

Denied fresh loans, debt traps await Telangana farmers

Hyderabad: With several banks not offering fresh loans to a large number of farmers citing various reasons, the farmers are under severe stress as they have to look towards private lenders to take up agricultural activities. Agriculture experts feel that if the banks turn their back on farmers, they would be forced to approach private lenders which will in turn land them in a debt trap. Small farmers who approach unregistered private money lenders after they are denied loans by the banks fall into an unending debt trap. The lenders constantly harass them, issuing threats or seizing their lands, which sometimes pushes them to attempt suicide. Already a farmer from Iskilla village of Ramannapet mandal of Yadadri Bhongir district died of heart attack on Friday after bank officials told him that they could not issue him a fresh loan. He collapsed in the banks while pleading with the officials to issue him a fresh loan. Another farmer from Bommanpad village of Narayanpet district collapsed while waiting in the queue in an SBI branch for a fresh loan on Saturday.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, during the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), had recently urged the banks to issue fresh loans to farmers to take up agricultural activities. However, despite this, banks are not issuing fresh loans to all farmers. Complaints of banks denying fresh loans to farmers are pouring in from different parts of the State on a daily basis. This has led to a peculiar situation in the State. Farmers who have not received the crop loan waiver are agitating on roads and in front of banks and those who received the waiver are struggling to get fresh loans.

Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations Chief Advisor Peddireddy Chengal Reddy said it was the duty of the State government to ensure that every farmer got fresh loans from banks. "Banks cannot deny loans to farmers. It is against norms and RBI guidelines. The Chief Minister should talk to banks and see that every eligible farmer gets loans. If the banks do not listen, then the State government should bring it to the notice of RBI and Finance Ministry," he said. If the banks do not issue fresh loans to farmers, they would be forced to approach private lenders, who would be charging high interest, putting additional burden on the farmers, he observed. Crop loans are critical for the agrarian cycle and are used to fund the purchase of farm inputs—seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and so on— ahead of the cropping season. The government subsidizes loans to farmers, and banks are mandated to give out farm loans, however, the banks often deny loans to them on one pretext or another. On top of this, there is no input assistance from the State government either this time, with the Rythu Bharosa scheme yet to be launched. Farmers recalled that they used to get Rythu Bandhu

amount in time during the BRS regime, but ever since the Congress came to power, there was no such timely financial assistance from the government. Situation no different in Karimnagar: Karimnagar: Though farmers who got their crop loans waived approached banks here, they are being denied fresh loans. Many of them were denied on account of the pending interest amount of the previous loans from the cut-off date announced by the government. The State government had announced to waive crop loans (up to Rs 2 lakh) taken up to December 9, 2023. According to the conditions, farmers have to pay the interest amount for the period of the remaining eight to nine months (after December 9, 2023). It is only if they clear this amount that they will be eligible for fresh loans. Lead bank manager Anjaneyulu said farmers would have to pay the pending interest amounts if they wanted fresh loans. Fresh crop loans worth Rs 553.93 crore were sanctioned in the first quarter of this year and Rs 222.76 crore was given in July and August, according to



officials. However, even as the Vanakalam season is drawing to an end, farmers trying to get loans are being denied the same with banks citing different reasons. Some farmers were also told that their age was a

negative factor.

All these factors are once again pushing farmers towards private money lenders, a situation that Rythu Bandhu had done away with.

Hyderabad sees significant surge in residential property price over 5 years; Kokapet tops list with 89 pc increase



Hyderabad: Hyderabad's real estate market has seen remarkable growth over the last five years, with several micro-markets recording substantial price appreciation, according to the recent ANAROCK research report. Leading the charge is Kokapet, which experienced an impressive 89 per cent rise in residential property prices. In 2019, the average price in Kokapet was Rs 4,750 per sq. ft., which surged to Rs 9,000 per sq. ft. by the first half of 2024, the ANAROCK report said. This growth is largely driven by the area's attraction as a premium residential hub,

with 52 per cent of new launches falling in the ultra-luxury segment, priced above Rs 2.5 crore.

Following Kokapet, Bachupally saw a 57 per cent increase in average property prices, rising from Rs 3,690 per sq. ft. in 2019 to Rs 5,800 per sq. ft. in H1 2024. Meanwhile, Tellapur recorded a 53 per cent hike, with prices going from Rs 4,819 per sq. ft. to Rs 7,350 per sq. ft. during the same period. Overall, Hyderabad has witnessed the highest city-level price appreciation among India's top seven cities, with an average increase of 64 per cent between

2019 and H1 2024. Meanwhile, the city has witnessed a substantial rise in new residential supply, particularly in key areas like Tellapur. Between 2019 and H1 2024, Tellapur saw the launch of 18,960 new units and average prices at Rs 7,350 per sq. ft. as of H1 2024, up from Rs 4,819 per sq. ft. in 2019 – rising by 53 per cent. Of the total new supply, 66 per cent was in the mid and premium segments, followed by 34 per cent in more than Rs 1.5 Cr bracket.

Hotel owner held for recording intimate videos of guests with spy cameras, extorting money

Hyderabad: A hotel owner who allegedly recorded intimate videos of guests with spy cameras installed in the rooms and extorted money from them was arrested by the RGI Airport police. According to the police, Ganesh, a native of Andhra Pradesh took a building on rent on Hyderabad – Bengaluru Highway and started a hotel a couple of years ago. He offered rooms on rent to young unmarried couples and collected small amounts as room charges from them. "Ganesh while filing in the form noted down the phone numbers and other particulars of the couple.

What if South Korea got a nuclear bomb?

The scenario is closer to a reality show than the science fiction it may once have seemed. South Korea has toyed with going nuclear in the past. The idea has gone from fringe to mainstream in recent years. Even the country's president, Yoon Suk Yeol, mused openly about South Korea building its own nukes in early 2023. Public support is high, fuelled in part by North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal: polls now show that some 70% of South Koreans think their country should have nuclear weapons (see chart). "Without them, South Korea won't have a chance to fight off the North," says Kim Young-sik, a former district head on Yeonpyeong Island, a flashpoint near the maritime border.

Under President Joe Biden, America has tried to reassure its unsettled ally. After Mr Yoon's comments last year, America and South Korea signed a declaration restating their commitment to "extended deterrence", America's promise to shield allies with its nuclear arsenal. A new consultative group brought South Korea closer to America's nuclear planning; an American nuclear-armed submarine docked in South Korea last year for the first time since 1981. In recent statements, Mr Yoon has talked down the chances of going nuclear. But if Donald Trump, who in the past threatened to pull American troops out of South Korea, is re-elected, the calculus will change. Many will ask if America can be trusted to defend South Korea, especially now that North Korea's intercontinental missiles put American cities at risk. "If Trump is president in America, it's all the more reason for us to have nukes," says Mr Kim. "I'm afraid that America won't take any action that will cost it anything." It is an acute form of a fear all American allies will face under an America First president.

South Korea has many reasons not to go for the bomb. North Korea, China and Russia would respond with economic pressure or sabre-rattling, and perhaps with outright aggression. Exiting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) could damage South Korea's international standing. Its trade-dependent economy would suffer if sanctions are imposed. Elites are less gung-ho about going nuclear than average voters, who may not be as aware of the risks: one-third of 175 South Korean experts and officials surveyed this year by CSIS, an American think-tank, support an independent nuclear arsenal. Mr Trump may not prove as disruptive as many fear. The relationship with South Korea enjoys bipartisan support in America. Congress could complicate plans to move troops by refusing to fund their relocation. Camp Humphreys, south of Seoul, is America's biggest overseas military installation and would be impossible to replicate elsewhere in Asia. Mr Trump may be satisfied if South Korea pays much more to host America's troops—and submitting to his notion of alliances as a protection racket may prove simplest for South Korea. But Mr Trump could also stoke doubts about America's commitment, fuel fears about entangling South Korea in a broader war with China, or seek a deal with Kim Jong Un, North Korea's tyrant. Mr Trump halted large-scale military exercises with South Korea during previous negotiations with Mr Kim, and, say former officials, had to be stopped from withdrawing troops from South Korea. In a second administration staffed with loyal-

ists, Mr Trump would have a freer hand. A mere tweet might dent confidence in America's extended deterrence. In the CSIS survey, more than half of the South Korean experts opposed to going nuclear say their support would increase if America were led by an America First president. There is a clear prequel to this show. In the early 1970s, with America facing defeat in Vietnam, Richard Nixon pulled out 20,000 of the 63,000 American troops stationed in South Korea and asked allies in Asia to take more responsibility for their own security. "There was huge uncertainty about the staying power of the United States," says Richard Lawless, who served as a CIA officer in Seoul at the time. North Korea did not have nuclear weapons, but it outgunned the South in conventional terms. Park Chung-hee, then South Korea's president, launched a secret effort to obtain nuclear-weapons technology. When Mr Lawless helped uncover the programme, American officials used pressure and security assurances to block it. South Korea joined the NPT in 1975.

Sweet charity

This time America's role may be different. Mr Trump might acquiesce to or even encourage South Korea's going nuclear, seeing extended deterrence as a charitable act rather than a cold calculation of American interests. Visiting Seoul in recent months, former officials close to Mr Trump have signalled unprecedented openness to the idea. Mike Pompeo, Mr Trump's secretary of state and CIA director, was asked about South Korea's developing its own nuclear capabilities. "There's no reason we should object to that," he answered, calling it "rational", given North Korea's arsenal. South Korea's nuclear script would resemble earlier episodes of proliferation in some respects and be singular in others. In "Seeking the Bomb", Vipin Narang, a political scientist who until recently oversaw nuclear policy at the Pentagon, lays out four strategies that potential proliferators pursue: hedging (putting pieces in place to keep the nuclear option available); sprinting (running towards nuclear weapons quickly); sheltered pursuit (acquiring them with a nuclear superpower's protection); and hiding (attempting to do so in secret). South Korea currently practises a form of hedging. Under Park's military dictatorship, it tried hiding. It could attempt that again. But it would be much harder in today's wired, raucous democracy. "There are too many eyes watching now," says Lee Sang-hyun of the Sejong Institute, a think-tank in Seoul. "If South Korea goes nuclear it would be public, with lots of noise." It would, in short, make a run for it, either with or without America's protection. Many experts and diplomats reckon that South Korea could race to build its first nuclear weapon in as little as one year. Since the 1970s, South Korea has developed a world-class civil-nuclear industry with a reputation for engineering prowess. It has 26 reactors across the country; South Korean firms are constructing nuclear plants in the United Arab Emirates and the Czech Republic. "By now the physics and the science have been done. What you need is good engineering," says Siegfried Hecker, who used to run America's nuclear laboratory at Los Alamos. "And they're really good in all aspects of engineering all things



nuclear." What South Korea lacks is the raw material of a bomb: highly enriched uranium or plutonium from reprocessed nuclear fuel. The country's nuclear industry does not currently reprocess spent fuel, and it imports the enriched uranium used in civilian reactors. South Korea would have to build new facilities to reprocess or enrich at scale. But it has stockpiles of spent fuel from its civilian reactors, which, while not ideal, could be used to make weapons. In a 2015 paper, Charles Ferguson, then the president of the Federation of American Scientists, wrote that South Korea has enough material for over 4,000 bombs.

South Korea could stop the show at enrichment. That would bring its nuclear capabilities in line with Japan's. (To South Korea's chagrin, America gives Japan special permission to reprocess spent fuel and enrich uranium, ostensibly to facilitate fuel recycling and to help with nuclear-waste management.) This middle-ground option would allow South Korea to shrink the time needed to build weapons in the future, without crossing the proliferation line. But South Korea is well-placed to go for full weaponisation. "They are already a missile power in their own right," says Ankit Panda of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, another American think-tank. "That's unprecedented in terms of other proliferators." South Korea has advanced short and mid-range ballistic missiles that could be equipped with nuclear warheads; it is the only non-nuclear-armed country in the world to have developed submarine-launched ballistic missiles. It would have to come up with new command-and-control systems for nukes, as well as a doctrine for their use.

Test cases Testing would pose a big challenge. South Korea is one-third the size of New Mexico, and densely populated. It would be hard to find a secluded site, or a province willing to tolerate the risks of radiation release from an underground-test facility. (North Korea's underground-test site is more remote, and its people have no say over the risks their rulers subject them to.) An atmospheric test would be provocative—China carried out the most recent in 1980. Computer simulations have become sophisticated, but would be unsatisfactory to any bomb designer. Even after completing its first nuclear devices, South Korea could not simply halt there. North Korea is believed to have dozens of nuclear weapons; its arsenal is already projected to grow into the hundreds by the

end of this decade. A South Korean nuclear programme would probably prompt the North to accelerate its own; Russia might help it. While South Korea would not need to match North Korea bomb for bomb, it would have to be sure it could strike back with nuclear weapons after being attacked with them first. South Korea would be vulnerable during its breakout. America could extend its nuclear umbrella in the meantime. But tensions would run high. North Korea could be counted upon to sabre-rattle. The probability of accidental escalation would rise. The possibility of a North Korean pre-emptive strike on South Korea, while unlikely, cannot be ruled out. Though polls indicate widespread support, plenty of domestic critics would speak out. Conservatives, who control the presidency until at least 2027, would be more likely to support an independent nuclear arsenal. Some in the opposition Democratic Party (DP), which now controls the National Assembly, might be in favour, either as a matter of necessity or as a means of achieving long-sought autonomy from America. Yet others would oppose it. "The nuclear option is a one-way ticket—if we go forward, it's impossible to go back," says Wi Sung-lac, a former ambassador and newly elected parliamentarian for the DP. Even if Mr Trump allows South Korea to go nuclear, "what happens if a traditional American administration returns after Trump and says no?" Going nuclear would amount to a drastic costume change for South Korea. Instead of being known globally for pop music and kimchi, it would be defined by the bomb. International sanctions might prove limp. America could veto any punishment at the United Nations. South Korea could try to exit the NPT legally, under an article that allows members to withdraw if "extraordinary events" threaten its "supreme interests". Partners in the West might be sympathetic to its case. Some restrictions would be triggered nonetheless. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), an international body which oversees fissile material for the civil industry, would probably call on members to cut off co-operation with South Korea. America could push for an exemption at the NSG, as it did for India. But without one, South Korea's nuclear export business would melt down and its domestic reactors would sit idle, knocking some 30% of South Korea's electricity production offline. If South Korea were to test a nuclear device, American law mandates an end to arms transfers and exports of dual-use technologies.

MG Windsor, India's First Intelligent Crossover Utility Vehicle [CUV], to Integrate Largest-in-Segment 15.6 inches 'GRANDVIEW Touch Display'

JSW MG Motor India has unveiled a new teaser for its upcoming vehicle, the MG Windsor - India's first Intelligent Crossover Utility Vehicle [CUV]. The video highlights the vehicle's impressive 15.6-inch 'GRANDVIEW Touch Display,' which sets a benchmark in the segment. The expansive screen size allows occupants to effortlessly navigate, control entertainment, and adjust vehicle settings with ease. The 15.6-inch touchscreen in the MG Windsor is designed to redefine the in-car experience that transforms the vehicle into a hub of entertainment, gaming, and learning, whenever it is stationary.

The 15.6-inch 'GRANDVIEW Touch Display' adds a touch of luxury while en-

hancing the cabin's overall aesthetics, making each journey more enjoyable. It perfectly complements Windsor's sophisticated design, offering Indian consumers the ideal blend of premiumness, style, and comfort. The brand-new Windsor draws inspiration from the iconic Windsor Castle in the UK that is an architectural masterpiece and is a symbol of royal heritage. The MG Windsor demonstrates meticulous craftsmanship and commitment to excellence, much like the legendary castle does too. Similar to the largest occupied castle in the world, the MG Windsor is crafted with precision and attention to detail, reflecting the same level of exclusivity and luxury that the Windsor castle embodies.

CUVs are progressively relevant to India with the evolving road network and infrastructure. Being the first Intelligent CUV, the Windsor promises to offer a perfect blend of aerodynamic design and spacious interiors, making it ideal for everyday use. It is versatile, ensuring that families can travel in ample comfort, whether it's for daily commutes or weekend getaways. The vehicle's higher ground clearance allows for better navigation over potholes, speed bumps, and uneven surfaces, all translating into a smoother and more comfortable drive.

About JSW MG Motor India

SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with a presence in over 100 coun-

tries and JSW Group (India's leading conglomerate with interests across B2B and B2C sectors) formed a joint venture - JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. in 2023. The joint venture aims to build a smart and sustainable automotive ecosystem while continuing to stay focused on developing a diverse portfolio of vehicles to give car buyers better access to advanced technologies and futuristic products with attractive value propositions. JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. is committed to introducing world-class technology, strengthening the manufacturing landscape, best of innovation across its business operations, and generating significant employment opportunities through extensive localisation.

Teach For India 2025 Fellowship: A Chance To 'Lead With Love' Starts In A Classroom



The deadline to apply for the 2025 Teach For India Fellowship is 1st September 2024 Mumbai, India, August 28, 2024: Teach For India, a non-profit championing educational equity has been accepting applications for its 2025 Fellowship. As a fellow, they will have a significant impact on the future of children, and will be leading the future leaders with love. The deadline for applying is 1st September, 2024. The Teach For India Fellowship is a two-year, full-time paid Fellowship program that brings under one roof fellows from different backgrounds and age groups drawn from over 500 universities, colleges, and 300 companies. The Fellowship application process is very rigid and receives applications from India's brilliant and most promising individuals. The chosen fellows

will serve as full-time teachers in affordable private schools or English-medium government schools, where they will focus on guiding students through the challenges of India's inequities. It will also provide fellows with valuable insights into various aspects of leadership, including emotional skills such as empathy, active listening, and relationship-building, all of which will contribute to their professional development.

To date, over 670 fellows have joined the 2024 Cohort, united by their shared goal of creating a compassionate and equitable India through education. The fact that differentiates the Teach For India Fellowship is the opportunity to bring about a significant change in the existing education paradigm. Apply For the Teach For India Fellowship 2025 | How To Be a Fellow

About Teach For India: Teach For India is a nationwide movement of leaders, working towards the vision of ensuring that every child in India receives an excellent education. Driven by the belief that meaningful change happens when we cultivate a collective force of leaders, Teach For India envisions an India free of poverty and filled with love, our leaders choose education as the path to get there. Over the next decade, the organization aspires to build a movement of 50,000 leaders. They will work collectively, with love, to transform the lives of 1 in 10 children from low-income communities in and beyond Teach For India's regions. Through its flagship 2-year Fellowship Program, Teach For India places India's brightest young minds in the most under-resourced classrooms in the

country, providing aspiring leaders with the support and ecosystem that they need in order to manifest change at all levels of the Indian education system. Today, 1000+ Fellows teach 34,000+ students directly in classrooms across eight cities. Over 5000 Alumni have gone on to establish or co-create more than 130 social impact organisations, and are able to consistently impact 50 million children across India.

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Irrespective of their dress, women attract male gaze, IIIT-Hyderabad study

Hyderabad: Irrespective of whether women wear a revealing dress or non-sexualized attire, they will attract male gaze and will be sexually objectified, a novel study on visual gaze by IIIT-Hyderabad researchers, said.

The study funded by Department of Science and Technology's (DST) Cognitive Science Research Initiative and presented at the Cognitive Science Society (CSS) conference 2024 in Rotterdam in July, shows how women experience objectification even in a non-sexualized attire. The paper titled, "Objectifying Gaze: An Empirical Study With Non-Sexualized Images" authored by Ayushi Agrawal, Srija Bhupathiraju under the guidance of Prof. Kavita Vemuri of the Cognitive Science Lab at IIIT-H examined visual gaze with eye tracking technology using cognitive science theories.

The study indicates that gaze objectification extend to women even if they wear non-sexualized dress.

PhonePe Payment Gateway Launches “PhonePe PG Bolt” to Revolutionize In-App Payments for Merchants

PhonePe Payment Gateway, today announced the launch of PhonePe PG Bolt, a groundbreaking solution that empowers merchants by offering the fastest in-app payment experience to customers with 99% success rate. PhonePe PG Bolt offers a 1-second transaction time with the widest reach for registered PhonePe merchants and users who can integrate their payments across apps without multiple onboarding. PhonePe PG Bolt offers a multitude of benefits that set it apart from other payment solutions in the market. With a focus on speed, convenience, and reliability, PhonePe PG Bolt delivers a 10x faster payment experience with UPI Lite, Wallets, EGVs, through a one click, PIN-less process. Unlike other solutions that require multiple steps and phone permissions, PhonePe PG Bolt eliminates these hurdles, ensuring enhanced customer experience and efficient payment journey which leads to increased conversion rates and drive business growth.

By providing complete control over the customer's payment experience within the merchant app, PhonePe PG Bolt eliminates the need for redirection to external payment platforms. Merchants can offer a wide range of payment options, including UPI Lite, UPI-linked bank accounts, elec-

tronic gift cards, Rupay credit cards, and wallets, to cater to diverse customer preferences. This comprehensive suite of payment options, coupled with PhonePe's extensive user base helps position merchants for success.

PhonePe PG Bolt addresses key challenges faced by merchants, especially Enterprises, by reducing transaction failures, eliminating payment funnel drop-offs, and minimizing cart abandonment. By integrating the PhonePe PG Bolt, merchants can significantly improve customer satisfaction, increase sales, and gain a competitive edge in the market. “We are excited to launch PhonePe PG Bolt as it represents a significant milestone in our mission to empower businesses and enhance the overall payment experience for consumers,” said Ankit Gaur, Head PhonePe Payment Gateway & Online Merchants. “By providing merchants with the tools to create a seamless and secure payment environment, we are confident that PhonePe PG Bolt will drive substantial growth and success for businesses of all sizes.”

By partnering with multiple leading banks, PhonePe PG Bolt ensures robust payment processing capabilities due to reduced transaction failures. India's leading beauty and lifestyle retailer, Nykaa is



among the early adopters of the new solution. “PhonePe PG Bolt offers a seamless, one-click payment solution that addresses drop-offs and improves success rates, enhancing our understanding of the customer journey and satisfaction. We are excited to elevate the retail experience for our cus-

tomers with this promising solution,” said Rajesh Uppalapati, Chief Technology Officer, Nykaa. PhonePe PG Bolt's ability to seamlessly integrate with PhonePe's platform enhances the overall UPI payment ecosystem and contributes to the growth of digital payments in India.

POCO Pad 5G Hits the Market: Sale Starts Today At 12 PM Available on Flipkart at just INR 19,999

POCO, a brand synonymous with rapid growth in India's consumer tech space, today commenced the sale of the POCO Pad 5G in India, available on Flipkart, starting 12 PM. With this device, POCO India has marked its entry into the

tablet market, bringing its signature combination of cutting-edge technology and unbeatable value to a new product category.

The POCO Pad 5G is designed for immersive entertainment at comfortable portability. The device delivers a stunning

visual experience with 2.5K resolution and 120Hz AdaptiveSync refresh rate. Equipped with Dolby Vision® and Dolby Atmos®, it perfectly balances entertainment, productivity, and creativity on the go. Powered by Snapdragon® 7s Gen 2, this next generation Pad boasts a powerful 10000 mAh battery with 33W fast charging support. The device comes with the POCO Smart Pen, POCO Keyboard and a back case. Additionally, the POCO Pad offers 2 years of Android updates and 3 years of security updates.

The POCO Pad 5G is available in two color options; Pistachio Green and Cobalt Blue. Buyers making payments through SBI, HDFC and ICICI bank cards will be eligible for a discount of INR 3000 to make

the device even more lucrative for Millennials. On top of that, POCO is offering an additional INR 1000 discount for students on the first day of the sale, leading to an effective price of INR 19,999* for the 8GB+128GB storage variant and INR 21,999* for the 8GB+256GB storage variant.

What's more? To truly empower its users with a seamless entertainment and productivity experience, the POCO Pad 5G comes with a free 1-year Times Prime membership for first 1500 customers and a free 6-month subscription to MS Office 365 (available to all buyers). It can be added as a bundle for INR 1 at the time of purchase. No cost EMIs are available with all leading banks for 3 months and 6 months.

Commotion prevails at Gajularamaram as man open fire in the air

Hyderabad: Commotion prevailed for a while at Gajularamaram on Tuesday night when a man opened fire in the air with a weapon suspected to be a country made one. According to the police, three people were going on a bike when it ran out of petrol at Gajularamaram road.

The trio parked the bike there and went to roadside where they found a motorcycle parked. One of them was trying to steal fuel from that vehicle when the owner confronted them. An argument ensued between the trio and the owner of the bike

who accused them of regularly stealing fuel and one of them called up his friends over phone. “Two people including one Naresh came in a car to the spot. Naresh then wiped out a weapon and fired in the air before escaping,” said Jeedimetla Inspector, G Mallesh.

The local people who gathered at the spot after hearing the sound of the firing caught hold of two people and handed over to the police. The police formed three special teams to nab Naresh, who is presently absconding.

Village Development through Say trees.



Kappatralla village is located 60 kilometers from Kurnool district in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. The village was extremely backward and resembled a desert due to lack

of development. For the past 40 years, the village was plagued by factional violence, disputes, and group politics, leaving it underdeveloped. In 2014, the then District SP, A.K. Ravi Krishna IPS, adopted the

Saytrees Rural Programmes Head, India.



We are transforming Kappatralla village into a horticulture hub, providing all necessary facilities to farmers to establish good livelihoods and helping them achieve economic prosperity.

By 2028, with the support of IPS officer A.K. Ravi Krishna, who has adopted this village, we are planning to develop it into a model farming village.

Job mela to be organised at Masab Tank on August 31

Hyderabad: A mega job mela will be organized at Khaja Mansion Function Hall, Masab Tank on August 31. In a press release, the organizer, Mannan Khan Engineer said several companies are partici-

pating in the job mela and offering jobs in various positions in pharma, health, IT & ITes firms, education, banks and others. Work from Home options will also be provided by a few companies.

village. He visited the village, assessed the situation, and created a plan for its development, staying in the village day and night to connect with the residents. As part of the development initiatives, he established a Sri Shakti Bhavan for women, a Zilla Parishad High School for students, CC roads, a community hall, an Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank, and a free mineral water plant. Say Trees Environmental Trust, Bengaluru, approached A.K. Ravi Krishna IPS and, with his permission, took up the task of village development. They distributed free fruit saplings such as mango, custard apple, tamarind, fig, coconut, red sandalwood, guava, gooseberry, mahogany, and pomegranate to 150 farmers for cultivation on 300 acres. The crops were grown using a five-layer model of farming, and farmers were given necessary training for financial empowerment. Intercrops were also planted, and the farmers were encouraged to adopt natural farming methods. Say Trees, along with the farmers, has been actively working on environmental conservation in the village. The farmers are very happy with this initiative. A 10 metric ton solar cold storage unit was built for Rs. 18 lakhs in the field of farmer Chintamanu

Ravikumar for storing fruits, vegetables, and leafy greens. Additionally, a biogas plant was set up in the premises of C. Sivalingappa's house in the village. Say Trees has been tirelessly working for the overall development of the village, supporting the farmers in every possible way to improve their livelihoods.

What is the Agroforestry Model?

Agroforestry integrates trees and shrubs into agricultural landscapes, offering a sustainable solution to enhance productivity, biodiversity, and resilience against climate change. By adopting agroforestry practices, farmers can improve soil health, reduce erosion, and diversify their income sources through the production of timber, fruits, nuts, and other tree products. This approach not only enhances crop yields by improving microclimates and providing windbreaks but also promotes ecological balance by supporting a variety of wildlife habitats. Additionally, agroforestry systems sequester carbon, contributing to climate mitigation efforts. Engaging farmers in discussions about agroforestry helps them understand its benefits, share best practices, and collaborate on strategies for successful implementation.



Former District SP, A.K. Ravi Krishna IPS, adopted Kappatralla village and transformed it into a model village. He eradicated

factionalism and developed the village with lush green fields and fruit orchards. I consider it a privilege to have contributed to this development.



Two held in connection with the Rs 175 cr cyber scam in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) made two more arrests in connection with the Rs. 175 crore cyber scam unearthed by the bureau few days ago. Madhu Babu Gali (49), branch manager State Bank of India Shamsheergunj, and Upadhyay Sandeep Sharma (34), were arrested on Wednesday. The branch manager of the bank had allegedly colluded with the fraudsters, facilitating the opening of current bank accounts and helped in withdrawal of funds in exchange for a commission, said Director TGCSB, Shikha Goel.

Several organizations have contributed to the development of Kappatralla village. When farmers prosper, the country prospers. As part of this effort, Say Trees has been particularly instrumental in economically empowering farmers by providing them with free fruit saplings, a biogas plant, a 10 metric ton solar cold storage unit, and farming tools.

A short film with a message to society.



Rajendra Palnati, youth for anti-corruption founder, said that there are many films in the society, but making a short film that creates awareness among the people about the atrocities happening in the soci-

ety is a great development. A short film pooja started in Somajiguda on Wednesday. Director Shivanagaraju said that this short film is going to be about the atrocities happening in society. It is said that there



are going to be scenes between a woman doctor and maniacs. Ramesh Babu Komati is producing this movie. In this new short film program, Youth for Anti-corruption team Devender Konne, Pradeep Reddy, Battini

Rajesh, Heroine Hema Pedakota, Editor Ketan Kancharla, Cameraman Naveen Kumar Ponnala, Coloring Ramoju Manikanth, Assistant Director Jafar V Lee, Vamsikrishna and others participated.

JCB Introduces the Telescopic Boom Platform, the T 65D in India



JCB, the world's leading manufacturer for Material Handling equipment, today inaugurated its very first diesel Telescopic Boom Platform, the T 65D in Goa during the Aerial Platform Association of India's (APAIOI) conference. The machine offers higher standards of Reliability, Efficiency, Comfort, and most importantly Safety. The machine is manufactured at JCB's state-of-the-art factory in Jaipur.

JCB India's CEO and Managing Director, Mr. Deepak Shetty said "This world-class machine is designed around Safety and Productivity and gives our customers the option to buy Made-in-India machines with full product support. Our customers can now buy new equipment with full warranty and JCB support backup and not depend on used imports. We have invested significantly in our Jaipur facility so

that these machines can be built, to one-global-quality standard"

The machine has a platform height of 65 ft & 4 in and has a reach of 56 ft & 6 in with 450 kgs maximum load. The machine is powered by a JCB diesel engine and comes with two work zones. It has an 8 ft platform, and the machine maximum weight is 12,500 kgs. It has four-wheel-drive as a standard feature and has enhanced safety features which include the secondary guarding system, crush hazard which always protects the Operator. It offers greater productivity through intuitive controls, oscillating starting angle, and Joystick ergonomics for fatigue free working.

He further added, "India is a strong economy in the world today. As business and trade increase, so will the opportunities for products such as the Telescopic

Boom Lift. The T 65D is available not only for the Domestic market, which is expected to significantly grow over the next few years, but also for exports around the world"

The T 65D is exported to developed markets and are an embodiment of JCB's make in India initiative. They are used in Construction, Cement, Oil & Gas industries. Additionally, they are also extremely popular

at Airports and Warehouses, or any application where people are required to operate at heights. JCB has invested in creating a distribution network specifically for these machines.

It has 11 dedicated dealers with trained engineers and parts backup so that these machines can operate seamlessly across India.

Sircilla police arrest weapon manufacturer, three of his aids



Rajanna-Sircilla: Sircilla police arrested four persons including a manufacturer of countrymade weapons on Wednesday. Weapon manufacturer Rajalingu Shankar, wild animal poachers Rajalingam Chandramouli, Shatruveni Harish and Lokid Gangaiah were among the arrested persons. All of them belong to Gajasingavaram of Gambhiraopet mandal.

Superintendent of Police Akhil

Mahajan said that based on reliable information about the manufacturing of country made weapons, Gambhiraopet police on Wednesday conducted raids in the house of Shankar and recovered material being used for weapons manufacturing. Based on the information given by Shankar, police arrested Chandramouli, Harish and Gangaiah and recovered two weapons and ammunition from them. The trio was using weapons to hunt wild animals.

HDFC Bank launches Edtech platform for students planning to study abroad at Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, today announced the launch of its Edtech platform at the Global Fintech Fest 2024 in Mumbai, which will serve as a payment gateway for students pursuing education overseas. This will assist in digitizing overseas Education remittance payments flow from existing offline modes of funding overseas transfers.

HDFC Bank will partner with educational consultants/aggregators, to enable students to send money abroad to universities. The solution will assist in smoothly enabling these partners/consultants offer the convenience of digital payments and ensure compliance with extant RBI guide-

lines via the HDFC Bank Edtech platform connection, thereby providing convenience to students and reduce payment drop-offs. As per an estimate by the Ministry of External Affairs, over 13 lakh Indian students are expected to go abroad for educational purposes. Together all the Indian Banks handle transactions worth about \$ 3.5 billion which is 11 per cent of total Liberalised Remittance Services. This segment of Education consultants and aggregators holds immense growth potential as they offer a complete suite of services and handhold a large number of students seeking to study overseas. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Jatinder Gupta,



We understand your world

Business Head and EVP – Retail Trade and Forex, HDFC Bank said, “We are excited to launch our new Edtech platform – a payments solution for students aspiring to pursue their education dreams abroad.

This will help make the journey quicker and smoother. The offering from HDFC Bank is a part of our focus on customer centricity and our commitment to evolve alongside changing customer expectations”.

BJP government always works with "divide and rule" policy: Kumari Selja



Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), August 28: The General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja alleged that the BJP government always worked with its “Divide and Rule” policy. She said that the BJP government in the state is claiming that it has fulfilled the promises made during its ten-year tenure, but the reality is that for ten years, it ruled by making false declarations and

misleading the public. Now, when it appears that the government is on its way out, it is being said that every promise has been fulfilled. The BJP government, both at the state and central levels, has only one job: to create discord among people, lie to rule, and enjoy the benefits. During the tenure of this state government, several major scandals took place, but no investigations were conducted, and wherever there were investigations, those investigations were

investigated, with no action taken against the culprits. In a statement released to the media, Kumari Selja said that whenever elections approach, the BJP starts making a big fuss in the name of religion, beating the drum of false promises and assurances. BJP leaders are telling people that every promise made to the public has been fulfilled. It is being claimed that the BJP has accelerated Haryana's development, but seeing the situation, everyone says that under BJP rule, there has been destruction, not development. BJP claims that 1.50 lakh people have been given government jobs, but the situation is such that about two lakh posts are still vacant, and the backlog of SC and BC has not been filled till today. Under HKRN, 1.20 lakh people have been hired, and the government is exploiting them in the name of jobs, disregarding the principle of equal pay for equal work.

Selja expressed it was said that poor families would be provided with LPG cylinders at Rs. 500, but this was not implemented. She said the government is claiming to have fulfilled the promise of providing 100-square-yard plots, but this is a complete lie; this work was done during the Congress rule, and the BJP government did not implement it later. A few months ago, the BJP government allocated 30-square-yard plots but charged a price for them. The government should have provided 100-square-yard plots for free. Kumari Selja stated that the Haryana

government is also claiming to have given a bonus of Rs. 2,000 per acre in the interest of farmers, but this also seems to be just an announcement, as the bonus amount has probably not yet reached any farmer's account. The government is also claiming to have started purchasing 14 crops at MSP, but the reality on the ground is different. When visiting the mandi, one can see how farmers are being exploited. They are troubled under the pretext of moisture in crops, bad fibre in cotton, or poor quality of produce, forcing them to sell their crops at throwaway prices. She said that Congress is the only party that has fulfilled the promises made to the people. The Congress has a record of controlling inflation and taking care of the poor. The BJP government claims that the number of poor has decreased under its rule, but if poverty has been eradicated, where did the 80-crore poor who are being given ration come from? Kumari Selja said that the poor need employment and wages more than ration today; if they have employment, they will get ration too. She said that when the Congress government comes to power, every guarantee made to the people will be fulfilled. The people of the country and the state are troubled by the BJP, and this time, the people of Haryana will show them the way out of power. People have hopes from the Congress, which is why they are saying that the BJP is going, and the Congress is coming to power.

Rythu sangham seeks measures to protect farmers from debt trap

Kothagudem: The activists of Telangana Rashtra Rythu Sangham (AIRS) staged a protest at the collectorate here on Wednesday demanding unconditional waiver of Rs 2 lakh crop loan. The sangham leaders Ch Narendra Kumar and M Viswanatham said Congress party during Assembly elections announced that crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh of all the farmers would be waived but after coming to power

many restrictions were imposed in its implementation. The conditions that the loan waiver scheme would not be applicable to farmers who do not have pattadar pass books and considering ration cards for family verification were strange. Endowment Amba Satram lands and Jangusipai lands were cultivated by farmers for the past 50 and 60 years in the agency area in the district.

ULI India's first Product Council to drive sustainability, ESG goals for new office spaces

India is witnessing large-scale urbanisation, and the real estate sector is set to boom over the next 4-5 years. In what is expected to offer a major boost to this space, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) held its first prestigious ULI Product Council preview meet in Mumbai earlier this week. India's real estate sector requires a strategic think tank to steer its growth towards high-quality, demand-driven projects. By fostering collaborative closed-door dialogues among industry leaders and stakeholders representing all realms of the industry, this organisation can introduce global best practices to the domestic market. ULI in India Founded about 80 years ago, ULI is the oldest built environment platform in the world, with a presence in 86 countries worldwide. ULI's USP is a global membership of 45,000+ members across the spectrum of built environments. This is the only multidisciplinary platform where real estate developers, investors, architects, planners, engineers, lawyers, and media professionals come together to discuss how we can build better cities. With great achievements in the US, EU and Asia, ULI entered the Indian market two years ago. "While ULI is a well-known brand in the built environment globally, we are new in India. ULI's plan for India is to replicate its international success locally while adapting its mission priorities to India. ULI has three mission priorities – decarbonisation, housing attainability and education of the next generation of young leaders," said Manasvini Hariharan, Director, ULI India.

ULI has more than 30 product councils to drive action, each themed on a different aspect of real estate, such as office, residential, sustainability, tourism, hospitality, airports, logistics, capital markets, infrastructure, technology, and more. "Product Councils are a closed-door forum of senior industry leaders for candid conversation, knowledge sharing and meaningful discussions on a particular theme. Chatham House rules apply, and members bring collective experience and insight to critical business challenges," Hariharan explained. In India, it has made its foray through the Office Council. Talking about how India will benefit from a forum like this, Gautam Saraf, managing director of Mumbai and New Business, Cushman and Wakefield, said: "There is immense power in knowledge and collective action, and ULI can act as a medium that helps the industry come together and visualise the India that we all want to build. Today, everything from the way we work to the way we live has been transitioning at a fast pace. Complex external factors such as carbon neutrality commitments, technology, rapid urbanisation, global workplace evolution, etc., act as disruptors during the normal course of business. By sharing knowledge and perspectives, ULI product councils can offer cross-learning opportunities for its members."

Sustainability and ESG Over the next five years, the office council's mission is to make sustainability a theme across the industry. Decision makers will form part of the Product Council and work in unison towards the larger goal of decarbonisation

and the education of the next generation. This will create many positive synergies that will go in the right direction. Just as China is regarded as the factory to the world, India is the office to the world. A majority of large companies have already built sustainability into their fabric. This extends to the office real estate that they operate out of. Today, they insist on partnering with landlords, developers, or corporates committed to carbon neutrality. "Real estate forms part of the built environment, contributing 40 percent of greenhouse emissions. Using a platform like ULI, we as stakeholders can collectively change the narrative to ensure from design to construction, leasing and asset management, all aspects related to carbon neutrality," said Saraf, who joined ULI earlier this year to drive change. ESG is the theme of today – it is something that India should have already initiated work on. The new-age employee is attracted to the workplace of the future, which has natural light, social spaces, renewable energy, and reduced embodied carbon. This workspace will encourage people to come to work, reduce attrition, and encourage occupancy. The ULI advantage ULI is a not-for-profit organisation created with the intent of bringing in stakeholders with experiences within the industry to shape the future of the organisation. Some of those



learnings at a global level can easily be adapted to the Indian context. "The cross-pollination of ideas and learning within ULI is one of the key outcomes that one could expect from a ULI association," said Quaiser Parvez, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nucleus Office Parks. Here, bigwigs from the real estate industry, who may be competitors outside the room, can come together and discuss their strengths and weaknesses and look at pain points that need to be addressed as a community. Outside of the Product Council meeting room, they can be back to being

competitors. The Indian chapter of ULI's first Product Council already has a line-up of strategic goals.

"There are four goals: We are looking at having a close-knit community of people who can share experience-based insights to understand what the trends are, something which we rely on reports and massive anecdotes. Second, we want to discuss best practices, particularly in developing, investing and managing these building operations. The third goal is networking; the last is sustainability, one of ULI's key focus areas," Parvez said.

Why leaders should read science fiction

They greet this thesis with polite scepticism, at which point I set aside my PowerPoint presentation. I have an article from Harvard Business Review featuring Eliot Peper on why business leaders need to read more science fiction, and Gary Wolfe's book *How Great Science Fiction Works*, but I abandon both. Instead, I decide to let the class make up their own minds. "All the rows on my right, speak in support of sci-fi for leadership. And the rows on the left, oppose this claim," I said. The students are quick to take up the challenge. "It is better for leaders to read actual science," points out a young man on the left. The students around him nod their heads in agreement.

"And there is so much to read and so little time, leaders have to be selective," says a curly-haired young lady seated next to him. More people are nodding. The right-hand side of the class stays silent. Then suddenly a bearded backbencher, a student who has never spoken in class, now starts to speak, in a rush, almost as if he can no longer stay quiet. "If you read Asimov there are so many inventions he talks about, things like video conferencing and space travel, that were just figments of imagination back then. As leaders we need to read this, to go beyond the science we know, to dream about the science we don't yet know," he says. People in front of him are now paying attention, angling their heads towards the backbencher. "Like crypto-currency in Neal Stephenson novels, communication and conflict in *The Three-Body Problem*" he adds.

A student in the first row raises his hand to speak - "And to think, what are the qualities people look for in a leader? We need more than technical knowledge- we need boldness and vision and imagination" People talk of Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk and their favourite sci-fi novels. We are all leaders in our own small ways — whether it is being head of a marketing club or a study group, they say. The mood of the class has changed - their scepticism replaced by an openness to read sci-fi. From there, it is a short distance to a book list of these three books for beginners. Book 1 of 3: *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card: Three siblings compete in this page-turner of a novel - Peter wants to be a ruler, Valentine to influence the belief systems of the people with her writing, and Ender, the youngest, is training to be a general since he was six years old. This is crucially important because Earth is at war with the Buggers, an alien race who lives in space. Read this book to understand the kinds of power and conflict better.

Book 2 of 3: *The Chaos Agent* by Mark Greaney: Fans of the *Gray Man* thrillers will have seen Court Gentry fighting terrorists and rogue intelligence agencies in Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan and even India. In this one, he gets embroiled in a plot where someone is killing the world's leading experts on robotics. Is it a tech company eliminating the competition, a country intent on military superiority, or something else? Read this book to understand the military landscape of the world, with a look at how weapons manufacturers and

their buyers interact and how AI supplies anonymity and chilling efficiency.

Book 3 of 3: *The Hidden Girl and Other Stories* by Ken Liu: If I was stranded on a desert island, I would carry everything Ken Liu has written, he is that compelling. I love the amazing way Liu brings in the particulars of Chinese history, culture, and art into a Western context, and how he sets out everything at a galaxy level as well. Many of his protagonists are young people — he shows how subtle racism affects them, and he weaves these into the larger stories of human consciousness and identity. My favourite stories in this book are *Singularity* and *Staying Behind*, both on the subject of human minds becoming digitised, and no longer requiring physical bodies. Read these stories to understand the advances in biological sciences and how they might affect our psyches, our emotions and our world.

Besides these, I have been reading a lot of sci-fi this year. It's helped me understand the science of communication, learn about the human body and brain and re-look at social systems and structures. And also venture into the fourth dimension of time. But that is a whole other story, one which I will save for another day.

Sonya Dutta Choudhury is a Mumbai-based journalist and the founder of Sonya's Book Box, a bespoke book service. Each week, she brings you specially curated books to give you an immersive understanding of people and places. If you have any reading recommendations or suggestions, write to her at sonyasbookbox@gmail.com