

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer

Justice is alive because of what Chandrababu did. I said on November 5, 2004, that 'Dharma' will win on any day. My special thanks to the judges who gave a verdict in favour of us. Chandrababu categorised SC reservations in United Andhra Pradesh. Now also Chandrababu is the CM of AP when the SC issued a verdict favouring us

**- Manda Krishna Madiga, MRPS**

We support development, not expansionism:  
**PM Modi**

**'INDIA'S NEW EV POLICY NOT SUITABLE FOR JLR AT PRESENT'**

Ramesh Taurani addresses rumours about Sreeleela's role in **HIS NEXT**

## SC upholds Madigas' demand

The apex court says states can sub-classify SCs to grant quota to more backward castes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and economically more backward.

A seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, by a majority of 6:1, set aside the apex court's five-judge bench verdict of 2014 in the EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh case which had held that no sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) can be allowed as they are a homogeneous class in themselves. "The State in exercise of its power

**A seven-judge constitution bench by a majority of 6:1, set aside the apex court's five-judge bench verdict of 2014 in the EV Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh case which had held that no sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) can be allowed as they are a homogeneous class in themselves.**



under Articles 15 (non-discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth) and 16 (equality of opportunity in public employment) of the Constitution is free to identify the dif-

ferent degrees of social backwardness and provide special provisions (such as reservation) to achieve the specific degree of harm identified," held the CJI in his 140-page judgement.

Continued on Page 7

States must identify creamy layer, deny them quotas: Justice Gavai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

States must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) and deny them the benefit of reservation, Supreme Court judge Justice B R Gavai said on Thursday.



Marshals taking out Bharath Rastra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao from Assembly on Thursday

## BRS MLAs bundled off to TG Bhavan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharath Rastra Samithi MLAs held a protest in the Telangana Assembly on Thursday demanding an apology from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over his insulting remarks against women MLAs of the BRS.

As soon as the House commenced business, the BRS MLAs wearing black badges rose and started raising slogans. The Members came to the well of the House and engaged in sloganeering during a discussion on a Bill for setting up skill universi-

ties in the state. Despite repeated requests by Speaker G. Prasad Kumar and the treasury benches to return to their seats, the BRS legislators continued their protest. AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi asked the Speaker to either give the BRS members a chance to speak or suspend them so that the House can function. "You have to face them or show the guts to suspend them. If you don't have the guts, you give them the mic," he said.

Continued on Page 7

**DON'T MISS...**

**TG MP's call to amend PCA...**

Telangana MP Porika Balram Naik urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act 1960, through a letter on July 26. The MP emphasised the urgent need to table the new animal welfare bill (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill 2022) in the current session of Parliament to ensure a safe and humane society for both - humans and animals. The letter outlined the need to increase the penalty for ...

-PAGE: 3

**'Bad' cholesterol among new risk...**

Loss of vision and high "bad" cholesterol levels have been added to risk factors for dementia, according to a new report by Lancet Commission. Researchers said addressing risk factors childhood onwards and monitoring them throughout life could help stave off or delay onset of the mental condition, even in people having a high genetic risk. Quality education for children and reduced exposure to air pollution have been suggested to reduce the risk of the disease...

-PAGE: 5

**'TG will be first to implement SC order, asserts CM**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy welcomed the Supreme Court order that states can sub-classify Scheduled Castes for quota purposes and declared that TG would be the first to implement it.



SC Madiga MLAs thank CM on Thursday

**TG job calendar today: Ponguleti**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state Cabinet has approved the much awaited job calendar to conduct recruitments to TG government service every year for a specific period of time as per the promise given to the unemployed during the Assembly elections, Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations



Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

**CREDAI HYDERABAD**

**Shri D. Sridhar Babu**  
Hon'ble Minister of Industries & IT, Telangana

**CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show, August 2024**

**#CREDAIbility**

is finding the right home in the most loved city.

Now is the time to invest and call Hyderabad your home forever.

**Shri A. Revanth Reddy**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana & Minister of MA & UD

**CREDAI HYDERABAD PROPERTY SHOW**

**TRANSPARENT. TRUSTWORTHY. TRANSFORMING.**

**Title Sponsor**

**Powered By**

**Presented By**

**Palladium Sponsors**

**Platinum Plus Sponsors**

**Platinum Sponsors**

**Banking Partner**

**Diamond Sponsors**

**Gold Sponsors**

**Visit the largest one-stop property show.**

**2-4 Aug, 2024 - HITEC City, Hitex**

Grab a lucky draw coupon & **win a car!**

Scan & know more

www.credaihyderabad.in  
Call: 040 - 40151614

# HYDRA poised for streamlining govt land administration

Hyderabad and its environs have long been known for their vast tracts of government land. After the end of the Nizam's rule and the merger of the erstwhile Hyderabad State into the Indian Union, Hyderabad became a land bank for setting up central and state government institutions. Over the years, successive governments have allocated thousands of acres of this extensive land to central and state public sector enterprises, military forces, research institutions, and educational establishments.

The value of land in and around Hyderabad has become more valuable than gold. Due to a lack of proper supervision, some of these government lands are often encroached upon. In the combined Andhra Pradesh, government lands in Hyderabad were encroached upon significantly, and this menace has only doubled in Telangana post bifurcation. Historical chain tanks have been obliterated, and hills have been razed to create real estate plots.

The previous government, by removing village revenue offi-

cers (VROs) and village revenue assistants (VRAs) from the Revenue Department, essentially enabled these land grabs. Those who were supposed to protect the land under GO 59 were involved in exploiting it.

Now, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the present government has focused on putting an end to the destruction of land in Hyderabad. The Chief Minister has come up with a new initiative to protect government lands and tanks for future generations. A special department, named 'Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Protection' (HYDRA), has been established for this purpose, appointing senior police officer AV Ranganath as Commissioner.

The erstwhile Hyderabad State had 5.30 crore acres of arable land, of which 3 crore acres were government land under the Shistu system, referred to as Diwani or Khalsa, constituting about 60% of the agricultural land. Around 30% of the land was under the Jagirdari system, and the remaining 10% was the Nizam's personal property,

**The previous government, by removing village revenue officers (VROs) and village revenue assistants (VRAs) from the Revenue Department, essentially enabled these land grabs. Those who were supposed to protect the land under GO 59 were involved in exploiting it.**

known as Sarf-e-Khas, meaning personal income or private expenditure. The Nizam retained around 55 lakh acres of this land for his own expenses, spread across 18 taluks and 1,443 villages. About 15 lakh farmers cultivated these lands.

In Telangana, there were 508 Sarf-e-Khas villages primarily in the Atrabaldra (current Ranga Reddy district). There were also 1.50 crore acres of jagir land in Hyderabad, along with inam (Khareej Jama) and jagir lands. Additionally, there were lakhs of acres of land in the form of hills, tanks, and other areas. After the merger of Hyderabad State into the Indian Union in 1948, the Sarf-e-Khas lands were integrat-

ed into Khalsa lands by paying Rs.18 crore to the jagirdars through the Hyderabad Abolition of Jagirs Regulation Act, 1949. Thousands of acres of land were donated during the Bhoodan movement of 1951. Currently, these lands lack protection and are being encroached upon.

The Hyderabad Municipal Corporation was restructured into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) by the then Congress government. Now, under the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy, efforts are being made to extend the GHMC jurisdiction up to the Outer Ring Road (ORR). HYDRA will include areas within the ORR, covering



DR. N. YADAGIRI RAO

about 2,000 square kilometers, 27 municipalities, and 33 panchayats, operating autonomously. HYDRA will oversee GHMC, HMDA, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, and Sangareddy districts, designated as the Telangana Core Urban Region (TCUR), managing disaster response and other authorities.

HYDRA aims to prevent land grabs of tanks, protect government lands, and control illegal constructions. It will ensure accountability in government departments, playing a crucial role in disaster management and protecting govern-

ment assets. The Enforcement Vigilance Disaster Management (EVD) of GHMC will be restructured. Thousands of acres of government, tank, Waqf, endowment, park, and inam lands under GHMC and HMDA have been encroached upon. HYDRA will address these encroachments by coordinating with various departments and using satellite images and government records to survey and identify encroachments, and demolish illegal constructions.

Hyderabad once had over 2,000 tanks, but many have disappeared due to lack of supervision and rising land values. Henceforth, HYDRA will monitor construction within the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones of tanks and assign staff and CCTV surveillance. Special task forces will oversee enforcement within zones, ensuring compliance.

HYDRA will also oversee flood management, road construction, and repairs. It will ensure efficient execution of works by GHMC, Water Board, and traffic police, addressing complaints about poor execu-

tion. The department will regulate unauthorized hoardings, flex boards, drinking water pipelines, electricity supply lines, drainage, flood management, and traffic control.

CM Revanth Reddy will serve as the Chairman of the HYDRA governing board. The government's GO No. 99 outlines various aspects, stating that a Commissioner of all-India service rank or higher will head HYDRA. The board includes the municipal administration minister, revenue and disaster management minister, in-charge ministers of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Sangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, GHMC Mayor, Chief Secretary, and Principal Secretary of municipal administration, ICC head, and HYDRA Commissioner. A sub-committee on TCUR disaster management, chaired by the Principal Secretary of municipal administration with 14 members from various departments, will assist the governing board in policy and planning.

HYDRA will receive government budget allocations, with the Telangana govern-

ment allocating Rs. 200 crore for this financial year. Additional funds will come from GHMC, HMDA, TGS-PDCL, Water Works, MRDC, HGC, and other utilities, including local authorities. HYDRA will take coordinated and swift action against encroachments and unauthorized constructions. Responsibilities for removing unauthorized hoardings and collecting penalties will be transferred from GHMC to HYDRA. HYDRA will also oversee park protection and include town planning, revenue, police, traffic police, and other officials. HYDRA will bring together officials from disaster response, police, revenue, irrigation, surveying, town planning, forest, and registration departments on deputation.

All told, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Authority (HYDRA) is poised to leave a lasting legacy by safeguarding government lands, tanks, responding to disasters, and checking illegal constructions.

*(The writer is Additional Commissioner, GHMC)*

## Women live in fear in TG: Sabitha BRS women MLAs stand in vain for 4 hours demanding mic

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former ministers Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, along with MLA Kova Lakshmi held a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan. During the meeting, Sabitha Indra Reddy criticised the Congress government's claims of 'prajapalan' and 'Indiramma palan' after coming to power. She said the promises made to women were what brought the Congress to power but now women live in fear. Incidents of violence against women have increased, she said while raising the issue in the Assembly. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been reluctant to give women a voice in the Assembly, she said.

Sabitha said that she kept standing for four and a half hours in the Assembly



demanding a mic while the Congress seemed to enjoy her plight. She compared current Chief Minister Revanth Reddy with previous CMs like YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Chandrababu Naidu and K. Chandrasekhara Reddy, who would have responded to women standing for such long hours. Kova Lakshmi was also denied a chance to speak on SC categorisation. Sabitha criticised the Speaker for not heeding their concerns and referred to Dr

Ambedkar who advocated respect for women. Sunitha Lakshma Reddy spoke about the humiliation they faced in the Assembly, where they stood for hours without a response from the Congress. The remarks of junior MLAs were hurtful, she said and added that the situation regarding women's safety and security is worsening. She also refuted the CM's claims about cases registered against her during her campaigns, stating that three cases were actually filed due to her speeches.

## 'AP, TG govts must not start hiring till categorisation of SC/ST quota is over'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Expressing happiness over the Supreme Court verdict on the categorisation of SC, ST reservations, the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi's (MRPS) Founder President, Manda Krishna Madiga, appealed to the governments of the Telugu States not to conduct recruitments till the categorisation of SC/ST reservations is over.

Speaking to the media after the Supreme Court's verdict on the SCs premises on Thursday, Manda Krishna Madiga said the SC made it clear that states have the authority to categorise SC/ST reservations. He said that many MRPS activists lost their lives during the movement that has been going on for the last 30 years. He said that MRPS fought to



correct the injustice meted out to the Madiga community. Manda Krishna said that they are dedicating the Supreme Court verdict to the MRPS leaders who sacrificed their lives for the movement.

"I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the initiative for the speedy process. I said on November 5, 2004, that 'Dharma' can be on any day. 'Adharma' is temporary and 'Dharma' will win in the end. Special thanks to the judges who gave a verdict in favour of us. Chandrababu did categorization of SC Reservation in United Andhra Pradesh. Now too Chandrababu is the CM of AP at the time when the verdict came in favour of us. Special thanks to Chandrababu for categorising SC reservations.

## New city will match New York, says Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Young India Skill University at Muchharla on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering the CM emphasised that the government is planning for future generations and that in future the entire area will be a city that would match New York. A health tourism hub and sports hub are also part of the plans. Poor families who lost their land for the project will receive good compensation, he said.

"The government will provide skill development facilities and jobs to their children. Plans include constructing a 200-foot road from the univer-

sity to the airport, and a Metro Rail facility," he said.

He also said that under the supervision of Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy the construction of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) will commence in three months.

The event was attended by government officials and dignitaries.

The CM said the government is establishing the Young India Skill University to develop the region and provide jobs to youth. The government is planning to build a new city as part of this, he added.

The creation of education, healthcare and employment facilities is essential for building a new city. The government adopted a bill in the

Assembly to set up the Skill University.

He said the foundation stone was laid for an Advanced Technology Centre, Modern School, Primary Health Centre and Community Centre. He drew parallels with Jawaharlal Nehru, who prioritized education and irrigation and noted that the Congress pumped Godavari and Krishna waters to Hyderabad to meet drinking water needs.

The Skill University aims to provide skill training to lakhs of youth. Many companies have already expressed their willingness to provide jobs along with the training. Admission to the university will guarantee employment for youth, he said.

## TG job calendar today...

Continued on Page 1

The matter will be discussed in the Assembly, he added.

He said the government will announce the Job Calendar on Friday in the Assembly and give it legitimacy. He also revealed that the government will also conduct a discussion about the Dharani Portal on Friday and that the government will reveal details of the Dharani Committee's report. Addressing the media at the Assembly Committee Hall on Thursday along with Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar after a Cabinet meeting, Ponguleti said the Cabinet had decided to issue white ration cards and Arogyasri cards separately.

The government has appointed a three-member Cabinet Sub-Committee for

this comprising Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

He said the Cabinet Sub-Committee will prepare guidelines for the issue of white ration cards and that the government will give white ration cards to all those who are eligible. The government would also issue health cards containing full medical data to everyone in the state.

Ponguleti said the Cabinet meeting had approved the government move to give house sites measuring 600 square yards to players Esha Singh, Nikhath Jareen and Mohammed Siraj. The Cabinet also decided to give Group-I cadre jobs to Nikhath Jareen and Mohammed Siraj, he said.

## NSUI thanks Govt for agreeing to release Job Calendar

The NSUI's state President, MLC Balmoor Venkat, on Thursday welcomed the green signal given to the Job Calendar by the Cabinet and the decision to release it in the Assembly on Friday after the discussion on it.

He said the Congress had stood by its word by agreeing to release the Job Calendar and that the Congress government once again proved that it is not mere words but deeds. He said the government will stand by the unemployed. The future of youth and the unemployed is important to the Congress.

## 'Will honour SC verdict in jobs already notified'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Leaders from across the political spectrum welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict on categorisation of SC/ST reservations irrespective of their affiliations.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, while welcoming the SC verdict, said in the Assembly that he will take steps to implement the categorisation of SC/ST reservations in jobs already notified.

"We moved an adjournment motion in the same House. However, the then government expelled SA Sampath Kumar and me from the House. The BRS government said that it will take an all-party delegation to the

Prime Minister on categorisation of SC reservations. However, it deceived Madigas by not taking the all-party delegation to the PM. We sent MLAs and the Advocate General (AG) to New Delhi under Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha as per the directions of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka after coming to power. The Congress government made a strong case in court after discussing with legal experts," he said.

The CM said the Congress government thanked the Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench for giving a favourable verdict regarding Madiga and Madiga sub-castes.

## BRS..

Continued on Page 1

After BRS MLA Harish Rao made a favourable statement on the skill university and the Supreme Court's verdict on empowering states to make sub-classifications of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, BRS MLAs walked out and staged a dharna in front of the CM's chamber in the Assembly.

They were evicted by the marshals, who carried BRS leader KT Rama Rao and others out of the Assembly. The BRS MLAs were lifted from the CM's chamber and taken in a van to Telangana Bhavan. Hitting back at the BRS, Revanth said he had always respected women. The BRS also called for statewide protests on Thursday against the CM's comments.

## Master Plan 2050 will be available next year: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"The Master Plan 2050 will be available next year. The government maintains an open mind with no disagreements regarding Telangana's development even if there are ideological differences with some individuals," the CM said.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that despite the changes in city's administrations and state governments the development decisions taken for Hyderabad have continued giving the city a unique recognition worldwide. The CM was addressing the 'Reimagining Hyderabad' programme organised by CREDAI at Hotel Kohinoor as the chief guest. The function was attended by Ministers

Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, CREDAI representatives and officials.

"Hyderabad has become a model for the nation and the world in the pharmaceutical sector. The fruits of decisions taken by the state's rulers in 1965 are being experienced today," he said.

"What was once a forest 25 years ago is now a thriving part of Hyderabad, making people wonder if they are still in the same city. Plans are being made for Hyderabad 4.0's development. Today, the foundation for the Skill University was laid at Bagari Kanche, a name that some might find even difficult to pronounce much like how Banjara Hills was once perceived.

**TODAY ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha  
Tithi: Trayodashi: Aug 01 03:29 PM to Aug 02 03:27 PM  
Chaturdashi: Aug 02 03:27 PM to Aug 03 03:50 PM

**Nakshatram:**  
Ardra: Aug 01 10:24 AM to Aug 02 10:59 AM  
Punarvasu: Aug 02 10:59 AM to Aug 03 11:59 AM

**Rahukalam:** 10:46 AM to 12:22 PM  
**Yamagandam:** 3:33 PM to 5:09 PM  
**Varjyam:** 11:29 PM to 01:09 AM  
**Gulika:** 7:35 AM to 9:10 AM  
**Amritkalam:** None  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy  
Temp: 28°C  
Humidity: 76%  
Sunrise: 5:56 AM  
Sunset: 6:49 PM  
Updated: August 1, 2024 5:00 PM

## SC upholds...

Continued on Page 1

"Historical and empirical evidence demonstrates that the SCs are a socially heterogeneous class. Thus, the state in exercise of the power under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) can further classify the SCs if (a) there is a rational principle for differentiation; and (b) the rational principle has a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification," the CJ held.

The six judgements, running into 565 pages, were penned on the contentious issue by the CJ, who wrote for himself and Justices Manoj Misra, and Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mithal, Satish Chandra Mishra and Justice Bela M Trivedi.

Except for Justice Trivedi, the other five judges concurred with the findings of the CJ. Justice Trivedi, in her 85-page dissenting judgement, said it is only Parliament which can include a caste in the SC list or exclude it, and states are not empowered to tinker with it. The SCs, she ruled, are a "homogeneous class" incapable of being sub-classified further. "The States have no legislative competence to enact the law for providing reservation or giving preferential treatment to a particular caste/castes by dividing/sub-dividing/sub-classifying or regrouping the castes, races or tribes enumerated as the 'SCs' in the notification under Article 341," Justice Trivedi wrote.

The CJ, in the majority verdict, held, "If the SCs are not similarly situated for the purposes of the law (or the specific harm identified), there is nothing in Articles 15, 16 and 341 (President's power to classify SCs) which prevents the State from applying the principle of sub-classification to the class."

"Thus, the SCs can be further classified if: (a) there is a rational principle for differentiation; and (b) if the rational principle has a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification," Justice Chandrachud said. The CJ made it clear that any decision to sub-classify SCs to grant more quota benefits to a particular caste inside the category can be reviewed judicially.

## States must identify creamy...

Continued on Page 1

Justice Gavai penned a separate but concurring judgement in which the top court by a majority verdict said states are empowered to make sub-classifications of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for granting quotas within the reserved category to uplift those who belong to the more underprivileged castes.

A seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud held by a 6:1 majority that further sub-classification of SCs and STs by states can be permitted to ensure quotas for castes that are more backward among them.

Four out of the six judges who agreed that states are empowered to make sub-classifications wrote in their separate judgments that those in the creamy layer must be

excluded from enjoying the benefits of reservation.

Justice Gavai, who wrote a 281-page separate but concurring verdict, said it is the duty of the State to give preferential treatment to the backward class of citizens who are not adequately represented in government jobs.

"The State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action. In my view, only this and this alone can achieve the real equality as enshrined under the Constitution," Justice Gavai said. The top court judge said children belonging to Scheduled Caste people who have got the benefit of reservation cannot be put on the same pedestal as those who have not.

## 'Will be first to...

Continued on Page 1

Making a statement in the Assembly on Thursday, Revanth Reddy said, "I heartily welcome the order of the Supreme Court. I thank the Constitutional Bench for this historic judgement."

The CM said that six out of seven judges allowed states to opt for categorisation.

The CM said that after the strong arguments put forward by the Telangana government, the Supreme Court gave a favourable verdict for Madigas and sub-castes that have been fighting for categorisation for decades.

"Telangana will be the first state to implement SC categorisation. We take up the responsibility of implementing it," he said.

The CM said if necessary, the government would issue

an ordinance to implement the Supreme Court order in the job notifications issued recently.

The CM noted that lakhs of Madigas and other sub-castes had been fighting for SC categorisation into ABCD sub-categories.

"For 27 years they fought in united Andhra Pradesh and Telangana," he said and recalled that he and the then Congress MLA, SA Sampath Kumar, were suspended from the Assembly by the BRS government when they had moved an adjournment for a debate on the issue.

The CM said the BRS government had promised to take an all-party delegation to New Delhi to meet the Prime Minister but betrayed Madigas by not taking the team.

The CM said that after the Congress came to power,

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Special teams catch four offenders in dacoity case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Special Police Teams caught four offenders in Rs 50 lakh dacoity case on Thursday. According to the information given to the Police, on July 21, 2024, Mahender Kumar of Bharathi Traders reported a robbery at his godown. Unknown assailants broke in around 2:45 am, threatened Kumar's workers with knives, and stole Rs 50 lakh in cash.

Under the guidance of DCP CH Srinivas and ACP T Srinivas, special teams led by Inspectors P Narender, G Thimappa, and Sanjay tracked the suspects to Sasthripuram. On Thursday, the teams arrested four individuals, Aqeel, Adnan, Mohd Saif, and Moshin.

The Police said the suspects were found with Rs 16 lakh in cash, an Innova car, a motorcycle, and other items used in the crime. The robbers planned the theft after learning about Kumar's cash from a contact.

ACB nabs junior assistant, Dharani operator for graft

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A junior assistant and Dharani operator were caught by ACB, Medak Range, for bribing a complainant on Thursday.

The accused, Chakali Arun Kumar, Dharani Operator (Outsourcing) and Manne Santosh, junior assistant when they demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs 30,000 from the complainant Venkatesham Yadav, for showing official favour for forwarding the succession file of the complainant's mother-in-law Mallella Jayamma through Chakali's Login ID to Tahsildar Login ID.

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | AUGUST 2, 2024

03

WRITES A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER  
**TG MP's call to amend PCA**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana MP Porika Balram Naik urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act 1960, through a letter on July 26.

The MP emphasised the urgent need to table the new animal welfare bill (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill 2022) in the current session of Parliament to ensure a safe and humane society for both - humans and animals. The letter outlined the need to increase the penalty for crimes against animals. Currently, the maximum fine for even the most heinous crime against animals - including beating, poisoning, raping or burning an animal - is a mere Rs 50 (and Rs 100 for repeat offenders).

The amendments proposed for the latest Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (Amendment) Bill 2022 are an increase of fine from Rs 50 to Rs 1,000 or upto Rs 2,500, whereas for a second offence, Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 or an imprisonment of six months to one year, or both. It recognises five fundamental freedoms for every animal - freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal and natural behavior. The Amendment includes provisions for State Animal Welfare Boards, ensuring infrastructure to meet effective implementation requirements as directed by the Supreme Court.

It also proposes adding a new Section 11(4), which mandates the maintenance of a record of all cases filed under this Act at the district headquarters. Extensive research consistently shows a connection between animal cruelty and acts of violence against humans. Therefore, it is essential to incorporate cases of animal cruelty into crime statistics databases. This inclusion will enable informed decision-making and the formu-



lation of preventive strategies aimed at creating a safer society. The provisions concerning 'cruelty' have been refined and categorised according to the severity of the act. Mousumi Gupta, Director of Government affairs, Humane Society International/India said, "The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, is outdated and inadequate in addressing the severity of crimes against animals."

It's disheartening to see that even the most heinous acts of cruelty carry minimal penalties. The time for change is now, and we are grateful for the support of the MPs who recognise the urgent need for stronger animal protection laws." Over 140 MPs, including Hema Malini, Pankaj Chaudhary, Arjun Lal Meena, Dr K. Laxman, Margani Bharat Ram, Dr Mohammed Jawed and Raja Amreshwara Naik supported Balram Naik and wrote to the Prime Minister requesting that the proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2022 be brought up for discussion.

**The amendment**

- It proposes increase of fine from Rs 50 to Rs 1000 or up to Rs 2,500 whereas for a second offence, Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 or a jail term of six months to one year, or both. It includes provisions for State Animal Welfare Boards and ensuring infrastructure to meet effective implementation requirements as directed by the Supreme Court.
- Telangana MP Porika Balram Naik urged PM Modi to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act 1960.
- To ensure a safe and humane society for both - humans and animals



**NMDC Hyd Marathon is affiliated to World Athletics**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 13th edition of the Hyderabad Marathon presented by the Hyderabad Runners Society, sponsored by NMDC, in partnership with IDFC First Bank, has announced its affiliation with the World Athletics on Thursday.

The NMDC Hyderabad Marathon has been granted the World Athletics "Basic" label. World Athletics, formerly known as the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) is the international governing body for the sport of athletics covering track and field events.

International sports federations such as World Athletics are taking on new hosts with the philosophy of 'sport for all' and the Hyderabad Marathon is its latest addition. As the second marathon in India to receive this label, the affiliation puts Hyderabad on the world map of the international sporting calendar, boosting our city's standing globally. Only 220 marathons have a label from World Athletics and the Hyderabad Marathon will now be one of the most sought-after marathons in the country and the world.

In a meeting to announce the World Athletics label for the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said, "I would like to congratulate the Hyderabad Runners Society for getting Hyderabad city on the World Athletics calendar through the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon by getting the World Athletics Label. We will support the event to meet all the necessary criteria of World Athletics and grow the event. I wish all the participants the best of luck."

Rajesh Vetcha, the race director for this edition of the marathon, said, "In the years to come, Hyderabad will produce some of the finest athletes in the country in both amateur and elite categories."

Abhijit, the President of Hyderabad Runners said, "We are incredibly proud of the World Athletics Basic label and we are looking forward to hosting elite runners from all over the world who will participate in the marathon and rack up their points."

MIHM TO BE PRINCIPAL KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

**AIG, ISB tie up to integrate healthcare innovation with AI**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian School of Business (ISB) on Thursday announced a collaboration with AIG Hospitals, one of the world's top-ranked gastroenterology institutions and India's largest super-specialty tertiary care hospital, for an initiative that redefines healthcare by merging the capabilities of AI with clinical experience of doctors in India.

Designed as the 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare Programme', it aims to foster a new era of innovation and excellence in healthcare delivery and most importantly enhance patient experience.

The initiative stresses the significant challenge of clinician involvement in tech innovation. The Max Institute of Healthcare Management (MIHM), an inter-disciplinary research institute at ISB, will be the principal knowledge partner in this collaboration which aims to create an unparalleled platform for healthcare innovation in India. The programme is being co-developed by researchers at MIHM, ISB and clinicians from AIG Hospitals to empower healthcare leaders with advanced AI skills and understand AI's implementation in clinical practices which will potentially elevate patient outcomes in both diagnostic as well as therapeutic aspects.

Guided by industry experts, academic visionaries and international experts, the programme will be led by Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, AIG Hospitals, Prof Sarang Deo, Deputy Dean, Faculty and Research and Executive Director, Max Institute of Healthcare Management, Dr Prateek Sharma, President, American Society of GI Endoscopy, & AIG, Dr Rakesh Kalapala, Director, Endoscopy (Centre for Obesity & Metabolic Therapy) and Kinjal Saxena, CTO, AIG Hospitals.

Dr Reddy said, "AI-based healthcare is the future, especially in the context of low-middle income countries where we are dealing with a significant increase in non-communicable and lifestyle diseases. This collaboration is a monumental leap towards integrating AI in healthcare, promising to revolutionise patient care across India and would set an example for other countries." Professor Deo, stated: "AI has made significant strides in recent



(L to R): Prof Sarang Deo, Deputy Dean - Faculty & Research, Executive Director - MIHM, ISB, Sujatha Kumaraswamy, Executive Director, Executive Education & Digital Learning, ISB and Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, AIG Hospitals

years, including in the healthcare sector. Yet, there are only a handful of success stories where AI created value for patients and healthcare organisations. At the ISB's Max Institute of Healthcare Management, we are generating new insights on the underlying drivers of AI success, especially pertaining to people (behavioural science) and processes (systems science). This initiative will help to both disseminate these insights and create early adopters as well as to generate new ideas which can be rigorously studied to create new insights."

Bid to understand AI's implementation in clinical practices which will potentially elevate patient outcomes in both diagnostic as well as therapeutic aspects

**1,175 children rescued through Operation Muskan-10 in July**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A total of 1,175 children involved in child labour and begging were rescued through Operation Muskan-10 in the month of July. This operation aims to trace missing children and rescue them from begging, rag picking, and child labor within the Hyderabad and Cyberabad Commissionerates.

As part of these efforts, 11 teams were formed in the Cyberabad Commissionerate. These teams conducted rescue operations in various industries, companies, and other establishments. They also carried out special drives to rescue minors from begging and uploaded their details in the "DarpanApp" to trace missing children.

In all, 25 teams were formed within Hyderabad, each team consisting of one labour department official, one

SI/ASI rank official, one official from the child and women protection unit, one member from the child line or NGO, one woman police personnel, and three HC/PCs.

During this period, 651 children were rescued within the Cyberabad Commissionerate. It includes four boys from begging and 614 from child labor, totaling 618 boys. Additionally, seven girls were rescued from begging and 26 from child labor, totaling 33 girls. Overall, there were 640 boys and 11 girls rescued from child labor and begging, totaling 651 children. According to the Muskan-10 Team, 264 cases were registered.

This operation was conducted by AHTU under the direction of Avinash Mohanthy, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad Commissionerate, and supervised by K Srujana, DCP, Women & Child Safety Wing, Cyberabad.



- 1,175 children involved in child labour and begging were rescued through Operation Muskan-10 in July
- According to Cyberabad team, 4 boys from begging and 614 from child labor, totaling 618 boys. 7 girls were rescued from begging and 26 from child labor, totaling 33 girls. 264 cases were registered.
- According to Hyderabad team, Total 524 children, of which 481 are boys and 43 are girls. 317 children belong to Telangana State, and 207 children belong to other states.



**GMR Hyd Airport launches sunflower drive**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The GMR Hyderabad International Airport launched the Sunflower programme on Thursday to assist travellers with hidden disabilities. This initiative highlights GHIAL's commitment to inclusivity and enhanced passenger services. Hidden disabilities include low vision, autism, dementia, intellectual disability, or hearing loss.

According to GHIAL, this program uses sunflower lanyards to secretly signal that a passenger may need extra assistance. These lanyards are globally recognised but do not guarantee quick services. Information about this service is available on the airport's website, where passengers can submit travel details or request assistance at the information desk.

CEO of GHIAL, Pradeep Panicker stated that the initiative aims to create a supportive and inclusive travel environment.

**Traffic curbs ahead of CM's meet at LB Stadium**



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Traffic Police announced restrictions to be followed during Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's meeting at the LB Stadium on Friday.

The restrictions will remain in place from 12 noon to 7 pm. Traffic moving from AR Petrol Pump Jn. (Public Gardens) towards BJR statue will be diverted at AR Petrol Pump towards Nampally; Traffic coming from Basheerbagh towards AR Petrol Pump will be diverted at BJR Statue towards, Abids-Nampally station road.

Traffic coming from Sujatha School lane towards Khan Lateef Khan building will be diverted at Sujatha School Junction towards Nampally. The following junctions must be avoided: VV Statue, Khairatabad flyover, Ambedkar

Statue, NTR Marg, Telugu Thalli, Tank Bund, RTC X Roads, Indira Park, Iqbal Minar, Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad Traffic police junction; Basheerbagh, BJR Statue Circle, SBI Gunfoundry, Abids Circle, AR Petrol Pump (Public Gardens), Nampally, KLK Building, Liberty, Himayath Nagar, Assembly, MJ Market and Hyderguda.

Buses plying from Ravindra Bharathi towards BJR Statue should avoid LB Stadium main Gate i.e. in front of Khan Lateef Khan Building and take diversion at AR Petrol (Public Gardens) bunk towards Nampally. In case of any emergency during travel, the commuters are requested to call for traffic helpline 9010203626 for assistance. All commuters are requested to follow the traffic advisory and cooperate with the traffic police.

**Action taken against malls collecting parking fee: GHMC**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata warned that strict action has been initiated against malls and multiplexes within GHMC limits for illegally collecting parking fees.

She noted that many malls, multiplexes and cinema theatres in the city are charging parking fees against the rules. Special teams conducted checks and found that malls were collecting parking fees from customers despite regu-



lations stating that parking should be free with a purchase receipt.

Additionally, a theatre registered as a single screen was discovered to be showing movies on multiple screens, Amrapali added.

She also said that, inspections of food stalls revealed that some places were selling low-quality food items. Following the Commissioner's directions, upon inspection, notices have been issued to the malls concerned and multiplexes for these irregularities.



## Registration of land gains momentum even in Ashdham

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

In all, 9,618 land documents were registered by the stamps and registration department in the State on Wednesday alone helping the government net a record-level revenue of Rs 115.37 crore.

Even in the inauspicious month of Ashdham, the property sellers and buyers conducted transactions as they apprehended that the prices of agricultural lands as well as non-agricultural plots' market value is going to be revised from August 1.

The stamps and registrations department earned a revenue of Rs 100 crore each on Tuesday and Wednesday. The land buyers have evinced interest to buy lands prior to increase of the market value of the lands. The rush of the people taking part in property deals has increased to the offices of sub-registrars and tahsildars.

Those who have paid advance and offered to register property in two or three months later too advanced their date of registration. To avoid increase in registration charges, they paid stamp duty for registration before July 31.

The stamps and registration department earnings doubled to Rs 80 crore per day in the district. Generally speaking, the registration of properties progress at snail's pace during the month of Ashdham.

# Government sets ball rolling for Young India Skills varsity

## Adani Logistics, SBI among partners of TG Skill University

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Adani Logistics, O9 Solutions, Dr Reddy's Labs, State Bank of India (SBI), National Academy of Construction (NAC), Retailers Association of India and the Telangana VFX, Animation and Gaming Association will be industry partners of Telangana's Skill University, the Assembly was informed on Thursday.

The Assembly passed the Young India Skill University (Public-Private Partnership) Bill, 2024, setting the stage for setting up the institution which will equip students with skills to meet industry demand.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Skill University on Thursday. He announced that partnering companies will design the curriculum, train students in their respective fields and provide them jobs.

The university, which will start functioning from a temporary facility on the Engineering Staff College of India campus, will give admission to 2,000 students in the academic year 2024-25. It will offer courses in six verticals in partnership with companies in the beginning.

The School of Pharma and Life Sciences will have as industry partner Dr Reddy's Labs. The School of E-commerce and Logistics will be established in partnership with Adani Logistics and O9 Solutions. The State Bank of India (SBI) and Physics Wallah



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Skill University on Thursday. He announced that partnering companies will design the curriculum, train students in their respective fields and provide them jobs.

will be the partners for the School of Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI). The National Academy of Construction (NAC) has come forward as a partner to set up the School of Construction and Interiors. The School of Retail Operations and Management will be operated in partnership with the Retailers Association of India. The School of Animation, Visual

Effects, Gaming and Comics will have Telangana VFX, Animation and Gaming Association as partner.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, the Chief Minister said he would be laying the foundation stone for a permanent campus for the university at Net Zero City in Mucherla on the outskirts of Hyderabad later on Thursday. The university coming up as a

public-private partnership institution will focus on delivering comprehensive skill training and job opportunities to students.

Assuring that the Skill University will not charge like the Indian School of Business (ISB) or private universities, he said the average annual fee for courses will be Rs 50,000. "If necessary, the government will reimburse the fee of SC, ST, OBCB and minority students," he said.

Earlier, Industry and Information Technology Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the Skill University would help create skilled human resources and thus enable the state to attract new companies and investors from all over the world.

The minister said 17 verticals have been identified for starting courses - Healthcare, Pharma & Life Sciences, Artificial Intelligence & Information Sciences, Tourism & Hospitality, Automotive & Electric Vehicles, Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI), Animation & Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics, Construction and Interiors, Advanced Manufacturing, Retail Operations & Management, E-commerce & Logistics, Renewable Energy, Food Processing & Agriculture, Beauty & Wellness, Media, Gaming & Films, and Electronics & Semiconductor and Digital Designs.



A BRS activist threatening to set himself on fire at Vemulawada on Thursday

## CM'S REMARKS AGAINST BRS MLA SABITA INDRAREDDY CONDEMNED

# Bid to immolate by youth leader at BRS protest

PNS ■ VEMULAWADA

Tension prevailed in Vemulawada town on Thursday, when a youth leader taking part in the BRS protest programme doused himself in petrol and tried to immolate himself. However, the BRS leaders intervened and preventing him from ending his life.

The BRS leaders condemned Revanth's remarks against Sabita Indra Reddy stating that it was unbecoming of the CM to pass such remarks. It was atrocious on the part of Revanth Reddy to pass insinuating remarks against Sabita Indra Reddy, they said and demanded the CM to withdraw his remarks.

On Thursday, BRS protested at Korutla bus station in Vemulawada to condemn remarks passed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy against BRS MLA Sabita Indra Reddy on the floor of the State Legislative Assembly during the budget session of the Assembly. The BRS leaders consigned an effigy of CM to flames.

The BRS leaders condemned Revanth's remarks against Sabita Indra Reddy stating that it was unbecoming of the CM to pass such remarks. It was atrocious on the part of Revanth Reddy to pass insinuating remarks

against Sabita Indra Reddy, they said and demanded the CM to withdraw his remarks. If the CM did not withdraw the remarks, the BRS would launch massive protests, the BRS leaders warned. Tension prevailed in the town when BRS leader Mylaram Ramu tried to immolate himself by dousing in petrol. However, the BRS leaders prevented him from taking the extreme step.

Town CI Veera Prasad along with his reinforcements dispersed the protestors.

## CM'S APOLOGY DEMANDED

Burning an effigy of Revanth Reddy on bus station road in Medak, the BRS former chairman of Medak A Mallikarjun Goud demanded apology from the Chief Minister for the 'unsavoury' remarks passed against Sabita Indra Reddy. Later, they staged sit-in on the road. The BRS activists raised slogans "Revanth Reddy Down Down". The BRS demanded the Congress leaders to put an end to their egoistic attitude and implement six guarantees and other ancillary promises made in Congress election manifesto. Alleging that the present Congress rule is not the people's rule but that of the demons, Mallikarjun Goud said. He demanded the Congress to mend its ways. Town convener Mamilla Anjaneyulu and general secretary G Krishna Goud and several senior leaders and others took part in the protest.

## Cabinet okays allocation of Rs 437 cr for Gouravelli project



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that the previous BRS government neglected the Gouravelli project by not allocating funds for it, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar revealed that the Cabinet approved Rs 437 crore for the completion of pending works of Gouravelli project. Minister Prabhakar said that the government will speed up the work now.

Speaking to the media along with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy after the Cabinet meeting at

Assembly Committee Hall on Thursday, Prabhakar said that the Cabinet decided to complete the Gouravelli project speedily. He said that the Husnabad dry lands will become green with the Godavari waters if the project is completed.

Ponnampalapati thanked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Cabinet colleagues on this occasion. He said that not only Husnabad but also Station Ghanpur dry lands will get Godavari waters with the completion of left and right canals of Gouravelli project.

# All parties hail SC order on categorisation of SC/ST quotas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All political leaders welcomed the Supreme Court verdict on the categorisation of SC/ST reservations irrespective of political affiliations. Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy welcomed the Supreme Court verdict on categorisation of SC/ST reservations. He said the SCs remained most backward and so categorisation of reservations is necessary for improving the condition of Madigas. The Supreme Court said that states

have the authority to categorise SC reservations based on local conditions. The CM said the aim of his government is to ensure that justice is done to the poor. Almost all political parties supported the categorisation of SC reservations as it is a social issue. Thanking the Supreme Court verdict on the categorisation of SC reservations, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the Congress government will do a ABCD categorisation before any other state does it. He said the government will issue an ordinance to make changes in

job notifications if the need arises. Former Minister T. Harish Rao said they are happy over the Supreme Court verdict on the categorisation of SC reservations. He said the BRS had passed a unanimous resolution on the categorisation of SC reservations immediately after coming to power after the formation of Telangana state. He said that BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao had personally met the Prime Minister and explained the need for categorisation of SC reservations.

# Power supply cut off to sub-registrar's office

PNS ■ VEMULAWADA

The CESS officials suspended power supply to the office of sub-registrar in Vemulawada of Sircilla district as the office failed to clear

dues of electricity bill. As a result, the registration of properties came to standstill in the office. The electricity officials say that the office of the sub-registrar owed an electricity bill dues amounting to Rs 2 lakh

as the office is not regularly paying electricity bills for the past several months.

The officials lament that the sub-registrar's office did not make use of the chances given to it to clear the dues. Because of this, they claimed to have cut power supply to the office.

With the registration of properties came to a standstill, those who booked the slot in advance to get their properties registered returned him with disappointment.

# Complaints of power cuts down by 61%

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A comparative analysis of complaints received through the 1912 helpline and Twitter for the first half of 2024 indicates a significant reduction in the number of complaints related to power cuts in Telangana. The data for complaints received through Twitter also reveals a significant reduction.

The total number of complaints from January to June 2024 stands at 14,035, a 60.96% decrease from 35,949 complaints in the same period of 2023. Complaints in January decreased by 52.26%, from 4,839 in 2023 to 2,310 in 2024. February saw a 58.96% reduction, with complaints falling from 4,352 in 2023 to 1,786 in 2024.

In March, complaints dropped by 65.14%, from 3,833 in 2023 to 1,336 in

2024. April experienced a significant decrease of 90.41%, with complaints reducing from 7,382 in 2023 to 708 in 2024. May saw complaints decrease by 24.94%, from 7,069 in 2023 to 5,306 in 2024. Complaints in June fell by 69.45%, from 8,474 in 2023 to 2,589 in 2024.

In 2024, the total number of complaints received through the 1912 helpline from January to June is 397,934, a substantial decrease of 31.82% compared to 2023, which had 583,672 complaints. Complaints in January decreased by 28.95%, from 64,738 in 2023 to 45,994 in 2024.

Feb saw a 57.05% decrease, with complaints dropping from 70,789 in 2023 to 30,407 in 2024. In March, complaints fell by 58.32%, from 78,862 in 2023 to 32,870 in 2024.

## Aged woman killed in rabid dog attack

PNS ■ SIRCILLA

An 80-year-old woman was killed on Wednesday night by rabid dogs that entered her house as her house did not have any doors. The incident took place in Sevalal Thanda of Mustabad mandal of the

district. The deceased was identified as Pitla Rajya Lakshmi, a lonely woman. A group of rabid dogs attacked on her while she was sleeping. The dogs first attacked her throat and later savoured on her body parts.

## NALGONDA COLLECTOR HOLDS REVIEW MEET

# Call for drug control measures on large scale in all districts

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector C Narayana Reddy said that there is need to control the presence of drugs in any form in Telangana. As part of this, the public should be made aware on drug control on a large scale.

Speaking at a meeting of the district-level Narco Co-ordination Centre Committee (NCORD) (Narcotics Control Committee) held in his chamber along with District Superintendent of Police (SP) Sharath Chandra Pawar on Thursday, the Collector said that though the police administration is working to control drugs, it is possible in a full-fledged manner only when the police and other departments concerned extend full cooperation. In view of the high prevalence of ganja in the district, special attention should be paid to eliminating it first. He said that ganja has become a social evil and society will be better only if it is completely eradicated and every department



District Collector C Narayana Reddy speaking at the district-level Narco Co-ordination Centre Committee (NCORD) meeting held in his chamber along with district SP Sharath Chandra Pawar on Thursday

needs to take necessary steps for it. He said an "anti-cannabis week" should be observed. Awareness programmes would be held every day. He said that as part of the "Anti-Ganja

Week," flexis, posters, hoardings should be put up on a large scale to create awareness among the people and explain to them the ill-effects of ganja consumption in print, electronic media,

social media, cinema theatres and local cable channels.

Various competitions will be held at the village, mandal, municipal and district levels. He said that the officials of the departments concerned should take steps to carry out awareness programmes from August 7, first organise a workshop on cannabis control for media representatives, then plan to hold a village-level meeting and rally in the villages, organise essay and elocution competitions for school and college students, and conduct a 2K run the next day. He directed to set up a special tableau and stall on ganja on the occasion of Independence Day.

District Superintendent of Police Sarat Chandra Pawar said that the consumption and transportation of narcotics, especially ganja, is high in the district and ganja is being transported as the national highway is about 70 km long. He said that though the police department is creating awareness through 'Mission Parivartan' in the district.

## Harish shares old video with Revanth when he resigned as minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader T Harish Rao strongly criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, stating that his ministerial position was not obtained through anyone's favour. Harish mentioned that he joined the Congress government at the request of Sonia Gandhi and not for positions.

He reminded Revanth that he was still in the TRS when he was appointed as a minister and was part of the celebrations. Harish also pointed out that Revanth supported him when he resigned as a minister in protest against the injustices towards Telangana and shared an old video as evidence.

Harish accused Revanth of making petty comments and questioned his right to speak about positions and values. He emphasised that their history involved sacrificing positions for the Telangana movement, while Revanth's political history involved party hopping and remaining silent for positions.

## MAUD seeks to simplify regulation process of LRS applications

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) urged the Telangana government to simplify and streamline the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) application disposal process; a transparent online tool is designed by the Centre for Good Governance (CGG). To ensure that the process is followed in a systematic manner and both the Immigration and Revenue departments are kept in loop, so that no regularisation of plot layouts takes place in water bodies, government lands etc, the Chief Secretary organised a video conference on Thursday.

As per the guidelines, there will be three levels of scrutiny and approval for regularization of plot and four levels for regularization of layout under LRS. The first level is system based filtration by CGG where CGG has taken up system-based filtration of Prohibitory Properties Data from IGRS and Dharani by Matching with the Sy.Nos. of LRS application data. The applications will be clustered by Sy No. wise and Village wise. Each cluster will be given a unique number for ease and speedy field work/enquiries.

In case of applications falling in prohibitory property list the applicants will be informed of the same through auto generated shortfall letter. In response to this applicant can resubmit the application with additional documents if any in support of his ownership over the plot.

ACROSS THE STATES



**Bridges in Srinagar being fenced to prevent suicides**

In order to prevent attempts to die by suicide, authorities in Srinagar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday started fencing work on the sides of major bridges in the city. The move comes after several persons made attempts to die by suicide by jumping into river Jhelum from the bridges in the city. "The process for fencing the sides of various bridges in Srinagar city has been started to save precious human lives," deputy commissioner Srinagar Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat said. Bhat said detailed a project report regarding fencing has been formulated and Rs 19 lakh each has been earmarked for fencing the sides of Nawa Kadal and Fateh Kadal bridges. Similarly, a detailed project report (DPR) of Rs 9 lakh has been prepared for Gow Kadal bridge and Rs 29 lakh for Safa Kadal bridge, he added. Bhat said fencing the sides of Noor Jahan Bridge over river Jhelum at Qamarwari will be completed at a cost of Rs 11 lakh to avoid any further mishap or any suicide incident.



**Delhi Police bans flying of aerial platforms till Aug 16**

Delhi Police has prohibited the flying of sub-conventional aerial platforms like paragliders, hang-gliders and hot air balloons in the national capital from August 2 to August 16 for security reasons, officials said. An order to this effect was issued by Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora ahead of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15. It has been reported that certain criminal, anti-social elements or terrorists inimical to India may pose a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations by the use of "sub-conventional aerial platforms" like paragliders, paramotors, hang-gliders, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), remotely piloted aircraft, hot air balloons, small sized powered aircraft, or by para-jumping from aircraft etc., the order stated. Therefore, the Delhi Police commissioner has prohibited flying of such aerial platforms over the jurisdiction of the national capital on the occasion of Independence Day and doing so shall be punishable under section 223 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), it said.



**12 more airports ready to implement DigiYatra facility**

Twelve more airports are ready to implement DigiYatra facility that will provide passengers seamless and contactless movement at various checkpoints through facial recognition system, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Thursday. Currently, the DigiYatra facility is available at 15 airports of the country. Naidu told the Lok Sabha that 12 more airports are ready to implement DigiYatra, while 11 airports are preparing to have the facility. Responding to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the minister emphasised that the passenger data shared through DigiYatra App is not stored in any centralised system, saying the government is committed to protecting data privacy. While the DigiYatra app is slowly gaining traction, there have been concerns expressed in various quarters about privacy of passenger data.

**We support development, not expansionism: PM Modi**



Modi with Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The two sides signed six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and finalised three other documents to broaden cooperation in a range of areas following wide-ranging talks between Modi and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh

India and Vietnam on Thursday adopted an action plan to expand their strategic ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowing to work jointly for a rules-based Indo-Pacific and asserting that New Delhi supports development and "not expansionism" in remarks that came amid concerns over China's military posturing in the region.

The two sides signed six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and finalised three other documents to broaden cooperation in a range of areas following wide-ranging talks between Modi and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

It was also decided that India will provide USD 300 million credit line to Vietnam primarily to strengthen the Southeast

Asian nation's maritime security.

An agreement was sealed between the central banks of the two countries for rolling out digital payment connectivity. Chinh arrived in Delhi on Tuesday night on a three-day visit that is aimed at further expanding the comprehensive strategic ties between the two

countries. "In our Act East policy and our Indo-Pacific vision, Vietnam is our important partner... We support development, not expansionism (Hum vistarbad nahi, vikasvad ka samarthan karte hai)," Modi said in Hindi in his media statement. "We will continue our cooperation for a free, open, rules-based and prosperous Indo-Pacific," he said.

Modi said that both sides decided that cooperation will be strengthened to deal with terrorism and cyber security issues. "We believe that 'Developed India 2047' and Vietnam's 'Vision 2045' have accelerated development in both countries. This is opening up many new areas of mutual cooperation," Modi said. "And therefore, to further strengthen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, today we have adopted a new plan of

action," he said.

Modi said new steps have been taken for cooperation in the field of defence and security. The two prime ministers also remotely inaugurated an Army Software Park at Telecommunications University Nha Trang. It has been built with New Delhi's development assistance.

"The agreed USD 300 million credit line will strengthen Vietnam's maritime security," Modi said.

"We agree that, to realise the mutual trade potential, the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement should be concluded as early as possible," he said.

Vietnam is a key member of 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

"We have decided to focus on the areas of green economy and new emerging technologies. Each other's capabilities in energy and port development will be harnessed for mutual benefit," Modi said.

The prime minister also invited people from Vietnam to the Buddhist circuit in India. "And we want the youth of Vietnam to also take advantage of Nalanda University."

In his remarks, Modi said India-Vietnam relations have both "expanded and deepened" over the past decade. "In the last 10 years, we have transformed our relations into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Our bilateral trade has increased by more than 85 percent," he said. "Mutual cooperation has expanded in energy, technology, and development partnership."



**'How can someone be appointed without proper verification of documents'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

How could someone be appointed to a government job without proper checking and verification of documents, the Supreme Court asked on Thursday while expressing surprise over the appointment of some employees in the Railways on the basis of forged documents.

The apex court said such instances in the Railways, one of India's largest employers, ought to be checked.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Sanjay Karol was dealing with a matter concerning termination of services of some employees who were appointed on compassionate grounds in the Eastern Railway.

The top court noted they were sacked as their appointments were found to be based on forged and bogus documents.

"Before parting with the matter, however, in the facts of this case, we express our surprise towards the actions of the appellant-employer who appointed the respondent-employees on the basis of questionable documentation,

which was later found to be forged, fabricated and bogus," the bench said in its verdict.

"How could someone be appointed to a government job without proper checking and verification of documents? The Railways are regarded to be one of the largest employers in the country and yet such incidents falling through the cracks ought to be checked," it said.

The bench was dealing with the Centre's appeals challenging the Calcutta High Court's August 2012 verdict which had reversed the order passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal, Calcutta bench.

These employees had approached the tribunal against the termination order.

The tribunal had dismissed their applications after which they moved the high court.

The apex court noted that the Railways had issued show cause notices to these employees asking why their appointment on compassionate grounds should not be terminated as they were secured using forged and fabricated documents with respect to the employment of their respective fathers.



**'Kumaraswamy will be part of padyatra'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday placated its miffed ally Janata Dal (Secular) into joining its 'padyatra' against the alleged MUDA scam in Karnataka and asserted that the JD(S) leader and Union minister H D Kumaraswamy will be part of the march starting from Bengaluru on August 3.

The development comes a day after the JD(S) on Wednesday pulled out of the proposed foot march against the alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), including to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife.

Speaking to reporters, Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra, Union minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, who is in charge of the party's affairs in the state, played down Kumaraswamy's earlier announcement of keeping out of the yatra.

Kumaraswamy had expressed anger over the mention of BJP leader Preetham Gowda, who was instrumen-

tal in exposing the alleged sex scandal involving the JD(S) leader's nephew Prajwal Revanna, as a key organiser of the foot march.

Senior BJP leaders, including the three who held the press conference, met Kumaraswamy earlier in the day to placate him, sources said.

Agrawal later projected a picture of unity in the ruling National Democratic Alliance in the state, and said both the BJP and the JD(S) are organising the foot march from Bengaluru to Mysuru from August 3 to August 10 to protest the alleged fraudulent allotment of sites by MUDA.

Asked about the JD(S) leader's unhappiness with the presence of Gowda, Agrawal said the yatra is a programme of the party's organisation and individuals are not invited. Vijayendra said the BJP's president in Karnataka and Kumaraswamy as his party's face in the state will be the key figures in the programme, he claimed.

Kumaraswamy is very much part of the yatra and will be there on August 3, he said.

**MP CM announces Rs 250 aid as Rakhi gift for Ladli Behna beneficiaries**

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Beneficiaries of the Madhya Pradesh government's Ladli Behna Yojana will get additional Rs 250 for Raksha Bandhan apart from the regular aid of Rs 1,250 on August 10, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Thursday.

Addressing a function in Chitrakoot in Satna district, he said his government will celebrate festivals during the month of 'Savan' underway. "Though Rakhi festival is on August 19, Ladli Behnas (beneficiaries) will get Rs 1250 along with additional Rs 250 for celebrating Rakhi festival on August 10," Yadav said. Beneficiaries of the scheme tied a 30-foot long 'rakhi' to Yadav on the occasion.

He also said Ladli Behna and Ujjwala Gas scheme beneficiaries will get a subsidy of Rs 450 per cylinder.

Yadav said an investors meet will be organized in Rewa soon to attract investment in the region and generate employment.



**Landslides in Wayanad a national disaster: LOP Rahul**

PNS ■ WAYANAD (KERALA)

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with sister Priyanka visited landslide-hit areas of Wayanad on Thursday and said he was "deeply pained" to see people who have lost family members and homes in the tragedy, calling it a "national disaster" and demanded an urgent comprehensive action plan.

Gandhi, a former Congress MP from Wayanad, said it was a "terrible tragedy for Wayanad, Kerala, and the nation."

"We have come here to see the situation. It is quite a painful experience to see that people lost their family members and houses. It's very dif-

ficult to speak to people in these circumstances because you really don't know what to say to them. It's been quite a difficult day for me, but we are going to try and help make sure that the survivors get what is due," he told reporters.

"To me, this is a national disaster for sure, but let's see what the government says," he said in response to reporters' queries.

Both Gandhi and his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, visited the landslide-hit Chooralmala area of Wayanad. Vadra spoke along similar lines, saying the pain people in the area were experiencing was unimaginable.

"We are here to help them and to give as much support and comfort as we can."



**Toll at 177, nearly 200 missing**

Rescuers raced against time under harsh conditions to search for survivors trapped in collapsed buildings, two days after massive landslides struck Kerala's Wayanad district with the death toll climbing to 177 on Thursday. With nearly 200 people missing, the death toll is expected to rise. While some unconfirmed reports suggested 276 fatalities, Wayanad district authorities, in the latest bulletin, said the landslides have killed at least 177 people.

**12 dead after torrential overnight rain in U'khand**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Twelve people, including three of a family, were killed and six injured in heavy overnight rains that triggered flooding and house collapse as several rivers swelled in Uttarakhand, officials said on Thursday.

Most parts of the state did not receive fresh rains till Thursday afternoon.

Six deaths were reported in Haridwar, three in Tehri, two in Dehradun and one in Chamoli.

A seven-year-old child, who was swept away in a swollen stream in Haldwani in Nainital district is still missing, the



Disaster Control Room here said.

Two people -- Sundar Singh and Arjun Singh Rana -- were swept away by the waters of an overflowing seasonal canal near the Ordnance Factory in Dehradun's Raipur area, Dehradun SSP Ajai Singh said,

adding that their bodies have been recovered.

Water gushed into many homes in Dehradun besides leaving the roads heavily waterlogged at various places in the city. The MeT office here said over the past 24 hours, 172 mm of rainfall was recorded in Dehradun alone.

Haridwar's Roshanabad recorded the highest rainfall of 210 mm, Raiwala recorded 163 mm of rain while it was 140 mm in Haldwani, 112 mm in Roorkee, 107 mm in Narendra Nagar, 98 mm in Dhanolti, 92 mm in Chakrata and 89 mm in Nainital, it said.

**K'taka govt urges Governor to withdraw 'notice' to CM**

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Thursday "strongly advised" the Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot to withdraw his 'show-cause notice' to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam' and alleged a concerted effort to destabilise the Congress regime.



The Council of Ministers discussed the show-cause notice, and alleged "gross misuse of the Constitutional Office" of the Governor and said a concerted effort is being made to destabilise a lawfully

elected majority government in Karnataka for political considerations.

Based on a petition filed by advocate-activist T J Abraham, the Governor issued the notice on July 26 directing the Chief Minister to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days as to why permission for prosecution should not be granted against him.

"...Hence, the request of the petitioner needs to be processed as per provisions of section 17(A) and 19 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and section 218 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023...", the Governor had said in his notice to the Chief Minister.

**109 women judges in higher judiciary**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 109 women judges are serving in the higher judiciary, including three in the Supreme Court, the government informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a written reply that at present, three women judges were working in the Supreme Court and 106 in the various high courts. He also said the Constitution did not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

**Researchers call for addressing them early 'Bad' cholesterol among new risk factors of dementia**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Loss of vision and high "bad" cholesterol levels have been added to risk factors for dementia, according to a new report by Lancet Commission.

Researchers said addressing risk factors childhood onwards and monitoring them throughout life could help stave off or delay onset of the mental condition, even in people having a high genetic risk.

Quality education for children and reduced exposure to air pollution have been suggested to reduce the risk of the disease, the 2024 Lancet



Quality education for children and reduced exposure to air pollution have been suggested to reduce the risk of the disease, the 2024 Lancet Commission for dementia said.

The international team of authors, led by those at the

University College London, UK, found that about nine per cent of global dementia cases

could be attributed to the newly added risk factors, with seven per cent and two per cent being attributable to high "bad" cholesterol in mid-life starting at 40 years of age and untreated vision loss in later life, respectively.

Lower education levels in early life and social isolation in later life were other risk factors, each attributable to five per cent of global dementia cases, the authors found. Dementia impairs thinking, memory and decision-making, thereby, impacting one's daily activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Squabbling overshadows tragedy

The Wayanad landslide tragedy serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of ignoring environmental warnings

In India, we've developed a bad habit of politicising everything, from festivities to tragedies, using every opportunity for one-upmanship against opponents. Indeed, the tragic landslide in Wayanad, Kerala, that claimed life of more than 170 people is being used as a slingshot to score brownie points. It has triggered a heated political exchange between State and Central Government leaders. The tragedy, which resulted in significant loss of life and property, has brought to the forefront the critical issue of disaster preparedness and environmental stewardship. Following the landslide, Home Minister Amit Shah stated that the State had received an early warning but failed to take necessary preventive measures. He criticised the State Government for the negligence, suggesting that more lives could have been saved with timely action. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan quickly refuted Shah's claims, asserting that the State Government had acted on all available warnings and had undertaken necessary measures to mitigate the impact.



Vijayan emphasised that the unprecedented intensity of the landslide was beyond what the early warnings had predicted and that the state's disaster response teams had worked tirelessly to manage the situation. This spat achieved nothing; neither relief for the people injured nor a plan of action to stop such incidents in the future. But yes, both the Central and State Governments gave themselves a clean chit, and that was the end of it.

This incident highlights challenges in disaster management and the need for coordinated efforts between State and Central Governments. The

Wayanad tragedy has also opened a broader discussion on environmental conservation and the risks of taking nature for granted. The Kerala Government must take the blame for unrestricted development in the Western Ghats, one of the most fragile ecosystems in the country. Despite frequent disasters, the Kerala Government continues unsustainable activities in the name of development. The thick tree cover is gone due to changed land use. This has turned many perennial streams and rivers into seasonal ones and increased the risk of flooding in the monsoon season. The Wayanad landslide is a stark reminder of the consequences of ignoring environmental signals. Human activities such as deforestation and unplanned construction have exacerbated the vulnerability of regions like Wayanad to natural disasters. The Wayanad landslide underscores the importance of accountability and proactive measures in disaster management. More importantly, it highlights the critical need to respect and care for our environment. Forests, for instance, play a crucial role in stabilising soil and regulating water cycles. Deforestation disrupts ecosystems, making landslides more likely. The Wayanad tragedy is a call to action for governments, communities, and individuals to prioritise environmental conservation for our collective survival.

## PICTALK



Asian Openbill storks perch on a tree, in Kolkata

# The evolution of learning

Learning is a complex phenomenon with multiple layers. It needs judgement, sensitivity, foresight and a strong will to absorb new ideas



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The real world can be tricky to negotiate. This is because a lot of early childhood learning needs substantive modification when it comes to real life. Illustratively, a child is taught many principles which are simply impracticable as he grows up. Typically, a child will be told never to do something without informing their parents, whereas in real life this is neither feasible nor practicable.

The truth is, that childhood learning is about basics; one learns to modify or calibrate it as one goes along. It has to do with a child's mind and establishing certain principles that life experiences may define or modify. Consider the case of teaching a child about parallel lines. The child is taught that parallel lines are lines that never meet. That's good enough for his purposes. As one matures and gains a few years, the child transitioning into adulthood learns that parallel lines do meet, but they meet at 'infinity'. Similar examples can be cited elsewhere. However, more to the point is a simple proposition, namely that learning has to do with the capacity and capability of the learner. The same principle can undergo several modifications or even alterations. As one emerges into adulthood, one learns many other intricacies about life, and several of them can only be re-learned only through experience. Here is the need to sharpen a person's capacity for continuous learning and absorption. Typically, the adult, as he goes through life, meets different types of people, and there is a clear need to coexist with several others. One's judgment becomes a crucible for deciding what the truth is and where one has to steer clear or walk through it. This is what adult learning is about, and it is a lifelong necessity that is felt at each stage. Sometimes strange situations can occur, especially if one learns through aphorisms/proverbs/ folk sayings, and even the wisdom of



elders. An illustration of this could make the point clear. In Sanskrit, there is a saying "Satyam brooyat, priyam brooyat, na brooyat satyama priyam". "Broadly translated, it means, speak the truth, but speak it pleasantly. If a truth is bitter, it need not be spoken". Whether this is desirable or not is a moot point. What is more, is that other sayings can be found to be very different than the one quoted above. For example, there is another Sanskrit statement "Satyameva jayate" "A free translation into English would be that "truth alone triumphs". The two statements are clearly in two different contexts and mean two different things. There is an element of contradiction between the two. It is here that adult learning acquires a special veneer of its own. What that special something is any matter of experience and exposure. Some people who repeatedly emphasised in their childhood that they must always tell the truth get so much in the habit of only telling the truth that they become offensive in conversations. This is not because of their



AS ONE EMERGES INTO ADULTHOOD, ONE LEARNS MANY OTHER INTRICACIES ABOUT LIFE, AND SEVERAL OF THEM CAN ONLY BE RE-LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCE

ill intention, but their style itself became 'offensive'. Such offensive behaviour can have a heavy price. After all, tact is something that is not an optional extra, it is essential to life. Being tactful does not end up lying or being untruthful. It only trains a person to be sensitive to another person's feelings and sentiments.

It also raises the importance of recognizing that all inputs contribute to better and improved behaviour. Creating a situation in which everyone gains and a better environment is established is essential. If bluntness causes hurt rather than improvement, it could lead to deterioration of quality of life, which cannot be the objective of any action.

The obvious conclusion is that learning is a complex phenomenon with multiple layers. It needs judgement sensitivity, and foresight. In the absence of any of the above relationships, they can become compromised. After all, if the relationship itself is lost, one might ask: what is the input about?

This issue is fundamental to the act of living. This is so because man is a gregarious animal, and the act of living

requires a collective experience. Learning therefore is a lifelong exercise requiring continuous involvement and the capability to evolve. External inputs to learning are of course critical, but internalization of the same is the core. Unfortunately, whereas much attention has been paid to teaching, an equal amount of attention is due to the ways of the learning process. There are indeed definite limits to the capacity to learn and methods of learning. This is something that needs to be more widely recognized than before, especially since it does not seem to be integrated into the larger theories of learning. Indeed, one needs to pay attention to also when and how a revision of the learning process becomes seminal.

To sum up, it is important to recognize the continuous nature of learning and one's central role in keeping that learning alive. A teacher can only help the process but cannot substitute a learner's learning.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ALL QUIET IN BANGLADESH

Madam — After the recent mind-boggling violence in Bangladesh, things seem to be stabilising for now. Hopefully, peace will not be compromised again, as Dhaka is an important neighbor for New Delhi. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's support for those who fought for the liberation of Bangladesh, led by her late father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is well known and reasonable. In the past, Hasina's firm and decisive action against the offenders of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War earned her praise, but her indecision and leniency towards extremism were criticized by moderates and liberals.

Her recent decision to reserve fifty-six percent of jobs for the descendants of the liberation movement was undoubtedly aimed at certain sections of the country's vote bank. Although the Bangladesh Supreme Court struck down the order and reduced the reservation to five percent, Hasina must be feeling the setback. Some short-sighted remarks by Hasina fueled the students' protests further during emotions. It's time for the longest-serving Prime Minister of Bangladesh to get her act together and display the statesmanship expected of her.

Ganpathi Bhat | Akola

### THE LEGACY OF JRD TATA

Madam — The 29th of July 2024 marked 120 years since the birth of JRD Tata, fondly called Jeh by those close to him. Words cannot do justice to his modesty, philanthropy, achievements, awe-inspiring firsts, patriotism, and staunch belief in the three guiding tenets of Zoroastrianism: good thoughts, good words, and good deeds, without professing either belief or disbelief in God. Jeh was India's first commercial pilot license holder and the first to fly a commercial plane from Karachi to Madras. He was also the first Indian businessman who refused to bribe politicians and the first to establish Asia's first cancer care hospital, the Tata Memorial Centre in

## Remembering APJ Abdul Kalam



Throughout his life Abdul Kalam professed the scientific, academic as well as spiritual development of the students. He made

numerous speeches and wrote many books addressing the youth; which are listened and read even today by students even across the world. Choosing his birth day as the 'World's Student's Day' was an appropriate decision honoring his works as a scientist and the millions of youths that he inspired and still inspires through his works, achievements, speeches, lectures and books.

Students deserve better education standards and we hope it is time to inculcate the best education to students so that they may not wish to go to other countries for education purposes. He believed that students are the future of a nation and they can bring considerable change if well nurtured and educated. He professed education as the only weapon to fight back the demons of poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition etc.

Anandambal Subbu | Mumbai

### LACKADAISICAL APPROACH OF MCD

Madam — This refers to the editorial, Enough is enough ( July 29) vide which the bitter truth was elaborated that the inaction of municipal authorities and the lack of accountability have resulted in yet another tragedy. The tragic death of three students at the illegal Rao IAS Coaching Centre in Old Rajendra Nagar area of Delhi is a shameful tale of gross and unpardonable negligence at the administrative level. This illegal business is flourishing with the connivance of MCD officials. The basement meant for commercial storage was illegally converted into a coaching centre. There was no emergency exit and no technical scientific arrangements for drainage. The issuance of NOC for building usage and security lapses reflected lackadaisical approach of the MCD officials. Harsh punitive measures must be taken against the people responsible.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Age and capability: Rethinking retirement and leadership

Why is it that in the corporate world, age is a barrier to employment, while in public service, older individuals often hold the highest offices?

In May 2020, close on the heels of the covid outbreak, my husband lost his job. It was an unexpected knock to take barely a month after he was awarded the best employee. The company that he was serving for the past many years attributed the pink slip to the pandemic, and following it, it was near impossible for him to find another job. In most cases, it seemed as if he was deemed over-age. In the traditional sense, it must be true that 58 years is the time to hang one's boots, but taking superannuation was far from his mind. His mental and physical abilities had not dimmed a wee bit and he had many more years of active work life left in him. But it was hard to convince a work culture that was transitioning to a younger demographic about his worthiness. He was soon forced to stop looking for a job and start something of his own. Three years on, it is a decision we don't regret taking. But there is one thing that I have not been able to decipher. If a company considers a person to be too old to seek employment at that age, what makes older doyens eligible to



seek fresh terms as heads of state? This question is more relevant now after John Biden was forced to step aside following doubts over his diminishing cognitive abilities on various platforms. Biden's dropping out in no way suggests that his opponent (who is younger by only three years) is more eligible to be the boss at the White House if age is a major criterion for holding responsible positions. Yet, in public service, it is par for the course for older men and women to push it till economic and social policies allow or they are naturally indisposed. Why is 80 a wholesome number to be at the helm of a state and 60 an age to retire for employees?

There is no doubt that the age gap between the highest and lowest denominators at a workplace has widened significantly. There are concerns about an agile, IT-driven young generation unable to work alongside an older brigade that follows old clunky ways. On this side things, it is still a huge challenge for those used to archaic practices of functioning to adopt digital modes overnight. But experience is something we still cannot discount. On the other hand, we also need a lot of young blood to keep our workplaces vibrant. People age differently. Their biological age may not be commensurate with their chronological age. In a

recent interview on CNN, Anthony Fauci, former chief medical advisor to the President of the United States looked and sounded many times more agile and vigorous at 81 than Biden does. My mother at 77 is much less healthy than a few other relations in their 90s. So to determine people's capabilities based on the number of summers they have seen is a faulty method. Our cognitive age and ability to handle the pressures of a job is something only we can gauge. It is for us to decide if we are fit to handle the responsibilities — be it to serve the nation, run a company or a household. John Biden must have eventually realised that cracks are showing up in his public image and faculties and that stepping aside is the most gracious thing to do, both for his self-esteem and for the sake of his country. Although it had to come after much persuasion, he made the call. Congratulations to him for being rational and accepting 'it is what it is'.

(The author is a Dubai-based author and columnist; views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR





## FIRST COLUMN INDIA NAVIGATES DIPLOMATIC TIGHTROPE

Despite the US unease, India charts its own course;  
QUAD Tokyo conference is a case in point



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

In a balancing act of sorts, the Government of India is trying to address US and European concerns regarding PM Modi's meeting with President Putin last month, when many of the leaders were in a huddle in Washington for the NATO summit. President Putin went an extra step to welcome PM Modi in Moscow, signalling a strong message to the US, regarding the long-standing partnership with India. Senior officials in the US expressed deep concern with the optics involved in PM Modi's Moscow visit while reiterating that nothing significant was achieved. Russia bilateral is a tightrope, that India has managed to carefully tread on, despite its growing engagement with the US in the past decades. Therefore, this week's QUAD foreign minister's conference in Tokyo where External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his US counterpart Anthony Blinken was significant. The joint statement in unequivocal terms condemned Russia's action in Ukraine, perhaps for the first time joining in such a multilateral official communication. The joint statement read "We express our deepest concern over the war raging in Ukraine including its terrible and tragic humanitarian consequences. We reiterate the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in line with international law, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity." PM Modi had also in his bilateral meetings with President Putin and public messages subsequently, mentioned the need for finding lasting solutions to the Ukraine crisis away from the battleground while condemning the attack by Russia killing nearly 41 persons including at a children's hospital. PM Modi said "Whether it is war, conflict or a terrorist attack, any person who believes in humanity, is pained when there is loss of lives. But even in that, when innocent children are killed, the heart bleeds and that pain is very terrifying." Ukraine President Zelensky has condemned PM Modi's visit to Russia. Government officials now indicate that the PM is likely to travel to Ukraine in August to balance the geopolitical dynamics and reset India and Europe's relationship. Meanwhile, the QUAD for-



eight ministers meeting continued to focus on the Gaza crisis, and its spillover in the Red Sea zone, impacting lives and raising freight costs. The foreign ministers jointly communicated "We urge all parties to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, as applicable. We welcome UNSC Resolution S/RES/2735 (2024) and strongly urge all parties concerned to work immediately and steadily toward the release of all hostages and an immediate ceasefire. We call on all parties to take every feasible step to protect the lives of civilians including aid workers, and facilitate the rapid transportation of humanitarian relief. We also encourage other countries, including those in the Indo-Pacific, to increase their efforts to address the dire humanitarian need on the ground. We underscore that the future recovery and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip should be supported by the international community. We remain committed to a sovereign, viable and independent Palestinian state taking into account Israel's legitimate security concerns as part of a two-state solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in a just, lasting, and secure peace." India would be the host for the QUAD leaders summit scheduled this year, however, the crucial US presidential elections in November would be a key determinant of the time. President Biden who has mostly shaped the Quad narrative in the past, would like to leave a lasting impression on this group of four.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

# Union budget prioritises employment and skilling



DINESH SOOD

To empower youth, the Government has announced three transformative schemes aimed at promoting skilling across various sectors



One of the top nine priorities of the Union Budget is employment and skilling. In line with this, three schemes have been announced to promote skilling. The first scheme involves increasing the maximum loan amount for high-end skilling courses under the revamped Model Skill Loan Scheme from Rs 1.5 lakhs to Rs 7.5 lakhs, with an interest rate of 1.5% per annum. This scheme is expected to empower the youth by providing easy access to advanced-level skill courses, potentially removing significant financial barriers for many deserving students and candidates to gain futuristic and in-demand industry skills, thus creating a future-ready and empowered workforce. Recognising the significant role played by non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions in the skill loan market, the Ministry of Skill Development and Employment (MSDE) has made pivotal modifications to the scheme. This includes the inclusion of NBFCs, Micro Finance Institutions, and Small Finance Banks to extend loans backed by a guarantee against default up to 75% of the loan disbursed through the instrument of collateral-free loans of up to Rs 7.5 lakh to facilitate 25,000 aspirants every year. Without a vibrant skill loan market, many youths leave aspiring candidates without the necessary financial support to pursue their skill training. To ensure uninterrupted credit flow in the skilling sector and to provide low-income youths with access to affordable finance for specialized skill courses, the MSDE initially launched the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Skill Development in July 2015, resulting in below expectations. The low fund utilisation under the scheme over the past decade was due to the low ticket size of loans up to Rs 1.5 lakh, even as course costs and fees rose due to inflation, leaving many high-cost



THIS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND SCHEME, AIMING TO COVER ONE CRORE YOUTH IN 5 YEARS, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE A GAME CHANGER IN TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

courses out of the scheme. Secondly, private banks still need to be more willing to finance government-sponsored schemes. As of March 31, 2024, loans amounting to Rs 115.75 crore had been extended to just 10,077 borrowers over the past decade. However, the government's unwavering commitment to addressing this issue is evident in the new model skill loan scheme, which aims to meet the challenges of a highly skilled workforce emerging from paced technological changes. Relevant skills are in demand, and the cost of acquiring specialised skills is higher. Only 5% of the so-called skilled workforce is formally trained, creating a significant skill gap that needs to be urgently addressed. While 26.5 crore children enrol in school each year, by the time they reach higher education, their numbers have dwindled to 4.3 crores. To align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mandate, an additional five crore children who pass school need to be included in higher education and to make skill training accessible to every individual, especially the large number of students from rural India. The Model Skill Loan Scheme is not just a solution but a necessary and urgent step in bridging this gap. The skill economy is increasingly market-led, integrating new-age learning into the skill development ecosystem. The youth from urban and semi-urban areas recognise the opportunities for skilling and livelihood improvement. An initiative like the Model Skill Loan Scheme opens doors to many skill courses in sectors such as healthcare,

beauty-wellness, IT, AI-data science, cloud applications, digital marketing, hospitality, animation, gaming, graphic designing, and drone technology. These courses, driven by changing industry dynamics, offer substantial placement opportunities and the potential for global mobility, providing a promising future for the youth and opening doors to international career prospects. The second scheme aimed at skilling 20 lakh youth over five years. The scheme, with a total outlay of Rs 60,000 crore, aims at fulfilling this objective by upgrading 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the hub and spoke arrangements with outcome orientation. It's an ambitious scheme that aims to make youth more employable by imparting industry-specific skills. The course content and design will be upgraded to reflect the skill needs of the industry. For instance, emerging IT sector needs could include cyber security or data analytics skills. The third scheme introduced in the Budget for Skilling Youth is a comprehensive scheme that provides the youth with internship opportunities in 500 top companies. This first-of-its-kind scheme, aiming to cover one crore youth in 5 years, has the potential to be a game changer in tackling youth unemployment. This internship scheme's innovative approach and potential impact make it a beacon of hope for young people's future employment, promising a significant reduction in youth unemployment rates. Moreover, landing an internship is difficult, leading to a vicious

cycle of frustration and disappointment. Students with professional degrees like MBA, engineering, etc., may still find landing jobs or internships easier after graduation. However, the scenario could be more precise for unemployable humanities graduates with no ready-made market-appropriate skill set. Thus, such a scheme providing young graduates across disciplines with internship opportunities at leading companies can be a game-changer if implemented properly and effectively. Perhaps, in the future, the government could consider widening the scope of this scheme by making it mandatory for companies above a specific size (the government could come up with a set of specifications to decide this) to take in a fixed number of interns every year and fund the training program through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. These funds are a company's initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on environmental and social well-being. Most importantly, the internship opportunities provided under this new scheme could significantly boost the employability quotient of youth. With concrete experience, they will be more likely to land a job. However, implementation, effectiveness, and accountability are crucial to fostering employable skill sets. (The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Network Member of India International Skill Centres; Views expressed are personal)

## Transforming bone fracture treatment with the magnesium implants invention

This innovative solution promises to alleviate the long-term suffering of bone-fractured patients caused by traditional metal implants

An age-old adage "necessity is the mother of invention" still holds now. This aforementioned adage is duly proven by the fact that Nitin Pratap Varma Senior Scientist and highly esteemed research scholar from Dhanbad-based IIT-ISM and currently working as Senior Scientist for Shahjahanpur (UP) based company G Surgiwear Limited, felt the necessity of resorbable implant that could be fully absorbed in the bodies of accident victims as part of treating their fractured bones. Understanding this need of the hour, Varma held meetings with members-scientists of his research team. Many brainstorming ses-



GYAN BHADRA

sions with experiments ensued. Eventually, the team led by Varma zeroed in on the final product and invented the "magnesium implant" for the first time in the world. Shedding light on factual aspects of his invention, Varma says: "For many years, I have been observing the predicaments and troubles being suffered by bone-fractured patients due to inserted implants comprising plates and screws made

up of stainless steel and titanium metals. Since those plates and screws remained embedded in the body, patients had to undergo painful sufferings for a long period. To remove those metallic plates from the body, the patients have to undergo surgery which is physically tormenting as patients have to bear the brunt of risk aspects of surgery. And to add insult to injury, patients bear the huge expenses of surgery. Keeping in mind the troubles faced by patients, Varma convened a series of meetings with his fellow scientists and team members to discuss the use of plates made up of resorbable metals in place of stainless steel-made plates



After having a long discussion, we reached to the scientific conclusion that implant of resorbable metals gets fully absorbed in the body within 3-5 years of insertion. It is no hyperbole on my part if I say it vanishes into the

body. Thus through continuous research and experiments, we invented and zeroed in on magnesium implant due to its path-breaking resorbable quality in the human body. Patients do not feel any physical inconvenience

afterwards, Varma explains matter-of-factly. Analysing his bone treatment-related achievement in an in-depth manner, Varma explains that there are three kinds of metals that are resorbable and biologically safe: magnesium, zinc and iron. Undoubtedly, these metals have their pluses and minuses. Varma and his colleagues have been experimenting with resorbable metals to gain knowledge of their utilities and qualities. For this very purpose, the team of scientists also visited the Jamshedpur-based National Institute of Metallurgy institution to seek intricate technical knowledge of metals. Expressing optimism over the utility and quality of

magnesium implants, Varma avers that the invented product has reached the final stage; since the product has already been implanted in animals for testing its efficacy. Also, to be well-versed with different clinical parameters related to experimental procedures, the animals have been kept under observation for six months. Results from animal testing are very encouraging. After successfully experimenting with this product in animals, Varma has plans to test this product in human bodies. For this, he has decided to seek permission from the Drug Controller General of India. Having successfully tested this product in human bodies, it will be put in the

public domain, Varma explains. Eventually, it is no exaggeration to say that the invention of the magnesium implant is slated to bring revolutionary changes in the treatment of bone fractures and other bone diseases. This is more so because as per a research report, scores of scientists are engaged in experimental procedures of implants in laboratories the world over. And in this context, thousands of research papers have been inked and published. But to this date, those scientists have yet to make in-roads to reach the level of realistic utility of implants. (The writer is a freelancer; views expressed are personal)

## MONEY MATTERS



### Gold jumps Rs 550; silver rallies Rs 600

Gold prices rallied Rs 550 to Rs 72,500 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday on higher domestic demand and positive global trends. The yellow metal rose for the third day in a row, recovering from sharp losses due to the government's budget announcement of a customs duty cut on gold and silver. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 71,950 per 10 grams. Silver prices also jumped Rs 600 to Rs 86,200 per kg from Rs 85,600 per kg in the previous session, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also bounced by Rs 550 to Rs 72,150 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 71,600 per 10 grams. "The risk of a further escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East pushes the safe-haven commodity to a...high during the Asian session on Thursday," Rahul Kalantri, Vice President of Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Globally, Comex gold is trading higher at USD 2,490 per ounce, up by USD 17 per ounce from the previous close.

The facility for deposit and/or exchange of the Rs 2000 banknotes was available at all bank branches in the country till October 7, 2023. The facility for the exchange of the Rs 2000 banknotes has been available at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank since May 19, 2023.



### RS 2000 BANKNOTES

## 97.92 pc returned; Rs 7,409 cr worth notes still with public

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said 97.92 per cent of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only Rs 7,409 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was

Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal was announced, has declined to Rs 7,409 crore at the close of business on July 31, 2024. "Thus, 97.92 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," the central bank said in a statement. The facility for deposit and/or exchange of the Rs 2000 banknotes was available at all bank branches in the country till October 7, 2023. The facility for the exchange

of the Rs 2000 banknotes has been available at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank since May 19, 2023. From October 9, 2023, RBI issue offices are also accepting Rs 2000 banknotes from individuals and entities for deposit into their bank accounts. The 19 RBI offices depositing/exchanging the banknotes are in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Belapur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram. The Rs 2000 banknotes were introduced in November 2016, following the demonetisation of the then-prevailing Rs 1000 and Rs 500 banknotes.

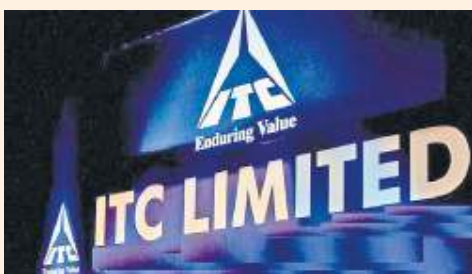
### Govt nod for export of essential commodities from Kandla, Vizag ports to Maldives



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday said it has permitted the export of essential commodities, which are under the prohibited or restricted category, to the Maldives from Kandla and Vishakhapatnam seaports during the financial year. "With the addition of these two ports, the number of ports permitted for exports to the Maldives has gone to six. "Kandla and Vishakhapatnam Customs Sea ports have been added to the list of ports allowed for export of essential commodities, which are under the prohibited/restricted category, to the Maldives for the fiscal year 2024-25," the Directorate

General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. The bilateral trade between India and the Maldives increased marginally to USD 978.56 million in 2023-24 from USD 973.37 million in 2022-23. India's exports have risen to USD 892 million in the last fiscal from USD 476.75 million in 2022-23. Indian imports from the Maldives primarily comprise scrap metals while Indian exports include a variety of engineering and industrial products like drugs and pharmaceuticals, radar apparatus, rock boulders, aggregates, cement and agricultural produce like rice, spices, fruits, vegetables and poultry produce.



### ITC first-quarter net profit remains flat at Rs 4,917.45 cr

Diversified conglomerate ITC on Thursday reported a standalone net profit of Rs 4,917.45 crore in the first quarter of the current 2024-25 fiscal, marginally up from Rs 4,902.74 crore in the year-ago period. The total income of the company during the April-June period of FY25 stood higher at Rs 18,921.01 crore as against Rs 17,704.23 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last financial year. Profit before tax also increased marginally to Rs 6,551.70 crore during the first quarter of FY25 as compared to Rs 6,545.59 crore in the similar period of the previous year, the company said in a regulatory filing. ITC said in a statement that the FMCG business (non-cigarettes) displayed resilient growth amidst muted demand conditions and extreme heat waves in parts of the country. The FMCG (cigarettes) net segment revenue increased seven per cent year-on-year. The business continued its focus on market interventions and offering differentiated and premium products to customers. The hotel segment revenue in the first quarter was higher by 10.9 per cent year-on-year.



### Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai sales drop due to weak demand

Leading carmakers Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai on Thursday reported a dip in wholesales in July as companies reduced vehicle dispatches to dealers amid moderation in demand. Maruti Suzuki India said its total domestic passenger vehicle sales stood at 1,37,463 units in July against 1,52,126 units in the year-ago month, down 9.64 per cent. The company's sales of mini segment cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, were higher at 9,960 units last month compared to 9,590 units in the year-ago period. However, sales of compact cars consisting of Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift and WagonR were lower at 58,682 units compared to 67,102 units in July 2023. Similarly, utility vehicles Brezza, Ertiga, Fronx, Grand Vitara, Invicto, Jimny, and XL6 also clocked lower sales at 56,302 last month against 62,049 units in the same period last year, the company said. Rival Hyundai Motor India said its domestic dispatch of vehicles to dealers saw a dip of 3 per cent to 49,013 units last month from 50,701 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, Tata Motors said its total domestic sales dipped 11 per cent and stood at 70,161 units last month as against 78,844 units in the year-ago period.

### Aditya Birla Cap net profit rises 17 pc to Rs 759 cr



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Non-bank lender Aditya Birla Capital on Thursday reported a 17 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit in June 2024 quarter at Rs 759 crore. The city-headquartered firm, which houses all the financial services businesses of the Aditya Birla Group, had reported a net profit of Rs 649 crore in the year-ago period. The consolidated revenue grew 26 per cent to Rs 10,258 crore during the reporting quarter, according to a statement. The overall lending portfolio grew 27 per cent to Rs 1.27 lakh crore, while the total assets under management of the asset management, life insurance and health insurance businesses grew 20 per cent to Rs 4.62 lakh crore. The total premium of the life insurance and health insurance business grew 30 per cent to Rs 5,027 crore, it said. The profit before tax of the non-bank finance company grew 21 per cent to Rs 833 crore, while the operating profit for the housing finance arm was at Rs 85 crore, the statement said, adding the asset management arm's PBT grew 27 per cent to Rs 305 crore.

### GST collections at third-highest-ever in Jul; rise 10.3 pc to Rs 1.82 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections in July rose 10.3 per cent to over Rs 1.82 lakh crore, mainly driven by domestic transactions in goods and services, according to official data released on Thursday. This is the third-highest-ever monthly collection recorded since the indirect tax regime was rolled out 7 years ago on July 1, 2017. According to the data, total refunds stood at Rs 16,283 crore in July. The net Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection after

adjusting refunds was over Rs 1.66 lakh crore, a growth of 14.4 per cent. The Gross GST revenue stood at Rs 1,82,075 crore, which includes Central GST of Rs 32,386 crore, State GST of Rs 40,289 crore, and Integrated GST of Rs 96,447 crore. The compensation cess mop-up was Rs 12,953 crore. The revenues were driven by taxes from domestic activities, which grew 8.9 per cent to Rs 1.34 lakh crore in July. The revenue from imports jumped 14.2 per cent to Rs 48,039 crore.



### 'India's new EV policy not suitable for JLR at present'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Thursday said its British arm Jaguar Land Rover has no plans at present to leverage India's new electric vehicle policy that offers import duty concessions to firms setting up manufacturing units in the country, as it is not suitable for the company. In March this year, the government announced the new electric vehicle policy to attract major global players like Tesla, allowing them to import a limited number of cars at lower customs/import duty of 15 per cent on vehicles costing USD 35,000 and above for a period of five years from the date of issuance



of the approval letter by the government. "At this point in time that specific policy is not something that is suitable for us. So, we don't intend to leverage it at this point in time," Tata Motors Group CFO PB Balaji said at the earn-

ings conference. He was responding to a query on whether Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has any plans to leverage India's new EV policy with an eye on future mass production of electric vehicles in the country. Balaji said that currently, JLR's business in India is "on a very good wicket, growing very strongly." "We have just localised the manufacturing of Range Rover and Range Rover Sport, and we are seeing huge pickups in order in that front. As volumes pick up, we would like to keep localising to the extent possible, and if the policy environment we are able to leverage upon, we will definitely consider it," he added.

### BOND DUE ON AUGUST 10

## MTNL has less funds to pay interest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-run MTNL has insufficient funds to pay interest for 7.78 per cent MTNL Bond Serie VII-C which was raised against Sovereign Guaranteed Bonds and is due on August 10, the company said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. As per the structured payment mechanism of the tripartite agreement signed among MTNL, Department of Telecommunications and Beacon Trusteeship, the state-run telecom firm has to fund the semi-annual interest into the escrow account with ade-



quate amount 10 days before the due date. "...it is informed that due to insufficient funds, MTNL could not fund the ESCROW account with the adequate amount," MTNL filing said. According to the filing, the sovereign guarantee will be invoked by the debenture

trustee in case of any default made by MTNL in payment of principal and interest on the bonds and the government of India is obliged to make the payment to MTNL for the same. A government source said that the Department of Telecom has cleared payment of Rs 64 crore for the interest of the bond due on August 1. Minister of State for Communications, Pemasani Chandra Sekhar has informed Rajya Sabha that MTNL has sought Rs 1,151.65 crore for payment of interest arising out of sovereign guarantee bonds in the current fiscal.

### Sensex rises 388 points, Nifty breaches record 25,000-mark

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex jumped 388 points to breach the 82,000-level for the first time while broader Nifty spurred 108 points to hit the record 25,000-mark in early trade on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve indicated a rate cut by September. The 30-share BSE Sensex soared 388.15 points, or 0.47 per cent, to hit an all-time intra-day high of 82,129.49 in early trade. The broader Nifty of NSE scaled the record 25,000 level for the first time, rising 127.15 points, or 0.50 per cent, to 25,078.30. Among Sensex



shares, Maruti rose 2.93 per cent following its stellar June quarter results. Adani Ports, Power Grid, JSW Steel, and Tata Steel were also among major gainers.

## Domestic food market expected to grow at 47%

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The domestic food market was expected to grow by over 47 per cent between 2022 and 2027 and expected to touch USD 1,274 billion, a top industry official said. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Foodpro Expo 2024 Chairman B Thiagarajan said the food processing sector was growing at an average annual growth rate of 5.35 per cent

between 2015-16 to 2022-23. "In 2022-23, the sector accounted for 7.66 per cent of the GVA (Gross Value Added) in manufacturing at 2011-12 prices," Thiagarajan, also the Managing Director of air-conditioners and commercial refrigerators maker Blue Star Ltd said in a press release on Thursday. "In terms of employment, the sector employs almost 2 million workers in nearly



41,500 registered units. With a market size of USD 866 billion in 2022, the food industry will play a vital role in the economy growth. CII Tamil Nadu Chairman Srivats Ram said currently India is the largest producer of milk, pulses, banana, mango, pomegranate, papaya, lemon, non-food crops like cotton and jute. During 2023-24, India produced 304.4 million tonnes of

cereals, 296 million tonnes of pulses, 351.9 million tonnes of horticulture, 230.6 million tonne of milk and 138.4 billion eggs, Ram also the Managing Director of steel wheels manufacturer Wheels India Ltd said. Thiagarajan and Ram were here to announce the 15th edition of biennial event Foodpro scheduled to be held from August 9 at Chennai Trade Centre, here.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
MILK/03/Saravali/TUP/DC/2024-25 Date: 26.07.2024  
03 Item: Works costing Rs 500.00 Lakh: Construction of Main Drainage Link with Road No. 1 to 5 in Saravali New Colony and Construction of Main Drainage from Baid Workers Colony to Sai Baba Temple via Saravali Temple Katagiri including Road Development, Construction of Main Drainage from Vijayashree Temple to local Wages near SC Colony, Strengthening of Road from 'Vidya' Charana Kulla to Filter Bed Link including one side drain and Construction of Drainage Link with 2 B&H to Filter Bed (PCR Nagar) 300 mtrs. Closing on 08.08.2024 @ 04:30 PM. Laying of 02 Roads and C&S Drainages from Ward No. 1 to 18 in Saravali Municipality under TUP/DC Loan Assistance. Closing on 19.08.2024 @ 04:30 PM. For details visit https://tenders.telangana.gov.in. Contact: 9154989724. 86. Superintending Engineer (PH) West Circle, Hyderabad

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT  
"E" PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
1. Online tenders are invited under the e-Procurement platform for High-Level bridge work the following District under Plan 2024-25 vide CE/18&B, SR&CRN, e-MIT No.03/SE(D&P)/EE-IV/DEE-IV/AE-V/2024-25, Dt. 31.07.2024.  
Name of District: Peddapally; No. of works: 1 No.; B/CV Amount: Rs. 90 Crores.  
2. Tenderers can download the tender schedule and further details can be seen from e-market place i.e., Procurement market place at https://tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders for Bridge Works is on or before 17.08.2024.  
S.O.No: 2265/PH/CDT/2024-25, Dt: 01-08-2024 Sd/- Chief Engineer (R&B) (State Roads & CRN)



## 'Climbing ancient fortress Sigiriya was a highlight'

**ACTRESS CHAHAT VIG, BEYOND HER ACTING PROWESS, IS ALSO AN AVID TRAVELLER, WHO KEEPS HER FANS UPDATED WITH HER TRAVEL STORIES EVERY NOW AND THEN. THE PIONEER GETS IN A CHAT WITH HER, BRINGING TO YOU HER TRAVEL EXPERIENCES FROM HER LATEST TRIP TO SRI LANKA AND MORE**

TRAVELOGUE



TEJAL SINHA

Travel knows no limit in a world where it brings you a new and unique experience. Travelling has been more than just seeing and exploring the world. Well, certainly yes, because travelling for actress Chahat Vig has been all about being a 'soul food'.

She grew up in a family that really values experiencing different cultures and gaining fresh perspectives. Travelling for work, she does make a point to explore a new place every couple of months, something that she always looks forward to and that enriches her life.

Most recently, the Gumraah actress was seen having a gala time in Sri Lanka between the tranquillity and spiritual richness of its southern hill country. The trip, which she describes as an incredible one, "I loved exploring the lush tea plantations in the hill country and relaxing on the beautiful beaches," shares the avid traveller. "The cultural experiences were fantastic too—seeing ancient temples and wandering through lively markets was a highlight. Plus, the warm hospitality of the locals really made the trip special."

So what was the culturally rich stuff that she got to experience, you wonder? Well, she says, "In Sri Lanka, I had some fantastic cultural experiences.

Climbing Sigiriya was definitely a highlight—it's an ancient fortress with breathtaking views. I also visited the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy and explored local markets, where I tasted traditional dishes and saw colorful crafts. The locals were incredibly friendly and shared fascinating stories about their customs."

Not just this, she also explored some great coastal spots in Sri Lanka. The beaches, according to the 36 Days actress, were fantastic, with places like Unawatuna and Mirissa offering perfect waves and clear waters.

"Bali and Phuket have been my favorite ocean destinations so far. Bali's serene surf spots and lively culture are always a highlight, while Phuket's vibrant atmosphere and beautiful beaches are hard to beat."

India is certainly known for its diversity and its culture, which every state has of its own. But the one place in India that really stands out as truly unique, according to Chahat, is Himachal Pradesh. "It's unlike anywhere else, with its stunning Himalayan scenery, charming villages, and peaceful environment. What's really special is the sense of spirituality you feel there—it's a place where nature and tradition blend seamlessly, offering a sense of calm and connection that's hard to find elsewhere."

Choosing the right property during a vacation is as important as exploring the place, because sometimes choosing the right hotel feels like a staycation in itself. Well, she couldn't agree much with us as she shares, "My husband and I also spend a lot of time choosing our hotels because the right place can make a huge difference, turning a trip into a rejuvenating vacation. In Sri Lanka, the hotels were fantastic—ranging from luxurious five-star resorts to stylish boutique luxury options. The "hotel hues" were stunning, with each place offering its own unique style and ambiance."

There always comes a time, maybe during our busy schedule, when we think, 'Now is the time to consider rejuvenation again.' We ask Chahat about it and name a place she loves to visit when under intense pressure. With great zest, she shares, "Whenever I'm really stressed, I love escaping to the Bath Spa in England. The peaceful atmosphere and thermal waters are so relaxing, and it's just an hour away from London. The place has a historic charm and a calm pace that helps me unwind, plus the food options are fantastic. When I'm in India, I head to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for scuba diving. There's nothing like a dive to clear my mind and refresh my spirit."

She further goes on to share with us that she's



someone who usually sets intentions for each trip, as every travel experience is unique. Sometimes, she says, her priority is rejuvenation and so she focuses on relaxing and unwinding. Other times, the goal is exploration, "Where I dive into new cultures, sights, and activities. I also make it a point to immerse myself in local experiences and interact with the people, which adds depth to the journey. Whether it's enjoying a peaceful retreat or embarking on an adventurous discovery, each trip is about making the most of the moment and creating lasting memories."

A solo traveller or travelling with both, we ask, and she enthuses, "I'm actually both. I love travelling with my whole family, my husband, and friends—those trips are full of shared experiences and memories. At the same time, I really enjoy the enriching experience of solo travel. It depends on my mood and everyone's availability, so I go with what feels right at the time."

So what's next on the bucket list? Well, she's looking forward to her next adventure in Morocco. Why Morocco specifically? "I'm excited to dive into its rich history and vibrant markets, and I can't wait to check out the surfing there. Morocco is known for its great surf spots, so I'm eager to experience them firsthand."



## 'Yeh bhi theek nahi hai,' Robin gone too soon!

AARTI SREENATH

In the labyrinthine chaos of Mirzapur, where every corner hides a new twist, Priyanshu Painyuli's portrayal of Robin stands out as a role of complexity and charm. Robin, with his quiet resolve and nuanced depth, has woven himself into the very fabric of the series. His character, both enigmatic and endearing, transcends the ordinary, offering viewers a glimpse into a world where loyalty and love are constantly tested. With each episode, Priyanshu breathes life into Robin, making him not just a character but a memorable journey through the shadows of Mirzapur. His portrayal brings a delightful blend of sophistication and vulnerability.

When asked if he knew about Robin's fate, Priyanshu shared that he was aware of his character's death, emphasising that it wasn't a shock to him. "Yes, yes, of course, I knew he was going to be killed. It would have been a big shocker for me if I didn't know. They don't usually keep a big surprise or shock from me. I would have been like, 'Kill Robin like that,' or 'Kill him like this.' I knew it and had loads of discussions with the director and Guru," he explained.

Besides, Priyanshu described how the news of Robin's death was delivered during a Zoom call with the show's creators. He recalled, "Guru told me what was going to happen this season. Of course, it was a shock and a surprise for me—like, why did you have to kill him? Why Robin? But overall, it made sense. The structural changes this season were very interesting and brave. The creators took the show to another level, which people were not expecting."

He reflected on the audience's reaction, noting the mixed feelings and attachment people had towards Robin. "A lot of people came to me and said, 'Yeh theek nahi hai.' It was nice to see that people were so deeply attached to that character, probably so much that they didn't want him to die," he said. Painyuli added that despite Robin not being a central figure in the power struggle, his character's intriguing and mysterious nature left a significant impact.

He found Robin to be one of the finest characters written in the OTT space. He highlighted the character's complexity and ambiguity, stating, "The first time I read about his character, I realised this guy is one of the finest characters written across web series. You don't know the background of the character, his intentions, his past, or what he's looking forward to." He praised Guru, the show's creator, for allowing him the freedom to explore and interpret Robin's character.

"Guru is such a sweetheart; he's so amazing that you cannot stop exploring your character on that day. He'd say, 'You decide,' and that gave me the freedom to play Robin differently in every scene. Sometimes he's truthful; sometimes he's not. He knows how to talk, and that's his weapon—his words and his understanding of other people's weaknesses," he shared.

He also elaborated on Robin's unique traits, including his colourful wardrobe and enigmatic presence. He mentioned that Guru left much of Robin's character development up to him, allowing him to shape the role with his creativity. "Robin definitely knew how to talk and that was his weapon. Knowing the

other person's weakness becomes your strength. In Mirzapur, most of the characters are after money, but Robin had a different angle," he noted.

Throwback on the impact of playing Robin, Priyanshu expressed a deep connection with the character. He shared, "Personally, it's been like finding a family. Even though I knew Ali Fazal and Shweta Tripathi from theater, it felt like we had all grown together through this journey." In addition, he praised Gurmeet Singh, the director, for his genuine and consistent nature, both on and off set.

Soul Mates fame also humorously recounted the joke between him and Gurmeet: "The joke between us was that he killed me there but gave me another

show, Paan Parda Zarda, where I'm leading. Working with Gurmeet spoils you as a person because of the relationship and environment he creates on set."

He fondly recalled the camaraderie and shared memories on set, highlighting the consistent crew and the emotional connections formed. "The wonderful character of Robin and the emotional death scene were memorable. That night was also my birthday and we celebrated with a cake cutting, making it a bittersweet moment," he reminisced.

In discussing his process for getting into character, he emphasised the importance of understanding the director's vision while adding his personal touch. "I try to see what world the director is trying to bring and then add my personal touch. It's about conveying the character's essence, not just following the script," he explained.

He shared how the transformation into Robin involved embracing the character's vibrant style, including colourful printed shirts and unique hairstyles. He noted that these elements helped him embody Robin, stating, "Half of my characters are built when you put me into a get-up I've never been in. The colourful printed shirts, big glasses and haircut all contributed to Robin's identity."

He was additionally touched by the audience's response to Robin's character and death. He shared heartfelt messages and comments from fans, expressing gratitude for their support. "People were sending me messages, saying it was unnecessary and unjust to Robin. Comments like, 'Ek hi toh family man the Mirzapur mein, usko bhi maar diya, were heartwarming,' he said.

He also acknowledged the impact of Robin's catchphrase, 'Yeh bhi theek hai,' which became popular among fans. "People started making T-shirts with the phrase and it became a part of the meme culture. It's interesting how such small elements can leave a lasting impression," he noted.

Shehar Lakhote fame, concluded by reflecting on the character's depth and the broader message of the show. "Robin wasn't fighting for power; he was looking for love and family. That was his journey. In Mirzapur's world, plotting, killing and power struggles are common, but Robin's story reminded us that there is more to life than being powerful. Family and love matter more," he expressed.

Looking ahead, The Pippa fame hinted at his excitement for future projects, including Paan Parda Zarda, where he is working with Gurmeet Singh again. He shared his enthusiasm for continuing to explore diverse roles and characters, eager to push the boundaries of his craft.



## Navigating economic uncertainty: Tips for business owners

Business owners face unique challenges in times of economic uncertainty. These challenges normally affect the bottom line of such businesses and their long-term success. It takes strategic approaches and capacities for resilience to lead one's business through such uncertain times. Here are some tips to help you weather the storm and thrive amidst economic turbulence.

**Diversify your revenue streams:** The risk to your business, with its dependence on one stream of income, is too high. Come up with new streams of revenue, or expand on products that reach a wider audience to mitigate the risks.

**Keep close watch over your cash flow:** Managing cash flow is always important, but during times of uncertainty, it becomes even more significant. Be very vigilant about your expenses, and try to centralize your spending on key expenses while finding ways to enhance collections to maintain good cash flow.

**Strengthen relations:** Develop relations with your suppliers, customers, and other stakeholders. Open communication and cooperation might enable working through problems as a team and can deliver win-win solutions.

**Stay agile:** The economic scenario is changing fast; hence, one needs to be agile. Be prepared to adjust to the market trend, consumer behavior, and industry shift. Flexibility in operations and decisions will help respond to any unforeseen change that may arise appropriately.

**Invest in technology:** Leverage digital tools and technologies to scale up the operations of any

business house. This also streamlines the processes involved and improves efficiency. Consider investing in online platforms, e-commerce solutions, and automation to stay competitive in today's digital age.

**Seek professional help:** If one senses uncertainty in the economy, it is imperative to take advice from financial advisors, business consultants, or industry experts. A new perspective from professionals shall bring clarity to decisions about the future of your business.

**Customer experience:** Keep the focus on customers during tumultuous times. Make sure to personalize experiences, provide great service, and respond promptly to customer inquiries or concerns. Happy customers will find a way to continue supporting your business through harsh times.

**Plan for long term:** While one is surviving the present, he should not forget to work on the long-term viability of his business. A strategic plan with obtainable goals that reassesses all strategies and modifies them from time to time to keep pace with the ever-changing world must be ensured.

By using these tips and strategies, you will be able to stay on the path to stability and growth within the context of uncertainty. Remember, more so now than ever before, it is a requirement to have resilience, adaptability, and strategic planning in order to overcome adversity and excel in today's fast-moving business environment.

(By Prithvi Mohan and Pratyaksh Agarwal, The International School of Bengaluru.)

# what's brewing?



Neelkanth Jewellers had a grand launch event at their opulent store on Raj Bhavan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad, to kick off their 40th anniversary celebrations. August 2024 will see fantastic deals from Neelkanth Jewellers.

Tejaswi Madivada



Sravanthi Chokaropu



Bramarambika



Twinkle



Urmila Chauhan

PARTY

Photos by- SV Charya

## Newgen launches OmniScan 7.0

Newgen Software, a global provider of low-code platform, released a new version of its document management solution—NewgenONE OmniScan 7.0—that redefines document management in high-volume environments. This new version enables advanced scanning and capturing capabilities, powered by NewgenONE Marvin, setting new standards for document management.

## Ensuring your elderly parents' safety, miles away

RED.Health, India's leading medical emergency response platform, proudly unveils its direct-to-consumer subscription service, RED Family Protect. This innovative offering aims to address the critical gap in reliable, seamless, and affordable emergency medical care across India.

## WhatsApp's privacy campaign

WhatsApp today launched a privacy campaign focused on the importance of secure communication, demonstrating how WhatsApp's multiple layers of protection offer people more control and privacy over their conversations while engaging with friends, family and now businesses too.

## vivo India celebrates 10 years of operations

vivo kicked-off its tenth anniversary celebrations in India by hosting the second edition of vivo Tech Day 2024. Over the past ten years, vivo has become synonymous with innovation and excellence, contributing significantly to the development of the Indian mobile ecosystem. During the experiential event, vivo showcased its latest technology offerings built to solve unique consumer needs based on understanding of the market. At a unique exploratory showcase, vivo's R&D experts gave a unique behind the scenes tour of various technologies. A constellation of key partners international and Indian – demonstrated various unique technologies that make way into vivo smartphones including vivo-ZEISS co-engineered imaging system showcase, vivo camera prowess, The SCHOTT Challenge lab, AI Technology, and Telecommunication Advancements.

## Dreaming of an acting career?

CASTING Vibe is breaking new ground by providing a completely free digital casting platform that allows aspiring artists to create professional work URLs. Traditionally, creating such profiles is expensive and usually reserved for those who can afford to pay big talent platforms. This often leaves out talented individuals from regional and rural areas who lack the financial resources. It is changing this by eliminating the financial barrier and enabling everyone, regardless of their location or financial situation, to create professional profiles.



With its flagship and highly potent mixer grinder, the Preethi Zodiac, Preethi Kitchen Appliances, today achieved a milestone in the Asia Book of Records and the India Book of Records. In order to demonstrate the remarkable capabilities of the Preethi Zodiac, the company recruited 120 influencers from a variety of backgrounds to test the appliance in four key cities: Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kochi.



At a special unveiling held at Global Tree's head office in Begumpet, Hyderabad, the renowned international education consultant, Global Tree, released the official poster for their next event, which is being hosted in conjunction with NISAU, UK (Network of Indian Students and Alumni - UK). Aspiring students and professionals should not miss the NISAU event, which is set for August 3, 2024, at Villa Marie Degree College for Women.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



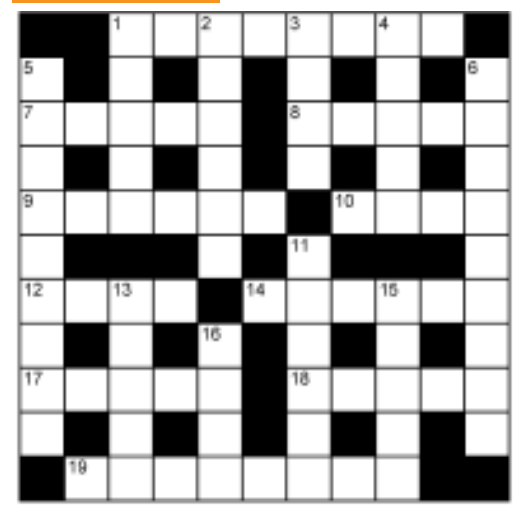
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU

5	7	8	9					
9		3						
1		8	9	4				
	9				1			
	1	3		5	2			
6				5				
	6	8	9				3	
			5				7	
	9	8	2		5			

Yesterday's solution

1	8	4	3	5	9	2	6	7
6	3	7	1	4	2	8	9	5
2	9	5	6	8	7	3	4	1
5	2	6	8	9	1	4	7	3
3	7	1	5	6	4	9	8	2
9	4	8	7	2	3	1	5	6
8	5	3	4	1	6	7	2	9
7	6	9	2	3	8	5	1	4
4	1	2	9	7	5	6	3	8

- Rules
- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
  - The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

### ACROSS

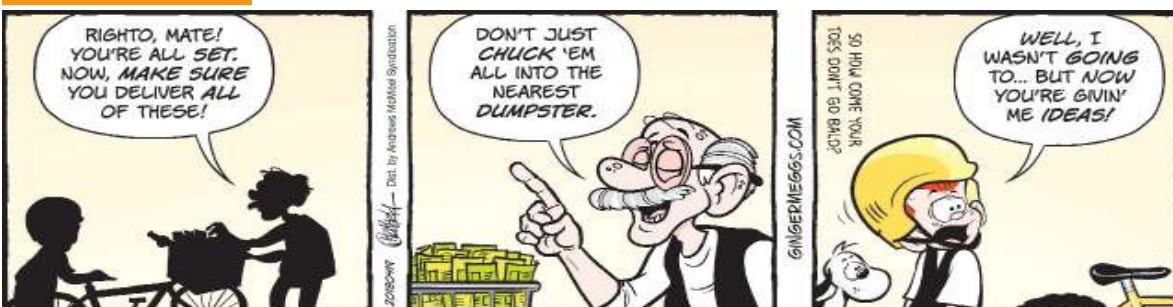
- 1 A surgeon's knives
- 7 Egg centres
- 8 Water vapour
- 9 Required
- 10 Burn black by being too close to heat
- 12 Rescue
- 14 Paddle these boats
- 17 Below
- 18 Living
- 19 A very large hill

### DOWN

- 1 Find the solution to
- 2 Reply
- 3 Shove
- 4 A flat kind of worm that sucks blood



### GINGER MEGGS



# Brinda: Deadly twist on faith

AARTI SREENATH

**Plot:**

A wave of vicious and seemingly arbitrary killings has instilled fear in the city of Hyderabad. SI Brinda (played by Trisha) and her team are tasked with uncovering the truth. As they delve deeper into the case, they discover an eerie pattern linking the killings. The investigation uncovers a series of startling, chilling revelations that lead to a jaw-dropping twist, significantly changing their investigation and challenging their core beliefs.

**Highlights:**

*Brinda* is not your run-of-the-mill crime thriller. It seamlessly integrates social commentary with a compelling narrative, set against the bustling, vibrant backdrop of Hyderabad. This setting not only grounds the series in reality but also makes it highly relatable for viewers familiar with the city's unique blend of chaos and charm. The series tackles themes of blind faith and superstition, challenging deep-seated societal norms and beliefs.

What sets *Brinda* apart from typical crime thrillers is its profound exploration of superstition and blind faith. The initial episodes focus on meticulous character development, essential for the narrative's progression.

**Drawbacks:**

The series' deliberate pacing in the beginning may deter fans of fast-paced thrillers, though this pacing is crucial for building a cohesive and compelling narrative. Some scenes may appear predictable to viewers adept at piecing together clues, but these are minor quibbles in an otherwise engaging series.

**Performances:**

Trisha's performance is a revelation. Known for her roles in lighter, more traditional fare, she steps into the shoes of an intense, determined



cop with remarkable ease. Her portrayal of Brinda is multifaceted—capturing confusion, determination, vulnerability, and strength in equal measure. Trisha's physique, nuanced expressions and body language bring a rare authenticity to the character, making her journey and struggles deeply compelling.

Ravindra Vijay's portrayal of Sarathi stands out as a masterclass in understated brilliance. He inhabits the role with natural ease, portraying the challenges faced by an SI with remarkable realism. Sarathi's feminist stance and

unwavering moral compass add significant depth to his character, making him an indispensable part of the narrative. His expressions and body language are so convincing that viewers may often forget he is acting. Anand Sami delivers a stellar performance, perfectly blending elements of fear and empathy.

The supporting cast, including Indrajith Sukumaran, Rakendu Mouli, Aamani, and Jaya Prakash, contribute significantly to the series, enhancing the intricate web of characters with their strong performances.

**Technical aspects:**

Cinematographer Dinesh K Babu's work is nothing short of breathtaking. Each frame is meticulously crafted, with the lighting perfectly complementing the series' atmospheric tone. The cinematography transports viewers into the heart of Hyderabad, with naturalistic shots that add authenticity and depth. The visual storytelling elevates the suspense, making every twist feel palpable. The opening and closing sequences are particularly striking, framing the narrative with a visual style that enhances the story's tension and emotional impact.

**Verdict:**

*Brinda* is a cinematic triumph for crime thriller aficionados and those intrigued by the theme of blind faith. It deftly balances conventional storytelling with innovative approaches to social issues, offering a richly textured viewing experience. Director Surya Manoj Vangala's masterful blend of technical prowess and emotional depth ensures that *Brinda* lingers in the viewer's mind long after the credits roll. The series not only entertains but also provokes thought, urging viewers to question the world around them.

**Directed by:** Surya Manoj Vangala

**Produced by:** Kolla Ashish  
**Cinematography:** Dinesh K Babu

**Cast:** Trisha Krishnan, Indrajith Sukumaran, Jaya Prakash, Aamani, Ravindra Vijay, Anand Sami, Rakendu Mouli

**Streaming on:** SonyLiv

**Rating:** 3/5

## #WayanadDisaster: Suriya, Jyotika, Karthi, Rashmika make generous donations

The Wayanad Disaster has shook the nation once again. The disaster took the lives of many people and left many homeless. Rescue operations are going on and people are still overcoming the shock and trauma they had to undergo.

In such a situation, some of our beloved film celebrities have come forward to help the Kerala government and its people by making generous donations.

While actors Suriya, Jyotika and Karthi together made a collective donation of Rs 50 lakh, national crush Rashmika Mandanna made a donation of Rs 10 lakhs to the CMO Kerala relief fund for the Wayanad Disaster. Chiyaan Vikram donated a sum of Rs 20 lakh to the Chief Minister Distress Fund to help the victims.

Malayalam actors, including Mohanlal, Mammooty, Manju Warrier, Asif Ali, Tovino Thomas, Nikhila Vimal, Basil Joseph and Malavika Mohanan among others, appealed to people to help the victims in whatever way possible.

Such donations by renowned celebrities come as a testament to their commitment to giving back to society and supporting those in need during times of crisis. This substantial contribution underscores their dedication to making a positive impact beyond her cinematic achievements and reinforces their reputation as a compassionate and socially responsible individual.

## Ramesh Taurani addresses rumours about Sreeleela's role in his next

In response to recent media rumors regarding Telugu actress Sreeleela's involvement in Varun Dhawan's upcoming comedy film, Ramesh Taurani, producer at Tips Films, has issued a formal statement to clear the air.

Reports have circulated suggesting that Sreeleela has exited the film, directed by David Dhawan and produced by Tips Films. It has also been claimed that the first schedule of the film has been completed without her.

Addressing these speculations, Taurani clarified, "We have not yet approached anyone for the role. The casting process is still ongoing, and the first schedule has just been completed. We will make an official announcement once the cast is finalised. We request the public and media to refrain from believing or spreading unfounded rumors." The producer's statement aims to set the record straight and assures that no final decisions have been made regarding the cast. Fans and industry watchers are advised to await further official updates from Tips Films.



## BALAKRISHNA, PRAGYA JAISWAL REUNITE FOR NBK 109

In an exciting announcement for Telugu cinema enthusiasts, Pragya Jaiswal has been confirmed as the lead actress in the highly anticipated film *NBK 109*. She will reunite with the iconic Nandamuri Balakrishna, marking their comeback together after their successful collaboration on *Akhanda*. Directed by Bobby Kolli and produced by Naga Vamsi, this Telugu action drama will also feature Bollywood star Bobby Deol as the antagonist. Pragya Jaiswal's casting in *NBK 109* is a notable addition to her impressive career. Known for her performances in blockbuster hits such as *Akhanda* and *Kanche*, Pragya has established herself as a prominent name in Telugu cinema. Her role in *Akhanda* not only brought her critical acclaim but also contributed to the film becoming one of her career's biggest successes. Sharing her excitement about reuniting with Nandamuri Balakrishna, Pragya Jaiswal said, "I am thrilled to be working again with Nandamuri Balakrishna sir and under the direction of Bobby Kolli. *NBK 109* is shaping up to be a fantastic project with a talented cast, including Bobby Deol. I'm eager for the audience to experience what we've created." In addition to *NBK 109*, Pragya Jaiswal is expanding her career with several upcoming projects. She will appear alongside Akshay Kumar in the Bollywood film *Khel Khel Mein* and has more exciting ventures on the horizon. With her versatility and track record of working with top stars, Pragya is poised to continue making a significant impact across the film industry.



## Ashwin Babu's birthday: Special poster released from his next film

Celebrating Ashwin Babu's birthday on Thursday, Arunasree Entertainments unveiled a special poster for their highly anticipated third production. The film, a medico-thriller directed by Mamidala M.R. Krishna and produced by T. Ganapathi Reddy, is generating considerable buzz as it gears up for release.

The new poster, revealed on the actor's birthday, has quickly gone viral, stirring excitement among fans and adding to the film's growing anticipation.

Starring alongside Ashwin Babu is Riya Suman, with Ayesha Khan, Murali Sharma, Sachin Khedekar, Ajay, VTV Ganesh, Yashna Chaudhary, Sudarshan, Sakalaka Shankar and Raghava playing pivotal roles.

The film has already completed 75% of its shooting across various locations, including Hyderabad, Vizag and the picturesque Kodaikanal region. It is set to hit theaters by the end of this year.

The project boasts a talented team of technicians: Gaura Hari is composing the music, M.N. Bal Reddy is handling cinematography, Viplav Naishad is the editor, and Suresh (Baby Suresh) is the art director. With such a strong team and the recent promotional success, the film is poised for a strong release.

## EXPECT EXTRAORDINARY WITH ANANYA AS 'BUJJAMMA'

To celebrate Ananya Nagalla's birthday, the makers of the film *Pottel* have released a special poster. Directed by Saihith Mothkurri, *Pottel* features a fresh and honest narrative set against a rural backdrop, with youthful Chandrashekar and Ananya Nagalla in the lead roles. The film has already garnered excellent responses to the content released so far, with the four songs unveiled to date becoming chart-topping hits.

The newly released poster showcases Ananya in a traditional rural look, presenting a natural and appealing image. Her role in the film promises to offer significant scope for performance, with her character, Bujjamma, expected to be extraordinary. In the movie, Ajay plays a powerful role that is anticipated to be truly impressive.

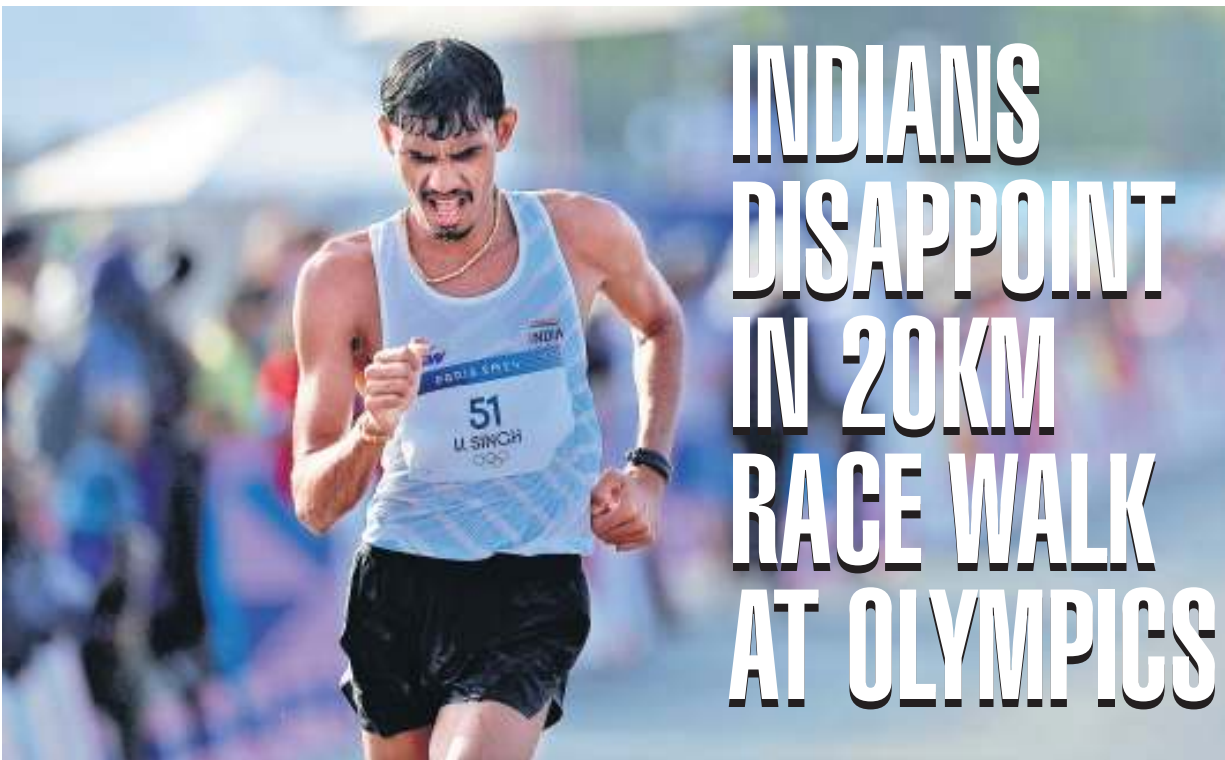
The film is produced by Nishank Reddy Kudi and Suresh Kumar Sadiage, with music composed by Shekar Chandra. The cinematography is handled by Monish Bhoopathi Raju, editing by Karthik Srinivas and art direction by Narmi Srinivas.

The makers are preparing for the film's release in theaters soon.



## Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire releases BGM with stunning visuals

In a distinctive move reminiscent of Hollywood trends, *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire* has released its background music (BGM) accompanied by spectacular visuals from the film. This innovative approach has been widely embraced, generating considerable excitement among audiences. The film's impact is significantly amplified by its gripping BGM, which enhances the high-octane action sequences and contributes to the overall intensity of the movie. Directed by Prashanth Neel and featuring the action superstar Prabhas, the film sets a new benchmark for how BGM should elevate the cinematic experience. The release of the BGM has been met with enthusiasm, as it highlights the adrenaline-pumping soundtrack that complements the film's intense scenes. The film's immersive world of Khansaar has captivated global audiences, setting the stage for high anticipation for the sequel, *Salaar Part 2: Shouryanga Parvam*. With the success of Part 1, the stage is set for an even more exhilarating continuation.



# INDIANS DISAPPOINT IN 20KM RACE WALK AT OLYMPICS

PTI ■ PARIS

National record holder Priyanka Goswami finished a poor 41st in the women's 20km competition while Vikash Singh and Paramjeet Singh ended at lowly 30th and 37th positions respectively in the men's event as Indian race walkers produced a disappointing performance at the Paris Olympics here on Thursday.

The 28-year-old Priyanka, who has a personal best of 1:28:45, has been based in Australia since early this year after the Mission Olympic Cell approved her high-altitude training last December. Reigning Asian Games champion Yang Jiayu of China won gold with a time of 1:25:54 while world champion Maria Perez (1:26:19) of Spain and Commonwealth gold medalist Jemima Montag (1:26:25) of Australia took the silver and bronze respectively. The competitions were held under warm and humid conditions. When the women's event ended, the temperature rose to nearly 25 degree Celsius while humidity was more than 85 per cent

throughout. Athletics competition of the Paris Olympics began on Thursday. In the men's corresponding event, which started 30 minutes late due to rain, Vikash clocked 1 hour, 22 minutes and 36 seconds while Paramjeet crossed the finish line in 1:23:48sec in the race won by Brian Daniel Pintado (1:18:55) of Ecuador. Caio Bonfim (1:19:09) of Brazil and reigning world champion Alvaro Martin (1:19:11) of Spain took the silver and bronze medals respectively while Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Massimo Stano (1:19:12) of Italy was fourth. National record holder Akshdeep Singh pulled out

after the 6km mark and he was seen in discomfort, holding his abdomen while bending down forward. A team coach told PTI that Akshdeep was having fever for the last two days due to Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). "He was having fever from 30th onwards because of UTI. However, he recovered from fever yesterday," the coach said. India was among the countries which had three full quota of athletes in the men's event but all of them could not match their personal best. The best performance by an Indian in the Olympics was the 10th-place finish by KT Irfan in the 2012 London Games with a timing of 1:20:21.

# Nikhat's Olympic campaign ends with shocking loss to China's Yu



PTI ■ PARIS

In one of the biggest upsets of the Olympic Games boxing competition, two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen (50kg) bowed out after a 0-5 loss to Asian Games gold-medallist Wu Yu, completely outmaneuvered by the Chinese in a stunningly lopsided bout here on Thursday. Nikhat was unseeded for the Games as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which is holding the boxing competition, doesn't recognise the International Boxing Association (IBA), which conducts the world championship. One of India's strongest medal contenders, Nikhat was put under pressure by the top-seeded reigning flyweight (52kg) world champion in the opening round itself. Yu was quick off the blocks and

though Nikhat tried to counter-attack, she wasn't able to connect. The reason being, Yu's brilliant footwork, which allowed her to consistently switch her stance to avoid the blows. Trailing 1-4, Nikhat found a bit more success in the second round as she landed a few straights but Yu managed to connect some telling hooks on the Indian's face. Nikhat ended the round with a few body shots. Not much changed in the third round as Nikhat desperately tried to connect but continued to fail due to Yu's nimble movements. Despite this loss, Nikhat remains one of the most consistent Indian boxers, having won back-to-back gold medals at the world championships and the 2022 Commonwealth Games besides a bronze in the Asian Games last year.



# Biggest, most diverse fleet in Olympic sailing gets ready to hit water

AP ■ MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

The biggest and most diverse fleet of the 2024 Olympics' sailing events, the one-person dinghy, is scheduled to hit the water Thursday in sweltering Marseille. The small, white-sailed boats - formerly known as lasers, now called ILCA 6 for women and ILCA 7 for men - go slower, sail deeper into the water and have a less spectacular design than many other vessels in the Olympic marina. But, to the sailors who race them, they are the purest form of the sport. "It's very pure and it's very close - you've got to work for every inch," said Matt Wearn, 28, of Australia. "You're not looking to win by a mile, you're looking to win by a meter." Wearn is seeking to defend the gold he won in the event in the Tokyo Games - and so is Anne-Marie Rindom of Denmark, 33, who in addition to gold from Tokyo has a bronze from Rio de Janeiro and first competed in the London Games in 2012. "It's all about the sailor in the boat," said Rindom, whose parents first took her sailing when she was two weeks old. She competed in her first regatta at age nine. In this class, boats are provided to Olympians only about a week before the Games, leveling the playing field. That makes consistently nailing the smallest tactical detail - an inch of advantage at the starting line, catching a sudden wave to surf ahead, balancing for the additional weight of branding stickers on the sail - the key to medal. "All these little accuracies make a huge difference," said Micky Beckett, 29, of Britain. "Being on top of your mental game is absolutely everything." That's also because the boats are so versatile and "basically unsinkable," in Beckett's words, that they can - and do - sail in any weather, for hourlong regattas. Not that physical strength is negligible. In big swells, with spray coming straight at the athletes' bodies, races can be "quite battering, like being thrown into a washing machine and spat out the other side," Wearn

said. So far in Marseille, the challenge has been the opposite: very low winds under a scorching sun, which can also be draining. The boats are relatively inexpensive to buy and transport, designed to fit the top of a car. So, they're the star of World Sailing's development program, which aims to support athletes from nations without long histories in Olympic sailing, from El Salvador to Fiji to Mozambique. "It's cool to see it's not always the same five nations," said Nethra Kumanan, 26, of India, who qualified for the Games in the ILCA 6 at the so-called last-chance regatta under the program. "We hope we can give them a fight." And a fight it is, because the event features almost twice as many boats as the other sailing categories - more than 80. "It's the hardest to win, it's very equal," said Tom Saunders, 32, of New Zealand, whose brother also was an Olympic sailor but in the two-person boats. "It feels like it's not over till the very end," echoed Maud Jayet, 28, of Switzerland, who learned sailing on Alpine lakes and competed in the Tokyo Games. Like her and most sailors in this category, Marit Bouwmeester, 36, of the Netherlands, enjoys shouldering all the responsibility alone for racing strategy, unlike in two-person boats. Her tactics have been paying off - she's medaled in the last three Olympics, snagging silver in London, gold in Rio and bronze in Tokyo. In Marseille, however, she's trying something new - competing as the mother of a 2-year-old daughter. "It's a challenge to do motherhood and top sports," Bouwmeester said, especially to find the time to train hard and then, recover, but there's also a mental advantage. "If I have a bad day, I can go back to being a mother." Pavlos Kontides, 34 and the first athlete from Cyprus to win a medal - for the then-laser in 2012 - is coming back for his fifth Olympics, with a toddler in tow who changed his perspective about the relative importance of medals. Not that he doesn't want one.

AP ■ PARIS

# US men fall to 0-2 in 3x3 basketball pool play at Olympics with 19-17 loss to Poland

The U.S. Men's 3x3 basketball team fell to 0-2 in pool play in the Paris Olympics with a 19-17 loss to Poland Wednesday night. Jimmer Fredette cut the lead to 1 with about 90 seconds left before Michal Sokolowski made a free throw a few seconds later to extend the lead to 19-17. The U.S. Had a chance to tie it late, but Fredette's 2-point attempt came up short. Fredette, who was brought in to boost the team after the U.S. Failed to qualify for Tokyo, appeared to sustain an injury with about three minutes left. He looked to be in pain as he was tended to by a trainer but soon returned to the game. He did not speak to reporters after the game and a team spokesman said he was receiving treatment but did not provide any specifics on an injury. The U.S. Team remains confident despite the tough start to the Paris Games. "I don't think we're concerned," Kareem Maddox said. "We just know we have some adjustments to make." The U.S. Was down by 1 after

a basket by Canyon Barry with about six minutes left before Poland used a 6-1 run to make it 15-9 with four minutes to go. Poland was up by 5 with about 2 1/2 minutes to go when Barry made three free throws to cut the lead to 17-15. Barry shoots free throws underhanded like his father, NBA Hall of Famer Rick Barry. A basket by Adrian Bogucki pushed Poland's lead to 3 and Dylan Travis made a shot for the U.S. Before Fredette's last bucket got team within 18-17. Bogucki had seven points and five rebounds for Poland, which lost to France on Tuesday. Barry and Travis led the U.S. With six points each. Fredette, who is the only player with NBA experience in the 3x3 competition, added three. The U.S. Struggled from long-range, making just 2 of 15 attempts. "We're just not making shots,"



Barry said. "That's what it comes down to. We had a lot of good looks and they just didn't fall tonight." FRANCE 21, LITHUANIA 19: Timothé Vergiat scored eight points and his basket with three seconds remaining lifted France to a win over Lithuania and a 2-0 start in pool play. France led by 5 after two free

throws by Lucas Dussoulier with about two minutes left. Lithuania then scored the next five points, with the last three from Evaldas Dziaugys to tie it with less than a minute to play. Lithuania had the ball with 12 seconds left, but Gintautas Matulis turned it over to set up Vergiat's game-winner. Jules Rambaut had nine points with five rebounds for France,

which beat Poland on Tuesday. Lithuania got seven points each from Aurelijus Pukelis and Dziaugys. LATVIA 21, NETHERLANDS 12: Karlis Lasmanis scored eight points to lead defending champion Latvia over the Netherlands. Nauris Miezijs added five points and six rebounds in the win after Latvia opened the tournament by beating Lithuania. Worthy de Jong made a basket followed by a free throw to get the Netherlands within 1 point with about four minutes to go. Latvia then scored the next nine points, with two 2-pointers by Lasmanis and one from Miezijs to extend the lead to 19-9. Arvin Slagter scored the first points for the Netherlands in more than two minutes on a 2-pointer after that and De Jong made a basket with less than a minute to go to cut the

lead to 19-12. But Lasmanis made a 2-pointer to end it on the next possession. The Netherlands, which beat China in its opener, was led by De Jong's seven points. CHINA 21, SERBIA 15: Zhang Ning scored 11 points and added four rebounds to help China beat Serbia. A basket by Mihailo Vasic put Serbia up 9-7 with about six minutes remaining. China took over after that, going on a 10-1 run to take a 17-10 lead. China made three 2-pointers in that stretch to pull away. Marko Brankovic and Dejan Majstorovic made consecutive 2-pointers for Serbia to cut the lead to 19-15 with about two minutes to go. Zhao Jiaren closed it out by making two free throws with 2:05 remaining. Majstorovic had seven points and Brankovic added five for Serbia, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal winner.

## OTHER SPORTS

# India eager to settle Rahul vs Pant debate in ODIs against SL

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Gautam Gambhir-led Indian team management has an opportunity to decide who among KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant will be India's long-term first-choice wicketkeeper-batter in ODIs when the side takes on Sri Lanka in a three-match series beginning here on Friday. There will be clamour around the first sighting of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as well, after the recent T20 World Cup triumph. But the think-tank will look to shut out that outside noise, focusing on sorting out the combination in a season that has some marquee one-day events including the Champions Trophy. In that context, the Rahul vs Pant conundrum is certain to get priority treatment in this series. Rahul is the incumbent wicketkeeper-batter and has been assigned to that role by the previous set-up under Rahul Dravid since last year's Asia Cup, a tournament in which he made his comeback from a long injury-forced layoff. Since then, Rahul has done full justice to his duty both in front and behind the wicket. Since the continental showpiece last year, Rahul has made 834 runs from 21 matches at a fine average of 69.50 with two hundreds. Besides, Rahul also captained India in the ODI series against South Africa earlier this year. As a stumper too, the 32-year-old has been pretty good. But will Gambhir follow the same route since Pant is back in the reckoning? Pant's return to India fold through a clutch of T20Is after that horrific accident in 2022



has been heartwarming but he has not set the field ablaze with his outings. There have been encouraging sparks during the last month or so. But is that enough to convince the powers that be to pick him ahead of Rahul? If Gambhir and skipper Rohit decide to keep both Rahul and Pant in the 11, then they will have to think as to how to accommodate Shreyas Iyer, another formidable player in the 50-over version. In his last ODI outing, Iyer made a 52 against South Africa at Johannesburg, and his record in 2023 is also impressive - 846 runs from 20 matches at an average of 53 with three hundreds. So, it could be a three-way tie between Rahul, Pant and Iyer for two batting slots because if India go ahead with all three of them, then they will have to play with five bowlers. India might not want to walk that rigid path particularly with Hardik Pandya missing this series because of personal reasons. Hence, India might just want to give a run to either Shivam Dube or Riyan Parag at No. 6.

However, the management entrusting Parag with bowling duties in the just-concluded T20Is could be a precursor to the larger role he might get in the ODI series. That Parag can shift between off-spin and leg-spin effectively too brightens his chance, something he was not able to showcase much in the IPL, courtesy the Impact Player rule. But the Assam player has a fairly noticeable body of work in the domestic 50-over competition - the Deodhar Trophy. He took 11 wickets last season to be placed sixth behind Vidwath Kaverappa (13), Shams Mulani (12), Mayank Yadav (12), Shabbaz Ahmed (12) and R Sai Kishore (11) at a good economy of 4.8. In contrast, Dube, who appeared in an ODI five years ago, played only one match in the series against Sri Lanka and was not summoned to bowl. Amid all this, Gambhir will also keep an eye on the outings of Rohit and Kohli, whom he said will have a major part to play going forward. This will also be the first ODI for the duo after that deflating defeat against Australia in last year's World Cup final at Ahmedabad, and they will be eager to mark the return to 50-over format with a special outing. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka, a mixture of young and experienced names, will want to avoid a batting collapse that led them to their doom in the T20I series despite enjoying periods of dominance. However, they will not have the services of pacers Matheesha Pathirana and Dilshan Madushanka, who have been ruled out of the series with injuries.

# Injured SL pacers Pathirana, Madushanka ruled out of ODIs against India

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka suffered a massive blow ahead of the three-match ODI series against India as pacers Matheesha Pathirana and Dilshan Madushanka were ruled out with respective injuries. The first one-dayer will be played at the RPS Stadium here on Friday. "Madushanka suffered a Grade 2 hamstring injury on his left leg during the team's fielding practice" the Sri Lanka Cricket announced in a statement on Thursday.



"Pathirana has suffered a mild sprain on his right shoulder while diving to take a catch during the Third T20 match vs. India," the statement added. Pathirana did not bowl in the thirds T20I at Pallekele on Tuesday. The hosts have brought in Mohammed Shiraz and Eshan Malinga as replacements for the injured players. Meanwhile, Kusal Janith, Pramod Madushan and Jeffrey Vandersay have been added to the squad as standbys.

# My favourite bowler is Bumrah: Dhoni

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni picked Jasprit Bumrah as his favourite bowler, but the multiple World Cup-winning former Indian skipper refrained from selecting between Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as batsman of his choice. Bumrah played a vital role in India's recent T20 World Cup triumph in the Americas, picking up 15 wickets from eight matches at an economy rate of 4.17, best among the regular bowlers in the ICC showpiece. The effort earned Bumrah the player of the tournament award. "It's easy to pick my favourite bowler because Bumrah is there. It's difficult to pick a batsman because we have many good batsmen. But that doesn't mean bowlers aren't good," said Dhoni during a promotional event here.



Bumrah has been given a rest post the World Cup, and he is not playing the ongoing away white ball series against Sri Lanka. Dhoni said it is tough to pick one batsman as his favourite because several batters churn

out excellent knocks. "It's difficult to pick one among batters as whenever I see batting, he looks the best. But when I see someone else he also looks great. "But as long as Team India is winning, I don't want to pick a

batter (as my favourite). I hope they will keep scoring runs for the team," Dhoni said. The 43-year-old Dhoni did not reveal his IPL future when a fan posed a question about his plans for the 2025 edition. "There is a lot of time for it. We have to see what decision they take on player retention etc. Right now, the ball is not in our court. "So, once the rules and regulations get formalised, I will take a call, but needs to be in the best interest of the team," he added. At present, the IPL teams are a divided house over a host of issues ranging from the mega auction rules to the 'Impact Player' rule. The BCCI secretary Jay Shah said he had a "constructive dialogue" with the IPL team owners on a variety of subjects, which would then be taken before the IPL Governing Council led by Arun Dhumal for further deliberation.