG Abhishek Mohanty and DS Chauhan, Director General of V&E.Those allegedly involved are "big



millers who have the wherewithal to hoard and sell", Srinivas said."In Suryapet alone, eight millers were found to have diverted Rs 239 crore worth of paddy. In Jagtial, four millers were found to have diverted Rs 127 crore worth of paddy," he said.The department has started filing criminal cases against the millers.

"We issued notices to millers to either pay for the paddy which is not available with them or face jail," Srinivas said. Under Sections 316 and 318 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, as well as relevant sections of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, misappropriation of public assets allegedly carries a 10-year jail term.The recovery drive has already yielded significant results, officials say."At least Rs 300 crore of paddy has been recovered after notices were issued to mill owners," one official said. "While several millers have begun repaying the value of the missing stocks, others have approached courts challenging the action."Officials say the alleged scam has a direct bearing on the Public Distribution System."Lakhs of people are dependent on PDS for their daily rice needs," Srinivas said. "The extent of the scam is such that one miller from Jagtial owed Rs 90 crore to the government. Another miller owed Rs 50 crore. We will either get back the grain or the money."

## Court issues notice to Meta on Khaira plea



GNS News Agency, August 8

The Chandigarh District court has issued notices to Meta Platforms Inc. (Facebook and Instagram) on a civil suit filed by Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira, who has sought removal of an allegedly AI-generated morphed video depicting him, besides permanent and mandatory injunctions, protection of his personality rights and damages.

In his complaint, Khaira through his counsel, Advocate Sarabjot Singh Cheema, submitted that the accompanying suit seeks "permanent and mandatory injunction, takedown/removal of false, fabricated, morphed and AI-generated content, protection of the plaintiff's reputation, dignity and personality rights and for damages."

The complaint states that Khaira, MLA from Bholath Assembly constituency, is "a well-known public and political personality" who enjoys "reputation and recognition amongst the people of Punjab as well as the Punjabi diaspora."According to the suit, the operators of the Facebook page "Charda Punjab" and Instagram account "chard\_apunjab" are presently unknown, with disclosure of their identity also being sought from the intermediary.Khaira has alleged that the defendants "have published and circulated a highly objectionable, false, fabricated and AI-generated/morphed video" wherein his "face, beard and turbaned" Sikh appearance have been "digitally manipulated and superimposed upon an artificially generated body" of a woman."Referring to the circulation of the content, the suit claims that the impugned video had already received approximately 1.36 lakh views, 1,900 reactions and 443 shares on Facebook, while on Instagram it had received approximately 1.12 lakh views, 760 likes, 87 comments, 33 reposts and about 5,496 shares, adding that the figures were continuing to increase.

The complaint also states that the content "has therefore caused and continues to cause humiliation, mental agony, reputational injury and loss of dignity" to Khaira. It adds that the continued availability of the content is particularly harmful because viewers encountering screenshots or reposts "may have no means whatsoever of knowing that the visual representation is artificial."Khaira further submitted that his "name, face, photograph, likeness, voice, appearance and other identifiable attributes constitute integral aspects of his personality and identity," and that

unauthorised manipulation in a false and derogatory representation interferes with his right to control misuse of his identity.Calling the matter "a particularly serious issue concerning misuse of generative AI," the complaint adds that unlike ordinary written allegations, a fabricated photograph or video "purports to provide visual proof of something which never occurred and therefore possesses an enhanced capacity to mislead, humiliate and cause reputational injury."Khaira in his application has also relied upon the Bombay High Court judgment in Arijit Singh versus Codible Ventures LLP & Ors. concerning protection against misuse of personality attributes through artificial intelligence, deepfakes and face-morphing technology.

## Civic volunteer arrested for rape in Bengal's Jalpaiguri, 2 others absconding

HandcuffsThe sources added that the three accused had been involved in several criminal acts before, but no one filed cases against them owing to the nature of their jobs.The West Bengal Police Thursday arrested a civic volunteer on charges of raping a woman in Jalpaiguri district.

The arrestee, identified as Bulbul Alam, 30, is said to have raped the woman over three days. Two other civic volunteers have also been accused of the crime and are currently absconding. All three are posted at the same police station in Jalpaiguri.The gang rape survivor is a resident of the neighbouring Cooch Behar district.

Speaking about the incident, a senior police officer in Jalpaiguri said, "Since the complaint has not been filed here, the investigation is being conducted by the Cooch Behar police. We joined the operation to nab the accused after the Cooch Behar police sought our help."According to police sources, the three civic volunteers allegedly lured the young woman to Jalpaiguri district last week, put her up in a rented accommodation, and raped her on several occasions.

The sources added that the three accused had been involved in several criminal acts before, but no one filed cases against them owing to the nature of their jobs.

After this complaint was filed, All India Trinamool Congress took to X and posted, "Another day, another horrific incident under the @BJP4Bengal government... a woman was allegedly raped repeatedly by three civic volunteers – an incident that has once again raised serious questions about women's safety across the state. What happened to all the tall promises made by BJP leaders? Will the usual voices of outrage speak up now? Or has selective outrage always been driven by political convenience rather than justice?

## What is Saoji cuisine, the Nagpur legacy back in focus after FDA chief’s remark?



Saoji cuisine, once the food of a weaving community before becoming a working-class meal and then the pride of the Saoji community and the city of Nagpur, has come under the spotlight after Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe told an audience in Amravati, "If I ate that, I would fall sick for a month"—referring to Saoji mutton.Although Nagpur and Saoji cuisine are now synonymous, the fiery Saoji masala and cuisine came from the Halba Koshti community. Originally from Madhya Pradesh, the community, known for its weaving skills, migrated to Nagpur in the late 19th century to work in Empress Mills and other textile industries being set up there.

But when the handloom industry declined, the community had to find new ways to sustain itself. The women turned to their culinary heritage, creating Saoji masala, made by blending 32 spices with jute or linseed oil. It became the soul of Saoji food, giving it its signature heat, depth, and boldness.The flavourful, spicy food once prepared only within the community was soon being sold to the city's working class as an affordable meal option for mill workers and labourers. Over time, Saoji bhojanalayas emerged, focusing purely on taste rather than presentation. Most offered simple arrangements, often limited to wooden benches and metal plates, with an emphasis on serving hot and freshly prepared meals. The cuisine eventually became a defining part of Nagpur's food culture.

The soul of the cuisine: A 32-spice blend

The soul of the cuisine lies in its masala—a blend of 32 spices, slow-cooked using either linseed or jute oil. The cooking process involves the slow roasting of spices, allowing them to release their oils and intensify the overall flavour. The choice of oil plays a significant role in the over-

all taste and texture of the dishes, giving them a distinct character that sets them apart from other regional cuisines."Some of the spices used in this blend include peppercorns, star anise, coriander, cardamom, coconut, poppy seeds, plenty of red chillies, cloves, bay leaf and nutmeg. In addition, there are a few whole spices that are also pounded and added to the dish," said Shilpi Gulati, a Punjabi who grew up in Nagpur and learnt this cuisine from her friends who hail from the Saoji community. She later started House of Saoji, a cloud kitchen, in Pune in 2021. "The coconut and other spices are roasted until they turn almost black, which adds a dark tone. It is a very different kala masala, used widely in Vidarbha," she explained. The meat, typically goat, is simmered in the spice blend for hours until it absorbs the essence of the masala, resulting in a dish that is rich, aromatic, and deeply satisfying. For those unfamiliar with Saoji food, the first taste can be overwhelming. The heat from the chillies, combined with the warmth of other spices, creates an experience that is intense yet addictive.

The food is unapologetically spicy and oily. Saoji curries, Gulati said, have a medium-thin body, are deep red-dish-black in colour, and have a visible layer of oil on top—traditionally seen as a mark of a "proper" Saoji preparation. "It is very fiery or hot because it is very hot in Nagpur and the cuisine helps people regulate the temperature," she added. The food was originally cooked in earthen pots, and the community mostly cooked mutton. Over the years, chicken versions emerged, and today some restaurants even make Saoji paneer and jackfruit dishes. But the cuisine remains predominantly non-vegetarian. The cuisine has also outgrown its bhojanalaya origins—chefs across Mumbai and Pune are now recreating it for a wider audience, and diners from outside Maharashtra travel to Nagpur specifically to eat it."Back in the Nagpur/Vidarbha region, people love Saoji cuisine. Our founder Nitin Dhankute thought of bringing this food in a more family-style restaurant format to Mumbai. We opened our first outlet in Juhu to a great reception—so many cricketers and Marathi actors came and liked our food. A lot of our customers there came from Thane, so we opened another branch here," said Mohit Fune, 31, one of the owners of Orange City Saoji, adding, "If you see online, there are a few people who have written bad reviews saying our food is spicy, but that's the nature of this cuisine. It won't remain Saoji if we change the spice levels."

## India exports over 7,000 tonnes of Makhana in FY26



GNS News Agency, August 8New Delhi: India exported more than 7,000 metric tonnes of Makhana and value-added Makhana products to over 20 international destinations, including the US, the Middle East and Africa, in last fiscal (FY26), the government informed on Saturday.Bihar accounts for nearly 85 per cent of India's Makhana production. To further strengthen the sector, a separate HS Code for Makhana came into effect from July last year under the Finance Bill, 2025.

In a new feat, APEDA facilitated first-ever commercial sea shipment of 18 metric tonnes of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from the BIADA Industrial Area in Bihta, Bihar, to Australia.The consignment, sourced from Makhana grow-

ers of Darbhanga district, is expected to strengthen the international presence of Bihar's flagship GI product while creating enhanced income opportunities for farmers through export-led market access, according to Commerce Ministry.

The initiative has enabled farmers to realise nearly 18 per cent higher returns than prevailing market rates, highlighting the benefits of export-oriented value chains and direct market linkages. The export is expected to strengthen the international presence of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana, create sustainable export opportunities for Bihar's Makhana sector and contribute to higher farmer incomes.State Agriculture Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said Makhana is the identity of Bihar and greater participation of Bihar-based exporters in international trade would enable farmers to secure better price realisation.He emphasised the importance of maintaining quality standards to meet global market requirements and stated that the Government of Bihar is continuously working to strengthen the Makhana value chain by supporting growers, processors and exporters.The minister further said that all necessary support would continue to be extended to the Phori community, whose traditional skills are integral to Makhana processing.The first-ever sea shipment of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana to Australia reflects the growing global demand for Bihar's agricultural products and opens new opportunities for farmers and exporters, he added.

## Court case backlog no longer what it was 10-20 years ago: CJI Surya Kant



Indore: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant said on Saturday that the backlog of court cases in the country is no longer what it was 10 or 20 years ago, and that various schemes designed through technology for speedy disposal of cases have yielded "very good results". There are many reasons for the backlog of cases and these are being gradu-

ally resolved in a systematic manner, the CJI told reporters when asked about the long-pending cases in courts.

He said that the backlog of cases in the country is no longer what it was 10 or 20 years ago. "We have developed numerous schemes for speedy disposal of cases through technology, and these have yielded very good results," the CJI said.When asked that many harassment cases filed by women are proving to be fake, he said no general statement can be made on this matter and each case depends on its specific facts.Replying to a query about the central government's repeated return of names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for the appointment of judges, CJI Surya Kant said, "You will not talk about the Collegium here. This is a programme of the Legal Services Authority."The CJI earlier addressed the regional conference of the Western Zone of the National Legal Services Authority here. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, and judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts attended the inaugural session of the conference.

## Embrace technology, ensure transparency: Shah’s push to urban cooperative banks

Mumbai: Union minister Amit Shah on Saturday urged urban cooperative banks to embrace technology, ensure transparency and modernise customer services to remain competitive. Speaking at the inauguration of the new office of the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC) in Mumbai, he said ensuring the prosperity of customers will help the banks achieve growth.

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister also urged all urban cooperative banks to join the NUCFDC, the apex umbrella organisation for the sector, within a year. The NUCFDC serves as the umbrella organisation and self-regulatory body for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India. Approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and headquartered in Mumbai, it provides capital, IT infrastruc-

ture and liquidity support to strengthen the cooperative banking sector."Our responsibility is to ensure that all banks become members of this organisation (NUCFDC), introduce technology, bring transparency, train staff, provide modern services to customers and sustain in the competition," he said.Shah said that of the nearly 1,400 urban co-operative banks in the country, around 690 have already become members of the organisation, and added that the remaining UCBs should also become part of it within a year.Making India prosperous requires fostering prosperity among its people, the minister said, adding that the capital market alone cannot fulfil this objective. "We need to create a new system of self-employment simultaneously. Urban cooperative banks can do it and it is our responsibility," he said.Shah said the idea of "cooperation to prosperity" does not merely mean making banks financially stronger

# Last buses between Kolkata’s key hospitals, railway stations now leave at 10 pm



GNS News Agency, August 8

The West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) has extended the operating hours of several key bus routes in Kolkata, changing their last departure time from 8 pm to 10 pm to help late-night commuters, patients, and their families. The new schedule introduced additional late-night services between Kolkata’s major hospital hubs and railway stations like Howrah and Sealdah, effective August 1.

**VS-2 (West Bengal Surface Transport Corporation):** Operates from Howrah station to the Airport, leaving the Howrah railway station at 10 pm (three trips). It travels via MG Road, CR Avenue, Girish Park, Kankurgachi, HIDCO, and VIP Road, passing important landmarks like Medical College and Central Blood Bank.

**E-32 (Calcutta State Transport Corporation):** Runs from the Howrah station to Barrackpore. The last departure was at 9.45 pm, and an additional service is scheduled at 10 pm (two trips). The route alignment includes MG Road, Shyambazar, and BT Road, covering landmarks such as Medical College and RG Kar Hospital.

**S-7 (CSTC):** Connects the Howrah station to Garia. The regular departure is at 8 pm, with an extra service at 10 pm (two trips). It runs through Esplanade, Park Street, Exide, Rashbehari, Gariahat, and Jadavpur, serving key destinations like SSKM Hospital, Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Keoratala Burning Ghat, Private Hospital, Panchanantala, and JU Hostel.

**S-5 (CSTC):** Connects the Howrah station to Garia, leaving at 8.45 pm with an additional service at 10 pm (two trips). Its route covers Esplanade, Park Street, Exide, Rashbehari, Bansdrani, and Naktala, reaching landmarks such as SSKM, Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Keoratala Burning Ghat, and Bangur Super Speciality Hospital.

**S-10A (CSTC):** Travels from the Howrah station to Ballygunge at 10 pm in three trips via Esplanade, Park Street, Exide, Rashbehari, and Gariahat. Key landmarks on this route include Belle Vue, RKM Seva Pratishthan, and other private hospitals.

**S-9A (CSTC):** Operates from Dunlop to Ballygunge, departing at 8 pm with an additional service scheduled at 10 pm (two trips). Travelling via BT Road, Shyambazar, Khanna, Sealdah, Moulali, Minto Park, and Deshapriya Park, it serves major healthcare centres including RG Kar Hospital, Nilratan Sircar (NRS) Hospital, BR Singh Hospital, IINS, Belle Vue, and RKM Seva Pratishthan.

**T-16 (WBTC):** Operates from Rajabazar to Andul Road (Mourigram). The regular schedule is 7.15 pm, now supplemented by a 10 pm service (two trips). The bus travels via Sealdah, Moulali, Esplanade, Rabindra Sadan, 2nd Hooghly Bridge, and Andul Road, catering to commuters heading towards NRS, PG, and Narayana (Andul Road).

**S-30 (CSTC):** Runs between Ultadanga Gate No. 15 and Eco Space. With regular timing at 7.30 pm, an additional service goes out at 10 pm (three trips) via HIDCO, Apollo, Chingrighata Crossing, College More, and New Town, passing Near Apollo, Tata Medical Centre, and OHIO Hospital.

**S-24 (CSTC):** Operates from the Howrah station to Kamalgazi, departing at 9.45 pm, along with a new 10 pm service with two trips. Its path runs via Esplanade, Moulali, Park Circus, Science City, Ruby, and Ajoy Nagar, providing access to NRS, National Medical College, INK, Fortis, Desun, Ruby, RN Tagore, Peerless, and Medica.

**AC-37 (CSTC):** Serves the route from Barasat to Garia. Leaves at 4.35 pm with an additional 10 pm service with two trips. The alignment goes through Madhyamgram, Airport, Ultadanga, Ruby, and Ajoynagar, connecting travellers to Narayana, Apollo, Fortis, Desun, Ruby, RN Tagore, Peerless, and Medica.

# Court issues order to attach Pune MC chief property

GNS News Agency, August 8

pmcPMC legal officer Nisha Chavan said she had apprised the concerned civic department to execute the order in time, but it failed to do so, due to which court officers had to visit the municipal chief’s office to attach the movable property. In a major embarrassment to the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), a laptop and chair of the municipal commissioner were set to be attached on Monday, following an order issued by Pune’s Small Cause Court over the civic body’s failure to pay the difference in compensation to a plot owner for the acquisition of land in Uruli Devachi.

Second Additional Judge of the Small Causes Court, Pune, Nikhil Gosavi, on June 29 issued a warrant to attach movable property of the Pune civic chief over failure to pay the difference in compensation despite the court order passed. “The Pune civic body has given a bond in writing to pay the difference in compensation by August 11 to owners of property acquired by PMC. Thus, the attachment of the laptop and chair of the municipal chief has been avoided,” said Nihil More, deputy municipal commissioner, PMC.

PMC legal officer Nisha Chavan said she had apprised the concerned civic department to execute the order in time, but it failed to do so, due to which court officers had to visit the municipal chief’s office to attach the movable property. The application to attach movable property of the municipal chief was filed by one Harishchandra Harpale. The applicant had informed the court that the PMC failed to pay the compensation despite an order passed by the court. The applicant

# At Mumbai University, over 80% flunk BCom, BA exams; varsity says results consistent



GNS News Agency, August 8

More than 80 per cent of students enrolled in Mumbai University’s distance education programmes have failed the first-year examinations, with the university finally declaring the results over four months after the exams. The unusually poor outcome has triggered questions over the quality of academic support at the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), prompting students and Senate members to demand a review of the results. The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) declared the first semester results of the first-year Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) course on Monday. Of the 2,543 students who appeared, only 457 passed while 2,086 were declared unsuccessful. A similar trend was seen in the first-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) programme, where only 460 of the 2,224 students have cleared the examination, leaving 1,764 students unsuccessful.

The results have renewed criticism of the CDOE, which has repeatedly come under scrutiny over delays in admissions, non-availability of study material, paper leak allegations and delays in declaring results. Senate members have questioned whether delays in supplying study material, administrative lapses and inadequate academic support affected students’ performance. A delegation from Yuva Sena, the youth wing of Shiv Sena (UBT), including current and former Senate members, met Mumbai University Registrar Dr Prasad Karande on Monday, seeking a review of the results. “If so many students have failed, the issue lies with the system. The university cannot blame students,” said Pradeep Sawant, a Senate member from Yuva Sena. The Mumbai University, however, defended the results, saying the figures do not indicate that students had failed in every subject. “BA and BCom students appear for multiple internal and external examinations every semester. A student is counted among the unsuccessful candi-

had contended that a substantial amount was due and payable by the PMC but had not been satisfied to date. Despite granting sufficient opportunity, the PMC has failed to pay compensation, the applicant said, adding the PMC has neither appeared in court nor filed any say. According to the court, PMC has to pay Rs. 4.14 crore to the applicant as a difference in the compensation amount. The PMC had acquired around 25 acres from three owners to set up a waste processing plant in 2007 and had fixed the compensation amount to be paid to the property owners. However, the owners challenged the amount, seeking more compensation by approaching the court. The court passed an order in favour of the property owners and directed PMC to pay the difference in an increased amount, but PMC instead approached the High Court, where the plea was still pending.

dates even if they fail in one or more papers,” the university said in a written response. It also argued that the results were in line with previous years. According to the university, the FY BA pass percentage stood at 20.68 per cent this year as compared to 23.35 per cent last year, while the FY B Com pass percentage improved from 13 per cent last year to 18 per cent this year.

**As rain activity eases, IMD warns of temperature rise in Mumbai; Thane, Palghar off alerts**

Mumbai IMD weather alert: Rain activity is likely to ease in Mumbai and its neighbouring districts this week, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) indicating only light to moderate showers starting today, August 4. The temperature in Mumbai is expected to rise as rain activity eases this week. The IMD has predicted that mercury may touch 32 degrees in the coming days.

According to the IMD forecast, Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, and Palghar districts in Maharashtra are likely to experience light to moderate rainfall in the coming days. These districts are under no IMD alert until at least Friday, August 7.

Data furnished by the IMD showed that between Monday and Tuesday morning, 2.4 mm rain was recorded in Santacruz while 0.2 mm was recorded in Colaba. Just a day ago, Mumbai had received an average rainfall of 66 mm in the eastern suburbs and 44 mm in the western suburbs between Sunday and Monday. In the neighbouring Navi Mumbai, Belapur recorded 13 mm rain, followed by 12 mm in Airoli and Digha areas, 7 mm in Koparkhairane, and 5 mm in Nerul. After heavy showers through July, meteorologists have attributed the slowdown in monsoon activity to the absence of strong systems that typically bring moisture into the atmosphere and a surge in monsoon currents. Without a heavy downpour, temperatures in Mumbai are expected to spike. According to the IMD, maximum temperatures are likely to exceed 32 degrees in the coming days. Meanwhile, temperatures in the evening are expected to hover between 26 and 27 degrees. While heavy monsoon showers are likely to elude the region this week, Mumbai is used to witnessing heavy to very heavy rainfall during August.

# Retired Army Captain’s wife strangled to death by domestic help in Haryana



GNS News Agency, August 8

A search for missing jewellery ended in tragedy in Haryana’s Panchkula when a retired Army Captain’s wife was found dead on the rooftop of a house in Sector 21 on Monday evening, allegedly murdered by her domestic help. According to the police, 70-year-old Neera Mehta, the wife of Chandramohan, a retired Indian Army Captain, went to her domestic help’s house on Monday to question her about some missing jewellery. During the conversation, an argument allegedly broke out between the two, leading to Mehta being strangled to death. After the murder, the do-

mestic help and her son allegedly carried Mehta’s body to the rooftop of a neighbouring house and hid it behind roof tiles. A murder case has been lodged against the domestic help and her son at the Sector 21 police station. Both have been arrested and are being questioned, the police said.

According to the police, Mehta and Chandramohan stayed at House No 366 in Sector 21. Their two sons live in the United States. “The woman had been working as their domestic help for nearly 10 years, and they trusted her completely. She lived in the same sector. The owner of that house had employed her family as caretakers,” one of the investigating police officers said. On Monday, Mehta discovered that some jewellery was missing from her house. Suspecting her domestic help, she decided to question her. After Chandramohan left home to play golf, Mehta told him that she was going to her help’s house to ask her about the missing jewellery, the police said. However, she never returned home. Around 3 pm, Chandramohan returned from playing golf and found that Mehta was not at home. He first searched the neighbourhood and checked with relatives and acquaintances, but she was nowhere to be found. He then informed the Sector 21 police post, after which the police began an investigation and found her body late in the evening.

# Over 31k teachers posts vacant in Punjab government schools, says Bains

GNS News Agency, August 8

Punjab education minister Harjot Singh Bains said in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Monday that 31,370 posts of teachers, across various cadres, were lying vacant in government schools. Bains presented the data in the House replying to the question asked by Congress MLA and leader of opposition Partap Singh Bajwa. Bains said that the majority posts (20378) were lying vacant in master cadre (for class 6 to 10). The minister, however, clarified that the vacancy was due to court stay on promotions in master cadre, which has now been cleared. He claimed that posts would be filled soon both through promotions and new recruitments following which 90% will be filled.

According to the data tabled by Bains in the House on the day 1 of the monsoon session, 7259 posts are vacant in primary cadre including 4627 ETT, 657 head teacher, 221 central head teacher and 1754 special educators. In master cadre, 20378 posts are lying vacant out of 59513 sanctioned. In lecturers category (class 11 and 12), 3733 are lying vacant of 14130 sanctioned. The Democratic Teachers Front (DTF) in a statement said that minister’s own statement has brought to light the truth of the so-called “Sikhya Kranti” (education revolution) of the AAP-led Punjab government. DTF state president Vikramdev Singh and General Secretary Mahinder Kaurwali said that the vacant posts of more than 1100 principals in 1927 secondary schools



are also a mockery of Sikhya Kranti. “The 20378 vacant posts of Master Cadre also show the sincerity of the Punjab government. Despite these vacancies, about 30,000 teachers are engaged in non-academic work. Students who came to government schools from private schools are going back to private schools due to shortage of teachers. The Punjab government is encouraging privatization of education by keeping posts vacant in government schools. The Punjab government should launch a recruitment drive to fill all the vacant posts of teaching and non-teaching staff in the education department,” said the DTF.

# Oil-mud slick on key road causes 25 vehicles to skid; 6 injured

GNS News Agency, August 8

Amid incessant rainfall, at least 25 vehicles skidded, and six commuters sustained minor injuries in Pune on Tuesday morning after oil from vehicles leaked onto the road, mixing with mud and rainwater. On receiving alerts about vehicles losing traction in the slippery stretch between RTO Chowk and Naidu Hospital Road, the Pune Fire Brigade launched an emergency clean-up operation to prevent further accidents. The work was completed in an hour, after which normal traffic resumed. “Using high-pressure water jets, firefighters washed away the oil and mud deposits before traffic police regulated vehicular movement through the affected stretch,” said an officer.

Authorities urged motorists to exercise caution while driving during the monsoon, particularly on stretches where oil residue and mud can accumulate on the carriageway. “Primary inquiry suggested that a significant number of dumpers transporting construction material use this stretch during the late-night and early-morning hours. We believe that mud carried on the wheels of these vehicles is deposited on the road as they exit construction sites. When this mud mixes with oil leaking from heavy vehicles and other passing traffic, particularly during heavy



rains, it creates an extremely slippery surface,” said a police officer. “Continuous rainfall further spreads the oil-mud mixture across the carriageway, making it hazardous even for vehicles travelling at moderate speeds.

We will be examining nearby construction sites, the movement of heavy vehicles in the area and whether adequate measures are being taken to prevent mud from being carried onto public roads,” said the officer.

# Man sets himself on fire outside police station in Punjab, dies



GNS News Agency, August 8

A man allegedly set himself on fire in the public washroom outside Khanna City-1 police station Monday, and died on the spot. He was identified as Gobind Singh, a resident of Ishar Nagar, Ludhiana city. Khanna SSP Darpan Ahluwalia said that Gobind had submitted a complaint to the police against a self-styled Godman Charan Das and his three accomplices, for allegedly duping him of Rs 73,000. Minutes after submitting the complaint, he took the extreme step in the public washroom, said the SSP.

According to the complaint, Das of Lalheri road Khanna had promised him a solution to his financial woes and said that performing a “hawan” will solve everything. Gobind stated in his complaint that he had paid Rs 73,000 to Das for performing the rituals but his woes never ended. When he demanded his money back, Das refunded Rs 20,000 but the rest was still pending. Gobind said in his complaint that the accused were harassing him, threatening him with dire consequences and because of the financial loss, he was unable to pay his children’s school fee. The

SSP said that earlier too Gobind had filed a complaint against the accused and he was called to the police station on May 7, 2026. “However, according to his own statement, written in today’s fresh complaint, he could not come that time as he was unwell. So he had come today to file a fresh complaint,” said the SSP. A forensic probe has been initiated and a judicial probe has been marked by the executive magistrate into the self-immolation incident. The SSP said that a matchstick and an empty bottle containing inflammable material has been recovered from the spot. “An FIR for abetment to suicide has been registered against Charan Das and his three accomplices- Makhan Singh, Jugraj Singh and Inderpreet Singh, on the basis of the deceased’s complaint in which he clearly stated that if anything happens to him, the four persons named will be responsible,” said the SSP.

# Factionalism grips Pinapaka Congress in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: Group politics in Pinapaka Congress intensified as the party leaders have been running separate factions against the MLA (ST) Payam, Venkateswarlu creating a rift in the party in the constituency. The MLA, who is said to be making efforts to tighten his grip on the party affairs in the constituency, has been facing opposition from his rival groups. Until recently, the party’s senior leader Tulluri Brahmaiah maintained a faction of his own. But recently, another leader, Gurijala Gopi, has started mobilising the party cadres creating his own faction against the MLA. These groups have been running the party programmes independently without the involvement of the MLA, much to his disappointment.

# HC bars Punjab government from large-scale ad campaigns till pending DA paid to employees



GNS News Agency, August 8

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday directed the Punjab government to release the pending Dearness Allowance (DA) to its employees and pensioners within 15 days and barred it from issuing any large-scale advertisement campaigns until the dues are paid.Rejecting appeals by the State and Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) challenging a single-judge verdict, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor also made it clear that if the payment is not made by the end of the deadline, the government will have to pay six per cent simple interest on the outstanding amount.“The State of Punjab and PSPCL are directed to grant and release all up-to-date pending installments of Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief (DA/DR) to all its employees and pensioners, respectively, at the same rates as has been paid to the members of the All India Services (IAS/IPS/IFS) serving within the State of Punjab, in accordance with the Central Government pattern, within a fortnight,” the bench ruled.

“Till all such dues are cleared, the State of Punjab shall not resort to any unproductive expenditures such as large-scale advertising campaigns in print or social media as these expenses cannot justify the denial of dues admissible to State employees”, the Bench ordered.The bench also directed the Punjab chief secretary to to ensure “scrupulous compliance of the directions” and “file a compliance report by way of affidavit” by August 31, 2026. The State government had earlier submitted that it was not in a position to comply with the single bench directions to release arrears amounting to more than Rs 15,000 crore.Delivering the order, the division bench laid emphasis on “unproductive expenditures” “...the issue of financial constraints is being raised as a ground for withholding the legitimate dues of the State’s own employees. However, as per the information available in the public domain, the State is expending large amounts of money on grant of freebies, doles, advertorial campaigns, and other expenditure, which would not strictly fall within the domain of essential expenditure by a welfare State, cannot be brushed aside, lightly,” the bench said.

The bench further held that State cannot withhold the legitimate dues payable to the employees. “Viewed in any manner, large scale advertising campaigns in print or so-

cial media and other unproductive expenses cannot justify denial of dues admissible to the State employees,” it added.If implemented, close to 8 lakh employees and pensioners will benefit from the order. The salary of certain employees could increase by approximately Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per month.The State government had challenged the order submitting that it was not in a position to comply with the single bench directions to release arrears that amount to more than Rs 15,000 crore.Rejecting Punjab’s submission, a single bench of Justice Harpreet Singh Brar on April 8 had directed the state government and PSPCL to grant 58 per cent DA alongwith arrears to all employees and pensioners at par with officers from the IAS, IPS, IFS and judicial services. The court had given the State to comply with the order by June 30. The petitioners had earlier submitted that DA instalments with effect from July 1, 2023 have not been released to serving employees and pensioners. They had also challenged a liquidation plan submitted by the Punjab government proposing to pay the pending pension and DA to employees over five financial years and for pensioners below the age of 75 years over 42 instalments without interest.

The division bench, however, termed the proposal a “discriminatory approach” and held that the state government was bound by its policy decision of adopting the central government pattern for payment of DA.The then Congress led dispensation in Punjab had in June 2021 approved the recommendation of the 6th Pay Commission to grant DA to the state employees on the patter of central government. It, however, failed to release the money following which employees moved the court.In the high court, the Punjab government had argued that it had not accepted the June 2021 report. It had submitted that a new plan had been introduced on February 18, 2025. The government had further contended that Punjab already provides its employees with higher pay scales than many other states (“high pay master”), and therefore there was no need to grant additional DA.However, Advocate Sunny Singla, appearing for the employee organizations, argued that the Punjab government is legally bound to provide DA to its employees and pensioners in accordance with the central government pattern. He pointed out that IAS, IPS, IFS, and judicial officers were already receiving DA at central government rates, while other employees and pensioners were being unfairly denied the same benefit.According to Singla, the court also directed the government to release the DA pending from January 1, 2016.

The Punjab government is currently paying 42% DA to its employees. However, compared to central government staff, 18 per cent DA remains unpaid. Employee organizations had long been demanding that this gap be eliminated and the outstanding amount be released.Employee organisations also relied on a judgment of the Supreme Court, which held that DA is not a bonus or an ex gratia payment but an integral component of an employee’s salary. On this basis, they argued that the pending DA and arrears should be released without further delay.

# ‘Vicky aaya hai’: Faridabad teacher’s killer used husband’s name to trap her

GNS News Agency, August 8

Sandhya, a 30-year-old English teacher at Saraswati Senior Secondary School in Faridabad’s Sikrona, was at work when she was informed that “Vicky” was waiting for her. Her husband, Vikas, often went by ‘Vicky’. She did not know then what awaited her.CCTV footage from the school shows a man waiting at the school entrance, his face covered with a cloth. As soon as Sandhya stepped out, hoping to find her husband, the man pulled her by the hand and stabbed her at least 20 times. The footage shows Sandhya falling to the ground, screaming, but the stabs didn’t stop. A colleague, Tejpal, tried to save her, but the attacker threatened him with a knife. Sandhya succumbed to her injuries soon after. The attacker fled the scene on a bike without a number plate, the school staff said. However, police identified and caught the accused, Amit (21), within two hours.According to the police, Sandhya earlier worked at a school in Faridabad’s Kot village. Amit’s family owned the school building, and that’s how he first spoke to her. Subsequently, Amit started harassing Sandhya. She left the job and moved to the Sikrona-based school, but the stalking continued. Sandhya also registered a police complaint against Amit, following which he apologised. Police said he nursed a grudge.“The victim explicitly asked the accused to stop following her and warned him of legal action if he continued to harass her. Agitated by her refusal to talk to him, the accused planned the attack,” a police officer said.Following the murder, Sandhya’s husband Vikas registered a complaint at the Sector 58 police station, and a murder case was registered. “Our team acted swiftly on technical inputs and human intelligence. The suspect was traced and nabbed from the area within two hours of the



crime being reported,” the officer said, adding that the knife used in the crime had been recovered.

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# Social media influencer seeks arrest of CJP founder over assault

GNS News Agency, August 8

New Delhi: A social media influencer has submitted a written complaint to the police against Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke, seeking his immediate arrest over allegations of physical assault and concerns related to his personal security.The complainant, Faizan Ansari, alleged that individuals linked to Dipke had physically attacked him in Pune and Aurangabad. He claimed that police complaints had already been lodged in connection with both incidents in Maharashtra and asserted that the previous complaints and related evidence were available with him.

In his complaint, Ansari further alleged that Dipke had extended support to individuals associated with anti-national activities and had allegedly provided financial assistance to people to participate in the protests held at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar.He demanded that the police conduct a detailed investigation into the allegations, register an FIR, and initiate action in accordance with the law.Speaking to IANS, Ansari said, “I have submitted a written complaint to the DCP, requesting the immediate arrest of Abhijeet Dipke. I want to tell the public about what I have gone through. I was attacked by him, once in Pune and once in Aurangabad. I have filed police complaints in both cases and have evidence related to them.”



Claiming that the protests were being backed financially, he further said, “This is a paid campaign. He is paying celebrities to attend the protest... I received all this information from Mumbai.”He further claimed that Dipke’s alleged activities could pose a threat to social harmony and public order, urging the authorities to conduct an impartial probe and take strict legal action if any wrongdoing is established.“These people (CJP members) support the person who had once said, ‘Bharat tere tukde honge’. I would like to tell Dipke that India will not be broken into pieces; we won’t let that happen; however, your party surely will be broken. I will fight this till my last breath.

# Construction of highway spur connecting NH-205A to Zirakpur bypass to begin in Dec



GNS News Agency, August 8

The construction of the 10.30-km spur (PR-07) — connecting the Ambala-Chandigarh section of the National Highway (NH) 205A to Zirakpur bypass — is set to begin in December this year, with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) targeting completion within two years.A spur is a small section that splits off from a main highway to connect commuters to a particular destination.The six-lane greenfield corridor, whose foundation was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July, is being developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). According to the details, the project has been awarded to M/s Ceigall Infra Ltd for its execution.

HAM is a public-private partnership model used by the government, especially for highway projects, to reduce financial risk for private developers while ensuring timely construction.The government (through the NHAI) will give 40 per cent of the project cost to the developer during the construction period in stages while the private developer will finance the remaining 60 per cent, construct the highway, and is responsible for its maintenance for a specified period.After the road is completed, the NHAI repays the developer’s investment through fixed semi-annual annuity

# 57 booked as trading platform probed for forex investment scam

GNS News Agency, August 8Pune Rural police launched a probe into the operations of TP Global FX, a multi-asset trading platform that has been the subject of major criminal investigations — including by the Enforcement Directorate — for allegedly running a massive illegal forex trading and investment scam across India. In a case registered, 57 people linked to the entity including its key officials and local agents were booked.A First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Narayangaon police station under Pune Rural police last week based on the complaint filed by a 50-year-old businessman from Junnar taluka who was duped of over Rs one crore by the company and its representatives.

“Multiple cases have till now been registered in West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra against the company and its representatives. Based on the case registered at Narayangaon, we will investigate the footprint of the company in Pune district.” said an officer.The officer added, “The complainant had approached Kolkata police with the complainant. A Zero FIR was registered at Hare Street Police station in Kolkata which was transferred to Pune Rural police. The case was registered at Narayangaon police station as the complainant is a resident of the jurisdiction.”Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office has filed multiple prosecution complaints in connection with the ongoing investigation under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The ED said TP Global Forex trading illegally collected over Rs 2,000 crore from the public in the name of forex trading. The amount was collected in dummy bank accounts opened with the assistance of associates.ED initiated investigation



based on FIRs registered by police in Kolkata, Maharashtra and Gujarat. “As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the website of TP Global FX is neither registered with RBI nor does it have any authorisation from RBI for forex trading. The RBI issued an alert list including the name of TP Global FX vide a press release in September 2022, which was published to caution the public against unauthorised trading platforms,” the ED has said.“ED investigation revealed a sophisticated deception was orchestrated by individuals by utilising numerous dummy companies to entice investors/ general public into a fraudulent scheme promising high returns on forex trading investments through TP Global FX. The total amount of seized/frozen/attached assets in the case stands at approximately Rs 291 crores, in the form of cash, gold, real estate, hospitality establishments, office spaces, agricultural land, vehicles, cryptocurrencies, and bank balances,” the ED has said.

# An exhibition with a political edge, open to all – to see, interpret and buy

There’s a fire extinguisher covered by typography print, a graffiti-painted toilet bowl with illustrated toilet paper rolling out of it, and blue and orange crates with zines, stickers, matchboxes, and puzzles in them.There are no “Do not touch” signs; everything in the exhibition is meant to be picked up, flipped through, bought, and taken home.Advertising professional Priyanshi said she admired the “smaller tangibles like postcards, comics, and clay miniatures” “because these days people like to have art that they can use”. Vasudha, a lawyer, said she wanted the art around her to remind her of a place, an experience or a particular moment.Organisers of the ‘Paper and Play’ exhibition, ongoing at Gallery XXL in Defence Colony until August 22, said it was important to ensure that interest in the exhibits was not limited to art collectors alone.So the least expensive exhibit costs only Rs 100, Sarah Malik, who has curated the show with Giulia Ambrogi and Priyanshi S., said. “And the most expensive is a hand-painted work by (the Japanese-American graffiti artist) AIKO which costs Rs 2 lakh.”

An exhibition with a political edge, open to all – to see, interpret and buy A fire extinguisher artwork. (Express Photo)More than 200 artworks are stickers, prints, and matchboxes; around 500 are publications. “We want the exhibition to be for students, culture workers, and anyone who is interested in art,” Malik said.AIKO, who is a co-founder of the artists’ collective FAILE, which came to be known for wheatpasting and stencilling images around New York City, said street graffiti offered her a language that was “immediate, free, and alive”.

“A mural isn’t experienced in isolation, it is shaped by the neighbourhood, the architecture, the people passing by, and even the time of day. Viewers often discover the work unexpectedly, which creates a more direct and spontaneous connection. You don’t need a ticket or an invitation to experience it. For me, it’s about creating something that captures attention while also encouraging people to pause, reflect, and maybe see their surroundings a little differently,” she told over the phone from New York City.Khatra, the artist who created the fire extinguisher artwork as part of a 2022-23 series on the emotional weight of safety in the post-pandemic period, said he wanted to “turn a familiar emergency object into something that invites attention and reflection, rather than disappearing into the background until it is needed”. Khatra uses retroreflective vinyl which is used in street signs and on trucks and taxis, along with spray paint and paint markers, which are staples of street art.‘Zines’ – short for magazine or fanzine; self-published booklets that are usually made by hand or photocopied in



small numbers, with a focus on creative freedom rather than profit – are an important part of the ‘Paper and Play’ exhibition.Debashish, an artist from Bangladesh, said the nature of the exhibition allowed artists to choose those for whom their art was intended. “These formats, posters, zines, matchbox labels, packaging design... are not exclusively designed for gallery walls or artistic establishments... When I work with these forms, I’m making a decision about who the work is for and how it should travel,” he said.

Co-curator Malik pointed out that posters, zines and similar forms of visual communication were able to reach people who may never enter a gallery in the normal course. The language of visuals – brash and eye-catching – has increasingly become part of protests, memes and political culture online; it was a very prominent part, for example, of last month’s GenZ and student protests at Jantar Mantar. The political context of art stands out in the Paper and Play exhibition. The names of the zines – ‘How To Write (Not another hero) Journey’, ‘KNAP’, ‘Sports Sucks’ – the text on exhibits such as matchboxes (‘Caution: May ignite conversation’), and publications such as ‘Modernism/ Murderism’ and ‘Blat’s Anthology of Gujarati Pulp Fiction’, make a series of statements on caste discrimination, queer identity, political resistance, and feminism.None of the works carry description tags, and the name of the artist is taped on the floor, so only those who seek them see them. “I think it prods the viewer to question or think a little bit more about the art in front of them,” Malik said. The point is to allow the viewer to interpret the artwork without nudging them towards a ‘right’ interpretation, they said.Sitting on the floor by a window, a student viewer said: “I don’t know where I can display these zines, but I am going to give them to my friends to read. We can pass the matchbox around too, and sit on that spray-painted chair. That chair would have been such a hit at Jantar Mantar.”

# Fragmentation muddies the poll picture in north-west Maharashtra



All three major leaders of the ruling Mahayuti coalition — the Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Fadnavis, the Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde and the Nationalist Congress Party's Ajit Pawar — have prestige, fortune and power at stake in the upcoming Assembly election in Maharashtra. Yet, from the looks of the contest on the ground, this election seems a make-or-break situation for Mr. Pawar more than his colleagues in the coalition. Dindori is a Scheduled Tribes reserved seat in Nashik district. The sitting MLA, Narhari Zirwal, belongs to the NCP and also serves as the Deputy Speaker in the current Assembly. A seasoned tribal politician, his fealty to Mr. Ajit Pawar precedes the split within the party — he was one of the NCP MLAs who accompanied Mr. Ajit Pawar to the Raj Bhavan when Mr. Fadnavis was sworn in as the Chief Minister in an early morning ceremony in November 2019. He now has the unenviable task of retaining an Assembly seat in a constituency where the NCP(Sharad Pawar) led by a large margin — more than 82,000 votes and by nearly 34 percentage points — in the Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Zirwal's co-existence within the Mahayuti has not been comfortable recently — he was among a few tribal legislators who jumped from the Mantralaya building from the third floor onto safety nets, to protest against the government's inaction in hiring tribal students for State-level jobs. But he is among a few NCP veterans who are banking on Mr. Ajit Pawar's appeal as an administrator and the idea that joining the Mahayuti has helped their constituents in terms of welfare. Mr. Ajit Pawar, who is one of the two Deputy Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, held a rally in Dindori on Thursday. There seems to be a stark contrast between the NCP and the NCP(SP) rallies in western Maharashtra. The latter, especially the one on Wednesday in Manchar in Ambegaon, was like a political festival attended by farmers, farm-workers, supporters and a lot of onlookers perched from buildings or other vantage points. Mr. Ajit Pawar's rallies on the other hand, seem like a professionally managed event with supporters brought in on buses and turning out decked in party colours and insignia, and arrangements made for food and water. The younger Pawar's Mahayuti public meeting featured speeches by leaders who placed emphasis more on the schemes launched by the government with the crowd presenting a largely staid response, unlike the atmosphere in the Manchar rally. Does this reflect the mood of the electorate? Mr. Zirwal may argue otherwise pointing to a substantial accrual of support following schemes such as the Ladki Bahin Yojana. Indeed, local reporters said many women did receive five instalments of cash transfers from the scheme but Sunita Charoskar — the wife of former MLA Ramdas Charoskar — fielded by the NCP(SP) will be banking on Sharad Pawar's strong appeal in the constituency.

As one travels northward from Dindori to Kalwan, another reserved tribal seat, the terrain shifts from a mofussil milieu to a more rural one. The lands seem more verdant with a preponderance of cash crops being grown on fertile black soil, such as flowers, corn among others. We see

more of the Western Ghats as we go further in this region which is also host to a large tribal population, many of whom are also engaged in agriculture. Kalwan is also witnessing a direct contest between the two grand coalitions with the Mahayuti fielding the NCP's sitting MLA Nitin Pawar against the MVA's Jiva Pandu Gavit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). Mr. Nitin Pawar's sister-in-law Bharati Pawar lost the Lok Sabha election on the BJP ticket in Dindori but was a prominent tribal face in the Narendra Modi Cabinet between 2019 and 2024. Mr. Nitin Pawar's father Arjun Pawar held the constituency from 1990 to 2014 before losing to Mr. Gavit. Mr. Nitin Pawar is banking on his family's appeal in the seat which has been built over many tenures.

Mr. Gavit was a prominent face of the farmers' historic 'Long March' from Dindori to Mumbai that took place in March 2018. Thousands of farmers, including tribal ones, had marched, many barefoot, to protest against the government's failure to address their demands and this ended only when the government made assurances. Mr. Gavit's activist supporters say that some demands were fulfilled, but the assurances were still not implemented and this resulted in farmer anger against the Mahayuti government, witnessed in the defeat of the NDA in Dindori and Kalwan in the Lok Sabha election. They frame Mr. Gavit as being a "peoples' man", forever taking on authorities to address grievances of the farmers and tribals in the region.

An elderly Muslim, who goes by the appellation "Maamu", provides a series of anecdotes of how Mr. Gavit led struggles. Tribals who were part of the Long March aver that they continue to swear by Mr. Gavit and suggest that the welfare schemes launched by the Mahayuti government came too late in the day. Shantaram Baghul, a tribal farmer with substantial land holdings and a relative of Mr. Nitin Pawar, argues otherwise. He says that Mr. Nitin Pawar's family and their legacy of bringing in developmental work to Kalwan will outweigh any concerns. He turns derisive when asked about Mr. Gavit, calling him an agitator and someone who supports tribals who "occupy" forest land for agriculture. Mr. Nitin Pawar also enjoys support from small establishment owners but his task seems cut out as he managed only a narrow win (by 6,600 votes and 2.4 percentage points) in 2019 and any accrual of support from the erstwhile united NCP to Mr. Gavit — who has a strong support base — could help the latter sail through. Nashik contest Unlike Dindori and Kalwan, the urban seats in Nashik feature the contest between various strands of political Hinduism — the Hindutva of the BJP and its closest ideological ally, the Shiv Sena (led by Mr. Shinde), the moderate Shiv Sena (UBT) that swears by an "inclusive" definition of Hindutva, and the nativist-Hindutva espousing Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). Once a bastion of the MNS in the late 2000s and early 2010s, Nashik is no longer so for the party. Yet, in the pitched electoral battle between the two major coalitions, the MNS candidates in the fray in Nashik East and West could act as spoilers. Prasad Sanap is barely into his thirties and is a relatively new entrant to the MNS after a long stint in the BJP's Yuva Morcha. He seems confident about his prospects in Nashik East despite a recent setback. He faces an extortion case filed by his own partyman and district secretary Yogesh Patil for allegedly snatching cash from the latter's residence; Mr. Sanap alleges that Mr. Patil had not submitted election expenditure accounts to the Election Commission and that he had gone to demand election expenses. He shrugs at the allegations and says that he will secure a mandate for his civic agenda. The NCP(SP) has fielded BJP dissident Ganesh Gite as a candidate against the BJP's sitting MLA Rahul Dhikle. Mr. Sanap argues that the electorate will vote in favour of his qualifications, youth and agenda but the task seems formidable for a party in decline.



over a million votes. Five months following that triumph, Hussain faced another electoral battle, this time in his home turf of Samaguri where his son Tanzil was given the Congress ticket for the by-election. Hussain's move from Samaguri to Dhubri, located around 370 km away, hasn't gone well with some sections of voters who feel he has deserted them. The Congress's decision to give the ticket to Hussain's son also riled some voters. With the AIUDF deciding not to field any candidate from the seat where minority voters play a decisive role in the outcome, the ruling BJP, which fielded Diplu Ranjan Sarma, is hoping to win the seat for the first time targeting Hussain for neglecting Samaguri for over two decades and nepotism. The keenly contested seat witnessed incidents of pre-poll violence between both Congress and BJP supporters; journalists covering the campaign were also targeted. A win for Tanzil would mean the continuation of Hussain and his family's hold over the seat, but a loss would hurt his political career and ensure further inroads by the BJP into traditional Congress vote banks. Phani Bhushan Choudhury No other politician in Assam has had such a long and successful electoral innings as AGP's Phani Bhushan Choudhury. The 72-year-old has won from the Bongaigaon assembly seat eight times since 1985. But despite his unwillingness to contest, the AGP leadership fielded him as its candidate from the Barpeta Lok Sabha seat this year. Choudhury continued his winning streak in the new seat as well but his home constituency became vacant for the first time in four decades. While AGP's local leaders in Bongaigaon wanted a change of face, the party leadership chose Choudhury's wife, Deeptimoyee, a political greenhorn, as their candidate for the by-election. This led to differences within AGP and 36 party leaders and workers from the district unit including president Bijay Singha and general secretary Shailen Sarkar resigning from the party. Sarkar contested the by-election as an independent candidate, accusing Choudhury of failing to develop Bongaigaon in the past four decades. Choudhury, who is very popular among voters in Bongaigaon due to his easy approachability and affable nature, told local TV channels that he will not participate in electoral politics in future. His popularity could help his wife secure a win this time. With assembly polls due in 2026, observers say Deeptimoyee could be a temporary arrangement until son Shantanu is handed the AGP ticket in the next election. But if Choudhury's wife loses,

# Universities are different from religious institutions



The M.A.O. College, established by Sir Syed in 1877, as also its outgrowth, the Aligarh Muslim University has been the finest constructive manifestation of Muslim educational and cultural activity after 1857. The Supreme Court of India in S. Azeez Basha (1967), without even giving the university an opportunity of being heard, had declared it to be an institution that was neither established nor administered by Muslims. The seven-judge Bench judgment in the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) case (2024) is in tune with the series of liberal and progressive decisions on minority rights by the top court in the last 75 years with the only aberration being Azeez Basha (1967), now comprehensively overruled. But to say that the judgment is a 4:3 one may not be correct as on certain points one finds unanimity on the Bench. Even though dissenting judges such as in the 1967 judgment attached much importance to the statutory provisions of the Aligarh Muslim University Act, they were of the view that merely looking at the incorporating statute is not the appropriate test to determine the minority character of a university.

Dissent was not really dissent The AMU judgment 2024 is unique where dissents were not really dissents in the broad interpretation of Article 30 of the Constitution — in terms of it extending protection to universities, pre-constitutional-era institutions, and non-waiver of fundamental rights. Interestingly, Justice Dipankar Datta himself admitted that he was in a minority within minority as despite his substantial agreement with 'thoughts and conclusions' with the two dissenting judges, his views too differed with theirs. Accordingly, on the issue of the validity of the 1981 reference to seven judges, the judgment is 4:3. But on the validity of the 2019 reference, the judgment is 6:1. Therefore, the former Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud-led bench had a valid reference to answer. One may not have any quarrel with Justice Dutta's appreciation of pre-independence-era judges including CJI K.N. Wanchoo, who was an ICS officer, but the Constitution cannot remain a living and transformative document if earlier judgments of a positivist era are not overruled. The Supreme Court is not bound by its earlier judgments. Its jurisprudence improved when it overruled formalistic interpretations of 'procedure established by law' of A.K. Gopalan (1950) in Maneka Gandhi (1978). Similarly, K.S. Puttaswamy (2017), saw the eight-judge Bench judgment in M.P. Sharma (1954) being overruled to declare the right to privacy as a fundamental right. There is a long list of such overruled decisions. Even on the indicia to determine minority character, there was broad agreement among the seven judges, including Justice Datta, that broader criterion is to be preferred with a flexible framework and a holistic approach. There is unanimity in the judgments that minorities must prove 'intent to administer'. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed that the 'right to administer is the consequence of establishment. To do otherwise, would amount to converting a consequence to a pre-condition'. He was simply following the ratio of Basha (1967); that if a minority has established an institution, it would get the consequential right to administer. Judicial discipline has been rightly given prominence by the dissenting judges. But then, in deciding the contours of administration, how can they go beyond the 11-judge Bench judgment in T.M.A. Pai Foundation (2002) that limited it to selection of students, fixation of fee, choosing of governing bodies and right to discipline employees? The nine-judge Bench in Xaviers (1974) explicitly observed that 'under the guise of exclusive right of management, minorities cannot decline to follow the general pattern. In Kerala Education Bill (1958), the Court had held that the dominant word in Article 30 is 'choice'. Xaviers (1974) reiterated this

choice, both in establishment as well as administration.

Focus on the incorporating Act Dissenting judges attached much importance to the incorporating Act. But then, Justice M.H. Beg in Xaviers (1974) was categorical that "If the object of an enactment is to compel a minority Institution, even indirectly, to give up the exercise of its fundamental rights, the provisions which have this effect will be void or inoperative against the minority Institution". Similarly, the CJI was right that mere acknowledgment of the founder's name in itself in the statute cannot be the determining factor. In fact, if the 'overriding governmental control' test of dissenting judges is applied on their own examples of institutions, it would become clear that in comparison to AMU, they have much tighter governmental control, including the power to dissolve such minority universities. India's courts have been permitting governmental regulations to maintain efficiency and standards and not as a yardstick to determine minority character. Greater governmental control is basically allowed in the interests of non-minorities who receive education in such minority institutions and those who are affected by the administrative decisions of minority management. Surprisingly, Justice Datta, who alone held both the references as non est or invalid, in an unprecedented manner, not only answered the reference but also decided the matter himself by applying the indicia given by the majority as well as minority judges leaving nothing for the three judges' Bench. This was also after observing in paragraph 13 that "it is foregone conclusion that history would be rewritten and declaration of Aligarh Muslim University by this court as a minority educational institution is only a matter of time". If he himself was correct in applying the indicia and reached a definite conclusion, why was he so sure that a three-judge Bench would reach a different finding? A reference Bench generally avoids prejudging the outcome of a matter by the regular Bench. The dissenting judges also emphasised the test of minority dominance to such an extent that a minority university cannot get minority character just because being a university, it accepted its governance structure being similar to that of other universities. The test that the claim of minority character must rest on exclusive or near exclusive communal character of the institution is not a good sign. Universities are different from religious institutions and the expectation of liberal institutions of secular education to indulge in ghettoisation is contrary to the vision of Article 30. Where there was erring Justice Dutta's view that ₹30 lakh was not raised for establishing the AMU is factually incorrect. There is a letter dated August 9, 1912 from Harcourt Butler, Member of the Governor-General in the Council, making this a condition precedent for the incorporation of the university. Justice Datta has overlooked some crucial clauses of the dissolution provision which retained the continuity with the M.A.O. College. The AMU inherited all debts, liabilities, privileges and rights of M.A.O. College. Since Justice Datta himself has accepted M.A.O. College as a minority institution, in terms of Section 4, the AMU automatically inherited its character.

Where the majority went wrong was on the question of the minority surrendering its right to administer because the apex court in Basheshar Nath (1959) had held that a waiver of fundamental rights is constitutionally impermissible. Dissenting judge Justice S.C. Sharma himself ruled out the possibility of such surrender. In the context of Article 30, Justices Y.V. Chandrachud and K.K. Mathew were of the opinion, in Xaviers (1974), that these rights cannot either be 'bartered or surrendered'. In no other case on Article 30 has the Supreme Court done this kind of minute scrutiny as in the AMU cases — in 1968 and 2024. The former CJI has rightly held that a minority institution too can be an 'institution of national importance' because minorities are an integral part of the nation and may establish great institutions. Sir Anthony Patrick MacDonnell, Lt. Governor of the North West Province and Oudh in 1896, rightly predicted the future character of M.A.O. College when he said, "It is not too much to hope that this College will grow into the Mahomedan University of the future; that this place will become the Cardova of the East, and that in these clusters Mahomedan genius will discover, and under the protection of the British Crown, work out that social, religious and political regeneration, of which neither Stamboul, nor Mecca, afford a prospect." The AMU has lived up to this expectation.

# India needs a globally recognised public policy school



Why is it that the world's largest democracy has yet to produce a world-class public policy institution? The United States and Europe boast of institutions such as the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard Kennedy School) and the London School of Economics which train leaders who shape not only national but global governance. Yet, India, with its complex democratic structure and urgent developmental challenges, sends its finest to be trained abroad. This is not for lack of policy schools — India has many — but it has to do with the structure of India's political and institutional landscape. The executive has the reins

Public policy institutions thrive only when they influence power and decision-making. However, in India, there are limited access points for public policy commentators, academics, and civil society groups to influence policy. This is because much of the decision-making power is vested in the executive and operationalised primarily through the political elite, government officials and bureaucrats rather than through a deliberative legislative process. The oversight role of the legislature over the executive too is limited, leading to a fundamentally different policy ecosystem than in other major democracies. In the U.S., Congress' power to craft legislation independently of the executive creates space for a thriving policy ecosystem based on analysis, debate, and expertise, with each public representative providing a possible entry point into the deliberative process. This decentralised process sustains a vibrant ecosystem of policy schools, think tanks, and advocacy groups, that can secure funding and find paying clients because their analysis and expertise can meaningfully influence lawmaking. But in India, the centralisation of power within the executive — and of party leadership within political parties — diminishes the influence of these groups unless they have access to top leadership and are aligned with their political priorities. The weak formalisation of the Indian state further creates a disconnect between politics and policy, relegating policy discourse to a downstream role rather than making it constituent of the larger political platform. Consequently policy professionals lack the top-tier influence of other countries. The power factor and where the wind blows Further, influence on decision-making is closely tied to who is in power. The executive's ability to realign the public sphere when power changes hands is more extreme in India than in more institutionalised democracies. This

creates fragility in public life, where those central to decision-making can find themselves sidelined when regimes change. In more institutionalised democracies, think tanks, media and civil society groups can maintain relative influence regardless of who is in power, which helps stabilise the policy ecosystem. These factors are unique to India among other large democracies and demand a different approach to policy education. To create a top-tier public policy school in India, we must design an institution suited to our political reality — where power is informal, personalised, and heavily dependent on executive control. Such an institution must serve dual purposes: first, equipping students with both traditional policy expertise and an understanding of India's unique power dynamics; and second, facilitating a more stable policy ecosystem. Unlike western policy schools that focus on formal institutions and assume straightforward paths to influence, an Indian institution must teach students to navigate a complex web of informal networks, regional power structures, and social dynamics. The curriculum must go beyond traditional policy education to map how power actually works — through relationships, caste hierarchies, regional elites, and grassroots movements. Students need to learn not just policy theory but also how to be effective in a system where power is opaque and unevenly distributed, where idealism must meet pragmatism and the ability to adapt to local conditions to create real change. Most importantly, to truly train development leaders who want to do good for their country, the school must select for, and cultivate, empathy for the people of our country. Too often, empathy for the lived reality of people's lives is overlooked and leads to top-down dictates that can wreak havoc in people's lives.







