

Hyderabad witnesses marginal drop in home registrations in August

Hyderabad: This year August, Hyderabad registered a marginal drop in the number of registrations of homes compared to last August. According to the latest assessment released by Knight Frank India on Friday, the city did register homes sales worth Rs.4,043 crore during August 2024 reflecting a 17 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase.

However, the report documents that the number of registrations stood at 6,439, marginally dropped by 1 per cent YoY, compared to 6,493 last August. The Knight Frank report said since January 2024, the city has registered a total of 54,483 homes, showing an 18 per cent rise compared to the same period last year. Similarly, the value of properties registered from January to August 2024 was recorded at Rs.33,641 crores, marking a 41 per cent YoY increase. The Hyderabad residential market encompasses four districts, – Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, and Sangareddy, covering home sales relevant to both primary and secondary real estate markets. In August 2024, properties priced under Rs. 50 lakh made up the largest share of registrations

in Hyderabad, though this segment's share dropped from 67 per cent in August 2023 to 59 per cent this August.

Meanwhile, the sales of homes priced at Rs. 1 crore and above saw a significant rise, growing from 9 per cent to 15 per cent during the same period. In terms of registration split by unit size, most registered properties in Hyderabad last month were concentrated in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 square feet (sq ft) comprising 69 per cent of all registrations. There was a decrease in demand for smaller homes (below 1,000 sq ft) with registrations dropping to 17 per cent in August 2024 from 19 per cent in August 2023. Conversely, demand for larger properties (over 2,000 sq ft) increased with registrations rising to 14 per cent from 11 per cent in the same period. At a district-level, Rangareddy led property registrations with 42 per cent of the market, up from 39 per cent in August 2023. Medchal-Malkajgiri and Hyderabad district accounted for 41 per cent and 17 per cent of the total registrations respectively. Knight Frank said an in-depth analysis of Hyderabad's real estate market in August 2024 reveals notable trends in apartment



launches. The demand for 3BHK units has grown from 56 per cent in August 2023 to 64 per cent in August 2024, while the launch of 2BHK units dropped from 25 per cent to 20 per cent YoY. The demand for larger configurations homes like 4BHK and 5BHK has slightly decreased, while smaller

units such as 1BHK and 2.5BHK have remained relatively stable. Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said, "Hyderabad's residential market is flourishing, particularly in the luxury segment, as more homebuyers seek spacious layouts and premium amenities."

OPPO Launches K12x Feather Pink Colour Variant for Flipkart's Big Billion Days Sale

OPPO India has introduced a Feather Pink-colour variant of its K12x 5G smartphone during the Flipkart's Big Billion Days Sale. The smartphone, priced at INR 12,999, can now be purchased for as low as INR 10,999* during the sale period from 27th September to 6th October 2024, while early access for Flipkart Plus Customers starts from 26th September midnight.

The OPPO K12x 5G features military-grade durability thanks to its 360-degree Armour body. It carries the MIL-STD-810H certification for its rugged build and an IP54 splash-resistant rating. The phone comes with an anti-drop shield case in the box and also boasts Splash Touch technology that allows users to navigate its touchscreen even when the device is wet or with wet fingers. The OPPO K12x 5G offers AI Portrait Retouching that allows for granular touchups of multiple facial features that result in natural-looking but flattering portraits. For vloggers, the phone includes a Dual View video feature for simultaneous recording with both front and rear cameras. The K12x 5G sports a 6.67-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate and 1000 nits of peak brightness for clear

visibility even in direct sunlight; its L1 Widevine certification ensures HD-quality streaming from OTT platforms. The phone is powered by a 5100mAh battery, supported by an in-the-box 45W SuperVOOCTM charger for all-day performance. It runs on Android 14 and will receive two OS updates and three years of security updates. For more information, visit Flipkart's Big Billion Days Sale and OPPO India's official website.

*Terms and conditions apply.

About OPPO Mobiles India Pvt Ltd
OPPO is a leading global smart device brand. Since the launch of its first mobile phone—"Smiley Face"—in 2008, OPPO has been in relentless pursuit of the perfect synergy of aesthetic satisfaction and innovative technology.

Today, OPPO provides a wide range of smart devices spearheaded by the Find and Reno series. Beyond devices, OPPO provides its users with the ColorOS operating system and internet services like OPPO Cloud and OPPO+. OPPO operates in more than 50 countries and regions with more than 40,000 of OPPO's employees dedicated to creating a better life for customers around the world.

The story of Kamala Harris, caste and an Indian law few know about

Kamala Harris and a caste story 'Untouchables' were traditionally disallowed the use of that road as it was located in an Agraharam, the generic term for an exclusive Brahmin settlement. Between the excitement over the American election and the fraught history of race, Kamala Harris is now a familiar name around the world. The same name with a suffix that is common among places in India, Kamalapuram, hit the news just about a century ago and it was for reasons to do with caste. The otherwise obscure village of Kamalapuram is in the Salem district of Tamil Nadu, the very province where Harris's mother Shyamala Gopalan was born in a Brahmin family in 1938. Fourteen years earlier, R Veerian, a native of Kamalapuram, suffered the ignominy of being barred from entering a road in that village. "Untouchables" were traditionally disallowed the use of that road as it was located in an Agraharam, the generic term for an exclusive Brahmin settlement. In the unicameral structure of the time in the provinces of British India, Veerian happened to be a member of the legislative council (MLC). He shot off a telegram to the chief secretary of the Madras government, protesting the violation of his civil rights.

On April 16, 1924, the Bombay-based Times of India reproduced the text of Veerian's long telegram, under the headline: 'A Madras MLC's Complaint: Intolerable Brahmin Tyranny'. In Veerian's telling of the incident, he intended merely to pass through the "Agraharam public pathway" in Kamalapuram "in order to post letters" at a post office located there and "see" a school in the same vicinity. But "owing to Panchama pollution" ("untouchability"), a Brahmin identified as Monigar Rungier, the village munsif, blocked Veerian's entry into that street. It mattered little to that Brahmin official that there was, as Veerian put it, "no other way except passing through Agraharam" to reach the post office or the school. This episode of "untouchability" triggered a chain of events, including a resolution that was adopted by the Madras legislature on August 22, 1924. The failure of this resolution to make any difference on the ground prompted Veerian to up the ante with a bill outlawing "untouchability". Given the odds stacked against any Private Member Bill, its journey began with a strategic choice made by Veerian to slip in his anti-untouchability provisions under the guise of amendments to an existing civic law. Even so, to garner support from a legislature dominated by caste Hindus, it took a lot of negotiations and compromises. So much so that when the Bill was discussed for the first time on December 14, 1925, Veerian felt constrained to begin his address with conciliatory noises. "I beg to submit that I am not going to bring in the subject of caste nor am I going to raise the problem of untouchability in relation to caste." That he had to disclaim what was so visibly the point of his initiative was a measure of the pressure he was under.

The Select Committee that had been set up for the Bill deleted a clause empowering all classes to access public sources

of water. The ambit of the Bill was thus reduced to the relatively less sensitive issues of throwing open public roads and markets to Dalits. When the Madras legislature passed the Bill on August 31, 1926, Veerian was instrumental in the enactment of the first-ever law anywhere in the country against untouchability. Indeed, the Madras Local Boards Amendment Act 1926 marked a civilisational breakthrough. It outlawed exclusionary practices that had for generations been considered by caste Hindus as a pious obligation to preserve their purity. Besides criminalising untouchability, it prescribed penalties — even if they were only monetary fines. The press contemporaneously noticed the significance of this law enforceable across the rural areas of the Madras Presidency. Praising him for driving home "the social tyranny of the higher castes", the Times of India said: "Mr Veerian deserves credit for drawing attention to the matter and the legislative enactment, which he has succeeded in piloting through the Council, should go a long way to remove many of the social disabilities of his Adi Dravida brethren."

Irrespective of the extent to which it removed the social disabilities of the untouchables in the Madras Presidency, the pioneering contribution of the 1926 Veerian legislation went unnoticed in history. This was despite the fact that it inspired another Dalit legislator in another province, G A Gavai in Central Provinces (which encompassed parts of today's Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh), to get a similar law enacted in 1933. Instead, in the spirit of history being written by the victors, the credit for breaking ground on untouchability has been given to a leader from the Brahmin community, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari or Rajaji, the legendary associate of Mahatma Gandhi. It was on his watch as Premier of the Madras Presidency that in 1938, a full 12 years after Veerian's legislation, came what is commonly presented as a trailblazer. The erasure of the Veerian and Gavai precedents helped historians sidestep one major deficiency in Rajaji's enactment. Whereas the Veerian and Gavai laws criminalised "untouchability", the Rajaji law was merely declaratory with no penal consequences flowing from it. The Rajaji law just declared that no court would recognise any custom or usage perpetuating "untouchability". Since it did not, however, define any offence, there was no question of any punishment. Thus, far from building on the precedents set by little-known Dalits, the law that was valorised by historians, the Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, 1938, was conceptually retrograde. The unicameral provincial legislature had by then given way to a bicameral system in the Madras Presidency. After the Legislative Assembly had passed the Bill on August 17, 1938, the Legislative Council did the same on December 12, 1938, after a dramatic debate that recalled the Veerian milestone. It was by J A Saldanha who had, in 1929, followed up on the Veerian law with a similar one for the urban areas of the Madras Presidency. He pointed out that in the Bill that had been "brought forward by Mr Veerian", there was



a clause "prescribing a penalty for the infringement of the rights laid down." By contrast, in the Bill introduced by the Rajaji government, he lamented, "there is no provision for punishing a man who prevents

the enjoyment of any of these privileges". Incidentally, five days prior to this debate, Shyamala Gopalan was born not too far from the legislative building in the same Madras city.

Stroke cases increasing globally, air pollution, high temperatures driving numbers: Lancet Study

New Delhi: Incidence of stroke and related deaths are rising substantially around the world, with air pollution, high temperatures and metabolic risk factors such as high blood pressure and physical inactivity, driving these increases, according to estimates published in The Lancet Neurology journal. Researchers found that the contribution of high temperatures to poor health and early death due to stroke has increased 72 per cent since 1990 and is likely to continue increasing in the future, thereby highlighting how environmental factors can impact growing stroke burden. Further, for the first time, particulate matter or PM air pollution was found to have the same contribution as smoking towards causing a fatal form of brain bleed, according to the researchers forming the Global Burden of Disease, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) group.

The GBD study, the "largest and most comprehensive effort to quantify health loss across places and over time", is coordinated by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, US. Globally, the number of people experiencing a stroke for the first time rose to 119 lakh in 2021 — up by 70 per cent since 1990 — while deaths related to stroke rose

to 73 lakh, which was up by 44 per cent since 1990, making the neurological condition the third leading cause of death after ischaemic heart disease (short supply of blood to heart) and COVID-19, the researchers found. They added that over three-fourth of those affected by strokes live in low- and middle-income countries.

According to lead author Valery L. Feigin from Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, the rapid growth in the number of people affected by stroke strongly suggested that stroke prevention strategies currently used are not sufficiently effective. "New, proven effective population-wide and motivational individual prevention strategies that could be applied to all people at risk of having a stroke, regardless of the level of risk, as recommended in the recent Lancet Neurology Commission on Stroke should be implemented across the globe urgently," said Feigin. The researchers also estimated that stroke-related liabilities attributable to 23 modifiable risk factors, including air pollution, excess body weight, high blood pressure, smoking and physical inactivity, increased from 100 million years of healthy life lost in 1990 to 135 million in 2021.

Haryana Election: Will BJP succeed to sail through the turbulent waters riding on OBC card?

In order to neutralize the anti-incumbency wave that arose due to the issues of 'farmer-soldier-wrestler' against the BJP government, the BJP after keeping Prime Minister Modi's trusted confidant Manohar Lal Khattar on the Chief Minister's throne for about nine and a half years, brought Nayab Singh Saini, who belongs to the backward caste, to power only six months before the elections so that the Other Backward Class (OBC) vote bank could be unilaterally cashed in favour of the BJP. With this hope, the BJP had also declared before the Haryana Assembly elections that even after the elections, Nayab Singh Saini would again be the Chief Minister in their government.

To woo the OBC votes en masse under the chief ministership of Nayab Singh Saini, BJP fielded 21 OBC candidates out of total 90, but adopting the same tactics, to snatch its share of OBC votes from BJP's clutches, Congress also gave 20 seats to OBC category, which is now barricading the BJP's efforts. BJP thought that by making Saini the Chief Minister, BJP will get OBC vote bank in bulk, but BJP probably failed to assess that Saini is not being considered as the face of OBC, but he is being considered as Khattar's face mask. Why would the largest OBC section, Ahir (Yadav) caste, be happy with Saini being promoted? The vote bank of Ahirs (Yadavs) has its influence in about one and a half dozen assembly constituencies and can turn anyone's victory into defeat. The Yadav vote bank has understood that no matter how much Rao Indrajit Singh claims to bring power in South Haryana, the BJP will never let Rao's plans come true. Therefore, this time the Yadavs seem to have made up anti-BJP mood. Before the elections, Union Minister Rao Indrajit Singh had been expressing anger on almost every platform that this time he will bring the helm of Haryana to South Haryana. Without naming anyone, he has repeatedly mentioned that people junior to him are being given cabinet rank posts in the Union Cabinet, whereas he has not been able to rise beyond the post of Minister of State for the last 15 years. Rao's supporters are also angry with this helplessness of Rao Indrajit Singh and due to this, BJP is also afraid of losing votes in Ahirwal. To calm down the anger of Rao and his supporters, Rao's daughter Aarti Rao, who was denied party ticket in 2019, this time has been made a candidate in the assembly elections, but how much this lollipop will be able to pacify the resentment, only the election results will tell. BJP's OBC card theory got another jolt when the former minister and president of BJP's Haryana OBC Morcha, Karan Dev Kamboj, who is upset at not getting a ticket in the assembly elections, assessing the declining position of the BJP, left all types of BJP membership including the OBC Morcha presidentship and joined the Congress alleging that the saffron party considers the backward community as a mere vote bank and is not ready to give them rights. Seeing anger of farmers against the party and on not getting the ticket, BJP's Haryana Kisan Morcha president and former MLA Sukhvinder Mandhi has also bade goodbye to the party and joined the Congress.

Smelling the weak position of the party

and decreasing gravitational force of the top leadership, especially PM Modi and Amit Shah during the current Lok Sabha elections, wherein BJP lost its 50 percent seats in 2024 in comparison to 2019 in Haryana, party's many stalwarts have also left the party. To mention a few more; India's richest woman, Jindal group chairperson, BJP leader Savitri Jindal has joined the electoral fray and filed papers as an independent candidate after she was denied the ticket by the BJP. A former minister and two-time MLA, she put her foot down to take the field opposite BJP candidate Kamal Gupta from Hisar assembly constituency, despite the fact that her son Naveen Jindal is a BJP MP from Kurukshetra. Former power minister, and a candidate of BJP in just held Lok Sabha election from Hisar, Ranjeet Singh Chautala has also left the BJP and is fighting assembly election against the BJP candidate as an independent.

What's on ground and why it's so?

In the present scenario, the BJP seems to be losing the ground badly. Political analysts suggest that BJP hardly will cross the 25 mark and it will remain between 20-25 out of 90 seats, whereas its main opponent Congress playing on high pitch seems to get a major chunk and may get its share somewhat between 55-60, leaving behind a scope of winning 5 to 10 seats for others, including independents. Former Deputy Prime Minister, late Chaudhary Devlal's clan may suffer the most. The ground report shows that the atrocities against the agitating farmers, tyranny over women wrestlers, squeezing the scope and employment opportunities for the youth willing to serve the Indian Military by enforcing Agniveer scheme; are some major reasons for the resentment in Haryana's voters and the thin position of the BJP. However, harassing the people through Property ID, Family ID, different types of portals and mockery with unemployed youth allowing uncontrolled frequent paper leaks are also the factors of creating an anti-incumbency wave.

Will Saini get the CM throne again, if BJP comes to power?

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, while addressing a worker meeting on June 29 at Panchkula, Haryana declared that even after the elections, Nayab Singh Saini would again be the Chief Minister in the BJP government. Shah said, "BJP will fight the next assembly elections under the leadership of Saini, who will also be the next chief minister." Commenting over the statement of Shah, an Unemployed youth says, "Na Nau Mann Tel Hoga, Na Radha Nacheji (If sky falls, we shall catch the larks). He adds - Saini is being presented as the second Channi, just to woo the OBC votes, to whom Congress had floated as next CM of Punjab to fetch the Dalit votes in the assembly election of 2022 in the state. Now, from the claims of the state level leaders of the BJP and the promise of Amit Shah in Behal, Bhiwani rally held on 17 September in favour of state finance minister J P Dalal from Loharu constituency, it seems that even if the BJP government is formed, then also the Chief Minister could be someone else instead of Saini. Union Minister Rao Indrajit Singh had been ex-



Jag Mohan Thaken

pressing his desire to become the Chief Minister indirectly almost on every platform that this time he will bring the helm of Haryana to South Haryana. Now the former Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij too has staked his claim to the CM chair. On September 15, 2024, he said, "I am the senior most MLA of BJP in Haryana.

I have contested elections for 6 times. On the demand of people, I will claim for the designation of CM on the basis of my seniority this time. However, it is in the hands of high command whether they will make me CM or not. If they make me the CM I will change the picture of Haryana." BJP candidate from Loharu constituency, the finance minister in the present government, J P Dalal has also started to present himself as the sure shot future Chief Minister of Haryana in his speeches after the Behal rally of Amit Shah on September 17, in which Shah had exhorted the people of Loharu to elect him the MLA and the party will make him a 'Bada Aadmi'. (Tum Dalal ko MLA Bana Do, Party Ise Bada Aadmi Bana Degi.) "You make him MLA; the Party will make him a big person."

BJP membership drive kicks off in Charminar Assembly constituency

Hyderabad: BJP's membership drive Sadasyata 2024 in Charminar Assembly constituency was kicked off by State Convener N Ramchander Rao. The initiative aims to renew current memberships and attract new members. On the occasion, party senior leader Mir Firasath Ali Baqri said BJP is the only party which is expanding its work by following the democratic processes as per the constitution of its party and is continuously making itself capable to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of

Some Political Analysts think that BJP top leadership has smelt the essence of the ground and they have concluded that the Nayab Singh Saini is not being taken as the leader of entire OBC category and his name can only woo the Saini voters upto some extent, so the party has started to lure the different segments of the society by projecting the candidates of other castes also as Chief Minister and it seems that the party itself has allowed to pose them as potential CM, otherwise, the leaders of Dalal level, only one time MLA, can never claim to become the Chief Minister in BJP rule, wherein six times MLA and Home Minister in previous Khattar government, Anil Vij and Three times MLA, Six times Member of Parliament and Minister of State in the central ministry for more than last 15 years, Rao Inderjeet Singh have not been ever considered even for the waiting list for the Chief Ministership. Anyway, according to Galib - 'Humko Maloom Hai Jannat Ki Hakiqat, Lekin Dil Bahlaane Ko Galib Khayal Achchha Hai.' (I know the reality of heaven; but this thought is good to entertain the heart.)

the common people of the country. Firasath Ali Baqri target one lakh minority community membership in Hyderabad. BJP Hyderabad convener K Geetha Murthy, Alka Manoj, state vice president Minority Morcha, Chandana Jain, Prachi Jain, Sardar Jagjeet Singh, Jagmohan Singh, Guru Charan Singh, Diyanath Ali Khan, S Praveen Kumar, Convener Charminar Assembly Constituency, R Sridhar Yadav, Abbas Raza Khan, and senior leaders participated in the drive.

Stanford University & Elsevier Recognize GRIET Professors as Top 2% Scientists Worldwide

In a remarkable achievement, two faculty members from Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology (GRIET), an autonomous institution under JNTU, Hyderabad, have been named among the top 2% of scientists worldwide by Stanford University, USA, and the publishing business Elsevier. The prestigious list, which is divided into two categories: career-long research and research in 2023, includes Dr. Swadesh Kumar Singh, Professor and Dean (Research & Development), and Dr. Ram Subbiah, Professor from the Mechanical Engineering Department at GRIET. This is the second consecutive year these esteemed professors have been recognized for their exceptional research contributions. The list, which comprises the world's leading researchers and

accounts for around 2% of all scientists globally, is based on standardized statistics on citations, h-index, and a variety of bibliometric indicators. The Management of GRIET has congratulated both professors on their remarkable achievements, which not only elevate their personal careers but also enhance the reputation of the institution.

"We are immensely proud of Dr. Swadesh Kumar Singh and Dr. Ram Subbiah for their outstanding contributions to the field of research," said Dr. Praveen Juge, Principal and Dr. Jandhyala N. Murthy, Director at GRIET. "This recognition from Stanford University and Elsevier is a testament to the excellence and dedication of our faculty, and it will inspire our



students and the broader academic community to strive for greater heights." The inclusion of these two GRIET professors in the prestigious list of top 2% scientists worldwide is a significant achievement that

highlights the institution's commitment to fostering a culture of research and innovation. It also underscores the global impact of the work being carried out by the faculty at GRIET.

The Grand Shopsy Mela Kicks Off Festive Celebrations: Dive into a Dhamaal at the Virtual Mela

Shopsy by Flipkart, India's fastest-growing hyper-value e-commerce platform, is gearing up for the festive season with the launch of its most anticipated sale yet: the Grand Shopsy Mela. will transform Shopsy's platform into a vibrant virtual mela, capturing the essence of traditional Indian Melas while offering an unparalleled shopping experience.

With a focus on quality and variety, this Grand Shopsy Mela promises to be one of the biggest shopping celebrations of the year, allowing customers to find everything they need for the festive season at an affordable price. The event will feature an extensive selection of 50 lakh products under Rs. 199/-, offering something for everyone. This year, Shopsy is expanding its offerings to 150 categories across Fashion, Beauty, Home, Mobiles and Large Electronics, more than double of last

year's 60. The expansion reflects Shopsy's commitment to meeting the diverse needs of families during the festive season and providing the best of value and range for everyone in the family. Understanding the excitement and fervor around traditional Melas, especially in Tier 2 cities and beyond, Shopsy thoughtfully curated this digital fair, offering customers a unique and engaging shopping experience fused with the latest, festive selections and fantastic deals. Commenting on its biggest sale of the year, Prathyusha Agarwal, Business Head, Shopsy said, "The Grand Shopsy Mela returns bigger and better than ever as a one stop mela, offering Bharat's e-shoppers value-packed products across all categories they need to gear up for the festive season. This time it is more than just a shopping event; it is Bharat ka sabse bada mela- Grand Shopsy Mela; a vibrant cel-

ebration that brings the essence of the traditional Indian Mela into the heart of every home. With something for everyone in the family, from festive essentials to daily deals, the Grand Shopsy Mela attempts to deliver festive abundance within the limited wallet size our consumers are trying to maximize. We are excited to curate this celebratory shopping experience for our customers in the virtual world, keeping variety, quality and affordability at center stage." An Immersive Experience for Mela-Lovers

Beyond exceptional offers, Shopsy will offer a host of engaging activities, including hourly deals, interactive games like 'treasure hunts', 'guess karo aur jeeto', 'jhatpat deals', 'loot hours', and exciting contests on its app and website. 500 + lucky winners will win free products during the 'Guess Karo Aur Jeeto' game and 100 lucky winners will win grand prizes worth 1

Lakh. The Shopsy app will incorporate Mela elements through the shopping journey along with improved payment experience to ensure a smooth experience. Unbeatable Offers With a broader selection of products and attractive prices than ever before, the Grand Shopsy Mela is set to be the ideal shopping event for value-conscious customers across India. Limited time deals such as Jhatpat deals start as low as Re.1/- and will be live twice daily for a limited time. Other deals include learning tabs, bottles, choppers, and posters from Rs. 19/-, western and traditional earrings from Rs. 25/-, jewellery sets from Rs. 79/-, neckbands from Rs. 119/-. Shopsy's research indicates that fashion (ethnic wear), electronics and mobiles, and home essentials are among the top picks for this season. There will be offers for users who are new to the platform.

Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme faces uncertain future

Hyderabad: The Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), which was holding hope for the water-starved southern districts of Telangana, is now facing an uncertain future. The ongoing works have been at a standstill for the past 12 months. The project saw its first pumping facility inaugurated by then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao on September 16 last year.

The mega pumping unit, commissioned on the occasion lifting 3,200 cusecs of water from the backwaters of the Srisailem project, is today left submerged along with four other pumping units of same capacity. The dewatering process is expected to take a couple of months. The

assessment of damage to the infrastructure and rehabilitation plans can be thought of only after the completion of the dewatering process that remained an arduous task waiting for machinery of higher capacity. PRLIS is designed to provide 7.15 TMC of water for drinking purposes to over 1,220 villages across six districts in its first phase. The second phase aims to meet irrigation needs with 73 TMC of water, pending necessary clearances.

The project's first stage successfully pumped water from the Srisailem project into the Anjanagiri reservoir signalling an end to the water travails of the targeted villages. The notification of the assembly elections immediately after the inauguration of the first pumping unit of the project,

stalled further sanctions and inaugurations. Despite clearing legal hurdles for the drinking water component, the project has not advanced. It is alleged that the government was deliberately stalling the project to undermine the previous administration's achievements. The project's cost has escalated from the initially approved Rs 35,200 crore to an estimated Rs 58,086 crore. Nearly 85% of the work was completed during the previous regime, with Rs 31,423 crore already spent. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has assured partial funding but requires a fresh Detailed Project Report (DPR) after resolving water-sharing issues with the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-2). The Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation



Scheme, once a symbol of hope, now stands as a testament to the complexities and challenges of large-scale infrastructure projects. The local population continues to await the promised benefits, as political and administrative hurdles impede progress.

Manepally presents Brinda Navkar Navaratri Utsav 2024 Season-7 to be held from 03 October to 11 October at Classic Gardens

Manepally presents Brinda Navkar Navaratri Utsav-2024, is one of the biggest Navratri event to be held at Classic Gardens, Secunderabad from 03rd October 2023 to 11th October 2023. The event is curated by Kavita Jain & Saloni Jain. The mother-daughter duo is organising the season 7 of their 9 Days Traditional event.

Navkar Entertainment organised a Grand Pass Launch followed by Free Garba & Dandiya workshop by Aishwariya Shah and Chintan Mehta for 400 participants at Classic Gardens by renowned TV ACTRESS - NEHA SWAROOP, Vinita Surana, Mr. Gopi from Manepally jewelers, Krishna Bung from Brinda diamonds, socialite Ms. Bina Mehta and Mr. Jignesh Doshi, President of Gujarati Social Welfare Society, Brij Bhutada, Anup Chandak, Pushpak Jain, Ashok from Holiday Bazar, Praveen Agarwal, Kaushal Vakharia, Prasanth Saraf, Sheetal Jain, Naveen Agarwal, Mohini Patel, Jagtap along with Goutam Jain, Kavita Jain and Saloni Jain on 22 September 2024.

On this occasion Ms. Kavita Jain said that Navkar Navratri Utsav creates an extraordinary experience by providing AC arena, Complimentary Dinner for participants for 5 days, Lip smacking food court, Famous Bollywood Celebrity- Sourabh Raaj Jain, Huge Outdoor Lawn Area, Mar-



vellous experience of MAHA- AARTI on Ashtami Day & Exclusive Prizes worth 25 lakhs for all the participants. The event has

been a huge success in all the previous six years and we expect the same to be this year too she added. They organise one

of the best and most premium Navratri in the city with Bollywood celebrities and Socialites invited all days.

Vahnija Global Life Sciences Unveils Groundbreaking Projects in South India for Digitization of Healthcare



Vahnija Global Life Sciences, in association with PRGENIX, hosted a grand launch event to unveil its innovative projects aimed at transforming the healthcare landscape through the power of digitization. The event, held on September 22nd, 2024, at the Indra Imperia Banquets in Hyderabad, was attended by industry luminaries and esteemed guests. Dr. Yadukul S, the Deputy Superintendent of AIIMS and ABDM Nodal Officer, and Mr. V. Pathak, the CEO of PRGENIX, graced the occasion as Guests of Honor.

Dr. I. Priyadarshini, the Founder and

CEO of Vahnija Global Life Sciences, expressed her excitement about the company's ambitious projects. She said, "Vahnija Global Life Sciences is committed to revolutionizing healthcare in South India through the strategic deployment of digital technologies. Our innovative solutions will empower medical professionals, enhance patient experiences, and drive efficient, data-driven decision-making." The event showcased Vahnija's comprehensive range of digital healthcare offerings, including its state-of-the-art Cloud-based Laboratory Information Management Sys-

tem (LIMS). This LIMS solution is designed to streamline and automate laboratory workflows, offering features such as sample and inventory management, a powerful mobile application, and AI-driven advertising and promotion. Dr. Yadukul S, the Deputy Superintendent of AIIMS and ABDM Nodal Officer, emphasized the importance of digitalization in the healthcare sector. "The integration of digital technologies is crucial in improving healthcare accessibility, efficiency, and patient outcomes. Vahnija's initiatives align with the national government's ABDM (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) measures, and we are excited to witness their impact on the region." Mr. V. Pathak, the CEO of PRGENIX, lauded Vahnija's efforts and the

synergistic partnership between the two organizations. "PRGENIX is proud to support Vahnija Global Life Sciences in their endeavor to digitize healthcare in South India. Together, we are poised to revolutionize the way medical services are delivered and experienced."

The event was attended by a diverse audience, including healthcare professionals, industry experts, and members of the press, who were impressed by Vahnija's comprehensive suite of digital solutions. Vahnija Global Life Sciences is set to continue its journey of transforming the healthcare landscape, leveraging the power of technology to improve patient outcomes and enhance the efficiency of medical services.

BRS leaders push for 42 per cent BC reservation, meet Justice Eshwaraiah

Hyderabad: National BC Commission former chairman Justice V Eshwaraiah stated that increasing BC reservation to 42 per cent in Telangana is feasible, provided the government is sincere in its endeavours. He shared his views during a meeting with BRS BC leaders including BRS Opposition leader in Council S Madhusudhanachari, former Minister V Srinivas Goud, and Rajya Sabha MP

Vaddiraju Ravichandra at the former's residence here on Monday.

The discussion centered on the Congress party's Kamareddy Declaration, which promises 42 per cent reservation for backward classes in local bodies, and the need for a comprehensive caste census. They also discussed about the legal provisions pertaining to these two issues and a strategy to be adopted to achieve them.

Ashray Akruti Celebrates International Day of Sign Languages with Resounding "Signathon 2024" Run

Ashray Akruti, a registered NGO working to improve the lives of people with disabilities and marginalized sections of society, successfully organized its annual "Signathon" run on September 22, 2024, coinciding with the International Day of Sign Languages. The event, graced by chief guest Mr. Nitin Sharma, Senior Director of Technology and Patent Counsel at Qualcomm, saw the participation of esteemed guests of honor, including Mr. Harish Kumar Sirapu, Hyderabad CCC Chair Person, State Street; Mr. JSR Prasad, Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital; Ms. Archana Suresh, Telangana-Social Impact group, Dept. of Industries, Govt. of Telangana; Mr. Mani Shyam Sundar, Senior Director Partner Management & Site Director, Hyderabad; and Ms. Sunitha Tangella, Manager, Client Analytics, Unisys.

In the lead-up to the International Day of Sign Languages on September 23rd, Ashray Akruti, a prominent NGO dedicated to the wellbeing of people with hearing impairments, conducted the grand 'Signathon 2024' (Run for a cause) event on September 22nd, 2024 at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad. Around 1500 people, including children from deaf

and dumb schools, participated in the run. The "Signathon" run, organized to raise awareness and celebrate the diverse languages of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, was a resounding success, drawing enthusiastic participation from the public. The event aimed to promote inclusivity and accessibility for all, aligning with Ashray Akruti's mission to empower individuals with disabilities and marginalized groups.

"Signathon 2024 is our way of celebrating the rich diversity of sign languages and their power to connect and empower the hearing-impaired community," said Mr. DPK Babu, Founder-Director of Ashray Akruti. "We are thrilled to have hosted this year's event and are grateful for the overwhelming support and participation from the community. This event is a testament to our commitment to creating a more inclusive society, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential." The event featured a captivating 2 km Sign March, interactive sessions on Indian Sign Language (ISL), a Talent Showcase with inspiring performances by students, and a Flashmob followed by the National Anthem in ISL. "We invite the public to join us in this momentous occasion



and be a part of our journey towards a more inclusive society," said Mr. DPK Babu, Founder-Director of Ashray Akruti. The event concluded with a strong sense of unity and optimism, as participants and attendees celebrated the power of diversity and the importance of accessibility for all. "Signathon 2024 is a powerful demon-

stration of the commitment to promoting inclusivity and accessibility for the hearing-impaired community," said Mr. Nitin Sharma, Chief Guest and Senior Director of Technology and Patent Counsel at Qualcomm. "Ashray Akruti's efforts in organizing this event are truly commendable, and I am honored to be a part of this meaningful celebration."

Myntra's Big Fashion Festival kicks off on 26th September, with approximately 3.4 million trend-first festive fashion styles



Myntra unveiled the highly anticipated dates of its Big Fashion Festival (BFF). Set to commence on 26th September 2024, this edition sees BoAt as its title sponsor. The festival will feature a whopping approx 3.4 million styles, marking a 47% increase from its previous edition. The event will see participation from more than 9700+ leading brands across domestic, in-

ternational and homegrown; customers will be spoilt for choices with an array of products across categories. Myntra Insiders, members of Myntra's loyalty program will get Early Access to the Big Fashion festival 24 hours in advance, on the 25th of September. This year's festival is filled with innovative deals that will provide great value to customers. Additionally, the Big

Fashion Festival will have 'Brand Of The Day' with special deals, allowing customers to access selections from their favorite brands at never-before value. One of the most value-driven deals is 'Buy 1 Get 4', an unparalleled opportunity for customers to shop to their heart's content and refresh their wardrobes for the festive season.

Customers have plenty to be excited

about this festive season with incredible deals across categories, offering a wide range of products. Whether one is searching for trendy outfits, timeless classics, or statement pieces, Myntra will offer a vast array of options across categories, including men's occasion and casual wear, & women's ethnic and western wear, beauty and personal care, home, footwear, jewelry, watches and wearables. To delight the customers with enhanced offerings, Myntra has added a whopping 3700 new brands from the last festive season. Myntra will also feature unique hero collections during the BFF. Speaking on the BFF, Neha Wali, Senior Director, Revenue and Growth, Myntra said, "This edition of Big Fashion Festival is not just about shopping; it's about redefining the festive fashion experience for our customers. With an unparalleled array of styles and value-driven propositions, we are committed to offering trend-first fashion, beauty and lifestyle to millions of Indians celebrating the diverse range of festivals all over the country. Myntra's cutting-edge tech and differentiated services, in addition to our selection from international, domestic and homegrown brands are sure to make the shopping experience truly seamless and enjoyable." During the event, customers can avail additional 7.5% +5% off using Myntra's co-branded credit card in association with Kotak Mahindra Bank, to unlock more value on their purchases. In addition to assured cashbacks from PhonePe, through financial banks like ICICI, Kotak and Axis, shoppers can also avail up to 10% off while making their festive purchases.

Telangana's MSME Sector Gets Digital Boost from CII's Digital Saksham Project

The MSME sector in Telangana is leveraging benefit of the digital technologies with Confederation of Indian Industry's innovative initiative Project Digital Saksham. The Project Digital Saksham in partnership with Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, is bridging the gap between digital tools and micro enterprises. The project has made significant strides in Telangana, successfully completing its mission in Hyderabad & Pochampally with an impressive outreach to 10,053 MSMEs, providing training to 2,132 businesses, and achieving an adoption rate of 1,654 enterprises.

Mr. M Ponnuswami, Co-Chairman, CII National MSME Council, commented on the program's success: "The Digital Saksham initiative has been transformative for Telangana's MSME sector. By equipping entrepreneurs with essential digital tools and skills, we're fostering growth, sustainability, and global competitiveness. The program's success in Hyderabad demonstrates the eagerness of local businesses to embrace digital transformation. To ensure maximum learning in Telangana, the content is being offered in Telugu thus eliminating many barriers which were restricting micro enterprises in updating to digital business practices. The same is being adopted across 13 states and 55 clusters where all the content is available in regional language and local trainers are hired to understand the depth of the problem micro-enterprises are witnessing. In Telangana, we're focusing on enabling micro-enterprises to transition from physical to digital payments, assisting with Udyam portal registration, e-filing of taxes, website development, social media marketing and exploring digital trade opportunities."

The impact of Digital Saksham in Telangana is evident through numerous success stories. Seetha Vaishnavi, from Pochampally, Hyderabad, faced financial difficulties due to her father-in-law's paralysis, requiring ₹7,500 monthly for treatment.



She began weaving sarees to support her family but earned low profits due restricted market access and lack of digital knowledge. Through the Project Digital Saksham, Seetha received training on how she can showcase her product on digital commerce platforms. From creating an account, e-catalogue and how the products should be clicked and displayed on these websites, the trainings supported her to connect with

Pan India audience. Her income has since increased, and she now helps other weavers list their products online.

Another inspiring example is Mokal Mahesh, a 27-year-old auto garage worker in Hyderabad. Facing financial difficulties, Mahesh received digital training through the program. Considering the nature of work, it was difficult for Mokal to maintain an account of everyday payment and keep

cash handy to return to customers. Through Project Digital Saksham Mokal learned about digital payments and established an online presence, leading to a 30-40% increase in his customer base and a 25-30% boost in monthly revenue. Online payments now constitute 50-60% of his total transactions, showcasing the program's success in improving financial management and customer satisfaction.

Laparoscopic, robotic surgeries revolutionising urology: Experts

Hyderabad: Laparoscopic and robotic surgeries are revolutionising urology, offering more precision, better outcomes and an improved quality of life for patients, said urologists drawn from various parts of the country in a national-level training and scientific update programme titled 'LAP-URO'24' organised by Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, on Sunday.

The programme featured a wide range of live surgeries, including laparoscopic simple nephrectomy, retroperitoneoscopic nephrectomy, adrenalectomy and robotic prostatectomy.

The discussions further emphasised the role of modern technology in transforming surgical procedures, making them safer

and more effective. Dr Gutta Srinivas, senior urologist and kidney transplant surgeon of Yashoda Hospitals, said, "Through programmes such as LAP-URO, we aim to foster innovation in minimally invasive surgeries, ensuring that our patients receive the best care possible, with the least discomfort and quickest recovery times." "Events such as LAP-URO'24 are crucial for the continuous development of expertise and the incorporation of the latest technology in everyday practice, he added. Experts, including Prof Dr Anant Kumar, Dr Arvind Ganpule, Dr Jamal Rizvi and Dr Sreeharsha, engaged in in-depth discussions on key topics ranging from radical prostatectomy to renal transplants, setting new benchmarks in urological care.



India is electrifying but what about the charging points?

The government of India has made a concerted effort to decarbonise its transport system. Electric two-wheelers are leading this transition and constitute 58% of all EV sales. However, electric two-wheelers constitute only 5% of all two-wheeler sales in the country. Women are a small fraction of drivers, with only 12% of all driving licences issued to women in 2019-20. The Urban Catalysts conducted research to understand the key factors influencing the uptake of electric two-wheelers among women in India. This is funded by the High-Volume Transport Applied Research Programme by UK Aid. Primary surveys and focus group discussions (FGD) with existing ICE and electric two-wheeler users in Chennai and Delhi revealed a concern regarding charging in public spaces.

A majority of E2W surveyed users (90% of personal and 75% of commercial) reported charging primarily at their homes on a regular basis. They restricted travel distances due to the lack of reliable information on the location of charging stations and their placement. This is compounded by gendered safety concerns for women E2W users. A female E2W user in Chennai said: "Even if I go to the mall for charging, the charging points are located in the parking area where there are no lights, security, or other people around. It's challenging to stand alone there while charging". Another female E2W said: "I don't prefer going to public charging stations because I'm not comfortable standing there for a long time. It can attract unwanted attention, with people questioning why I'm standing there. To avoid such situations, I choose to charge my vehicle at home." Men prioritised affordability and functional charging points. Women, on the other hand, prioritised safety, comfort, usability, and the accessibility of the charging infrastructure. Women were concerned about how to use charging stations, the safety of these locations, and longer waiting times. Having received this feedback from existing E2W users, we developed an analytical framework to assess public charging stations in different zones in Chennai and Delhi. The framework included four indicators with 23 associated attributes. The four indicators included (i) Ease of locating the charging stations; (ii) Security; (iii) Charging infrastructure and network connectivity; and (iv) Amenities. Each attribute was assigned a weight (ranging from 0.5, 1, 1.5 to 3.0) based on its importance. Field visits were conducted to assess 60 charging points across Delhi and Chennai. Delhi was divided into five zones—North, Central, South, East, and West; and Chennai was divided into three zones. Each attribute was scored between 0, 1, 2, and 3 depending on the quality. A total score was arrived at with charging points from 0-33 rated as very poor, 33.01-66 rated as poor and 66.01-99 rated as satisfactory. The charging points in Chennai were rated as poor on all four indicators whereas those in Delhi rated poor on ease of locating the charging points and security, satisfactory on charging infrastructure and network connectivity and very

poor on amenities. Unreliable information on charging points

Of the selected charging points, 64% and 46% were operational in Delhi and Chennai respectively. As per the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Chennai has 151 public charging points, whereas Delhi has 2,452 charging points as per the Switch Delhi website. Based on our sample survey, this translates to one charging point for every 103 EVs in Delhi and one charging point for every 455 EVs in Chennai, in comparison to 6-20 EVs for one public charger globally (Alvarez & Marsal, 2022). The team had to refer to mobile applications of different charging point operators (CPOs) to ascertain that they existed and were operational and for the accurate location of the charging points. Many charging points lacked clear signage and visibility.

Safety and security of the charging points Most charging points did not have an attendant or security personnel. This was a concern not only in secluded areas but for providing information to users. CCTV cameras were installed at some of the points, particularly those at petrol pumps and along roadsides. Some stations in central Delhi were vandalised.

Charging infrastructure and network connectivity The availability of fast chargers for E2W, interoperability, information on how to use the charging point and waiting time to use the charging point were assessed. A female E2W opined: "Upon arrival at a charging point, I realised that the charging port did not suit my vehicle. I became really scared as my two-wheeler started blinking due to the low battery. Somehow, I managed to make it back home, but it was a nightmare for me." **Amenities** The charging points in Chennai and Delhi lacked amenities such as seating, shaded waiting areas, drinking water, and toilets. There was insufficient space to park the vehicle during charging. Additionally, the absence of shaded waiting areas is a crucial aspect due to heat waves in Delhi and Chennai and across India. **Recommendations** The ministry of power is revising charging infrastructure guidelines, which recommend creating a web portal/ software/mobile application for maintaining a database of charging points. In order to ensure consistency in the charging infrastructure across the country, the following key guidelines must be considered.

Central and state nodal agencies should adopt CP guidelines to issue permissions for installing CPs in public places. The charging point operators (CPO) should update the location and operational status of the CP on a weekly basis and provide information on the real-time availability of the CP for user convenience. The usability of the CP needs to be improved with bilingual signage, and instructional information. Additionally, CPOs should share gender-disaggregated data on the utilisation of the CP with the state nodal agencies on a fortnightly basis, who can share the same with Central Nodal Agen-



cies periodically. This will provide insights on the use, and underutilisation of the charging points by time of day and vehicle type and take appropriate action to increase or remove charging points for certain types of vehicles. The CPs should be well-lit at night, located in active areas and not in proximity to standalone liquor stores. The height of the CP should ensure safety for children, along with safety instructions, and an accessible, unobstructed path to park, enter and exit. Trained personnel can be considered to support E2W users.

The availability of fast chargers, and interoperability will be critical to creating a reliable public charging network. Lastly, amenities such as shaded seated areas, drinking water, and toilets in proximity to

the charging point will improve the overall experience for E2Ws.

The utilisation of electric two-wheelers and other commercial vehicles especially will depend on the reliability, safety, convenience and affordability of public charging infrastructure. The government and CPO together will need to create an enabling environment.

Sonal Shah is the founder, Lakshmi Radhakrishnan is an associate-Integrated Urban Transport, and Manisha Sharma is a senior associate-Integrated Urban Transport at The Urban Catalysts. The article benefited from inputs by Priyadarshi Singh and Adithya Dushyanth. The views expressed are personal

OpenAI's new AI model to tackle complex questions with advanced reasoning

New Delhi: As generative AI (GenAI) becomes popular across the spectrum, Sam Altman-run OpenAI has introduced a new 'reasoning' model which has been trained to answer more complex questions, faster than a human can. According to the AI company, it trained 'OpenAI o1 model' to spend more time thinking through problems before they respond, much like a person would. Through training, they learn to refine their thinking process, try different strategies, and recognise their mistakes.

The new AI model can be used by healthcare researchers to annotate cell sequencing data, by physicists to generate complicated mathematical formulas needed for quantum optics, and by developers in all fields to build and execute multi-step workflows.

"We've developed a new series of AI models designed to spend more time thinking before they respond. They can reason through complex tasks and solve harder problems than previous models in science, coding, and math," the company added. In tests, the model performs similarly to PhD students on challenging benchmark tasks

in physics, chemistry, and biology.

"We also found that it excels in math and coding. In a qualifying exam for the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO), GPT-4o correctly solved only 13 per cent of problems, while the reasoning model scored 83 per cent," said OpenAI. The coding abilities were evaluated in contests and reached the 89th percentile in Codeforces competitions. As an early model, it doesn't yet have many of the features that make ChatGPT useful, like browsing the web for information and uploading files and images. However, for complex reasoning tasks, this is a significant advancement and represents a new level of AI capability. "Given this, we are resetting the counter back to 1 and naming this series OpenAI o1," said the company. It has also developed a cheaper model in the 'reasoning' series, called OpenAI o1-mini, which is a faster reasoning model that is particularly effective at coding. As a smaller model, o1-mini is 80 per cent cheaper than o1-preview, making it a powerful, cost-effective model for applications that require reasoning but not broad world knowledge.